

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRECKSVILLE

January 19, 2021

HELD _____

Page 1

Council was **CALLED TO ORDER** in Regular Session by Council President **CALL TO ORDER**
Harwood at 8:00 P.M. in Ralph W. Biggs Council Chambers.

Following the **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**, members of Council answered to **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
ROLL CALL as follows:

Members Present:	L. Carouse, Jr., D. Caruso, M. Harwood, D. Kingston, A. Koepke, L. Redinger, K. Veras.	ROLL CALL
Members Absent:	None.	
Others Present:	Mayor Jerry N. Hruby, Law Director D. Matty, Assistant Law Director DiGeronimo, Engineer G. Wise.	
Teleconference:	Finance Director L. Starosta, CBO S. Packard, Purchasing Director R. Riser, Fire Chief N. Zamiska, Police Chief W. Goodrich, Recreation Director T. Tupa, Service Director R. Weidig, Myles Rapkin, Council Clerk T. Tabor.	

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 5, 2021 REGULAR MEETING: Motion by **REGULAR**
Carouse, seconded by Redinger, to dispense with the reading of the January 5, 2021 regular **MEETING**
meeting minutes and to accept same as presented. **MINUTES OF**
Ayes: Carouse, Caruso, Harwood, Kingston, Koepke, Redinger, Veras. **1-5-2021**
Nays: None. **APPROVED**
MOTION CARRIED 7-AYES, 0-NAYS.

ORDINANCE 5386 re: an Ordinance providing for the submission to the electors **ORD. 5386 2ND**
of the City of Brecksville the question of amending the Zoning Map by changing the **READ AMEND**
classification of a portion of the Sherwin-Williams property from R-8 Residential to O-L **ZONING MAP**
Office Laboratory, Permanent Parcel Number 604-08-008 located at Brecksville Road; and **FROM R-L TO**
declaring an emergency, was read by title. **O-L FOR**
Motion by Redinger, seconded by Carouse, to pass Ordinance 5386. **SHERWIN**
Ayes: Carouse, Caruso, Harwood, Kingston, Koepke, Redinger, Veras. **WILLIAMS**
Nays: None. **PP# 604-08-008**
MOTION CARRIED 7-AYES, 0-NAYS.

RESOLUTION 5119: a Resolution commending Candace Honroth-Beaver upon **RES. 5119**
her retirement from the Brecksville Recreation Commission; and declaring an emergency, **COMMEND**
was read by title. **CANDACE**
Councilmember Redinger thanked Candace Beaver for her service on the Recreation **HONROTH-**
Commission. Ms. Beaver was very involved in the committee and will be missed. **BEAVER FOR**
Councilmember Redinger wished Ms. Candace Honroth- Beaver best wishes for her future **HER SERVICE**
endeavors. **ON THE**
Motion by Caruso, seconded by Veras, to suspend the rules and place Resolution **RECREATION**
5119 on third and final reading. **COMMISSION**

Ayes: Carouse, Caruso, Harwood, Kingston, Koepke, Redinger, Veras.
Nays: None.
MOTION CARRIED 7-AYES, 0-NAYS.
Motion by Redinger, seconded by Carouse, to pass Resolution 5119.
Ayes: Carouse, Caruso, Harwood, Kingston, Koepke, Redinger, Veras.
Nays: None
MOTION CARRIED 7-AYES, 0-NAYS.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRECKSVILLE

January 19, 2021

HELD _____

Page 2

RESOLUTION 5120: a Resolution commending Joseph Greve upon his retirement from service on the Brecksville Civil Service Commission; and declaring an emergency, was read by title.

Mayor Hruby said Joseph Greve has been a member of the Civil Service Commission for many years, he became Chairman almost immediately upon his nomination. Mr. Greve worked has provided excellent leadership in bringing candidates for the Police and Fire Departments and overseeing difficult decisions. Mayor Hruby said Mr. Greve will be missed on the Commission and wishes him well.

Motion by Veras, seconded by Caruso, to suspend the rules and place Resolution 5120 on third and final reading.

Ayes: Carouse, Caruso, Harwood, Kingston, Koepke, Redinger, Veras.

Nays: None.

MOTION CARRIED 7-AYES, 0-NAYS.

Motion by Redinger, seconded by Carouse, to pass Resolution 5120.

Ayes: Carouse, Caruso, Harwood, Kingston, Koepke, Redinger, Veras.

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED 7-AYES, 0-NAYS.

RESOLUTION 5121: a Resolution commending William Rittman upon his retirement from service on the Advisory Board of the Brecksville Department of Human Services; and declaring an emergency, was read by title.

Councilmember Veras thanked Mr. Rittman for his years of Service on the Human Services Advisory Board. Mr. Rittman has also been involved with the Kiwanis Empty Bowls event. Mr. Rittman and his wife have moved from the City of Becksville and Councilmember Veras wished them well in their new home.

Motion by Caruso, seconded by Veras, to suspend the rules and place Resolution 5121 on third and final reading.

Ayes: Carouse, Caruso, Harwood, Kingston, Koepke, Redinger, Veras.

Nays: None.

MOTION CARRIED 7-AYES, 0-NAYS.

Motion by Redinger, seconded by Carouse, to pass Resolution 5121.

Ayes: Carouse, Caruso, Harwood, Kingston, Koepke, Redinger, Veras.

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED 7-AYES, 0-NAYS.

RESOLUTION 5122: a Resolution confirming the appointment by the Council of Myra Santos as a Citizen Member to the Telecommunications Commission for a three year term; and declaring an emergency, was read by title.

Motion by Veras, seconded by Caruso, to suspend the rules and place Resolution 5122 on third and final reading.

Ayes: Carouse, Caruso, Harwood, Kingston, Koepke, Redinger, Veras.

Nays: None.

MOTION CARRIED 7-AYES, 0-NAYS.

Motion by Redinger, seconded by Carouse, to pass Resolution 5122.

Ayes: Carouse, Caruso, Harwood, Kingston, Koepke, Redinger, Veras.

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED 7-AYES, 0-NAYS.

**RES. 5120
COMMEND
JOSEPH
GREVE FOR
HIS SERVICE
ON THE CIVIL
SERVICE
COMMISSION**

**RES. 5121
COMMEND
WILLIAM
RITTMAN
FOR HIS
SERVICE ON
THE HUMAN
SERVICES
ADVISORY
BOARD**

**RES. 5122
APPOINT
MYRA
SANTOS TO
TELCOMMU-
NICATIONS
COMMISSION**

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRECKSVILLE

January 19, 2021

HELD _____

Page 3

- RESOLUTION 5123:** a Resolution confirming the appointment by the Mayor of Amanda Barcon as a citizen member to the Civil Service Commission for a six year term; and declaring an emergency, was read by title. **RES. 5123 APPOINT AMANDA BARCON TO CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION**
- Motion by Veras, seconded by Caruso, to suspend the rules and place Resolution 5123 on third and final reading.
- Ayes: Carouse, Caruso, Harwood, Kingston, Koepke, Redinger, Veras.
Nays: None.
- MOTION CARRIED 7-AYES, 0-NAYS.**
- Motion by Redinger, seconded by Carouse, to pass Resolution 5123.
- Ayes: Carouse, Caruso, Harwood, Kingston, Koepke, Redinger, Veras.
Nays: None
- MOTION CARRIED 7-AYES, 0-NAYS.**
- RESOLUTION 5124:** a Resolution authorizing the sale of personal property no longer needed or municipal purposes via internet auction in the calendar year 2021; and declaring an emergency, was read by title. **RES. 5124 AUTH. INTERNET AUCTION FOR ITEMS NO LONGER NEEDED FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES**
- Motion by Caruso, seconded by Veras, to suspend the rules and place Resolution 5124 on third and final reading.
- Ayes: Carouse, Caruso, Harwood, Kingston, Koepke, Redinger, Veras.
Nays: None.
- MOTION CARRIED 7-AYES, 0-NAYS.**
- Motion by Redinger, seconded by Carouse, to pass Resolution 5124.
- Ayes: Carouse, Caruso, Harwood, Kingston, Koepke, Redinger, Veras.
Nays: None
- MOTION CARRIED 7-AYES, 0-NAYS.**
- RESOLUTION 5125:** a Resolution repealing Resolution No. 5107, adopted January 5, 2021, authorizing the issuance of a grant to the Brecksville Historical Association to correct a numbering error; and declaring an emergency, was read by title. **RES. 5125 REPEAL RESOLUTION 5107 TO CORRECT A NUMBERING ERROR**
- Motion by Caruso seconded by Veras, to suspend the rules and place Resolution 5125 on third and final reading.
- Ayes: Caruso, Harwood, Kingston, Koepke, Redinger, Veras.
Nays: None.
Abstain: Carouse.
- MOTION CARRIED 6-AYES, 0-NAYS, 1-ABSTAIN.**
- Motion by Redinger, seconded by Carouse, to pass Resolution 5125.
- Ayes: Caruso, Harwood, Kingston, Koepke, Redinger, Veras.
Nays: None
Abstain: Carouse
- MOTION CARRIED 6-AYES, 0-NAYS, 1-ABSTAIN.**
- RESOLUTION 5126:** a Resolution authorizing the issuance of a grant in the amount of three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500.00) to the Brecksville Historical Association, Inc. to be used to fund utility expenses at the Squire Rich Museum; and declaring an emergency, was read by title. **RES. 5126 BRECKSVILLE HISTORICAL ASSOC. GRANT**
- Motion by Veras, seconded by Caruso, to suspend the rules and place Resolution 5126 on third and final reading.
- Ayes: Caruso, Harwood, Kingston, Koepke, Redinger, Veras.
Nays: None.
Abstaining: Carouse.
- MOTION CARRIED 6-AYES, 0-NAYS, 1-ABSTAIN.**
- Motion by Redinger, seconded by Caruso, to pass Resolution 5126.
- Ayes: Caruso, Harwood, Kingston, Koepke, Redinger, Veras.
Nays: None.
Abstaining: Carouse.
- MOTION CARRIED 6-AYES, 0-NAYS, 1-ABSTAIN.**

