Record of Proceedings
Regular Village of Peninsula Council
Held: Tuesday, June 10, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Schneider called the meeting to order at 7:18 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, Traffic Camera Enforcement Program Director Trevor Elkins

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA: None.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS: None.

PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
May 13, 2025 Joint Cemetery Meeting and Regular Council Meeting Minutes

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

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

Mo Riggins raised concerns about short-term rental compliance at different properties, pointing out discrepancies between required and advertised parking and questioning whether several rentals meet the regulation of one parking space per bedroom plus one. Mr. Bryan stated as long as the applications meet the parking requirements and are verified, advertising the availability of fewer spaces than required is not an issue. Mr. Najeway emphasized that without formal complaints or clear violations, requests for enforcement action are not warranted, especially given the limited parking in downtown Peninsula. Ms. Dorton reported that all licensed short-term rentals have appropriate parking, and one property has an easement with the neighboring property for additional parking.

Greg Canda shared his concern for residents who struggle with parking for visiting friends or family, who must pay for street parking or risk being ticketed. He suggested a system where residents could register guest license plates for exemptions. It was explained that residents can call the Police Department ahead of time to provide visitor details, and officers will accommodate those requests to not issue citations. The Mayor stated the goal is not to penalize residents, their guests, or churchgoers, especially on holidays. Mr. Canda appreciated the flexibility and suggested a more automatic process to ease the burden on residents. Steve Backhirst asked about the temporary parking ban near the visitor center. The Mayor explained the restrictions were due to visitors partially parking on the road, creating safety concerns. He indicated more signs might appear, especially near Boston Mills Road.

Amy Frank-Hensley asked if any communication has been made with the County surface water management organization. Mr. Najeway informed her he reached out but has not heard back yet.

REPORTS

Mayor Schneider: The Mayor thanked Mr. Steidl for all his hard work with the Village Hall renovations. He also praised Hummel Construction for their meticulous work and thanked the Service Department for their efforts to go above and beyond cleaning and preparing the Council Chambers for this meeting.

Fiscal Officer, Ms. Iaconis: Ms. Iaconis explained that the revenue received to date has exceeded expectations. RITA collections are up 10% from last year. She noted there is legislation on this evening's agenda to renew the Village's insurance coverage. The 2026 tax budget approval legislation will be on next month's agenda. The tax budget must be sent to the County Fiscal Office no later than July 15.

Mr. Slocum asked about a large Melway Paving expenditure on the payment listing. Ms. Iaconis stated that payment was for work that was performed in 2024 that was not invoiced to the Village until recently. Mr. Slocum asked how the State inside millage elimination legislation would affect the Village. Ms. Iaconis stated it would result in a significant decrease in Village property tax revenues. Mr. Elkins was asked if he had any updates as to the likelihood of the inclusion of that measure in the upcoming State budget bill. He noted his sources were not sure whether that provision would be included and stated the same held true as to the fate of the proposed cap on the percentage of revenues that can be carried over by school districts from year to year. He stated the Ohio Legislature is presently in complete chaos, and no good guidance will be available until reconciliation talks between the two chambers commence on the two-year budget.

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

Finance Liaison, Mr. Slocum:

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

Mr. Slocum made a motion that was seconded by Councilperson Schneider to acknowledge receipt of the financial reports for both April and May, 2025. Roll call vote: Mr. Steidl, yes; Councilperson Schneider, yes; Mr. Slocum, yes; Mr. Rosales, yes; Mr. Haramis, yes; Mr. Najeway. 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; Mr. Najeway. The motion was approved.

Police Department Liaison, Councilperson Schneider:

Motion to Authorize the Mayor to Accept the Quote from Great Lakes Telecom & Electric, LLC in the Amount of $12,000 for 7 Dell Computers and Monitors and Related Equipment and Setting Up the Devices

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

Automated Speeding and Red Light Violation Cameras

The Mayor introduced Trevor Elkins, who manages the Village's traffic camera enforcement program, to discuss the potential implementation of automated red light and speed cameras. Mr. Elkins noted he also serves as a Mayor in another community that uses these systems. He emphasized that enforcement with the current handheld photo unit has declined due to staffing and weather challenges. He proposed that Council authorize him to draft legislation and develop a plan for automated cameras. These cameras would address both red light and speeding issues, particularly during off-hours. Mr. Elkins explained that automated units are significantly more effective than handheld enforcement, noting that violations increase when cameras operate 24/7, and that reallocating officers from traffic enforcement to other policing duties would benefit the Village.

