

**Record of Proceedings  
Regular Village of Peninsula Council**

**Held: Tuesday, February 11, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Schneider called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

Mayor Daniel Schneider, Jr.	Present	George Haramis	Present
Richard Slocum	Present	John Najeway	Present
Daniel Schneider	Present	Eliud Rosales	Present
Douglas Steidl	Present		

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Solicitor Brad Bryan, Fiscal Officer Katie Iaconis, Zoning Officer Chuck Hemming, and Administrative Assistant Faith Dorton.

**AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA:** None.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:** None.

**PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

**January 14, 2025 Regular Council Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Slocum requested that the Mayor's Statement of the Condition of the Village and Goals and Plans for the Year be included as an attachment to the Minutes. Mr. Canda requested that his citizen participation comments be clarified to indicate the Peninsula Art Academy was commemorating its 20-year anniversary rather than it being in existence for 21 years. Additional clarification to the language describing the discussion that took place in the Unfinished Business/New Business portion of the meeting was requested. Specifically, the statement that the Bronson House cannot be rented was amended to state it could get an additional certificate if the Village was not maxed out on the available number of permits. Mr. Najeway made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Slocum to approve the Minutes as amended. Roll call vote: Councilperson Schneider, yes; Mr. Steidl, yes; Mr. Slocum, yes; Mr. Rosales, yes; Mr. Haramis, yes; Mr. Najeway, yes. The amended Minutes were approved.

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:**

Mo Riggins questioned how the Barn on the Bronson House property was able to receive a permit. Mr. Bryan noted the Barn property was eligible for a certificate because it is on a separate parcel from the Bronson House, now has a separate address, and therefore, is no longer considered an accessory structure. It meets the criteria for renewal under Section 741.03(a) of the amended version of the ordinance that was adopted last year because the Barn had a valid certificate issued prior to the effective date of the ordinance amendment, the certificate was valid at the time the renewal application was submitted, the renewal application was submitted prior to the expiration date, and the application was in compliance with all of the requirements. Ms. Dorton confirmed that all previous certificates in the R-2 Zone met the criteria for renewal, so the number of permits issued in that area exceeds the limit of 10. The Mayor suggested that a similar process to what is used for short-term rentals be extended to long-term rentals in order to hold landlords equally accountable.

Amy Frank-Hensley thanked the administration for the notice that was sent out for the upcoming Sewer Project and Area Master Plan meetings. She made a complaint about the Village trash hauler starting pickup before the 7:00 a.m. start time and missing pickups at houses.

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**REPORTS**

**Mayor, Daniel Schneider, Jr.:** The Mayor thanked Ms. Dorton, his wife Linda, and the Service Department for all their help with the mailings and signs posted around town related to the upcoming meetings. He also thanked the Service Department for assisting with boarding up a vacant house in the Village that was broken into. He asked if anyone knows how to contact the owner of the house, to let him know. The Village has been unable to locate her.

**Motion to Authorize the Mayor to Accept the Quote from TEC Communications and Enter into a 5 Year Agreement for a Webex Phone System for a One-Time Amount of \$14,740 for Equipment and Labor and a \$288 per month Webex Calling License Fee, in Accordance with the Terms Set Forth in the January 29, 2025 Quote**

Mr. Najeway made the above motion that was seconded by Mr. Haramis. Roll call vote: Councilperson Schneider, yes; Mr. Steidl, yes; Mr. Slocum, yes; Mr. Rosales, yes; Mr. Haramis, yes; Mr. Najeway, yes. The motion was approved.

**Fiscal Officer, Ms. Iaconis:** Ms. Iaconis distributed a draft of the budget ordinance exhibit and noted the budget will need to be approved at next month's meeting. She went through the budget categories and pointed out the revenue received and expenses related to the camera ticket citations. Council acknowledged those revenues could decrease in the future if the laws change and/or the motorists slow down. Ms. Iaconis requested Council to permit her to make changes to the Village's accounts and banking procedures with its bank to permit the Village to receive a higher interest rate on its deposited funds. Mr. Slocum made that motion, which was seconded by Mr. Steidl. Roll call vote: Councilperson Schneider, yes; Mr. Steidl, yes; Mr. Slocum, yes; Mr. Rosales, yes; Mr. Haramis, yes; Mr. Najeway, yes. The motion was approved.

