

Village of Cuyahoga Heights

Council Meeting

January 14, 2026

Meeting minutes

Pledge of Allegiance/Turn Off Cell Phones

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Jack Bacci.

Chief Fiscal Officer Meriwether swore in Mayor Bacci. Mayor Bacci swore in Councilmen Bloam, Unger, and Volek.

A Moment of Silence

Mayor Bacci asked for a moment of silence for village resident Mrs. Barbara Combs who passed away last month.

Mayor Calls the Meeting to Order

Mayor Bacci called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

Roll Call

Roll call was conducted with all members present: Council Members Bloam, Centa, Contipelli, Schoeffler, Unger, and Volek. A quorum was established.

Nominations for Council President for 2026

Chief Fiscal Officer Meriwether opened nominations for Council President for 2026. Councilman Member Bloam nominated Council Member Renato Contipelli, seconded by Council Member Schoeffler.

Motion to elect Renato Contipelli as Council President was made by Council Member Bloam, seconded by Council Member Schoeffler. The motion passed unanimously.

Council President Contipelli thanked his colleagues for their continued confidence in his leadership.

Communications

The I-77 construction update was acknowledged but not read during the meeting.

Permits

No permits were reported.

Purchases

No purchases were reported.

Minutes

Motion to accept the December 10, 2025 Council Meeting and Finance Committee Meeting minutes as prepared and to place them on file was made by Council Member Centa, seconded by Council Member Contipelli. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports

Motion to accept the RITA Final Report of December 2025 and the Position of Cash of December 2025 as prepared was made by Council Member Contipelli, seconded by Council Member Schoeffler. The motion passed unanimously.

Legislation

Resolution No. 2026-01

Motion to dispense with the three-reading requirement and place Resolution No. 2026-01, regarding the payment of certain claims and transfers in the amount of \$2,254,204.62 for the month of December 2025, on third and final reading was made by Council Member Schoeffler, seconded by Council Member Unger. The motion passed unanimously. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Resolution No. 2026-02

Motion to dispense with the three-reading requirement and place Resolution No. 2026-02, authorizing the village to enter into an agreement with Gentile Law LLC for prosecutorial legal services for the period from January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2027, on third and final reading was made by Council Member Unger, seconded by Council Member Volek. The motion passed unanimously. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Ordinance No. 2026-03

Motion to dispense with the three-reading requirement and place Ordinance No. 2026-03, providing for the employment of a building commissioner and architect for the Village of Cuyahoga Heights for the period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026 and declaring an emergency, on third and final reading was made by Council Member Volek, seconded by Council Member Bloam. The motion passed unanimously. The ordinance was adopted unanimously.

Ordinance No. 2026-04

Motion to dispense with the three-reading requirement and place Ordinance No. 2026-04, providing for the employment of an engineer for the Village of Cuyahoga Heights for 2026 and 2027, fixing compensation therefore and declaring an emergency, on third and final reading was made by Council Member Bloam, seconded by Council Member Centa. The motion passed unanimously. The ordinance was adopted unanimously.

Ordinance No. 2026-05

Motion to dispense with the three-reading requirement and place Ordinance No. 2026-05, authorizing the Mayor to appoint Dean DePiero to serve as magistrate for the Cuyahoga Heights Mayor's Court and declaring an emergency, on third and final reading was made by Council Member Centa, seconded by Council Member Contipelli. The motion passed unanimously. The ordinance was adopted unanimously.

Resolution No. 2026-06

Motion to dispense with the three-reading requirement and place Resolution No. 2026-06, authorizing the village to enter into an agreement with the law firm of Roetzel & Andress for professional legal services for the period from January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2027, confirming the appointment of the Law Director and declaring an emergency, on third and final reading was made by Council Member Contipelli, seconded by Council Member Schoeffler. The motion passed unanimously. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Ordinance No. 2026-07

Motion to dispense with the three-reading requirement and place Ordinance No. 2026-07, approving the editing and inclusion of certain ordinances as part of various component codes of the codified ordinances, approving, adopting, and enacting new matter in the updated and revised codified ordinances, repealing ordinances and resolutions in conflict therewith, and declaring an emergency, on third and final reading was made by Council Member Schoeffler, seconded by Council Member Unger. The motion passed unanimously. The ordinance was adopted unanimously.

Resolution No. 2026-08

Motion to dispense with the three-reading requirement and place Resolution No. 2026-08, authorizing increases to the purchase order for the Bacci Park Softball Field Improvements Project, waiving competitive bidding requirements, and declaring an emergency, on third and final reading was made by Council Member Unger, seconded by Council Member Volek. The motion passed unanimously. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Council President Contipelli asked if the field would be ready for the girls' softball season this spring. Mayor Bacci indicated that the added site scope was outside of what was previously approved, and that alternative arrangements would be made if necessary.

