MAYOR LICASTRO: Please rise and join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

MAYOR LICASTRO: Thank you. Would you call the roll, please, Ms. Cooks?

Ms. Burke-Jones?

Ms. Burke-Jones: Here.

Ms. Hoefling?

Ms. Hoefling: Here.

Ms. Huffman?

Ms. Huffman: Here.

Ms. COOKS: Ms. Burke-Jones?

Ms. COOKS: Here.

Ms. COOKS: Ms. Huffman?

Ms. COOKS: Here.

Ms. COOKS: Mr. McDonald?

Mr. McDonald: Here.

Ms. COOKS: Mr. Taylor?

Mr. Taylor: Here.

MAYOR LICASTRO: Thank you. The Mayor's court report is as follows: Treasurer State of Ohio received $2,531; the City of Cleveland $96. The County Treasurer, $315; the Village of Bratenahl $18,750. Any questions on that? Thank you.

We have a vacancy as an alternate to the Planning Commission. As you know, Russell O'Rourke is a construction attorney. He's offered to take that position as an alternate.

19:03:42

For example, I have Lt. Soric right here. The fact that there's no longer permitting or training or notification of carrying a concealed weapon. Does anyone think that's a good idea? The General Assembly apparently does, because it's now signed into law by Governor DeWine yesterday. The General Assembly does not really think about or care about local governments. So that's why we're determined to come up with solutions on our own and not to wait for them.

19:03:54

Any questions on that?

19:04:05

Mr. Orel: It take place in 90 days.

19:04:20

Good news is COVID numbers continue to drop.
Mask mandates are dropping as well. That was always the threat of a new variant. I understand Pfizer is recommending another booster. Perhaps Moderna will follow. COVID is here to stay. This is not going to go away. It’s not nearly as bad as it was with Delta. There’s hotspots around the world. I think China is having some issues and other areas, but we’re lucky to have the Board of Health as our advocate.

And Terry Allen, who’s been the director there for 25 years is stepping aside. Terry has been a good friend of mine. We wish him well in his next endeavor. Any questions on that?

Okay. So before we begin with new business, any questions from the audience on agenda items?

Moving to new business, we have Resolution 1246. Both 1246 and 1247, we’ve done this before. You have to have a submerged land lease from the state for those that live along the lake. They’re pretty much boilerplate as far as we’re concerned, but the Ruhlman’s at 13123 asked us to authorize the land lease, which is with the state.

Ms. Burke-Jones, Resolution 1246, Molnar Reporting Services, LLC  (440) 340-6161

Please.

MS. BURKE-JONES: Sure. Introducing Resolution Number 1246 for suspension. A resolution approving a submerged land lease from the state for those that live along the lake. They’re pretty much boilerplate as far as we’re concerned, but the Ruhlman’s at 13123 asked us to authorize the land lease, which is with the state.

MS. COOKS: Ms. Burke-Jones?

MS. BURKE-JONES: Aye.

MS. COOKS: Ms. Huffman?

MS. HUFFMAN: Aye.

MS. COOKS: Mr. McDonald?

MR. McDONALD: Aye.

MS. COOKS: Mr. Taylor?

MR. TAYLOR: Aye.

MAYOR LICASTRO: We’ve never had two Hs in a row. That’s confusing.

MS. HOEFLING: And they sound similar.

MAYOR LICASTRO: First one is you, second one is her. Thank you. If we could, let’s move to Resolution 1247. Ms. Hoefling.

MS HOEFLING: Resolution 1247, introducing a regulation approving a submerged land lease application requested by John Ruhlman for 13211 Lake Shore Boulevard and declaring an emergency, for suspension.

MR. McDONALD: Second.

MAYOR LICASTRO: Roll call on suspension, please.

MS. COOKS: Ms. Burke-Jones?

MS. BURKE-JONES: Aye.

MS. COOKS: Ms. Hoefling?

MS. HOEFLING: Aye.

MS. COOKS: Ms. Huffman?

MS. HUFFMAN: Aye.

MS. COOKS: Mr. McDonald?

MR. McDONALD: Aye.

MS. COOKS: Mr. Taylor?

MR. TAYLOR: Aye.

MAYOR LICASTRO: These are adjacent properties. Same family owns both. A family owns one and the other family owns the other.

Any questions on this?

There being none, roll call on passage, please.

MS. COOKS: Ms. Burke-Jones?

MS. BURKE-JONES: Aye.