**Street Commissioner, Mr. Anderson:** The Mayor reported Mr. Anderson had nothing to report.

**Finance Liaison, Mr. Slocum**

**Acknowledgement of Receipt of Financial Reports**

Mr. Slocum made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Steidl to acknowledge receipt of the financial reports. Roll call vote: Councilperson Schneider, yes; Mr. Steidl, yes; Mr. Slocum, yes; Mr. Rosales, yes; Mr. Haramis, yes; Mr. Najeway, yes. The motion was approved.

**Ratification of Submitted Bills List**

Mr. Slocum made a motion that was seconded by Councilperson Schneider to ratify the submitted bills list. Roll call vote: Councilperson Schneider, yes; Mr. Steidl, yes; Mr. Slocum, yes; Mr. Rosales, yes; Mr. Haramis, yes; Mr. Najeway, yes. The motion was approved.

**Discussion Regarding Mayor and Council Pay for Upcoming Terms (Current Compensation Levels are \$3,600/yr. for the Mayor and \$720/yr. for Council)**

Mr. Bryan reminded everyone that any changes would not be effective until the start of the next terms of office. He stated any changes to Council's pay should be adopted within the next couple of months to ensure the change is in place with sufficient notice before this year's election filing deadline. After a discussion, Mr. Najeway asked Mr. Bryan to draft legislation to

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increase the Mayor's pay rate to \$6,000 a year. It was determined that no changes should be made to Council's pay rate.

**Police Department Liaison, Councilperson Schneider:** The Mayor reported that promotional interviews will be conducted on February 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Outside third party experts have volunteered to participate in the interviews and rate the candidates to avoid favoritism issues.

**Roads and Public Works Liaison, Mr. Haramis:** Mr. Haramis complimented the Service Department for keeping up with plowing and salting the roads this winter.

Mr. Bryan reported the slope repairs to Rt. 303 are currently scheduled for the first week of March, and the road will be closed to all through traffic during that time. Everyone should plan accordingly for that week. Property owners within the repair zone will have access to their properties. Since the State, not the Village, is not paying for the repairs, ODOT has asked the Village Police Department to help out and enforce the closed road restrictions.

**Planning Commission Representative, Mr. Steidl:** Mr. Steidl reported the Planning Commission reviewed and approved of amendments to the Village Zoning Fees recommended by the Village Zoning Officer, Administrative Clerk, Planner, and Solicitor. The fee amendments are on this evening's agenda for Council approval.

**Zoning Officer, Mr. Hemming:** Mr. Hemming shared his experiences as the Village Zoning Officer. The Mayor expressed his gratitude for Mr. Hemming's work.

**Board of Zoning Appeals, Mayor Schneider:** The Mayor stated there is nothing to report.

**Buildings and Grounds Liaison, Mr. Steidl**

**Motion to Authorize the Mayor to Accept the Quote of Contract Source, Inc. in the Amount of \$35,847.25 for New Furniture for Village Hall**

Mr. Steidl noted that the Village Hall Project is under way. Nothing unexpected has been uncovered to date, and the Project is proceeding as planned. He made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Najeway to authorize the Mayor to accept the quote of Contract Source, Inc. in the amount of \$35,847.25. Roll call vote: Councilperson Schneider, yes; Mr. Steidl, yes; Mr. Slocum, yes; Mr. Rosales, yes; Mr. Haramis, yes; Mr. Najeway, yes. The motion was approved.

Mr. Najeway reported the Players Barn has been demolished after the completion of the asbestos inspection and removal. The Mayor noted the Players Barn sign was stolen. He stated if anyone has any information on that theft, to please let him know. No questions will be asked if the sign is returned intact. He hopes it will be found so it can be displayed in a place where all the Village can appreciate it.

**Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development Liaison, Mr. Rosales:** The Mayor reported there will be a Chamber meeting tomorrow at the Library.

**Community Events Liaison, Mr. Najeway:** Mr. Najeway reported there is no new news. There is a Peninsula Live meeting scheduled for next week.