Resolution No. 2026-09

Motion to dispense with the three-reading requirement and place Resolution No. 2026-09, authorizing the village to execute a professional services contract with ENVI Environmental to complete certain professional tasks as part of the village's efforts to participate in the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's Voluntary Action Program at the former Nicky Boulevard Landfill, on third and final reading was made by Council Member Volek, seconded by Council Member Bloam. The motion passed unanimously. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Resolution No. 2026-10

Motion to dispense with the three-reading requirement and place Resolution No. 2026-10, authorizing a change order to the Toscana Hall Site Improvements Project, on third and final reading was made by Council Member Bloam, seconded by Council Member Centa. The motion passed unanimously. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Resolution No. 2026-11

Motion to dispense with the three-reading requirement and place Resolution No. 2026-11, authorizing a change order to the Klima Gardens Pavilion Project, on third and final reading was made by Council Member Centa, seconded by Council Member Contipelli. The motion passed unanimously. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Resolution No. 2026-12

Motion to dispense with the three-reading requirement and place Resolution No. 2026-12, authorizing the village to execute lot split consolidation, easement agreements, and all other documents with Cleveland Property Partners LLC necessary to provide for adequate grading, drainage, and access to the real property located on and adjacent to the former Hillside Party Center site, on third and final reading was made by

Council Member Contipelli, seconded by Council Member Schoeffler. The motion passed unanimously. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Resolution No. 2026-13

Motion to dispense with the three-reading requirement and place Resolution No. 2026-13, authorizing a change order to the 7137 Marcelline Court Improvements Project, on third and final reading was made by Council Member Schoeffler, seconded by Council Member Unger. The motion passed unanimously. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Resolution No. 2026-14

Motion to dispense with the three-reading requirement and place Resolution No. 2026-14, awarding the Toscana Hall Interior Improvements Project to the lowest and best bidder, waiving any nonconformities or deficiencies, and authorizing a contract with Sterling Professional Group and declaring an emergency, on third and final reading was made by Council Member Unger, seconded by Council Member Volek. The motion passed unanimously. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Other Business

No other business was discussed.

Mayor Report

Mayor Jack Bacci wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked the Council for their patience with the contractual matters addressed during the meeting.

Mayor Bacci took a moment to recognize Mrs. Combs who had recently passed away. He described her not just as a good resident or a long-time resident, but as one of the great residents of the community. He spoke about her strength through multiple family tragedies, always maintaining a smile, care, and love. Mayor Bacci noted that he and Police Chief Sturgill had attended her funeral services and provided a police escort from the funeral home to Holy Name Church and then to Calvary Cemetery.

Mayor Bacci also acknowledged several upcoming employee birthdays: Nicholas Mroczynski on January 3, Council President Renato Contipelli on January 9 (turning 66), Jimmy Henley Jr. on January 16, Brian Fragua and Peter Mannarino on January 19, and David Martin on January 30.

Council Report

Mr. Bloam

Council Member Bloam congratulated Council President Contipelli on his re-election as President of Council.

Mr. Centa

Council Member Centa stated that Mrs. Combs always had a smile on her face. He also thanked Service Director Sammons for his department plowing residential driveways on New Year's Eve.

Mr. Contipelli

Council President Contipelli offered condolences to the Combs family, noting what a great person Mrs. Combs was. He also mentioned that he knew her deceased husband Howard for a very long time and had worked with him at the Sewer District. He also extended condolences to the Schuschu family, as Robert Schuschu, Jr. had recently passed away. Council President Contipelli again thanked the Council for their continued confidence in him as Council President.

Mr. Schoeffler

Council Member Schoeffler congratulated Council President Contipelli.

Mr. Unger

Council Member Unger reiterated that Mrs. Combs was a saint, describing her as the kindest, most compassionate woman he had ever known. He mentioned that she never had anything ill to say about anybody and always welcomed people with joy and care, despite the difficulties she had faced.

Council Member Unger also informed the Council that Kelly Hodges, mother of Anthony and Jessica Vanni (who still lives in the village), had recently passed away at the age of 57.

Mr. Volek

Council Member Volek agreed with the sentiments expressed about Mrs. Combs but had nothing else to report.

Comments from the Audience

There were no comments from the audience.

Motion for Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made at 6:27 p.m. by Council Member Volek, seconded by Council President Contipelli. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.

Approved



Mayor

Renato Contipelli

Renato Contipelli (Feb 13, 2026 08:25:03 EST)

Mayor and or President of Council



Chief Fiscal Officer and Clerk of Council

On January 14, 2026

2026 01 14 Council Meeting - Meeting Minutes

Final Audit Report

2026-02-17

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