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRECKSVILLE

January 19, 2021

HELD _____

Page 4

- RESOLUTION 5127:** a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to complete the grant process for a 2021-2022 Ohio Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Grant through the Ohio Department of Public Safety; and declaring an emergency, was read by title. **RES. 5127 AUTH GRANT APPLICATION FOR EMS GRANT**
- Motion by Caruso, seconded by Veras, to suspend the rules and place Resolution 5127 on third and final reading.
- Ayes: Carouse, Caruso, Harwood, Kingston, Koepke, Redinger, Veras.
Nays: None.
- MOTION CARRIED 7-AYES, 0-NAYS.**
- Motion by Redinger, seconded by Carouse, to pass Resolution 5127.
- Ayes: Carouse, Caruso, Harwood, Kingston, Koepke, Redinger, Veras.
Nays: None
- MOTION CARRIED 7-AYES, 0-NAYS.**
- RESOLUTION 5128:** a Resolution authorizing the City of Brecksville Fire Chief to complete the grant process for a FY2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant; and declaring an emergency, was read by title. **RES. 5128 AUTH APPLICATION FOR FY 2020 ASSISTANCE TO FIRE-FIGHTERS GRANT**
- Motion by Veras, seconded by Caruso, to suspend the rules and place Resolution 5128 on third and final reading.
- Ayes: Carouse, Caruso, Harwood, Kingston, Koepke, Redinger, Veras.
Nays: None.
- MOTION CARRIED 7-AYES, 0-NAYS.**
- Motion by Redinger, seconded by Carouse, to pass Resolution 5128.
- Ayes: Carouse, Caruso, Harwood, Kingston, Koepke, Redinger, Veras.
Nays: None
- MOTION CARRIED 7-AYES, 0-NAYS.**
- ORDINANCE 5387 re:** an Ordinance authorizing the purchase of tires, tubes & related services through December 31, 2021 through the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company for use by the Brecksville Service Department through the State of Ohio Department of Administrative Services; and declaring an emergency, was read by title. **ORD. 5387 AUTH. PURCH. THRU GOODYEAR TIRE & RUBBER FOR TIRES, TUBES & RELATED SERVICES THROUGH OH DEPT OF ADMIN SERVICES**
- Motion by Caruso, seconded by Veras, to suspend the rules and place Ordinance 5387 on third and final reading.
- Ayes: Carouse, Caruso, Harwood, Kingston, Koepke, Redinger, Veras.
Nays: None.
- MOTION CARRIED 7-AYES, 0-NAYS.**
- Motion by Redinger, seconded by Carouse, to pass Ordinance 5387.
- Ayes: Carouse, Caruso, Harwood, Kingston, Koepke, Redinger, Veras.
Nays: None.
- MOTION CARRIED 7-AYES, 0-NAYS.**
- BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS:** Councilmember Caruso reported the next meeting of the Board of Zoning Appeals will be Monday, February 10th at 7:30 P.M. The Organizational meeting was held on January 11th. Dennis Rose was elected as Chairperson, Robert Hasman as Vice Chairperson, Kathleen Roberts as Secretary. Councilmember Carouse thanked the Board of Zoning members for their continued service. **ZONING APPEALS**
- Appeal 2021-01 10380 Barr Rd. Setback** – Motion by Caruso, seconded by Veras, to accept the Board of Zoning Appeals recommendation to approve a variance from Section 1151.26(8) that requires a minimum 10 ft. setback to allow 7.1 feet from the side lot line and 9.4 feet from a portion of the rear lot line, for a pool deck, located at 10400 Barr Road, PP# 604-23-012 and 10380 Barr Road, PP# 604-23-003. **APP. 2021-01 10380 BARR RD. SETBACK VARIANCE**
- Ayes: Carouse, Caruso, Harwood, Kingston, Koepke, Redinger, Veras.
Nays: None.
- MOTION CARRIED 7-AYES, 0-NAYS.**

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRECKSVILLE

January 19, 2021

HELD _____

Page 5

PLANNING COMMISSION: Councilmember Harwood reported the next **PLANNING** meeting of the Planning Commission will be January 21st at 7:00 P.M. The Organizational **COMMISSION** meeting held on January 7th. Kirk Roman, was elected as Chairman, Dominic Sciria as Vice Chairman, and Eric Lahrmer as Secretary. ,

Approval of Planning Commission Minutes 12-3-2020 - Motion by Harwood, **12-3-2020**
seconded by Veras, to approve the Planning Commission Public Hearing minutes of **PLANNING**
December 3, 2020 to re-zone PP#604-08-008 to Office/Lab. **COMMISSION**
Ayes: Carouse, Caruso, Harwood, Kingston, Koepke, Redinger, Veras. **MINUTES**
Nays: None.
MOTION CARRIED 7-AYES, 0-NAYS.

9075 Highland Dr. Front Yard Setback - Motion by Harwood, seconded by **PLANNING**
Redinger, to approve the Planning Commission recommendation to establish a front yard **COMMISSION**
Setback of 165 feet at 9075 Highland Drive, Brecksville, Ohio, Permanent Parcel #601-33- **9075**
008, as described in the application dated November 12, 2020 and shown on the drawing **HIGHLAND**
entitled Preliminary Site Plan by RM Kole & Associates, dated November 6, 2020, revised **DR. FRONT**
November 11, 2020. **YARD**
Ayes: Carouse, Caruso, Harwood, Kingston, Koepke, Redinger, Veras. **SETBACK**
Nays: None.
MOTION CARRIED 7-AYES, 0-NAYS.

9933 Hillsdale Rd. Solar Panels - Motion by Harwood, seconded by Veras, to **PLANNING**
approve the Planning Commission recommendation to approve a solar panel system **COMMISSION**
installation at 9933 Hillsdale Road, Brecksville, Ohio, as described in the application dated **9933**
November 13, 2020 and attached plans by Better Together Solar, contingent on Utility **HILLSDALE**
Company interconnection approval, roof structural evaluation and approval by City Council **RD. SOLAR**
of the following deviation: **PANEL**
SYSTEM
• A deviation from Section 1186.03(c)(1) which requires a roof-top solar configuration **MARKOVIC**
be limited to the portion of the roof which faces the rear yard to allow the array to face the
side yard.
Ayes: Carouse, Caruso, Harwood, Kingston, Koepke, Redinger, Veras.
Nays: None.
MOTION CARRIED 7-AYES, 0-NAYS.

4900 Edgerton Rd. Front Yard Setback - Motion by Harwood, seconded by **PLANNING**
Redinger to approve the Planning Commission recommendation to establish a front yard **COMMISSION**
Setback of 200 feet at 4900 Edgerton Road, Brecksville, Ohio, Permanent Parcel #604-03- **4900**
104, as described in the application dated November 13, 2020 and shown on the drawings **EDGERTON**
entitled Site Plan, dated July 17, 2020 and Site Plan dated October 21, 2020 by Gutoskey & **RD. FRONT**
Associates Inc., pending approval of City Council. **SETBACK**
Ayes: Carouse, Caruso, Harwood, Kingston, Koepke, Redinger, Veras. **OTERO**
Nays: None. **SIGNATURE**
MOTION CARRIED 7-AYES, 0-NAYS. **HOMES**

9289 Oxford Tr. Solar Panels - Motion by Harwood, seconded by Veras, to approve **PLANNING**
the Planning Commission recommendation of Preliminary and Final approval of a solar **COMMISSION**
panel system installation at 9289 Oxford Trail, Brecksville, Ohio, PP #603-01-088, as **9289 OXFORD**
described in the application dated December 18, 2020 and attached plans by YellowLite, **TR. SOLAR**
contingent on Utility Company interconnection approval and City Council approval **PANEL**
Ayes: Carouse, Caruso, Harwood, Kingston, Koepke, Redinger, Veras. **INSTALL**
Nays: None. **WINOKUR**
MOTION CARRIED 7-AYES, 0-NAYS.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRECKSVILLE