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**Policies & Procedures Liaison, Mr. Slocum:** Mr. Slocum thanked the Mayor and Ms. Dorton for getting mailers out for the upcoming meetings and the sandwich board signs. He hopes the Village can erect more informational and way-finding signs around town. He would still like a community informational sign at Village Hall. Mr. Slocum noted the renewal of the Solicitor's contract is on this evening's agenda. He stated he has concerns about Mr. Bryan's role as the Village Solicitor. He stated what Mr. Bryan does for other municipalities he works for is vastly different than the work he does for the Village. Based upon what others have told him, Mr. Bryan acts as more of a consultant for other municipalities. He does not insert himself into deliberations like he does for the Village, and he does not sit on the dais next to the Mayor. Mr. Bryan responded by stating he performs similar work and a similar role for all the municipalities for which he has worked and sits at the dais next to the Mayor at Northfield Village meetings. The Mayor asked for Mr. Slocum to have correct information before presenting such concerns. Mr. Slocum added that Mr. Bryan plays too much of a central role, especially where he sits in meetings, and he did not sit next to the former Mayor at Council Meetings. The Mayor and Councilperson Schneider advised Mr. Slocum that the Solicitor has always sat next to the Mayor at Peninsula Council Meetings, and Mr. Bryan sat next to Mayor Mayer when he was in office. Mr. Slocum indicated that many council persons have allowed the solicitor to take Sunshine law training for them and that he thought it was important that each councilperson did this themselves, so they understood their role. He also noted that perhaps more in the past, the solicitor has appeared to some to be entering into Council deliberations and interrupting or talking over Council members. The Mayor stated no other Councilmembers feel the same way, and if they do, they can share their concerns at this time. Mr. Slocum voiced his interest in reaching out to the Attorney General's office for better clarity on the role of a Village Solicitor and insinuated that the Mayor does not run Village Council Meetings. Mayor Schneider stated the Peninsula Mayor does not have a lot of power under the Village structure, but he is in charge of the meetings.

**Fire Board, Mr. Slocum:** Mr. Slocum shared information on the officers and staffing and the hours they are working in their roles. He reported adding more full-time positions is under discussion, but there is currently no consensus as to how those positions would be funded. An additional vehicle was purchased to replace an older vehicle that it did not make sense to repair.

**Cemetery Board, Councilperson Schneider:** Councilperson Schneider announced that there will be a meeting scheduled soon.

**JEDD Board, Councilperson Schneider:** Ms. Iaconis stated the annual JEDD Board Meeting was held in January.

**Wastewater/Stormwater/Water Liaison, Mr. Najeway:** Mr. Najeway reported the County Wastewater Project Community Open House is scheduled for Tuesday February 18, 2025 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Boston Township Hall. He shared that he and the Mayor have been actively reaching out to sources to get water for The Village. The National Park also wants water and has expressed its willingness to assist in those efforts in any way it can.

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**Area Master Plan, Mr. Slocum and Mr. Steidl:** Mr. Steidl announced the upcoming Area Master Plan Community Open House is scheduled for Wednesday February 19, 2025 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the G.A.R. Hall.

**Solicitor, Mr. Bryan**

**Motion to Authorize the Mayor to Execute the Solicitor/Prosecutor Contract for a Term of April 1, 2025 through December 31, 2026**

Mr. Bryan responded to Mr. Slocum's comments earlier in the meeting. He explained that his role and actions as Solicitor have not changed since he was hired by the Village in 2016, except for there being more work that needs to be performed. He explained he does is what is asked of him and what needs to be done. He has worked for many communities since he got his license in 1990, and the job is pretty much the same for all communities. He stated he does not have a vote on anything that is before Council or the Planning Commission. He provides advice that can be considered to help Village officials make decisions. Since he has become the Peninsula Solicitor, the lawsuits and legal payouts the Village have been involved in have significantly decreased. If Council wants to terminate his services, it is free to do so at any time.

Mr. Slocum stated while Mr. Bryan might be the best option and the cheapest price, Council wouldn't know unless a bid for the role was put out. Mr. Haramis and Mr. Najeway defended the quality of Mr. Bryan's work and the rates he charges.