Councilman Steidl acknowledged safety concerns raised by the Police Chief regarding red light violations but expressed hesitancy about expanding the speed enforcement program and the surveillance Village-wide. Mr. Elkins explained that cameras capture rear license plates, that citation numbers are limited due to the amount of active enforcement hours, and that handheld units are limited in effectiveness. The discussion shifted to camera placement, the cost of the equipment, and legal limitations on using overhead fixtures to mount the cameras. Members also debated the Village's reputation and balancing safety with concerns over becoming overly policed. Mr. Najeway emphasized the need for concrete data before moving forward and requested 30-days' worth of speed data testing to review. He also expressed interest in seeing prior data Mr. Elkins had previously promised to share with Council.

Mr. Elkins confirmed he would provide testing data and deliver a formal proposal with equipment locations, citation number projections, and a cost structure. His preliminary plan includes two red light cameras at the major Rt. 303 intersections, two speed cameras on Rt. 303, and additional cameras on Riverview Road and Akron-Peninsula Road. A question was asked about the possible use of the license plate reader technology for investigations. Mr. Bryan explained Flock camera systems are not designed to enforce traffic violations; they are set up to alert agencies to stolen cars and track vehicles involved in suspected crimes after the fact. Mr. Elkins mentioned his system could be adapted to function similarly to the Flock cameras used in other municipalities for an additional cost.

Roads and Public Works Liaison, Mr. Haramis: Mr. Haramis shared that this year's road repairs were finalized last week, and there are no additional projects scheduled for the remainder of this year. A road survey was conducted to identify any urgent issues, and the necessary maintenance concerns were addressed by the work that was completed. He noted that most roads are currently in good shape. The Village is being cautious with further repairs, since next year's anticipated sewer project will require digging up many of the roads.

Planning Commission Representative, Mr. Steidl: Mr. Steidl reported the Planning Commission met in May and established a schedule for reviewing the Area Master Plan, beginning with Chapters 1 through 4 at the June Meeting. The Commission recommended passage of the residential lighting ordinance, discussed possible zoning map changes in two areas, and asked Ms. McMahon to prepare materials for public input. Ms. McMahon was also tasked with gathering information on potential zoning code amendments.

Zoning Officer, Mr. Collins: The Mayor introduced Mr. Collins and advised everyone that Ms. Dorton is the initial point of contact for all permit applications.

Board of Zoning Appeals, Mayor Schneider:
Motion to Confirm the Mayor's Appointment of Greg Canda to the Board of Zoning Appeals

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

Additional Board Vacancy

The Mayor announced there is still an additional board vacancy.

Buildings and Grounds Liaison, Mr. Steidl: Mr. Steidl reported that the following improvements have now been made to Village Hall:

- Replacement of the gas service line
- Replacement of all three HVAC units & condensers
- Painting the exterior of the building
- Replacement of the windows in the administrative area
- Repaving the parking lot off South Locust Street
- Replacement of the parking lot off Main Street
- Repairs to the slate entrance stairs and walks to the main entrance
- Construction of the plaza and bench areas, with maple trees along Locust Street
- Revisions to the power and lighting circuitry in the administrative wing
- Improvements to the IT and security systems
- Renovations to and construction of new office and Police facilities in both sections of the building
- New furniture throughout the building
- Refinishing the wood floors and steps
- Making the front stairway functional and code compliant

Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development Liaison, Mr. Rosales: Mr. Rosales shared that the Brandywine Arts festival is coming up, and plans for Christmas events are in discussion.

Community Events Liaison, Mr. Najeway: Mr. Najeway reported that the first Peninsula Live Event hosted just under 1,000 people, and the July Event is expected to be just as successful.

Policies & Procedures Liaison, Mr. Slocum: Mr. Slocum stated he is waiting on information from the Mayor before they can move forward to provide additional ways to pay for parking. The Village is working on fully transitioning back to Microsoft accounts. The Village will be offline for 1 day when the transition is made.

Fire Board, Mr. Slocum: Mr. Slocum reported that Department expenses have significantly increased, citing the addition of a full-time firefighter that requires health insurance, and recent raises for all firefighters, officer and the clerk. Interviews are being conducted for one or two Lieutenant positions. There is a workers' compensation claim related to a former firefighter's cancer, and he explained that the Boston Heights tanker received tens of thousands of dollars in upgrades rather than being replaced. New tankers now cost around $900,000.

Cemetery Board, Councilperson Schneider: Councilperson Schneider stated there is nothing to report other than a meeting next month.