January 19, 2021

HELD _____

Page 6

RECREATION COMMISSION: Councilmember Redinger reported the next meeting of the Recreation Commission will be January 25th. **RECREATION COMMISSION**

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES: Councilmember Veras reported the next meeting of the Human Services Advisory Board will be February 9th at 3:00 P.M. **DEPT. OF HUMAN SERVICES**

Salvation Army kettle donations exceeded \$13,100.00 and Yuletide Hunger donations raised a record \$28,500.00. The Human Services Center hopes to resume activities soon. Grab & Go lunches continue on Thursdays and Human Services Director Dr. Paciorek has placed helpful information on the City website regarding COVID-19 and obtaining vaccines. The Department of Human Services will help you through the process and help to register you for a vaccine.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION: Councilmember Carouse thanked Council for the re-appointment of Myra Santos to the Telecommunication Commission. Ms. Santos is an employee of AT&T and provides valuable information. **TELEC. COM.**

SAFETY-SERVICE COMMITTEE: Councilmember Caruso reported the committee met earlier today and has several items for consideration. **SAFETY-SERVICE**

Motion by Caruso, seconded by Kingston, to approve a purchase requisition to Chagrin Valley Dispatch (CVD) in the amount of \$468,317.90 for the 2021 Operating Cost Share, per the Member Participation Agreement with CVD approved via Resolution 4796 in December 2017. Account #110210 2132. **APPROVE PURCH REQ. TO CHAGRIN VALLEY DISPATCH**

Ayes: Carouse, Caruso, Harwood, Kingston, Koepke, Redinger, Veras.

Nays: None.

MOTION CARRIED 7-AYES, 0-NAYS.

Motion by Caruso, seconded by Redinger, to approve a purchase requisition to KMS Paint & Body in the amount of \$3,459.20 for a replacement truck bed and various repairs for the Animal Warden's Vehicle. Account #110250-2602. **APPROVE PURCH. REQ. FOR REPLACEMENT TRUCK BED**

Ayes: Carouse, Caruso, Harwood, Kingston, Koepke, Redinger, Veras.

Nays: None.

MOTION CARRIED 7-AYES, 0-NAYS.

Motion by Caruso, seconded by Veras, to approve a purchase requisition to Mattes Landscaping in the amount of \$29,000.00 for Supplementary Snowplowing for the 2021 snow season. This includes plowing/icing various parking lots and sidewalks. T Account #110430 2103 \$20,000.00, Account #110172 2103 \$9,000.00. **APPROVE PURCH REQ FOR SUPP. SNOWPLOWING MATTES LANDSCAP.**

Ayes: Carouse, Caruso, Harwood, Kingston, Koepke, Redinger, Veras.

Nays: None.

MOTION CARRIED 7-AYES, 0-NAYS.

Motion by Caruso, seconded by Kingston, to approve a purchase requisition to Wichert Insurance Services, Inc. for year 3 of a 3 year rate-guaranteed policy through Provident for Accident & Health Insurance Coverage for Volunteer & Part-Time Firemen at \$3,212.00 per year. Policy term 2/1/2021 – 2/1/2022. Account No. 290260 2101. **APPROVE PURCH REQ. ACCIDENT & HEALTH INSURANCE**

Ayes: Carouse, Caruso, Harwood, Kingston, Koepke, Redinger, Veras.

Nays: None.

MOTION CARRIED 7-AYES, 0-NAYS.

STREETS & SIDEWALKS COMMITTEE: Councilmember Carouse reported the committee met earlier today and discussed the 2021 Road Program and will exceed \$1.5 million. The committee hopes to review road conditions in the spring to verify if any additional problems with the roadways or sidewalks exist. Councilmember Carouse thanked the Service Director and his staff for the work put into this report. **STREETS & SIDEWALKS**

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRECKSVILLE

January 19, 2021

HELD _____

Page 7

UTILITIES COMMITTEE: Councilmember Kingston reported the committee met earlier and has no further items to bring before Council.

**UTILITIES
COMMITTEE**

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE: Councilmember Veras reported the Buildings & Grounds Committee met earlier this evening and

**BUILDINGS &
GROUNDS**

Motion by Veras, seconded by Caruso, to approve a purchase requisition to S.A. Comunale in the aggregate amount \$3,025.00 for the annual Fire Alarm and Sprinkler System Inspections, Tests and Cleaning throughout City buildings

Ayes: Carouse, Caruso, Harwood, Kingston, Koepke, Redinger, Veras.

Nays: None.

MOTION CARRIED 7-AYES, 0-NAYS.

Motion by Veras, seconded by Redinger, to approve a purchase requisition to Johnson Controls in the aggregate amount of \$5,130.00 for the HVAC Damper Inspections at the Community Center and Police Station buildings. \$2,565.00 charged to Account 240710 2604. \$2,565.00 charged to Account #110210 2604.

Ayes: Carouse, Caruso, Harwood, Kingston, Koepke, Redinger, Veras.

Nays: None.

MOTION CARRIED 7-AYES, 0-NAYS.

**APP. PURCH
REQ TO SA
COMUNALE
FOR
INSPECTIONS**

**APPROVE
PURCH REQ.
TO JOHNSON
CONTROLS
HVAC
DAMPER INSP**

Motion by Veras, seconded by Redinger, to approve a purchase requisition to advertise for bids for the Brecksville Police Station Generator Exhaust Extension project.

Ayes: Carouse, Caruso, Harwood, Kingston, Koepke, Redinger, Veras.

Nays: None.

MOTION CARRIED 7-AYES, 0-NAYS.

**AUTHORIZE
BID ADVERT.
FOR POLICE
GENERATOR
EX. EXTEN.
PROJECT**

LEGISLATION COMMITTEE: Councilmember Koepke reported the committee met earlier today and recommended appointments to the Telecommunication Commission and the Civil Service Commission.

**LEGISLATION
COMMITTEE**

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Councilmember Redinger thanked Council for the passage of the legislation presented this evening and has three items for consideration.

**FINANCE
COMMITTEE**

Motion by Redinger, seconded by Carouse, to authorize the Purchasing Director to advertise for bids on the following annual purchases & upcoming projects in 2021:

Annual Purchases:

-2021 Online Auctions of Surplus Property on GovDeals.com *Ongoing*

-Supplying Sodium Chloride (municipal purchasing consortium) *March 2021*

-Supplying Asphalt Materials (municipal purchasing consortium) *April 2021*

-Supplying Gasoline & Diesel Fuel (municipal purchasing consortium) *October 2021*

-2022 Road Program *December 2021*.

Ayes: Carouse, Caruso, Harwood, Kingston, Koepke, Redinger, Veras.

Nays: None.

MOTION CARRIED 7-AYES, 0-NAYS.

**AUTHORIZE
BID ADVERT.
ONLINE
AUCTIONS,
SODIUM
CHORIDE,
ASPHALT,
GASOLINE &
DIESEL, 2022
ROAD
PROGRAM**

Motion by Redinger, seconded by Carouse, to approve a purchase requisition to Sundance Systems, Inc. for the annual support of CAD Disaster Software and Mobile Data, Public Records Online, AVL Support, Hosted System and Mayor's Court Interface Support for the aggregate amount of \$11,540.00 for the period of 1/1/2021 – 12/31/2021. Account #110210 2103.

Ayes: Carouse, Caruso, Harwood, Kingston, Koepke, Redinger, Veras.

Nays: None.

MOTION CARRIED 7-AYES, 0-NAYS.

**SUNDANCE
SYSTEMS CAD
DISASTER
SOFTWARE &
MOBILE
DATA**

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRECKSVILLE

January 19, 2021

HELD _____

Page 8

Motion by Redinger, seconded by Carouse, to approve the payment of bills for professional services, as follows: Matty, Henrikson and & Greve in the amount of \$9,079.56; Sergio I. DiGeronimo in the amount of \$5,747.50, Kulchytsky Architects, LLC in the amount of \$487.50; J Neusser, LLC in the amount of \$2,000.00; and Donald G. Bohning & Associates in the amount of \$20,405.31 and Sixmo in the amount of \$1,537.50. Total of all invoices \$39,257.50.

**MONTHLY
BILLS FOR
PROFESS-
IONAL
SERVICES**

Ayes: Carouse, Caruso, Harwood, Kingston, Koepke, Redinger, Veras.

Nays: None.

MOTION CARRIED 7-AYES, 0-NAYS.

REPORT OF ENGINEER: No Report.

ENGINEER

REPORT OF FINANCE DIRECTOR: No Report.

FINANCE

REPORT OF BUILDING DEPARTMENT: No Report.

BUILDING

REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR: No Report.

SERVICE

REPORT OF PURCHASING DIRECTOR: No Report.

PURCHASING

REPORT OF POLICE DEPARTMENT: No Report.

POLICE

REPORT OF FIRE DEPARTMENT: No Report.

