Record of Proceedings
Regular Council Meeting

Held: Tuesday, October 27, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Mr. Bryan at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Nogalo

Mayor Daniel Schneider, Jr.	Absent	Amy Fank-Hensley	Present
Richard Slocum	Absent	Daniel Krachinsky	Present
Jodi Padrutt	Present	Eliud Rosales	Present
Mo Riggins	Present		

OTHERS PRESENT: Solicitor Brad Bryan; Administrative Assistant Faith Dorton; Village Engineer Ed McCabe; Fiscal Officer Vic Nogalo; Summit County Representatives Brian Olson and Frank Getz; ODOT Bridge Engineer Nick Chaney; CVNP Superintendent Lisa Pettit and Government Relations Director Ivan Kassovic; Greg Peckham, Kim Romano, and Stacey Rusher from the Conservancy; and Larry Stevens, President and CEO of the CVSRR.

In the absence of the Mayor and President Pro-Tem Slocum, Ms. Riggins made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Rosales to appoint Ms. Padrutt to preside over the meeting. Roll call vote: Mr. Rosales, yes; Mr. Krachinsky, yes; Ms. Padrutt, yes; Ms. Riggins, yes; Ms. Frank-Hensley, yes. The motion was approved.

PRESENTATION OF AGENDA AND AMENDMENT OF THE AGENDA:

No amendments**.**

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

Discussion with CVNP, Conservancy for the CVNP, Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad, Summit County, Engineer, and Village of Peninsula for the purpose of coordinating addressing safety issues along West Mill St. and the Rt. 303 Bridge, the Conservancy's plans for Oxbow Meadows, projects of joint interest, and what the CVNP and other entities can do for Peninsula

Lisa Pettit, Superintendent of Cuyahoga Valley National Park, outlined the ongoing collaboration between the National Park Service and the Village. Since becoming Superintendent in 2021, she has prioritized supporting the Village's long-term economic, environmental, and social well-being as a Gateway Community for the Park's approximately three million annual visitors. Key areas of collaboration include improving the wastewater system and drinking water infrastructure, enhancing pedestrian and traffic safety, improving visitor circulation, supporting local businesses, and securing federal transportation funding for road repairs and other community improvements. She highlighted joint efforts involving the Village Master Plan, Rt. 303 safety planning, the railroad station safety plan, and the Oxbow Meadows development.

Representatives from the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park provided an update on the Oxbow Meadows project, formerly the Brandywine Golf Course. The Conservancy acquired the property in 2021, with 198 acres transferred to the National Park Service in 2022 and 15 acres retained by the Conservancy for future development. Between 2022 and 2024, approximately $4.5 million in environmental remediation was completed to address mercury contamination due to the property's former use as a golf course. That project was funded by the Clean Ohio Brownfield Fund. A community planning process conducted between 2023 and 2025 resulted in a conceptual vision for the property. The site is now accessible to the public, and a community open house held in July attracted approximately 124 participants.

The proposed Oxbow Meadows development includes four primary components: enhanced public parkland, a River Center, overnight accommodations, and expanded parking. Park improvements would include accessible trails and pathways, boardwalks, river overlooks, gathering spaces, and areas for community programming. The proposed River Center would serve as a public and community facility with a green roof, gathering space, and public restrooms. The Conservancy is also exploring approximately 10 to 12 four-season, overnight accommodations, potentially in the form of cabins, to meet visitor demand and generate revenue to support the long-term maintenance of the property. Specific design plans and infrastructure requirements have not been finalized.

Councilmembers raised concerns about parking capacity and pedestrian safety, particularly along Akron Peninsula Road. The Conservancy explained that the existing parking in the old par three area would be improved in the short term. The installation of a larger parking lot is anticipated for across the road in the area of the old golf course parking lot. Visitors are presently permitted to park in that location. Long-term plans include relocating a section of Akron Peninsula Road to the east to remove the road barrier between the two park areas and proposed parking lot. Representatives discussed plans to install sidewalks and bike lanes connecting Oxbow Meadows to Downtown Peninsula, as well as developing interconnected trails that would link the Village, parking areas, and existing National Park Service trails. The Conservancy is working with the National Park Service and Summit County Engineer to identify funding opportunities. Additional efforts include an agreement to manage the Boston Mills parking facility during peak visitation periods. The Conservancy hopes to return to Council with more detailed development plans and anticipated timelines within one year.