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

Wastewater/Stormwater/Water Liaison, Mr. Najeway: Mr. Najeway reported he is still waiting for updates regarding the water and sewer projects. He and the Mayor recently met with CVNP Assistant Superintendent Ivan Kassovic and lobbyist Mike Cottington to discuss forming a regional water district that would include Boston Heights, Boston Township, and the Village. The goal of creating a separate water district would be to gain access to external funding sources for infrastructure improvements that municipalities cannot directly receive. The Mayor emphasized that Boston Heights is already on board, and now that the Township is open to participation, the path forward looks promising. While there is past tension with Hudson regarding water access, it remains open to future collaboration. The group also discussed past water funding efforts in areas like Suncrest, where local landowners jointly contributed to bringing in water service.

Area Master Plan, Mr. Slocum and Mr. Steidl: Mr. Najeway inquired about the finalized Area Master Plan. Mr. Bryan clarified that the final draft is available on the website, but revisions may still occur. The Mayor stated that the Planning Commission will review the Plan for any further changes. Mr. Canda outlined that the next Planning Commission session will review Chapters 1 through 4, with additional chapters to follow at later meetings. Mr. Slocum and others discussed the timing for upcoming infrastructure projects, including the proposed all-purpose path and crosswalk improvements, which are part of a related grant application and may proceed independently.

Solicitor, Mr. Bryan: Mr. Bryan provided feedback on Mr. Elkins' presentation regarding the traffic camera enforcement program. He noted concerns have been expressed by local businesses about the strict enforcement. He also stated offenders seem to be more comfortable paying their tickets once they find out that the cameras are officer-operated rather than unmanned pole cameras. Mr. Najeway asked about the program's revenue percentages and competition among vendors. Mr. Bryan stated the Village's agreement with Targeting & Solutions provides for a 60%/40% split. Some communities have identical agreements and others have 62%/38% percent agreements with their camera/ticket processing vendors. The Village agreed to the 40% arrangement because Targeting & Solutions is managing the program and responding to public inquiries rather than the Village handling those tasks. Mr. Steidl, Mr. Haramis, and Mr. Slocum added that, despite the complaints, traffic has demonstrably slowed, including during high-traffic

events. The Mayor expressed his support for red light cameras due to personal safety concerns and stressed the need for better traffic control downtown. He also shared a story about the effectiveness of similar systems abroad, noting that enforcement cameras in places act as a strong deterrent due to stricter follow-through on violations.

LEGISLATION:

Third Reading:

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

Second Reading: None.

First Reading:

Resolution No. 12-2025

Requested by: Mayor Schneider

A Resolution Directing the Summit County Board of Elections to Place a 3 Mill, Five-Year, Road Tax Renewal Levy on the November 4, 2025 General Election Ballot

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

Resolution No. 13-2025

Requested by: Mayor Schneider and Fiscal Officer Iaconis

An Emergency Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Fiscal Officer to Enter into an Agreement with Wichert Insurance to Provide Insurance Coverage for the Village from Selective Insurance Company and State National Insurance Company

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

PayByPhone Process Functionality

The Mayor reported, as previously discussed, the Village is looking into other parking enforcement and payment options with PayByPhone.

Village Hall Signage

Mr. Najeway updated everyone regarding the Village Hall signage proposal, explaining that the vendor experienced recent health issues. He promised to deliver revised concepts before the next Council Meeting. Council will need to decide whether or not it wants a digital sign. Mr. Najeway also mentioned a recent complaint about a flag type banner sign on Mill Street at the Purple Brown Farm Store, which Mr. Collins confirmed had already been addressed. The Mayor added that enforcement action has occurred both verbally and in writing.

The Mayor reported discussions on the police budget and the renewal of the Boston Township Police contract are underway. The Village is aiming for a three-year agreement.

Mr. Najeway reported hearing back from the owner of General Die Casters, who expressed a willingness to negotiate pricing and potentially offer financing if the Village is interested in the property. He proposed a site visit for those on Council who are interested. Mr. Slocum noted that two large trucks were recently at the building moving out equipment.

The Mayor invited attendees to explore the renovated areas of Village Hall after the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF NECESSARY)

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Najeway made a motion that was seconded by Councilperson Schneider to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote: Councilperson Schneider, yes; Mr. Slocum, yes; Mr. Haramis, yes; Mr. Steidl, yes; Mr. Rosales, yes; Mr. Najeway, yes. The motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Daniel Schneider Jr., Mayor — 7-08-2025 Date

Katie Iaconis, Fiscal Officer — 7/08/2025 Date