FIRE

REPORT OF RECREATION DEPARTMENT: No Report.

RECREATION

REPORT OF THE MAYOR: Mayor Hruby informed the audience and Council members of the death of former Brecksville Police Officer Charles McGinnis. Mayor Hruby and members of the City staff were represented at the services for Mr. McGinnis. Mayor Hruby also noted the death of Frank Burlingham. Mr. Burlingham was appointed to the Charter Review Commission. Mayor Hruby referred to Mr. Burlingham as "John Wayne" a very respectful man, polite man. Mr. Burlingham went on to serve Brecksville on the Planning Commission as well as in Building Department. Mayor Hruby offered condolences to the families of both gentlemen. Mayor Hruby offered additional information regarding sign-ups for the COVID vaccine. Mayor Hruby said individuals may sign up through their "My Chart" applications for the Cleveland Clinic and Metro Hospital. University Hospitals also have on-line registration available. Human Services Director Dr. Paciorek advised people to watch the City Website for updated information. Mayor Hruby said he would like to speak in response to correspondence received.

MAYOR

Mayor Hruby: I'm going to take some time Mr. President, if you'll bear with me. I think it is very important, Mr. President, that City Council and the public have an opportunity to hear publicly a response from Councilmember Veras, to the recent correspondences we received from four different individual residents and members, some of them, or all of them, of Better Brecksville, regarding Mrs. Veras being a signatory on a December 31, 2020 letter from the Cuyahoga Valley Republicans to republican members of the United States Congress who represent the City of Brecksville. I would like to hear you say what your response is to those letters and exactly those insinuations, allegations and perhaps legitimate questions on their part.

Councilmember Veras: Thank you Mr. Mayor. I am happy to take this opportunity to speak directly to the residents of our City in response to the January 9th post on the Better Brecksville Facebook page regarding our letter dated on December 31, 2020 which was sent to Ohio members of the United States House and Senate by the Cuyahoga Valley Republicans. The letter stands on its own. The letter represents how concerned citizens in a free and Democratic society communicate and engage with their elected representatives.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRECKSVILLE

January 19, 2021

HELD _____

Page 9

Those who agree with the views expressed are free to write their own letters. The Better Brecksville post is factually incorrect in that the CVR did not send a bus to Washington DC on January 6th. I do not condone violence in any form including what took place at the Capitol building and that which occurred in many cities across our nation for several months last summer. Those who engage in criminal acts should be arrested and prosecuted. In America the rule of law must always prevail. As a member of City Council my record shows that my commitment to serve our community has always been and will continue to be nonpartisan, in the tradition of Brecksville city government. Thank you.

Mayor Hruby: Thank you. I appreciate your comments. Mr. President if you bear with me I'd like to finish mine. I've worked with nearly (30) different members of City Council in the years that I have been Mayor. During that time the hallmark of the relationship between the administration and Council has always been that we work together. We respect each other and we engage in dialogue, try to come to compromise and then do what we think is the best thing for the city of Brecksville. We have been known for that. That is one of the hallmarks of the relationship between Council and this administration for 30 some years. Mrs. Veras, you have been one of the better ones, of the Council. And when I say that I believe all of our Councilmen have done a good job there have been few exceptions where we've had some difficulties. But I'm gonna speak today as a friend of your family, a friend of yours, and as the Mayor of this town. I'm also going to speak on behalf of one guy that I wish could be here to stand in your defense and that is your father. Mrs. Veras is the daughter of an outstanding, I mean outstanding public servant another "John Wayne". A man who stood for law and order. He dedicated his life professionally to the legal system. He retired a well-respected and honorable magistrate of the US Federal District Court of Northern Ohio. I knew him well, my brother knew him well. He instilled love of country, respect for one another, and full faith in our rights under the constitution. No exception, no exception. You live by the rule, you live by the rule. He would be so saddened tonight to know that his daughter who he raised, with that in mind, has been subject to what has been said to her, about her, and banning about a community that I am so very concerned of. Because of the actions that are taking place recently. Mrs. Veras did nothing wrong. She is a Republican. She wrote, along with the other members of the CVR, which by the way is a Republican organization, a letter to three elected officials. They are our representatives in Washington DC. The letter was written on the 31st day of December. A week before what happened in Washington. There is nothing in there encouraging anyone, other than those, to support their Republican President. Republican organization writing to Republican elected officials in support of a Republican President. Is the indictment in the fact that it was a Republican or the indictment in the fact of something else. Then to say that Brecksville sent a busload of people and question whether I attended or Mrs. Veras attended or who attended. I did not attend, I know Mrs. Veras did not attend. I know of no busload of people. Mrs. Veras, I apologize to you. You're being treated in an unfair way. Someone's trying to take away your rights to say who you support. And if you are condemned because you support a certain person, this United States is in the wrong direction. Because I remember when Richard Nixon had all of his difficulties no one complained and accused his supporters. It was Richard Nixon and the same thing with Bill Clinton and any other president who had been accused of anything. It's not the supporters, it's the person themselves. Plain and simple. So I apologized to you. I like the way that you answered the community. Then I'll move on now.

Mayor Hruby: To those that wanted to know from me. Yes I am a Republican. Yes I am a member of the CVR. I'm a Charter member of the CVR. We started it some years ago because we felt that the County party was inadequate in supporting Republicans. So we started one out here. At one point we had over 900 members, 900 members. That's more than the Cuyahoga County party at one time. I did not attend the events in Washington DC. And recently I wrote, and I'm going to read it to you, and then I'm going to make my final remark Mr. President. Thank you for giving this time. I certainly disagree with the unlawful acts that we have witnessed throughout this nation. The attack on federal, state, and local facilities. The damage to private property, the physical harm, and the loss of life must be

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRECKSVILLE

January 19, 2021

HELD _____

Page 10

stopped and those who continue to commit these criminal acts must be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. This city government strongly affirms one's rights together under the 1st Amendment but not to commit these acts in the name of freedom of our constitution. These people who commit these acts, they gather in the name of the 1st amendment. Nowhere in the First Amendment does it allow for violent criminal acts. Persons committing such acts should be prosecuted. They should not be excused, overlooked, or condoned because it's the result of their actions as they were protesting or demonstrating. If you go on the streets in the name of protest and demonstrations and you commit a criminal act, you committed a criminal act, there should be no excuse we should not condone those actions and that is my position and that's how I feel strongly as a former Policemen and Mayor of this community. That we do everything that we can to uphold everyone's right to free speech, everyone's right to assemble, everyone's right to put up a sign, say whatever they want. But at the same time unconscionable, trying to make excuses, all the things that are being said is absolutely ridiculous. That being said, we should not be here tonight with me saying what I'm saying because I thought it was time to move on. I thought it was time to heal. So what I am saying to each and every one of you is that we will continue to enforce the law in this community. We will continue to be respectful of others. We do not condone violence, we don't condone anyone in the name of whatever freedoms they speak of, taking away someone's right to life, taking on someone's property, burning federal buildings, burning state buildings, or dealing with private property. Our cooperative spirit in Brecksville has resulted in fine additions to our City, our facilities, and our services and we have made Brecksville a community that is building its future with respect for its past, respect for its government, and respect for its people. Thank you, Mr. President.

Council President Harwood: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. So with that being said, City Council does have one additional item for discussion. So the way I would like to map this out, is to set the context for the discussion. And then I would, I'll explain when I read the email. So I have email and correspondence that as City Council President I received from residents. And then the third part of that is I will again explain. I'll ask the Law Director to comment on that. If there's a review in a direction that you need to provide to us and then I would ask any City Council representative if they would like to make any comments as well. So, to set context, Sunday January 10th the Mayor sent, or forwarded me an email that was sent to him that had a letter that was dated December 31st from the Cuyahoga Valley Republicans. He called me, he first said give me a call after you read it. So I read the letter and I read the email. So the Mayor and I discussed that. At that point I made a phone call. It was on a Sunday I called Law Director Matty left him a message that it was important that I speak with him. Following that call I called Kim (Councilmember Veras) and just let her know that the Mayor and I spoke of the issue and I explained to her. And I think what is very relevant with this is that in the last couple days people have sent Kim (Councilmember Veras) not very nice emails saying that our silence sort of speaks for where she stands. Completely false. The reason why that is, the minute that I left a message for Dave. (Law Director Matty) Dave Matty called me on Monday morning when I told Kim (Councilmember Veras) on Sunday she is not to respond until I have time to talk to the Law Director and have the Law Director clarifying on this issue. So context again is; I have the email from January 10th and I have three other emails. So, what I want to do is, I'm going to read those and I'll save that January 10th email. Because in that email it asked Council to take some form of action. So again, everyone, some reading here so just bear with me please. The December 31, 2020 email from the Cuyahoga Valley Republicans is addressed to the Honorable Rob Portman, the Honorable Anthony Gonzales, and the Honorable Dave Joyce it's titled the 2020 election. **Attached to these minutes and Marked as Exhibit "A".**

Council President Harwood: This was the letter that was written and attached to the January 10th email. So what I've been asked by the Law Director is to read that there's three more emails that I will read to the public and everyone in the room. Number one is an e-mail from Miss Rebecca Kapur that was dated Monday January 11th. **Attached to these minutes and Marked as Exhibit "B".**

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRECKSVILLE

January 19, 2021

HELD _____

Page 11

Council President Harwood: the second email was from a Steve Schadler this one was addressed to everybody on City Council. I believe it was the subject was "ABB posted letter from CVR" **Attached to these minutes and Marked as Exhibit "C"**.