MS. COOKS: Ms. Hoefling?

MS. HOEFLING: Aye.

MS. COOKS: Ms. Huffman?

MS. HUFFMAN: Aye.

MS. COOKS: Mr. McDonald?

MR. McDONALD: Aye.

MS. COOKS: Mr. Taylor?

MR. TAYLOR: Aye.

MAYOR LICASTRO: Passage, please.

MS HOEFLING: For passage.

MR. McDONALD: Second.

MAYOR LICASTRO: These are adjacent properties. Same family owns both. A family owns one and the other family owns the other.
MS. HOEFLING: Aye.

MS. COOKS: Ms. Huffman?

MS. HUFFMAN: Aye.

MS. COOKS: Mr. McDonald?

MR. MCDONALD: Aye.

MS. COOKS: Mr. Taylor?

MR. TAYLOR: Aye.

MAYOR LICASTRO: Thank you. Ms. Huffman, if you would, introducing Resolution Number 1248 for suspension, a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health for authority and consent to provide phase II stormwater services in 2022 to 2025, and declaring an emergency.

MR. MCDONALD: Second.

MAYOR LICASTRO: Roll call on suspension, please.

MS. COOKS: Ms. Burke-Jones?

MS. BURKE-JONES: Aye.

MS. COOKS: Ms. Hoefling?

MS. HOEFLING: Aye.

MS. COOKS: Ms. Huffman?

MS. HUFFMAN: Aye.

MS. COOKS: Mr. McDonald?

MR. MCDONALD: Aye.

MS. COOKS: Mr. Taylor?

MR. TAYLOR: Aye.

MAYOR LICASTRO: Mr. McDonald, before we get to Ordinance 4137, so, again, the General Assembly in their wisdom has removed pretty much all restrictions on fireworks, when they’re shot of, who possesses them. I just don’t get it. This Council and past Council has worked to come up with parameters on the sale, possession and when fireworks are shot off. The legislation passed by the Ohio General Assembly does allow local communities, I think they finally remember what home rule is, to take exception to their very liberal legislation. So this would allow us to keep in place restrictions we have on fireworks. If you have a display, you have to notify residents, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera. We think that -- it took us months to come up with these regulations. We are strongly recommending we keep them in place and not let the free-for-all happen if we do what the General Assembly has authorized. Any questions on that? Mr. McDonald, if you would, 4137.

MR. MCDONALD: Introduce Ordinance Number 4137, an ordinance amending Section 1519.04 of the fire prevention code entitled possession, sale, or discharge of prohibited; exceptions. To prohibit the discharge, ignition or explosion of fireworks on certain days each year and declaring an emergency, for suspension.

MAYOR LICASTRO: Second on suspension, please.

MS. BURKE-JONES: Second.

MAYOR LICASTRO: Roll call on suspension, please.

MS. COOKS: Ms. Burke-Jones?

MS. BURKE-JONES: Aye.

MS. COOKS: Ms. Huffman?

MS. HUFFMAN: Aye.

MS. COOKS: Mr. McDonald?

MR. MCDONALD: Aye.

MS. COOKS: Mr. Taylor?