Larry Stevens, President and CEO of the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad, discussed the Railroad's relationship with Peninsula and its efforts to improve visitor experiences and pedestrian safety. Approximately 150,000 to 170,000 railroad passengers travel through Peninsula annually. The Railroad is working with the National Park Service and Conservancy to develop visitor packages and an additional potential station at Oxbow Meadows. Mr. Stevens acknowledged safety concerns along Mill Street, where passengers frequently cross the roadway and interact with vehicle traffic. The Railroad has increased the number of platform attendants and guest services personnel and has worked with Park Rangers to improve traffic management. Funding applications have also been submitted for improvements, including potential pedestrian barriers. The Railroad plans to resume service in January, with a gradual increase in weekend trips. A full regular, expanded schedule will return in March. Road and parking lot resurfacing near the railroad bridge and Lock 29 is scheduled for the spring.

Ms. Frank-Hensley noted that residents have complained about the volume of the train whistle and asked if something could be done about that issue. Mr. Stevens noted different trains have different whistles that presumably have different volumes. He stated he would look into that issue.

Councilmembers emphasized that pedestrian and traffic safety must remain a priority as visitation increases, particularly during popular Railroad events and peak weekends. Concerns included pedestrians walking along Mill Street, vehicles navigating congested areas, inadequate parking, and the burden placed on the Village's limited police resources. A discussion focused on the need for stronger coordination among the Railroad, National Park Service, Conservancy, and Village to provide additional Ranger and Police presence during scheduled train arrivals. Short-term measures, including improved pedestrian pathways, temporary barriers, public

education, and enforcement, were discussed along with longer-term infrastructure improvements. Superintendent Pettit acknowledged the Village's concerns and agreed that the National Park Service could assume a greater role in managing visitor-related safety issues through improved scheduling and coordination with the Village

PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS:
October 13, 2026 Council Meeting Minutes:

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

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: None.

REPORTS:
Mayor, Daniel Schneider, Jr.
Motion to Authorize the Mayor to Renew the Village Employee Summit County Health Connection Insurance Plan for 2027 through NFP Corporate Services at a 6.22% Average Increase for the Medical/Prescription Coverage, a 0% Average Increase for the Dental Coverage and the Vision Coverage as Set Forth in the NFP Renewal Proposal

After Ms. Padrutt confirmed with the Administrative Assistant that the Mayor's renewal authorization request was time sensitive, Mr. Rosales made the above motion that was seconded by Ms. Padrutt. Roll call vote: Mr. Rosales, yes; Mr. Krachinsky, yes; Ms. Padrutt, yes; Ms. Riggins, yes; Ms. Frank-Hensley, yes. The motion was approved.

Fiscal Officer, Mr. Nogalo: The Fiscal Officer reported on several finance related improvements and goals, including consolidating the Village's three bank accounts into one, exploring money market or STAR Ohio investment options to increase interest earnings, and strengthening fraud prevention through positive pay and additional check safeguards. Mr. Nogalo is comparing credit card providers to obtain better rebate benefits. He is also evaluating payroll services to replace ADP, which costs approximately $8,500 annually, with lower-cost providers such as Ahola, quoted at $5,000 per year. He plans to provide Council with monthly financial reports, including payment and outstanding purchase order information. Mr. Nogalo reported continued progress on outstanding bank reconciliations. He is currently working backward from 2026 to 2025, while Charles Harris & Assoc. is working forward from 2022. He also recommended adopting a full-year 2027 budget before the end of 2026. He is reviewing the 2026 budget for necessary amendments to ensure expenditures remain within appropriations and fund balances do not become negative. He is still in the process of obtaining historical credit card statements and improving access to prior banking records.

Street Commissioner, Mr. Anderson: Mr. Anderson was not present.

Finance Liaison, Mr. Krachinsky: Mr. Krachinsky stated he had nothing to report in addition to what was presented by the Fiscal Officer.

Police Department, Chief Rucker: Chief Rucker was not present.

Roads and Public Works: Council discussed safety concerns regarding the Rt. 303 bridge, particularly the deteriorating railings, which have sharp edges that could cause injuries to pedestrians. Mr. McCabe explained that repairs are currently anticipated for 2030, but he is working with ODOT to determine whether the project can be expedited due to the safety concerns. Ms. Riggins reported the Garden Club ordered new flower boxes and plans to remove the existing boxes within the next two weeks, allowing the railings to be accessed for repairs and painting. Additional safety concerns were raised regarding pedestrian bridge crossing, the need to extend a path from the Towpath Trail along the west side near the coffee shop, the implementation of parking restrictions near the railroad tracks, and the possibility of constructing an auxiliary pedestrian bridge. Mr. McCabe stated several potential solutions are being explored, including fiberglass-reinforced panels and relocating a bridge from another project. Council acknowledged that funding and project prioritization remain challenges, emphasizing repairing the hazardous railings should be a priority.