Council President Harwood: This is an, e-mail bear with me one minute, from a Ms. Patricia Demko dated January 18th and I believe myself, Laura (Councilmember Redinger), and Mayor Hruby were copied. Subject was concerned citizen. **Attached to these minutes and Marked as Exhibit "D"**.

Council President Harwood: And then, so, these three letters or emails that I that were, I was covering the story these were the only three that I were copied on these have been sent to Dave Matty (Law Director Matty) for his review as well then the fourth was the original email that was sent to Mayor Hruby that had the Cuyahoga Valley Republicans letter attached it's dated Sunday, January 10, 2021 at 11:16 A.M. **Attached to these minutes and Marked as Exhibit "E"**.

Council President Harwood: So the reason I read this e-mail to me last was because of one of the last paragraphs. In a number of cases, and outside of just this correspondence, people have asked that Councilmember Veras make a statement and that they're asking City Council and me, as City Council President where City Council stands in this. So again what happened on Sunday when the Mayor shared that with me, I spoke with him. I did call Dave (Law Director Matty) I spoke with Dave (Law Director Matty) on Monday. I directed Kim on Sunday to not do anything until Dave (Law Director Matty) had a chance to review. What I think is really important is the amount of misinformation that is published. I guess lately, but it's been for a while within our community. So what, as Laura and I, as leadership of City Council what we've tried to do is in all correspondence that we have with a resident or a phone call whatever comes to us, what we've tried to do is bring that to the agenda. That we need to discuss it in and now we actually copy our Council Minutes to every one of those responses. So we may not get back to somebody in three or four days. But we had Council tonight, we have all seven representatives with us. We have the Law Director with us and this is the place to have this discussion versus any one of us responding to any individual without all of us being together. So as our leadership this is the method that we want to discuss this. So with that being said, Dave, (Law Director Matty) I've read the correspondence that you've asked me to and I've forwarded that to you. So I would ask that you comment, provide direction, I mean where do you know provide direction to City Council at this point.

Law Director Matty: Thank you Mr. President. Mr. President the first thing I would like to say is your comments about the sequence of events which started with the Mayor's notification to you and me and your comments concerning response and talking to Mrs. Veras are 100 percent accurate and I did not want Mrs. Veras to respond until I had a chance to check the law. Because of the fact that the first amendment is not only important to residents it's important to every one of these Councilmembers and recently we have had first amendment issues asked of the law department by Councilmembers and the cloak that you wear as a Councilmember does not eliminate any first amendment rights that you must have, that you have. The second thing I would like you to know, in echoing the Mayor, this law department with our veteran Prosecutor Mr. DiGeronimo and our very qualified Police Department, its officers, and his detectives will find any issue that they need to find if there is any violence in this community. And the residents should know that firsthand. They are a reputable Police Department with very qualified individuals and we have a very qualified prosecutor which if necessary will take the actions that they need to uphold the law in this community, as they already always have. I will give you a couple of basic principles before I state what we have locally. And a couple of those basic principles are from cases from the U.S. Supreme Court. The highest court in the land and they read as follows: The manifest function of the first amendment in a representative government requires that legislators be given the widest latitude to express their views on issues of policy. The State or Federal

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRECKSVILLE

January 19, 2021

HELD _____

Page 12

Government may not apply to a legislator a first amendment standard stricter than that applicable to a private citizen. Something that I thought might have been different but that's a statement from the U.S. Supreme Court. Mrs. Veras has the same standard applicable to any resident speaking an opinion as a private citizen though a state may impose an oath requirement on legislators, it cannot limit their capacity to express views on local or national policy. Debate on public issues should be uninhibited, robust, and wide open. And I state those principles because they not only apply to Mrs. Veras they apply to everyone in this room that I represent and they apply to the Mayor. That's the system that we live with your opinion can be pro or con. But that's how Mrs. Veras must act. And that's how a citizen must act. Now as you all know, locally, we have had, and the thing that concerned me about the letters which you sent me was the request of some of the residents questioning the qualification of Mrs. Veras. I see the qualification of Mrs. Veras as a legal issue, which as you all are aware you are fully aware of the recent activity we had concerning your action when those qualifications were questioned. Your Charter permits this Council to review the qualifications of a Councilmember and as you all know through our past activity you all know what that entails. It entails a right to be given a charge. It entails a right to be heard. It entails a right for discussion and for decision by this Council. One thing that I will tell you that concerns me is I am going to recommend to this Council that you consider either not taking an action or taking an action as it concerns Mrs. Veras. That you not hold this in abeyance, that you not hold this without decision so that more information, whether it be pro or con, occurs in this community. That will not aid any healing, that will not aid any moving forward. And I only want to remind you, since some of the residents have raised the question of Mrs. Veras' qualifications what that entails. Remember as a Council you are a judge of your members. But remember the standard for that review falls in certain areas of the law and they are five or six simple standards. Such as gross misconduct. I define gross misconduct in my research as committing absolute transgressions of some established and definite rule of action a dereliction from duty unlawful behavior willful in character improper or wrong behavior. Malfeasance: The commission of some act which is positively unlawful. Nonfeasance: omission to perform a required duty at all or total neglect of duty. Violation of Oath of Office: Which the Supreme Court has one of my quotes was on that, and a violation of your rules of Council. So those are the qualifications that Mrs. Veras legally must have to hold office. Her opinion on a federal matter as a legislator or as a citizen can be the same, it's her right. It's her right to express. Whatever Council thinks of this situation you should speak this evening so our residents understand your individual positions. And my request is that you take a motion, whether it be this evening or in the recent future if you need time to contemplate this, that you take a motion to end this. So that this doesn't prolong. At least as it may affect one of your respected Councilmembers who we all know, every other week that we meet, is one of the most respectful people in this chambers. And if she does have a transgression it needs to be addressed. If she doesn't, it needs to be addressed. Do not sit here silently so this boils over in our community. That's my only request. And Mr. President, I apologize, but this takes some time to get this research done to make sure we were on the right path. Just like we have done before when we've had to address these kind of issues. I've always asked the Councilmembers to contact me so that we can make sure we don't make a statement that comes back to not be backed up by the law. Thank you.

Council President Harwood: So, to Dave's (Law Director Matty) point, I mean if individually you guys would like to make an outside statement. But I agree with Dave (Law Director Matty) 100%. The reason why we're here all seven of us is to make a decision and move forward and stop, you know, the continued emails to all of us at one time. So if you guys want to make individual statements how however you guys want to proceed.

Councilmember Redinger: Mr. President I'd like to make a statement please. I was saddened to see the comments posted on Facebook insinuating that Kim Veras somehow supported and encouraged violence during the Capitol Hill protest on January 6th. These comments would never have been made if you knew Kim personally. I do not support violence of any kind. Let me repeat that I do not support violence of any kind. I also do not support the use

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRECKSVILLE

January 19, 2021

HELD _____

Page 13

of social media to create negative campaigns and attack people's character. City Council members are elected to make the best decisions for our community regardless of national politics. In the future I encourage residents to engage in direct dialogue, away from their computer screens. I welcome the opportunity to connect via phone or meet in person with anyone who would like to discuss further on this topic or any other topic of concern. Thank you very much.

Council President Harwood: Thank you, Laura. (Councilmember Redinger). Daryl (Councilmember Kingston).

Councilmember Kingston: Mr. President I'd like to make a short comment as well please. I too would like to say a few words regarding the emails we received from a Better Brecksville. I have already responded briefly to them via email with a general statement but would like to reiterate here tonight. That I too, condone all forms of violence against our police and government, no matter who does it. All acts of violence ir-regardless of political affiliation should be met with the harshest form of justice. With that said I do want to say a few words about Councilwoman Veras. I've known Kim and her family, her Mom and Husband are here tonight, for about 10 years. And above all I know her to be a woman of strong character. She is always civil, kind, and a harmless person. I don't know why that word harmless came to my mind today but I mean you're a harmless person. Who I believe serves on City Council truly as a way to give back to the community of which you have lived most of your life. As a city leader I see that you take every issue that will affect our city very seriously and I believe every decision that you ultimately make is solely based on your faith and what you believe is best for Brecksville. Nothing else. It's obvious that people saying such horrible things about your character have not made any effort to get to know you or what you stand for. I'm proud to call you, Kim, a friend a colleague and you have my full support. Thank you Mr. President.