MR. TAYLOR: Aye.
MR. TAYLOR: Aye.
MR. McDONALD: Introducing 4137 for passage.
MAYOR LICASTRO: Is there a second?
MS. BURKE-JONES: Second.
MS HOEFLING: Second.
MAYOR LICASTRO: I know it's getting late. Yeah, hopefully this passes. We worked hard to come up with these restrictions. I think they're reasonable, they're generous, but necessary. Any further questions?
There being none, roll call on passage, please.
MS. COOKS: Ms. Burke-Jones?
MS. BURKE-JONES: Aye.
MS. COOKS: Ms. Hoefling?
MS. HOEFLING: Aye.
MS. COOKS: Ms. Huffman?
MS. HUFFMAN: Aye.
MS. COOKS: Mr. McDonald?
MR. McDONALD: Aye.
MS. COOKS: Mr. Taylor?
MR. TAYLOR: Aye.
MAYOR LICASTRO: 4138 and 4139 were recommended by Finance. I think we went over them and understand their nature. Mr. Taylor, would you begin with 4138?
MR. TAYLOR: Introducing Ordinance Number 4138, an ordinance confirming compensation for employees of Village of Bratenahl and declaring an emergency, for suspension.
MR. McDONALD: Second.
MAYOR LICASTRO: Roll call on suspension, please.
MS. COOKS: Ms. Burke-Jones?
MS. BURKE-JONES: Aye.
MS. COOKS: Ms. Hoefling?
MS. HOEFLING: Aye.
MS. COOKS: Ms. Huffman?
MS. HUFFMAN: Aye.
MS. COOKS: Mr. McDonald?
MR. McDONALD: Aye.
MS. COOKS: Mr. Taylor?
MR. McDONALD: Second.
MAYOR LICASTRO: Do not encourage her.
MAYOR LICASTRO: Do not encourage her.
MAYOR LICASTRO: Do not encourage her.
MAYOR LICASTRO: Do not encourage her.
MR. MATTY: No, this is the way it should be. This is the way the auditors would prefer to have it. This is the way Diana contracted it.
MS. BURKE-JONES: So no explanation.
MR. MATTY: Just leave it as it is.
MAYOR LICASTRO: The header explains the time frame, which is significant.
MR. MATTY: Next year you'll go from the one that's in 2022, and Mr. McDonald's committee will go from that to do what it wishes to do as far as any additional compensation.
MAYOR LICASTRO: I know it sounds complicated. We actually tried to make it simple. And it's not easy to do, but this is what the law department and Ms. Cooks thought was the best approach.
MS. BURKE-JONES: Okay.
MR. MATTY: The two Villa Angela young ladies put their heads together and got this.
MS. COOKS: I would breakout in song, but not right now. (Laughter.)
MAYOR LICASTRO: But not right now. (Laughter.)
MR. MATTY: I will say this: The Fiscal Officer has spent a lot of time getting it to where she wanted it to be. And the law department has tried to put it where she wants it to be.
MS. BURKE-JONES: Yes, we were just on the question.
MR. MATTY: Where the auditors want it.
MAYOR LICASTRO: And where the auditors want it.
MAYOR LICASTRO: And where the auditors want it.
MR. MATTY: Right. She has one piece of paper they can review rather than all the pieces of paper she has to get them.
MS. BURKE-JONES: Okay.
MAYOR LICASTRO: Roll call on passage, please.
MS. COOKS: Ms. Burke-Jones?

MS. BURKE-JONES: Aye.

MS. COOKS: Ms. Hoefling?

MS. HOEFLING: Aye.

MS. COOKS: Ms. Huffman?

MS. HUFFMAN: Aye.

MS. COOKS: Mr. McDonald?

MR. MCDONALD: Aye.

MS. COOKS: Mr. Taylor?

MR. TAYLOR: Aye.

MAYOR LICASTRO: Ms. Burke-Jones, if you would, 4139.

MS. BURKE-JONES: Introducing 4139 for suspension, an ordinance authorizing and confirming compensation for employees of the Village of Bratenahl and declaring an emergency.

MR. MCDONALD: Second.

MAYOR LICASTRO: Roll call on suspension, please.

MS. COOKS: Ms. Burke-Jones?

MS. BURKE-JONES: Aye.

MS. COOKS: Ms. Hoefling?

MS. HOEFLING: Aye.

MS. COOKS: Ms. Huffman?

MS. HUFFMAN: Aye.

MAYOR LICASTRO: Any further discussion?

There being none, roll call on passage, please.

MS. COOKS: Ms. Burke-Jones?

MS. BURKE-JONES: Aye.

MS. COOKS: Ms. Hoefling?

MS. HOEFLING: Aye.

MS. COOKS: Ms. Huffman?

MS. HUFFMAN: Aye.

MS. COOKS: Mr. McDonald?

MR. MCDONALD: Aye.

MS. COOKS: Mr. Taylor?

MR. TAYLOR: Aye.

MAYOR LICASTRO: Ms. Hoefling, if you introduce 4140, would you please offer it as amended.

MS HOEFLING: Will do. So introducing Ordinance 4140 for suspension. That the following claims against the Village of Bratenahl are hereby directed from the funds and the Fiscal Officer is hereby authorized and directed to draw her warrants for payment, to wit: In the amount, amended amount of $150,459.75.

MR. MCDONALD: Second.

MAYOR LICASTRO: Roll call on suspension, please.

MS. COOKS: Ms. Burke-Jones?

MS. BURKE-JONES: Aye.

MS. COOKS: Ms. Hoefling?

MS. HOEFLING: Aye.

MS. COOKS: Ms. Huffman?

MS. HUFFMAN: Aye.

