

**Record of Proceedings
Regular Council Meeting**

Held: Tuesday, April 28, 2026

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

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Daniel Schneider, Jr.	Present	Amy Frank-Hensley	Present
Richard Slocum	Present	Daniel Krachinsky	Present
Jodi Padrutt	Present	Eliud Rosales	Present
Moe Riggins	Present		

OTHERS PRESENT: Solicitor Brad Bryan, Administrative Assistant Faith Dorton, FirstEnergy Representative Amy Hopkins, and Cuyahoga Valley National Park Chief of External Affairs Ivan Kassovic

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

FirstEnergy Representative Amy Hopkins and CVNP Chief of External Affairs Ivan Kassovic Regarding Tree Maintenance Plans and Challenges and Power Outages:

FirstEnergy representative Amy Hopkins provided a brief presentation on the company's tree maintenance and outage practices before opening the floor for questions. Ms. Hopkins explained she is new to the Peninsula area and described FirstEnergy's tree-trimming policy, which occurs on a four-year cycle within the rights-of-way. Trees outside the right-of-way area are only addressed if they threaten power lines and the property owner consents to the tree work. She confirmed that regular trimming work in Peninsula was conducted in 2024 and the trees are scheduled to be trimmed again in 2028. If there is a particular tree that is causing a problem, that can be reported to FirstEnergy. Ms. Hopkins noted that residents sometimes decline permission for FirstEnergy to trim their trees. She encouraged residents to report recurring and other power loss issues to FirstEnergy so that patterns can be tracked and investigated.

Residents, including Greg Canda, Tina Stevens, Matthew Padrutt, and Mr. Sullivan, raised concerns about frequent outages, recurring problem locations, and overall service reliability, noting there is widespread generator use in their neighborhoods. Ms. Hopkins acknowledged the concerns and offered to review specific addresses, involve reliability teams, and potentially monitor circuits. Matthew Padrutt and others pushed for more proactive solutions, including better data sharing and preventative maintenance. Beth Sullivan noted broader factors such as reduced tree maintenance by the CVNP and the need for coordination with the Park. She raised concerns about communication during outages, particularly unannounced or perceived planned outages. The Mayor noted to Ms. Sullivan that her property is not in the Village, and this meeting was intended to deal with issues in the Village. Ms. Hopkins stated no planned outages took place in the Village in the past year. She agreed to explore whether circuit-level data could be shared periodically with Council.

Ivan Kassovic from the CVNP explained the Park employs a full-time licensed arborist with one assistant. Those two employees are charged with managing hazardous trees within the entire 200-mile exterior boundary of the Park, the railroad line, and road areas. He stated the Park does not maintain trees within the road right-of-way areas or trees touching or threatening transmission lines. Responsibility for that work belongs to FirstEnergy. He emphasized that, after reviewing 12 years of records, the CVNP found only notifications from FirstEnergy about planned tree work. There was no evidence that the CVNP ever denied access to FirstEnergy to its property for tree trimming. He stated residents who share a boundary with the CVNP can call the

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Park communications center if they have concerns about a tree on Park property. In that case, the CVNP will send a Ranger to look at the tree and follow up with the arborist or a contractor if needed.

Matthew Padrutt asked whether the CVNP proactively patrols for hazardous trees and whether First Energy can trim trees along the CVNP right-of-way the same way it trims near residential property. Mr. Kassovic explained that Rangers do look for hazardous trees and can clear trees from roads when they are able. He stated most issues are in the right-of-way rather than on Park property. He confirmed FirstEnergy's relationship with the Park is essentially the same as with any other property owner. Nothing is stopping FirstEnergy from treating the Park right-of-way in the same manner as other properties. Ms. Padrutt asked whether the Park has a four-year trimming plan like FirstEnergy; Mr. Kassovic said the arborist does have a plan, but the limited staffing renders the work more reactive than proactive.

Steve Craig asked about the two circuits feeding the Village and whether outages are caused by trees within Peninsula or by upstream issues outside the community. Ms. Hopkins said FirstEnergy does not share circuit routing details for security reasons. The Mayor noted that resident complaints suggest different parts of Stine Road are fed differently because during the outages some homes lose power while other nearby houses remain on. Greg Canda asked whether electric lines could be placed underground downtown when the sewer or water projects take place. Ms. Hopkins said that is possible, but it would be very expensive and 100% at the Village's cost.