Councilmember Caruso: Thank you. I want to make it very clear I do not condone violence looting rioting or destruction of property as a means to evoke change for any cause or purpose. Peaceful protest and assembly is our right and should be celebrated and protected. When a protest turns to violence it should be condemned by all, unequivocally. I have no patience for selective outrage and hypocrisy. I was encouraged by the way our residents were able to express their views this past summer in a peaceful and lawful way. Where no one was injured and no property or businesses were destroyed. Our Police Chief may, or most importantly the officers in the crowd, did a fantastic job of ensuring everyone's safety that day despite the vile names hurled at many of them. I'll also add that I have found Kim Veras to be a person of the highest character and a good heart. Her choice to exercise her freedom of speech should be respected regardless of whether you agree or disagree with the view being expressed. She's a colleague and a friend and I'm more than happy to vouch for her character publicly today after the distasteful call out on social media. I am a hundred percent confident Kim (Councilmember Veras) would not condone violence. And asking our public servants in Washington to ensure the integrity of our elections, regardless of which side wins, should be a top priority for all Americans. Election integrity is at the foundation of our democracy. Thank you Mr. President.

Council President Harwood: Thank you, Dominic (Councilmember Caruso)

Councilmember Carouse: Mike, I do not have a prepared statement for tonight so I'll ad-lib as I do quite often. I don't know where to begin. This is one of these discussions that I really can't believe that we're having. Because I don't know how we got this far in something. I will say this that as a near lifelong member or resident of Brecksville and a 30-plus member of this body, have never wanted to bring any of the national politics into our local government. That's been the way that we've done it for a long, long time. We recognize that everybody has different opinions and so forth but it has never been a part of this body. And so when I hear things of this nature it really disturbs me because I don't think that there's any place for

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRECKSVILLE

January 19, 2021

HELD _____

Page 14

it. Kim, I'll say this I don't need to be repetitive your integrity is second to none. I don't know why it's even being called into question here. To the questions that were raised about the Cuyahoga Valley Republicans, I, like the Mayor, I'm a charter member of that organization, participate regularly in the organization and I think what they did was take a position that they had the right to take. Whether any one of us in the organization agreed or disagreed wasn't the point. To the point, and I can't believe I have to even address this, but of course I do not support any kind of violence. It goes without saying that that would be something that anybody would condone or think is good. I felt that way and Kim you touched on it for most of the summer, as we saw that take place on TV throughout the country. I can't drive downtown, which I go down to see the browns games and see buildings that are still boarded up businesses that are still out because of what transpired at that time. So obviously I don't, I wouldn't even think for a second that any of us in this body would condone that. So again, without notes I might be missing something that should be addressed but I certainly Kim you have my full support I don't even know why we're raising the question and Mike to the extent of where we take this from here I think we end it tonight by saying there's no action to be taken by this Council. If those people would like to know further from me as to my position on violence or something, they're free to reach out to me and I'll be glad to have that discussion with them. So if I've neglected something I apologize but I'm really frustrated that we're even having this kind of dialogue in this town because we have never had it before and I don't like the direction that it's going.

Council President Harwood: Thanks, Lou. So, Dave, (Law Director Matty)

Councilmember Koepke: May I make this statement?

Council President Harwood: Yes, Ann. I'm sorry.

Councilmember Koepke: So, I don't have anything prepared but I would like to make a statement before I do so I would like to read my response that I sent yesterday to the email that asked for us to respond and I wrote I would like to take a moment to respond to your email asking if I'm a member of the Cuyahoga Valley Republicans. I am not. I am a registered republican. I am also a proud American that is saddened by the violent events that took place throughout 2020 and crescendo through the deadly riot at our national capital on January 6, 2021. I am in favor of all Americans practicing any rights afforded to them by the constitution I am very strongly against acts of violence against any persons or property I respect the rule of law if Americans are not happy with government actions they must use legal and non-violent channels to create change citizens not only of rights but they have obligations we are morally obligated to take care of our country and each other in a peaceful manner we are blessed with the freedom to express our concerns displeasures thankfulness and ideas doing so in any way other than peacefully is unacceptable I pray that all Americans stay safe I thank all those who serve the public through work and volunteering I thank all those that helped to make our society the best it can be I'm grateful to have the opportunity to represent Brecksville and its residents. Sincerely, Ann Koepke. And I would say that I do not know Kim outside of Council. She has been nothing but kind here and I do not in any way believe that she would ever endorse violence of any kind and I did find that sad that somebody would accuse her of that knowing that her statement came well in advance of any violence that took place at the Capitol. Thank you.

Council President Harwood: Thank you.

Councilmember Redinger: Mr. President, I apologize I neglected to share with you during my comments that I am, I too am a member of CVR. So I just want to make sure that people did understand that that I am a member. Thank you that's it.

Council President Harwood: So, Dave, (Law Director Matty) to Lou's (Councilmember Carouse) comment is there something; I agree with we need to close this tonight so is there something that this body needs to do to close that tonight.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRECKSVILLE

January 19, 2021

HELD _____

Page 15

Law Director Matty: Well, Mr. President, the way if Council wishes to close this tonight and not proceed, my recommendation is a motion is made not to question the qualifications of Mrs. Veras as a Brecksville Councilmember, plain and simple. So there's, if that motion is made and seconded, and it's passed this Council is past that issue, okay. And that should put an end at least to the official legal authority that this Council has to proceed on that issue as of this date. That's what my recommendation would be if Council wants to head in that direction. If Council wants to head in the direction of questioning the qualifications, of course it would be a different motion. I'm not hearing that. But I do think this record should have that so that it shows that Council addressed the issue as soon as we had the first meeting after this started circulating in our community.

Council President Harwood: Okay. So, Laura, you understood what the motion would be for that.

Councilmember Redinger: Yes.

Council President Harwood: So does anybody have any issue with that what so ever.

Councilmembers: No, no, no.

Councilmember Veras: Well, I just I need to say one more thing about Dom Sciria, who I've known for many years and who has been maligned on Better Brecksville. And, this, for the same issue and I just want to say publicly that he's one of the finest people I've ever known. A dedicated public servant to Brecksville, who donates his time endlessly to Planning Commission for many years, takes it to heart and it breaks my heart to see him, his character, and his motives, that I have to say that publicly, thank you. I think he would like to respond in some way too, thank you.

Council President Harwood: Oh yeah, I know I saw it. We usually don't have many people in the room so there's I'm assuming that people you guys will have an opportunity to speak. We'll give you that opportunity I just wanted to get through what we're trying to achieve at this point. So, Laura did you want to do that or anybody wants to make that motion

Councilmember Redinger: So, Dave (Law Director Matty) just help me to make sure that I get through this properly. I move for Council to take no action this evening regarding qualifications of Councilmember Veras. I so move.

Councilmember Carouse: Second.

Law Director Matty: I would only add respectfully take no action this evening or in the future based on the information that Council has before it this evening.

Councilmember Redinger: Thank you. I move that Council take no action against Mrs. Veras, Councilmember Veras this evening or in the future based on the information that we have that has been presented.

Councilmember Carouse: Second.

Council President Harwood: Motion by Redinger, second by Carouse. Discussion: Roll call: Carouse – yes, Caruso- yes, Harwood- yes, Kingston- yes, Koepke-yes, Redinger – yes, Veras-abstain.

Councilmember Veras: Do I abstain?

Law Director Matty: That's fine.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRECKSVILLE

January 19, 2021

HELD _____

Page 16

Council President Harwood: Yeah, Sure. Motion passes 6- Aye's, 0 -Nays and 1- Abstention. So, in regards to that just to make, to make very clear I believe that the residents, I believe through all emails I believe through all correspondence and all requests as a unified Council we have addressed this issue tonight meaning that it isn't through other email chains and other discussion points we are addressing it tonight we are closing the issue tonight in support of Kim (Councilmember Veras). So, I'm sure that there may be some forthcoming correspondence on Better Brecksville on social media. But we as Council have closed this issue and we will move forward and I would like to say I apologize to the people in the audience but the residents as well that on the second meeting in January we're addressing something that really in my mind does not have to do with the city of Brecksville. We, if you look at what we do up here, we pass things for the betterment of our city and the federal state is not what we're addressing. So, I just want Dave, we are done and clear.

Law Director Matty: Correct. Mr. President and I may be right I may be wrong but I thought at least in the turmoil that I read and what I see that an answer from this Council needed to be done this evening. So that you speak ,even though it's not a local matter we have a local individual being assailed and it needs to be spoken to so that stops. Reasonable people should stop when they understand what the issue is. At least as far as her rights and their rights. And they certainly can speak but Mrs. Veras has that same right. Thank you

Mayor Hruby: Mr. President.

