Record of Proceedings
Regular Village of Peninsula Council
Held: Tuesday, April 8, 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	Absent
Daniel Schneider	Present	Eliud Rosales	Present
Douglas Steidl	Present		

OTHERS PRESENT: Solicitor Brad Bryan and Fiscal Officer Katie Iaconis

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA: None.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS: None

PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS:
March 11, 2025 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Councilperson Schneider made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Haramis to approve the minutes. Roll call vote: Mr. Steidl, abstain; Councilperson Schneider, yes; Mr. Slocum, yes; Mr. Rosales, yes; Mr. Haramis, yes. The minutes were approved.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

Kim Dewester asked where the funding was coming from to pay for the OHM engineering services contract related to the grant application after paying the firm for the Area Master Plan contract. Ms. Dewester was advised that the motion to approve that expense would be further discussed later in the meeting.

Amy Frank-Hensley voiced concerns about authorizing more funds for OHM due to the firm's past performance on the Area Master Plan Project, including missed deadlines, poor communication, and unmet expectations. She reminded Council that OHM had proposed flawed timelines, caused delays, and required a special Steering Committee Meeting in its absence to address the deficiencies. She urged Council not to hire OHM again, suggesting that the existing materials could instead be used by a different vendor.

Greg Canda stated he shared some of the mentioned concerns about OHM's performance, especially regarding timeliness and communication. He acknowledged, however, that OHM worked hard and respectfully with the community. He noted OHM did not meet all expectations and clarified he did not find OHM's work "horrible."

REPORTS

Mayor, Daniel Schneider, Jr.: The Mayor reported that emergency repairs on Riverview Road were underway due to a sinkhole caused by a broken pipe. Asphalt will be laid once it becomes available, with total repair costs estimated at around $13,422. The Mayor highlighted the danger the sinkhole posed to heavy vehicles and commended the swift action taken by the Service Department. He announced the State has earmarked $800,000 for repairs at the St. Rt. 303 and

Emerson Road slide area. The repairs are scheduled for 2027 unless the situation becomes urgent sooner.

Motion to Authorize the Mayor to Execute a Professional Services Proposal from OHM in the Amount of $77,250 for Roadway, Pedestrian, and Traffic Improvement Design Engineering and Funding Solicitation and Assistance Work Related to the Village's Participation with Summit County in an Ohio Public Works Commission Grant Application

In response to a question about the status of the County sewer project, Mr. Bryan updated Council, stating $3,000,000 in federal funds earmarked for the project were no longer available due to Congress cancelling all FY 2025 congressional earmark awards. The County still has $8,000,000 in hand allocated to the project. The County has postponed the project while it attempts to obtain additional grant funds to close the $3,000,000 gap. To enhance the chances of receiving additional funding, OHM and the County are proposing a joint Ohio Public Works Commission grant application. The grant application, if successful, could potentially result in a budget of 16 to 17 million for the sewer project and other St. Rt. 303 corridor roadway, intersection, streetscape, sidewalk, and crosswalk infrastructure improvements. The Village's required, minimum contribution in connection with that application would be $50,000. Engineered design plans are necessary to boost the application's competitiveness. The County and OHM feel a joint grant application from the County and Village, with the support of ODOT, would score highly and have a significant chance of success. If the grant is awarded, $27,000 of the Village's contribution toward the project could be reimbursed from the grant funds. The grant application with the engineered plans is due by June 30, 2025. Therefore, there is a tight time frame for completing the necessary engineering work. OHM advised that Council does not need to decide this evening, but the matter cannot wait until the regular May Meeting date. If Council wants more time to make a decision, a Special Council Meeting will need to be scheduled. The County and Village would find out if they received the grant this fall. If the grant funds are awarded, construction on the project could not start until after July 1, 2026.

While concerns were raised about community engagement issues, most of Council agreed that the application's benefits, such as receiving funds to improve traffic safety, stormwater systems, and sidewalks, funds to put in crosswalks, and possibly be reimbursed for a portion of the Village's up-front costs, outweighed the drawbacks. Councilperson Schneider stated he supports sewer and curb upgrades. Amy Frank-Hensley summarized the investment as a chance to trade a $50,000 net outlay for $8 million in returns.

The Mayor acknowledged frustrations with OHM's past outreach efforts, but noted its primary expertise was in engineering and obtaining funding for projects. Further discussions included questions about contract progress payments and grant conditions. Council ultimately supported moving forward with the engineering work to increase the chances of securing the grant opportunity.