The Mayor noted the CVNP recently asked whether the Village would consider selling the former Players Barn property to the Park. He stated there would be no firm commitment if the Village said yes at this point. Mr. Kassovic explained land swaps are not feasible at this time due to staffing and process limitations, but federal funding is currently available for acquisitions. The purchase would be for fair market value and would take at least two years to complete. He emphasized the Village could change its mind at any point until a purchase agreement is signed. When asked about the Park's intended use for the property, he stated the land would likely be re-vegetated.

Mr. Bryan asked about the status of the Conservancy property in the Village. Mr. Kassovic reported portions of that property are expected to be opened for hiking this summer, pending final approval from the regional office. The initial effort will focus on basic access, rather than full multi-use trails. The timeline for full access to the old golf course property is uncertain. He stated the Phase Four Plan for that property has not been fully developed. The goal is to gradually reopen areas for public use as the remediation work concludes.

PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS:

April 14, 2026 Council Meeting Minutes: Ms. Frank-Hensley made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Krachinsky to approve the minutes. Roll call vote: Ms. Frank-Hensley, yes; Mr. Krachinsky, yes; Mr. Slocum, yes; Ms. Padrutt, yes; Ms. Riggins, yes; Mr. Rosales, yes. The minutes were approved.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: Greg Canda suggested adding stop signs at the bend on W. Mill Street to require drivers to come to a full stop before making the turn in both directions, noting that it is a dangerous corner. The Mayor said he would investigate the feasibility of that request.

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REPORTS:

Mayor, Daniel Schneider, Jr.: The Mayor provided updates on several Village matters. He noted that survey and drone crews organized by OHM will be in the area collecting data for the St. Route 303 Project. Underground work for the Summit Connects Project will impact downtown parking from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. for up to two weeks. The timeline may shorten if no complications arise. The portable speed signs are being moved around to slow traffic and gather as much traffic data as possible. The Mayor reported that Chief Nagy informed him that he will retire, effective June 12, 2026. The Mayor stated he plans to consider Corporal Rucker, a former Cleveland Municipal Housing Authority Commander, for the Chief position. Guardrail repairs have been completed by Erie Construction, the South Locust Street sinkhole has been repaired, and discussions are taking place with ODOT about safety improvements along Rt. 303, including questions about truck traffic. The Mayor also noted there is a vacancy on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Councilmembers and residents raised issues about malfunctioning or unclear signage, pedestrian safety, and speeding, particularly on Stine Road. The Mayor stated he would follow up on those concerns.

Fiscal Officer, Ms. Iaconis: Mr. Krachinsky stated he had nothing to report. It was noted that Council has not received an updated financial statement from the Fiscal Officer recently. Council requested that if Ms. Iaconis is not able to have those items ready for the first meeting of the month, she should be required to attend the second meeting and provide the records.

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

Finance Liaison, Mr. Krachinsky: Mr. Krachinsky stated he had nothing to report.

Police Department: The Mayor stated he already provided the pertinent Police Department information in his Mayor's Report.

Roads and Public Works: The Mayor stated the Village is working on repairing a sinkhole in another area of the Village.

Planning Commission, Ms. Frank-Hensley: Ms. Frank-Hensley reported the Planning Commission approved the site plan for the MBA property on W. Mill Street with conditions, including the requirement that the sidewalk in front of the property connect with N. Locust Street, which is in alignment with the Village Master Plan. The project is expected to include a bakery, additional retail space, and two apartments. The design fits the Village's aesthetic. The Planning Commission also requested Council to place a six-month moratorium on development in the Mixed-Use zoning district while the Planning Commission and Council work on amendments to that section of the code. Mr. Bryan confirmed there were currently no applications on file for any projects in the Mixed-Use district. Council requested Mr. Bryan to draft that moratorium legislation. Council discussed the need to better understand the existing zoning codes. Ms. Frank-Hensley suggested an educational session led by planning experts to clarify the regulations and guide future decisions on Mixed-Use developments and parking.

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Zoning Officer, Mr. Collins: The Mayor reported the Zoning Officer discovered that a large shed or garage was being erected without a permit. A stop work order was issued, and the property owner is in the process of submitting an application. The project was initially described as a simple reroofing job and apparently turned out to involve a significant amount of additional construction work.

Ms. Padrutt stated she received complaints about the placement of sandwich board signs along Rt. 303. She stated they are obstructing sidewalk access, are not in front of the business locations, and are not being removed at night. The Mayor acknowledged the need for better enforcement but emphasized the value of working collaboratively with businesses rather than restricting marketing opportunities. Mr. Bryan noted that sandwich board signs are generally allowed on sidewalks near storefronts but must not obstruct pedestrian use of the sidewalk or ingress or egress to properties. The Mayor stated he would review this issue with the Zoning Officer.