Council President Harwood: Yes, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Hruby: I'd just like to make one other comment and this comment is probably not really directed at Council it's directed at the public in general and specifically the people in Better Brecksville. It is becoming evident to me that there is a different agenda and that several things that are being said in a negative way, constantly, are trying to serve that agenda rather than to make Brecksville Better. You're becoming more irrelevant every day with the way that you are approaching what you do. On one hand you say 'Mayor answer my question and I'll put it, I'll post it on Better Brecksville for you' on the other hand I'm blocked from Better Brecksville. When I was able to respond to Better Brecksville my responses were removed from Better Brecksville. So, do they really want to engage in dialogue with us or do they really want to find fault for their own agenda, their own reasons. And I'm calling them out because I feel very strongly that you are doing a disservice to this community. If you want to do a service to the community speak out about things that you truly believe need to be fixed. But speak out with respect, with civility, and an open forum instead of hiding behind a name, hiding behind being on social media. Come to the Council meetings speak out. We're willing to listen to you. None of us responded because we all knew where this was going. And we also knew that it wasn't the right thing for these folks to do in the way that they did it. There was another way to handle this matter. And again that's your right and I will repeat one more thing here tonight. Everyone has a right to their opinion, to voice that opinion, and to speak out and if you continue to do the way and how you are approaching this you go right ahead then there's nothing more that I can say. But if you truly want to help this community you truly want to help heal this community, you want to help heal this nation, you'll stop the unnecessary rhetoric, you look at things in a positive / negative way either way you want to approach it. But you'll come in and you'll have dialogue with us instead of saying things about us that are untrue. Things that are not true whatsoever. Because as we sit here tonight we were told that Brecksville sent a bus to Washington. Not true. And I could go one thing after another after another and I suggested to the Council President that maybe that's what we should start doing at these Council meetings. We should start answering the social media and correcting anything that is said that is that is wrong. So I'm reaching out to you. If you want to deal with us and you want to truly be part of this city as a resident you have all the rights in the world. We respect them and we'll work with you. But not the way you're going about it. Thank you.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRECKSVILLE

January 19, 2021

HELD _____

Page 17

Council President Harwood: To that point, and Councilmember Koepke and I had a discussion in which there's a number of documents and information that has misrepresented facts within the city. I've talked to Mrs. our Councilmember Koepke and she will respond to Better Brecksville, correct, is that that's what we agreed too?

Councilmember Koepke: Well, we haven't discussed them. You said you had some topics you wanted.

Council President Harwood: I said I'd have them by the end of the week and we'll be able to outline what was misrepresented. And what your response to Better Brecksville is correct.

Councilmember Koepke: Well, as long as I agree with it, yes.

Council President Harwood: Okay, yeah. Well, no that'll be easy,

Councilmember Koepke: Okay and talk. I will say the relevance at time. It is important for us to be able to respond in real time. Something that was three months ago. You know by bringing it up we bring it to the forefront again and it is new conversation. So, not that there's anything that I want to leave, I'm just stating that a lot of these conversations that we may talk about may be old conversations. I have no idea what, but I'm willing to discuss anything that anybody publicly brings to me that we will discuss and I will you know, respond to. I'm happy to talk and to get things out in the open and to make things better.

Council President Harwood: And some would look at it a different perspective that information that was misrepresented that stays in the mind of people versus being corrected is not really a solution either. But, you and I have spoken of this.

Councilmember Koepke: And what to add to that if something was misrepresented people may take it as truth because it wasn't corrected. So I do see all sides and I would like to if there are things to be corrected, absolutely go ahead and correct them. And if there are things that we can do that we didn't, I'd like to address that as well.

Council President Harwood: But just for the record you and I did have this discussion. I was packaging that information, you and I would sit down and you were going to address that. I appreciate that.

Councilmember Koepke: Yes.

Council President Harwood: Thank you. Any other comments from anyone on Council. And then so the way we work it, and if anyone in the audience has any comments what I would ask is that you state your name and address. And then actually this microphone that is on the podium there if you hit the green, Ann is going to hit it for you. If you would like to make a statement just provide your address and your name and you can address City Council.

My name is Sue Komandt, I live on Cherokee in Brecksville for over 50 years. I have a letter addressed to the Honorable Michael Harwood from Dom Sciria who cannot be here tonight. (Dated January 19, 2021). **Attached to these minutes and Marked as Exhibit "F".**

Council President Harwood: Thank you. Is there anybody else in the audience that has anything. Thank you. Then with that being said is there any other comments from... I'm getting a little confused any other comments from Council? Then we're good.

Councilmember; No, sir.

Council President Harwood: Thank you, With that I would make a motion to adjourn the regular meeting.

Councilmember Carouse: Second.

Motion by Harwood, Second by Carouse. Discussion.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRECKSVILLE

January 19, 2021

HELD _____

Page 18

Roll call: Carouse-yes, Caruso-yes, Harwood-yes, Kingston- yes, Koepke-yes, Redinger-yes, Veras-yes.

Council President Harwood: Motion passes; (7) - ayes and (0) - nays. Thank you for putting through with this at the end of the meeting. And we are adjourned. 9:42 P.M.



PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL



CLERK OF COUNCIL

EXHIBIT A



December 31, 2020

The Honorable Rob Portman
The United States Senate
448 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dave Joyce
The US House of Representatives
1124 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Anthony Gonzalez
The US House of Representatives
1023 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

RE: The 2020 Election

Dear Senator Portman, Congressman Gonzalez and Congressman Joyce:

As you must know, during the last month our members have been solicited daily to make contributions to the campaigns of Georgia Senators Kelly Loeffler and David Perdue so that Republicans can keep control of the United States Senate. Each request for donations includes impassioned pleas about the need to support conservatives and stop socialism. Yet almost simultaneously the news media reports that Senate Majority Leader McConnell and other prominent Republicans are refusing to support President Trump when Congress meets to count electoral college votes on January 6th.

Surely these reports must be fake news. However, for the sake of clarity and the future of our country, we are writing to you on behalf of the members of the Cuyahoga Valley Republicans to formally call upon you to join with other courageous Republicans in Congress and object to the electoral college votes cast for Joe Biden and delivered to Congress from Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

Furthermore, in the event that it is true that Republican leadership will not support President Trump in this matter, please know this:

Grass roots Republicans have long suspected that many in the GOP establishment consider themselves better and smarter than the voters who elect them. Refusal to support a President who garnered more support, has been more successful, and is more popular than any Republican since Ronald Reagan, will confirm that their theory is correct.

Accordingly, please understand that in this instance the GOP base will not accept a pat on the head and a pledge to stop voter fraud "next time". Instead the vast majority of our fellow conservatives will simply walk away from the Republican Party. And so, by the way, will the blue collar Democrats and minorities who voted for President Trump in unprecedented numbers. (Votes that the GOP will have foolishly squandered along with a chance to grow future party membership.)

Cuyahoga Valley Republicans P.O. Box 41437, Brecksville, Ohio 44141
www.cv-gop.com

Those of us who have repeatedly led grass roots campaigns and election day volunteer efforts know that the charges of massive voter fraud made by President Trump are credible. It is remarkable that so many Republican leaders don't see it.

Looking forward, we cannot help but wonder, how we will ever stop voter fraud, when it extends to down ticket races, if we do not confront and expose it now. Indeed how will we ever have confidence in the sanctity of future elections? In fact, more than a few of our fellow citizens have asked us why they should even vote.

President Trump has done more to advance the Republican Party's stated agenda than anyone in the last thirty years. Unlike those who came before him from either party, he has actually kept his promises. It is only logical to expect that, if Republican leaders do, in fact, believe in the values they espouse, including loyalty, they will now stand behind the man who delivered the GOP from oblivion.

We salute all those members of Congress who object to the electoral college votes presented on January 6th. They will have fulfilled their duty, per the United States Constitution, to provide President Trump with a platform to present to the American people the unvarnished facts about the results of the 2020 election.

It is up to all of us as citizens to defend liberty. We once again point out that we, in the Republican Party, are walking in the footsteps of men who signed the Declaration of Independence with the pledge "our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor".

Respectfully,

The Cuyahoga Valley Republicans Board of Trustees

Dom Sciria

Dom Sciria, President

Steve Sweetnich

Steve Sweetnich, Treasurer

Dr. Donald Moorhead

Dr. Donald Moorhead, Vice President

Sue Komandt

Sue Komandt, Trustee

Sally Becker

Sally Becker, Secretary

Dr. E. Terri Shawhan

Dr. E. Terri Shawhan, Trustee

Kim Veras

Kim Veras, Recording Secretary

Jack Boyle

Jack Boyle, Trustee

CC: President Trump, the Honorable Jim Jordan, the Honorable Mitch McConnell,
the Honorable Kevin McCarthy, the Honorable Jane Timken

On Jan 9, 2021, at 3:04 PM, Rebecca Kapur <rebeccaannkapur@gmail.com> wrote:

EXHIBIT B

Dear Ms. Veras,

You may be aware of a 1/9 Facebook post sharing the Cuyahoga Valley Republicans' letter to Senator Portman and Representatives Joyce and Gonzalez. In that post, I share the letter and ask if you, as a signer to that letter along with Dom Sciria, are supporting and encouraging violence. Below is the post:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ABetterBrecksville/permalink/2778629712378190/>

You are welcome to believe as you wish and hold the political views you feel appropriate. However, I am very concerned about the mob violence that has taken place and that has not been repudiated by President Trump, who in fact told participants, "We love you."