Councilperson Schneider made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Steidl to authorize the Mayor to execute a professional services proposal from OHM in the amount of $77,250.00 for roadway, pedestrian, and traffic improvement design engineering and funding solicitation and assistance work related to the Village's participation with Summit County in an Ohio Public Works Commission grant application. Roll call vote: Mr. Steidl, yes; Councilperson Schneider, yes; Mr. Slocum, yes; Mr. Rosales, yes; Mr. Haramis, yes. The motion was approved.

Fiscal Officer, Ms. Iaconis: Ms. Iaconis emphasized that based upon her experience, partnering with a larger entity like the County and hiring professionals skilled in grant writing is crucial for success in the scoring process for this type of grant.

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

Finance Liaison, Mr. Slocum

Acknowledgement of Receipt of Financial Reports & Ratification of Submitted Bills List

Mr. Slocum asked Ms. Iaconis to distribute a financial spreadsheet on a monthly basis in the Council Meeting Agenda Packet and for it to be posted on the Village website.

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

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

Police Department Liaison, Councilperson Schneider:

Motion to Confirm the Mayor's Appointment of Ted Troyer to the Position of Police Sergeant Effective April 13, 2025

Councilperson Schneider made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Rosales to confirm the Mayor's Appointment of Ted Troyer to the position of Police Sergeant effective April 13, 2025. Roll call vote: Mr. Steidl, yes; Councilperson Schneider, yes; Mr. Slocum, yes; Mr. Rosales, yes; Mr. Haramis, yes. The motion was approved.

Motion to Confirm the Mayor's Appointment of Carol Rucker to the Position of Police Corporal Effective April 13, 2025

Councilperson Schneider made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Steidl to confirm the Mayor's Appointment of Carol Rucker to the position of Police Corporal effective April 13, 2025. Roll call vote: Mr. Steidl, yes; Councilperson Schneider, yes; Mr. Slocum, yes; Mr. Rosales, yes; Mr. Haramis, yes. The motion was approved.

Councilperson Schneider thanked Boston Township for contributing money to pay the Village Reserve Officers that assisted with traffic control for the recent ODOT Rt. 303 repair project.

Roads and Public Works Liaison, Mr. Haramis: Mr. Haramis stated there was nothing to report.

Planning Commission Representative, Mr. Steidl: Mr. Steidl reported the Planning Commission held a joint meeting with Council on March 24 to hear OHM present the final draft of the Area Master Plan.

Zoning Officer, Mr. Hemming: The Mayor reported that Mr. Hemming is retiring as Zoning Officer and read the letter Mr. Hemming submitted.

Board of Zoning Appeals, Mayor Schneider: Mr. Bryan announced there will be a Board Meeting on Tuesday, April 22 at 6:00 p.m. at the Boston Township Town Hall for the purpose of hearing 3 variance applications.

Buildings and Grounds Liaison, Mr. Steidl: Mr. Steidl announced the Village Hall project is going well and is on schedule. The second floor of the building will be used for voting on May 6. The stairs are complete, and the office furniture is scheduled for delivery. Additional electrical upgrades beyond those anticipated were necessary.

Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development Liaison, Mr. Rosales: Mr. Rosales reported that Eddy's Bike Shop has been relocated to 1655 W. Mill Street. Margo Snider announced that Ramp Up Peninsula will take place on April 26. Eleven vendors have registered to date.

Community Events Liaison, Mr. Najeway: The Mayor announced there are no updates from Mr. Najeway.

Policies & Procedures Liaison, Mr. Slocum: Mr. Slocum suggested consolidating the Village's IT services under a single Microsoft contract to reduce costs and provide integrated tools for email, data storage, and online meetings. He mentioned the benefits of using Microsoft Teams for recording meetings, generating transcripts, and assisting with meeting minutes. The Mayor stated he would reach out to the Village IT specialist and involve Mr. Slocum in those discussions. Mr. Slocum also discussed enhancing cybersecurity, including requiring multi-factor authentication and seeking external expertise on cyber threats. Mr. Slocum expressed interest in improving the timeliness of draft meeting minutes and addressed the need to review the Village's records retention policy and provide for the proper disposal of unnecessary records.

Fire Board, Mr. Slocum: Mr. Slocum reported the Department has already responded to 277 calls this year. There were 400 calls received for the entire year in 2024. Four firefighters have submitted letters of interest for one or two open Lieutenant positions. Currently, the Department has only two officers, which is down from the usual number of six. The investigation report for the Eddy's Bike Shop fire is complete, and no determination as to the cause of the fire could be made. A suspect who attempted to steal the Eddy's Bike Shop sign after the fire has pled guilty, closing that case. County water rescue training sessions will be held at the Boston Store on May 9, 10, and 11. The Pancake Breakfast will take place on the morning of May 4 from 8:00 to 12:00.