Board of Zoning Appeals: Mark Anson, who was in the audience, reported on this evening's Board of Zoning Appeals meeting. The Board approved side yard setback variances for a house addition on Riverview Road. Mr. Anson described the request as straightforward and noted he is now serving as Board Chairperson. Matt Padrutt was elected Vice-Chair.

Buildings and Grounds, Ms. Frank-Hensley and Ms. Riggins: Ms. Frank-Hensley explained she is investigating options for a new building sign. Electronic signs generally cost between \$15,00 and \$40,000. Simpler changeable letter signs, including stone or timber-based concepts, are less expensive. A basic sign quotes out at around \$3,000, and an indoor-only analog display option starts around \$23,000. She requested budget guidance from Council, suggesting an amount under \$10,000 to \$15,000. Mr. Slocum stated he supported a sign in that price range. He recommended creating a cheap physical mock-up to help decide on the size and placement and noted past offers and quotes for designing a Village Hall sign. The Mayor emphasized the importance of careful planning before committing any funds. Ms. Frank-Hensley suggested utilizing AI tools to help show how different signs would look in certain locations. She stated the use of pre-made text panels could cut down on the work when messages need to be changed. People are willing to volunteer to assist with changing the panels when needed.

John Najeway questioned the purpose of spending money on a sign that provides information that already exists online. The Mayor explained he and Ms. Dorton have worked with the webmaster to continuously expand and update the site based on the needs of the Village and feedback from Council, employees, and residents. Ms. Riggins shared a resident's suggestion for adding historical information about Village Departments to the Village website. The Mayor agreed it was a good idea but noted it would require additional effort for someone to research and write the information. John Najeway suggested providing a link to the Peninsula Historical Society. Ms. Riggins supported that idea.

Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development: Nothing to report.

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Policies & Procedures Liaison, Mr. Slocum: Records Retention and Disposal Policy and Schedule/Cybersecurity/Proposed Events Ordinance and Application:

Ms. Frank-Hensley reviewed the Priority List with Council. She asked whether Council desired to revise how project responsibilities are handled now that OHM Advisors is involved. The Mayor indicated Ms. Padrutt could continue as an additional point of contact on the Water Project. Discussion regarding the sewer project highlighted that progress is slow. The Mayor explained meetings have been brief and informational, and while the design work is 100% complete, the Project is currently in a holding pattern. Funding is still being assembled through grants and potential borrowing, with costs having risen significantly from early estimates due to inflation and timing. Council agreed the Mayor would remain the primary contact with the County for the Wastewater Project for now, and the issue could be reevaluated later.

Ms. Frank-Hensley identified the need to designate a single point of contact for the Rt. 303 Project, per the agreement with OHM. Mr. Slocum offered to continue attending meetings and serve in that role while coordinating updates to Council. The Mayor supported that approach and noted that OHM is also communicating with Village Engineer Ed McCabe on Project issues.

Ms. Frank-Hensley confirmed that Mr. Rosales volunteered to assist with the dark sky ordinance. Mr. Slocum stated there may be practical lighting issues the Village can address, such as choosing warmer streetlight colors and correcting business lights that shine outward into the street or neighboring properties.

Mr. Slocum updated Council on cybersecurity, explaining that Tom Souza, the Village IT consultant, is preparing an inventory of Village hardware, software, data, and networks. Mr. Slocum also contacted Acrisure about providing a quote for a formal risk assessment. The Mayor said he would follow up with Mr. Souza about the cybersecurity training course he is required to take as the Chief Executive of the Village.

Ms. Padrutt reviewed a proposed event policy ordinance and application that could replace the Village's current approach and application. The ordinance would require permits for public events that affect traffic, require Village resources, exceed typical site occupancy, or create safety and liability concerns. The Ordinance designates three tiers of events, based on attendance and event type. Requirements include application deadlines, required route maps, logistics, insurance, parking plans, police/fire/EMS coordination, possible reasons for denial or cancellation, and a proposed permit fee structure. Council members discussed the need to clarify that private gatherings are excluded from the Ordinance, especially backyard parties or invitation-only events. Ms. Frank-Hensley suggested framing it more clearly as a public events policy. Council debated whether the fee and deposit amounts should be different for the different event tiers and whether nonprofits, schools, and local organizations should be exempt from fees or deposits, especially if they host larger fundraisers or events that require Village services. Mr. Bryan noted that the fees must relate to the Village's administrative costs, and fee waivers could be considered on a case-by-case basis if they are consistently applied. Mr. Slocum emphasized the priority is not collecting fees but ensuring larger events properly handle parking, traffic, policing, sound, and insurance. Problems with being able to provide insurance for block party like events were raised. Ms. Padrutt asked members to send any suggested edits to her and Mr. Bryan before the next meeting.