Mr. Steidl made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Haramis to authorize the Mayor to execute the Solicitor/Prosecutor contract with a term of April 1, 2025 through December 31, 2026. Roll call vote: Councilperson Schneider, yes; Mr. Steidl, yes; Mr. Slocum, no; Mr. Rosales, yes; Mr. Haramis, yes; Mr. Najeway, yes. The motion was approved.

**LEGISLATION:**

*First Reading:*

**Resolution No. 02-2025**

Requested by: Solicitor Bryan and Fiscal Officer Iaconis

**A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Fiscal Officer to Renew the Village's Agreement with Summit County and the Legal Defenders Office of Summit County Ohio, Inc. for Indigent Representation in the Stow Municipal Court**

Mr. Bryan read the Resolution by title. Councilperson Schneider made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Najeway to suspend the three-reading rule. Roll call vote: Councilperson Schneider, yes; Mr. Steidl, yes; Mr. Slocum, yes; Mr. Rosales, yes; Mr. Haramis, yes; Mr. Najeway, yes. The motion was approved. Councilperson Schneider made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Rosales to pass the Resolution. Roll call vote: Councilperson Schneider, yes; Mr. Steidl, yes; Mr. Slocum, yes; Mr. Rosales, yes; Mr. Haramis, yes; Mr. Najeway, yes. The Resolution was adopted.

**Resolution No. 03-2025**

Requested by: Solicitor Bryan and Mayor Schneider

**An Emergency Resolution Amending the Zoning Permit Fee Schedule**

Mr. Bryan read the Resolution by title. Mr. Haramis made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Steidl to suspend the three-reading rule. Roll call vote: Councilperson Schneider, yes; Mr. Steidl, yes; Mr. Slocum, yes; Mr. Rosales, yes; Mr. Haramis, yes; Mr. Najeway, yes. The motion was approved. Mr. Hemming discussed his role and expressed his gratitude to Ms. Dorton, the

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Mayor, and Mr. Bryan for their assistance. He also shared how far he needs to travel to the Village, his method of communication, and how much it costs him personally to do his role effectively. Councilperson Schneider made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Steidl to adopt the Resolution. Roll call vote: Councilperson Schneider, yes; Mr. Steidl, yes; Mr. Slocum, yes; Mr. Rosales, yes; Mr. Haramis, yes; Mr. Najeway, yes. The Resolution was adopted.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Najeway requested legislation for next month's agenda to increase Mr. Hemming's Zoning Officer pay to \$600 a month for the rest of the year.

**PayByPhone Process Functionality**

The Mayor reported he is waiting to hear back from the PayByPhone representative as to when the next meeting can be scheduled to discuss this issue. Ms. Iaconis explained the paid parking program brings in income to the Village. Mr. Slocum reported the State Legislature is considering a bill that would require parking meters to accept cash or coins.

**Miscellaneous:**

Mr. Slocum asked about the Village Microsoft and Google contracts. The Mayor explained he is in the process of scheduling a meeting with Tom Souza, who does the IT work for the Village to see if any improvements can be made or savings can be achieved.

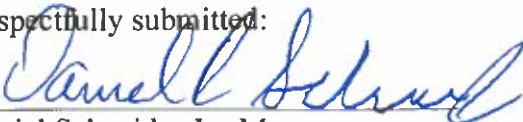
Mr. Najeway shared he has received inquiries from people interested in purchasing the Players Barn property now that the building has been demolished. A discussion took place on what might be the best option for that property, including selling the property or trading it to the National Park Service in exchange for the Fire Department property. Mr. Slocum shared that the National Park is not interested in being the landlord of their building and would be open to trading the property for the Players Barn site so it would not be responsible for the upkeep of the building among other issues.

Mr. Najeway stated he reached out to General Die Casters to see if it had any interest in selling the property to the Village, and if so, on what terms. He has not received a constructive response as of this date.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF NECESSARY):** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mr. Najeway made a motion that was seconded by Councilperson Schneider to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote: Councilperson Schneider, yes; Mr. Steidl, yes; Mr. Slocum, yes; Mr. Rosales, yes; Mr. Haramis, yes; Mr. Najeway, yes. The motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

  
Daniel Schneider Jr., Mayor

3-11-2025  
Date

  
Katie Iaconis, Fiscal Officer

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