Cemetery Board, Councilperson Schneider: Councilperson Schneider stated there is nothing to report on the Cemetery.

JEDD Board, Councilperson Schneider: Councilperson Schneider stated there is nothing to report for the JEDD Board.

Wastewater/Stormwater/Water Liaison, Mr. Najeway: The Mayor stated that there was no formal update from Mr. Najeway regarding any information that has not already been discussed.

Area Master Plan, Mr. Slocum and Mr. Steidl:

Mr. Slocum provided an update on the Area Master Plan. Regarding a proposed path along South Canal Street connecting to the towpath, after speaking with the adjacent residents, Diane Seskes and Don Carrol, it became clear they were strongly opposed to a new path in that area. They consider that portion of the street to be abandoned and have a lease with the National Park Service for land in that vicinity. County records show the Street is still owned by the Village and has not officially been vacated. The terrain is very steep. Building an ADA-compliant path would require excavation, which is not permitted in the park area without a new NEPA review. Diane and Don questioned the need for the path, pointing to the existing, accessible trail.

Mr. Bryan noted the Village received a strongly worded letter from the Township requesting that the Township Hall parking lot be removed from the plan as possible site for expanded public parking. Mr. Slocum and the Mayor confirmed that idea had been previously identified as a non-starter. It is an example of an engagement misstep that caused frustration during the planning process.

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

LEGISLATION:

Second Reading:

Resolution No. 06-2025

Requested by: Councilperson Najeway

A Resolution Amending the Rate of Pay for the Mayor for the Term Commencing January 1, 2028

Mr. Bryan read the Resolution by title. It was determined that this Resolution would advance to a third reading at next month's Council Meeting.

Resolution No. 07-2025

Requested by: Mayor Schneider and Councilperson Haramis

A Resolution Requesting the County Fiscal Officer to Certify to the Village of Peninsula the Amount a 3 Mill, Five Year, Road Tax Renewal Levy Would Generate for the Village

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

First Reading:

Resolution No. 08-2025

Requested by: Councilperson Slocum

A Resolution Requesting the County Fiscal Officer to Certify to the Village of Peninsula the Amount a 3 Mill, Five Year, Road Tax Replacement Levy Would Generate for the Village

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

Steidl made a motion to adopt the Resolution that was seconded by Councilperson Schneider. Roll call vote: Councilperson Schneider, yes; Mr. Slocum, yes; Mr. Haramis, yes; Mr. Steidl, yes; Mr. Rosales, yes. The Resolution was adopted.

Ordinance No. 09-2025
Requested by: Mayor Schneider and Solicitor Bryan
An Ordinance Establishing Section 1351.23 of the Village Property Maintenance Code Pertaining to Exterior Lighting on Residential Properties

Mr. Bryan read the Resolution by title. Mr. Bryan explained the Village does not presently have an ordinance that can deal with this type of issue on residential properties. The Mayor noted the neighbor has added more lights, possibly to intentionally shine toward the complainant neighbor's property. Despite efforts like planting bushes to block the light, the problem persists. A request was made for the Planning Commission to consider expanding the scope of this effort toward broader initiatives such as "Dark Sky" regulations.

Mr. Haramis and Mr. Steidl noted this issue reflects a broader problem beyond a single complaint. They support letting the ordinance move to a second reading and emphasized a need for standards that address both residential and commercial lighting to reduce light trespass and improve community quality of life. It was determined that this Resolution would advance to a second reading at next month's Council Meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS:
PayByPhone Process Functionality

The Mayor and Mr. Slocum discussed the need to investigate alternative options that could be provided by the vendor that would make it easier for visitors to log in and pay. They plan to discuss those issues with the Village IT specialist and PayByPhone. The goal is to explore more secure and efficient systems without significantly increasing costs.

Mr. Steidl asked if the Planning Commission Meeting could be rescheduled from April 28 to April 29. The Mayor stated he would check with Ms. Walters and see if the Township Hall meeting space is available.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF NECESSARY): None.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Haramis made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Rosales to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote: Councilperson Schneider, yes; Mr. Slocum, yes; Mr. Haramis, yes; Mr. Steidl, yes; Mr. Rosales, yes. The motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Daniel Schneider Jr., Mayor — Date 5/13/25

Katie Iaconis, Fiscal Officer

5/13/2025