Ms. Riggins raised the recent Ramp Up event as an example, saying it appeared well organized. The Mayor clarified that although the Village ultimately approved the event and

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Reserve Officers helped with traffic direction and patrol, his office was not contacted until late in the process, which is part of why a clearer event policy is needed.

Fire Board, Mr. Krachinsky: Mr. Krachinsky reported that 42 people completed CPR training across four classes held at the Coffee Shop. He encouraged residents to support the two levies benefiting the Fire Department and reminded everyone about an upcoming Sunday pancake breakfast fundraiser in support of the Department.

Cemetery Board, Ms. Padrutt: Ms. Padrutt reported there are still a few remaining trees to clean up from the recent storm. Planning is underway for the Memorial Day Parade. Anyone with vintage cars or tractors is encouraged to contact Jerry Ritch.

Mr. Bryan reported he reached out to the President of the Boston Township Board of Trustees about holding the Joint Cemetery Meeting at the start of the May 12 Village Council Meeting to review the 2025 financial report, 2026 budget, and adopt the cemetery tax resolution, as directed by the Ohio Revised Code. Ms. Anderson has not yet confirmed the Township Board's availability to attend, but he expects the meeting to be held on May 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Council Chambers. If not, alternative arrangements will be made.

JEDD Board, Ms. Riggins: Ms. Riggins reported that year-to-date contributions are down compared to last year and suggested that fluctuations may be due to temporary factors such as changes in local activity or employment, noting that similar patterns can occur and often balance out over time. Mr. Bryan cautioned against discussing individual taxpayer payment amount details, emphasizing that only overall revenue amounts should be addressed. Ms. Riggins clarified that overall revenues may even out as the year progresses.

Wastewater/Stormwater/Water: Mr. Slocum reported there have been no updates or meetings regarding wastewater or stormwater since the last Council Meeting. Ms. Padrutt revisited notes from a recent discussion, raising a question about a mention that Akron might require income tax sharing if it were to provide water to non-residents. She asked what implications that could have for the Village. The Mayor clarified Akron is only one potential provider, could just end up supplying water, and might not be the selected option. The group is still in a listening and exploratory phase, and other regional options exist for water supply. Mr. Bryan stated that tax sharing would not be something the Village or proposed water district would likely agree to include in any agreement with Akron. Mr. Slocum noted Akron is simply participating in the broader water conversation for this area rather than being formally committed at this stage.

Solicitor, Mr. Bryan: Mr. Bryan stated he had nothing additional to report at this time.

LEGISLATION:

First Reading:

Ordinance No. 07-2026

Requested by: Mayor Schneider and Councilpersons Slocum and Frank-Hensley

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 1125 of the Zoning Code Related to Off-Street Parking

Mr. Bryan read the legislation by title. This Ordinance will advance to a second reading at the next Council Meeting.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS:

Village Contracts:

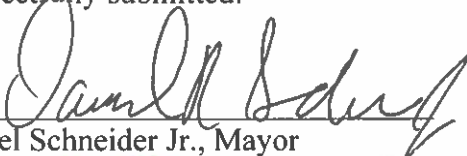
Solicitor: Ms. Padrutt stated the Committee needs to schedule a meeting date.

Other Matters:

Chickens: Mr. Slocum raised resident concerns about early morning noise from roosters in the R-2 zoning district. The Mayor and Mr. Bryan noted the issue of banning roosters was debated by Council in detail several years ago over a period of months. The compromise decision made by Council at the time was to permit one rooster per property. Ms. Riggins noted that chickens are part of Peninsula's agricultural tradition and character. Ms. Frank-Hensley emphasized that their proximity to neighboring homes can create legitimate disturbance concerns. Ms. Padrutt stated she did not think there was a problem with roosters that needed to be addressed. There was no consensus by Council on the need to take any action on this issue at this time.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Rosales made a motion that was seconded by Ms. Riggins to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote: Ms. Frank-Hensley, yes; Mr. Krachinsky, yes; Mr. Slocum, yes; Ms. Padrutt, yes; Ms. Riggins, yes; Mr. Rosales, yes. The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Daniel Schneider Jr., Mayor

5/14/2026
Date



Katie Iaconis, Fiscal Officer

5/12/2026