MAYOR LICASTRO: Any discussions or question? There being none, roll call on passage, please.

MS. COOKS: Ms. Burke-Jones?

MS. BURKE-JONES: Aye.

MS. COOKS: Ms. Hoefling?

MS. HOEFLING: Aye.

MS. COOKS: Ms. Huffman?

MS. HUFFMAN: Aye.

MAYOR LICASTRO: Thank you. Before we open it up to the audience, any questions from Council members? Anyone from the audience? Mr. Orel.

MR. OREL: I got my letter regarding this building and maintenance.

MAYOR LICASTRO: Yeah. Joe and I discussed it. You saw some feedback from Mr. Benjamin. We're going to do what we to keep it functioning as long as we can.

MAYOR LICASTRO: Th
1. MR. OREL: But you have to take it out for bid and that's going to take time.
2. MAYOR LICASTRO: We haven't authorized that. There's a project we talked about for Village Hall. We haven't done that for the Community Center yet.
4. MS. MEADE: Yes. I voice concern for Chuck LoBello's promotion to Police Chief, because Mayor Licastro wants the public to believe that Chief LoBello's character and integrity is of the highest standard, but it's not. His checkered past includes taking a weapon, two shootings. One of which he was charged with assault, use of a weapon while intoxicated and pled to disorderly conduct with probation. He was fired from that job.
5. His report from the Bratenahl shooting has disappeared. Is it commonplace in Bratenahl to remove negative incidents from a person's personnel file? Bratenahl deserves better as Mayor Licastro did not post the chief's position or interview any other candidate for police chief.
6. LoBello accidentally shot his girlfriend.

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1. In one document LoBello told a BCI agent during an investigation that he didn't take something from the Bratenahl police property room, but later admitted that he had taken a switchblade knife confiscated from a motorcycle rider and he still had it.
2. MAYOR LICASTRO: One minute.
3. MS. MEADE: He said this prior to taking a polygraph exam, which resulted as inconclusive.
4. It was a forensic scientist's opinion that LoBello did not tell the truth during the polygraph exam. So BCI further questioned his integrity. Twice the BCI agents suggested someone other than LoBello recreate the missing evidence book since his polygraph was inconclusive, unless he retook a polygraph to clear up the first test, but the agent's request was ignored. LoBello recently --
5. MAYOR LICASTRO: 30 seconds.
6. MS. MEADE: -- recounted how one police applicant admitted to taking drugs on his application. While LoBello appreciated his honesty, he said he didn't hire him, which seems hypocritical given his own conduct.
7. I guess his checkered past should not be rewarded by being promoted to police chief as it sends the wrong message to other police officers within the department. How can residents trust him? I ask Mayor Licastro to reconsider his decision and reopen the search for police chief.
8. MAYOR LICASTRO: Thank you, Ms. Meade. The incident happened before LoBello was on Bratenahl Police Department. There was a shooting involving his then girlfriend who became his wife. Talking to Chuck about that, he said her family has forgiven him, his family has forgiven him. The only one who hasn't forgiven Chuck is Chuck himself. There are other allegations. I'm not sure how much they're founded in fact.
9. MS. MEADE: I have public records for all of it.
10. MAYOR LICASTRO: All I know this, Ms. Meade, all I know is this department is fortunate to have someone of Chuck LoBello's character. He is a fine, upstanding man both as an individual and as our police chief. We can do far worse than having LoBello. And I'm proud to say he is the chief of this department for now and many years to come.
Anyone else from the audience, please. I'll entertain a motion to adjourn, please.

MS. COOKS: Mayor.

MAYOR LICASTRO: I didn't do the minutes, so motion to approve the minutes from last month's meeting, please.

MS. BURKE-JONES: I so move.

MR. McDONALD: Second.

MAYOR LICASTRO: Discussion? All in favor of the motion? Aye. How about a motion to adjourn.

MR. McDONALD: So move.

MR. TAYLOR: Second.

MAYOR LICASTRO: Roll call adjournment.

MS. COOKS: Ms. Burke-Jones?

MS. BURKE-JONES: Aye.

MS. COOKS: Ms. Hoefling?

MS. HOEFLING: Aye.

MS. COOKS: Ms. Huffman?

MS. HUFFMAN: Aye.

MS. COOKS: Mr. McDonald?

MR. McDONALD: Aye.

MS. COOKS: Mr. Taylor?

MR. TAYLOR: Aye.


(Meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.)

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