Planning Commission, Ms. Frank-Hensley: Ms. Frank-Hensley reported the Planning Commission completed its review of the Mixed-Use Zoning District amendments, which will be on the agenda for the next Council Meeting for Council's review. A public hearing with at least 30 days' notice is required before the amendments can be passed. The Mixed-Use Zone development project moratorium may need to be extended for a few months to allow for consideration and passage of the amendments. The November Planning Commission Meeting has been rescheduled for Thursday November 5. The primary topics for that meeting are the short-term rental regulations/advisory ballot measure vote and accessory dwelling units (ADUs). Councilmembers discussed whether the short-term rental regulations should be reviewed by Council alone or by a subcommittee involving Councilmembers, Planning Commission representatives, and residents. No determination was made. It was clarified that the Mixed-Use development moratorium was established to allow the Village to update its Zoning Code to align with the recently adopted Master Plan and the Long-Range Plan before any additional development in that area occurs.

Zoning Officer, Mr. Collins: Mr. Collins was not present.

Board of Zoning Appeals: Matthew Padrutt reported the BZA met earlier in the evening to review variance requests for Mr. Canda's property. That application has been tabled until the applicant submits more detailed information.

Buildings and Grounds, Ms. Frank-Hensley: Ms. Frank Hensley stated she had nothing to report.

Policies & Procedures Liaison, Mr. Slocum:
Cybersecurity Program: Mr. Slocum was not present to report on the progress on this matter.

Fire Board, Mr. Krachinsky: Mr. Krachinsky reported that the Board authorized the Department to gather information regarding the purchase of a new ambulance. He noted it takes about two years to get the ambulance built and delivered from the time it is ordered. The

remaining life expectancy of one of the Department's ambulances is two years. The anticipated cost of the new vehicle is around $375,000.

Cemetery Board, Ms. Padrutt: Ms. Padrutt reported the day-to-day operations remain the same, and the Board is reviewing policies to see if any changes are necessary. Mr. Krachinsky raised a complaint from a relative regarding the removal of newly placed flowers from the graves without sufficient communication. Ms. Padrutt stated signs were put out notifying visitors of the upcoming removal action, but they might not have been easy to see by everyone.

JEDD Board, Ms. Riggins: Ms. Riggins reported she is trying to get a Board Meeting scheduled.

Wastewater/Stormwater/Water: There are no updates regarding these projects.

CVNP and Conservancy, Ms. Padrutt and Ms. Riggins: Ms. Riggins and Ms. Padrutt noted they have not had a meeting since their last report.

Rt. 303 Safety Project, Mr. Slocum: Mr. Slocum was not present.

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

LEGISLATION
Ordinance No. 13-2026 (Version 4) (Tabled)
Requested by: Councilperson Padrutt
An Ordinance Establishing Section 311.02 of the Village Code Regarding Outdoor Public Events Policies and Permits (Third Reading)

Proposed Revisions to Ordinance No. 13-2026 Made by Councilperson Slocum

Ms. Padrutt stated additional discussion on this Ordinance was needed. As a result, no action was taken with respect to this Ordinance.

Ordinance No. 20-2026
Requested by: Ms. Padrutt
An Ordinance Amending the Rules of Council (Third Reading)

Mr. Bryan read the legislation by title. Mr. Krachinsky made a motion that was seconded by Ms. Frank-Hensley to approve the Ordinance. Roll call vote: Mr. Rosales, yes; Mr. Krachinsky, yes; Ms. Padrutt, yes; Ms. Riggins, yes; Ms. Frank-Hensley, yes. The Ordinance was adopted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS
Solicitor Search Committee: Ms. Padrutt reported that interviews are being conducted this week, and the Committee hopes to have a candidate to recommend at the November 10 Meeting.

Ms. Riggins requested that Daniel DeAngelo's recent letter regarding the Rt. 303 Safety Project improvements be discussed at the next Council Meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF NECESSARY): None.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Frank-Hensley made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Rosales to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote: Mr. Rosales, yes; Mr. Krachinsky, yes; Ms. Padrutt, yes; Ms. Riggins, yes; Ms. Frank-Hensley, yes. The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Daniel Schneider Jr., Mayor — 11/10/26 Date

Vic Nogalo, Fiscal Officer — 11/10/26 Date