If you wish to respond, I am happy to post your statement without comment. I would be relieved should you make clear that you in fact do not support the violence we have seen on January 6th, that you did not attend or participate, nor do you support the plans for upcoming attacks as noted by Twitter (which cited it as the reason they removed President Trump from the platform, available here: https://blog.twitter.com/en_us/topics/company/2020/suspension.html).

I have no desire to believe that people in our local government support (in word or deed) the violent overthrow of the lawfully and democratically elected U.S. president-elect, Joe Biden. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you!
Rebecca Kapur
6980 Carriage Hill Dr.

Keating, Mary

From: Hruby, Mayor
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 12:09 PM
To: Keating, Mary
Subject: 5-Schadler FW: ABB posted letter from CVR

EXHIBIT C

From: Steve Schadler [mailto:steve.schadler@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2021 4:18 PM
To: Veras, Kim <kveras@brecksville.oh.us>
Cc: Hruby, Mayor <mayorhruby@brecksville.oh.us>; Caruso, Dominic <dcaruso@brecksville.oh.us>; Carouse, Lou <lcarouse@brecksville.oh.us>; Redinger, Laura <lredinger@brecksville.oh.us>; Harwood, Michael <mharwood@brecksville.oh.us>; Koepke, Ann <akoepke@brecksville.oh.us>; Kingston, Daryl <dkingston@brecksville.oh.us>
Subject: Re: ABB posted letter from CVR

Councilwoman Veras,

Have you had the opportunity to do this? If you have, can you share your response with me?

I would love to hear from every member of council on this if that wasn't clear. I appreciate Ms. Veras letting me know that public comment is forthcoming. Mayor thank you as well for trying to set up a time to speak. I look forward to connecting.

Mr. Kingston, I've heard it rumored that you are a member of the CVR group. Is that rumor true? If so, I hope you are also eager to release a public statement. Perhaps you have and I've not seen it.

Other members of council, are you members of CVR as well? I'm a registered Republican and a proud conservative myself. I hope you aren't reluctant to disavow calls for political violence for fear of alienating fellow conservatives. Just the opposite in my humble opinion. Speaking for myself, I want to see members of our party stand tall and disavow political violence coming from within our ranks.

Heads up, I think I'm not the only one noticing that the city's leadership hasn't offered public comment...

Respectfully,
Steve

On Sun, Jan 10, 2021 at 6:40 PM Veras, Kim <kveras@brecksville.oh.us> wrote:

I have read your email, and will respond publicly in the near future.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

Keating, Mary

From: Hruby, Mayor
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 12:03 PM
To: Keating, Mary
Subject: 2-Demko FW: Concerned Citizen

EXHIBIT D

From: patricia demko [mailto:pattydemko777@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2021 5:45 PM
To: Veras, Kim <kveras@brecksville.oh.us>
Cc: Harwood, Michael <mharwood@brecksville.oh.us>; Redinger, Laura <lredinger@brecksville.oh.us>; Hruby, Mayor <mayorhruby@brecksville.oh.us>
Subject: Re: Concerned Citizen

Your silence on the matter coupled with you not revoking your signature is your public statement.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 18, 2021, at 1:40 PM, Veras, Kim <kveras@brecksville.oh.us> wrote:

I have read your email, and will respond publicly in the near future.

Kim Veras

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: patricia demko <pattydemko777@gmail.com>
Date: 1/18/21 10:41 AM (GMT-05:00)
To: "Veras, Kim" <kveras@brecksville.oh.us>
Cc: "Harwood, Michael" <mharwood@brecksville.oh.us>, "Redinger, Laura" <lredinger@brecksville.oh.us>, "Hruby, Mayor" <mayorhruby@brecksville.oh.us>
Subject: Concerned Citizen

Ms. Veras,

I have recently read a letter put out by the Cuyahoga Valley Republicans. The letter is rife with conspiratorial drivel and a marked departure from what was decided in a free and fair election. This ill informed thinking is concerning, but not what caused me the most chagrin.

I was horrified to see that you, an elected Brecksville council person, signed this. Let me be clear, you have the right to believe whatever you wish to as a private citizen, however falsifiable

that is. However, as an elected official, this brings concern that you lack qualifications to discharge your duties as an elected member of Government.

There are a few particularly egregious snippets from the letter you signed your name to:

"Refusal to support a President who garnered more support, has been more successful, and is more popular than any Republican since Ronald Reagan, will confirm that their theory is correct."

I would expect an elected official to support the rule of law and the will of the people as demonstrated in a free and fair election where Biden won both the popular vote and the electoral college. Citing a candidate's support, success and popularity are not germane. So, I question if you understand how our Government works and question your aptitude to be part of it.

"Those of us who have repeatedly led grass roots campaigns and election day volunteer efforts know that the charges of massive voter fraud made by President Trump are credible. It is remarkable that so many Republican leaders don't see it. "

Again, misguided. Court after court and the former Attorney General of The United States have refuted this claim. There has been no credible evidence. While they have vowed to review any credible evidence presented, any such evidence has yet to be presented. It is not remarkable that so many Republican leaders do not see it. They are people who understand fact from fiction, thankfully. Moreover, they understand how they are to comport themselves in the positions they hold; grounded in fact and the law.

The purpose of this letter is two-fold; firstly to lodge my concerns and secondly, for you to address them.

Patricia Demko

Brecksville Resident | Registered Voter

From: David Sedivy <dave.sedivy12@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 10, 2021 11:16 AM
To: Hruby, Mayor
Subject: CVR Concerns and Kim Veras
Attachments: CVR Senator-Portman-Rep-Joyce-Gonzalez-Letter-12-31-20.pdf

EXHIBIT E

Mr. Mayor,

It has come to my attention that the Cuyahoga Valley Republicans (CVR) wrote and submitted a letter to Senator Rob Portman and Congress members Dave Joyce and Anthony Gonzalez in regards to the 2020 election. This letter is dated December 31, 2020, see attachment. I write to you for two reasons, which will become clear.

It is my understanding you are a member of this organization, and I apologize if this is not a correct statement. I am reaching out to you as a citizen of Brecksville with my concerns. In this letter, CVR states there is credible evidence of voter fraud:

- "Those of us who have repeatedly led grass roots campaigns and election day volunteer efforts know that the charges of massive voter fraud made by President Trump are credible."

What disturbs and angers me regarding this statement is that it is a false statement; there is no credible evidence. State election officials have reviewed voter counts, and in some cases multiple times. Not one state election official has found evidence of voter fraud. The courts, up to the Supreme Court, have found no evidence of voter fraud. With the CVR taking the stance there is credible evidence of voter fraud, they are passing on falsehoods to the public. This, in my view, is unacceptable. Can the CVR supply documented evidence of voter fraud? Since no evidence was brought forward, I assume the answer is no. As the CVR has not, the CVR is guilty of propagating a lie created by Donald Trump, which has led to horrifying consequences (Jan. 6, 2021).

What this city (state/country) needs are leaders who believe in stating facts and not conspiracy theories or non-factual ideas. When leaders are open, honest and tell the truth, the public can gain their trust. When they lie, tell falsehoods, and support false conspiracy theories, the public will quickly lose trust.

This brings me to my second concern. One of the signatures on the CVR letter is Kim Veras, a member of the Brecksville city council. By signing this letter, she is stating and propagating a falsehood. As I stated above, when leaders pass along falsehoods and lie to the public, they lose the public's trust. Or worse, lead the public down a path of believing these falsehoods and conspiracy theories. This is not leadership. This is not performing your civic duty as a city council member. This is not doing what is in the best interest of the people. This is not the behavior expected of responsible individuals. It is the behavior of an individual, who purposefully passed along false information to mis-lead the people. This is not the behavior I want, or will accept of a Brecksville city council member.

In my view, Kim Veras should resign as a member of the Brecksville city council, or the council should remove her from her duties as a council member. In light of recent events on January 6th, which was fed by these falsehoods and conspiracy theories, this action should take place immediately.

Accountability for ones actions are important. In my view, all who signed this letter are complicit in the actions created by this false conspiracy theory of voter fraud. These actions helped this false movement grow. Unfortunately, for our country and its citizens, it led to the events of January 6th, and the attempted insurrection.

People died, people were injured, people are most likely going to jail. Why? Because a number of individuals, for their own best interest, continued to present lies and falsehoods, leading the public to believe in their false message.

I hope you can do the right thing.

David Sedivy
Sherwood Trail

EXHIBIT F



January 19, 2021

The Honorable Michael Harwood
City Council President
City of Brecksville
9069 Brecksville Road
Brecksville, Ohio 44141

Mr. President,

I understand that Rebecca Kapur of the Better Brecksville Group has posted on Facebook and complained about a letter from the Cuyahoga Valley Republicans (CVR) asking Senator Portman and Congressmen Joyce and Gonzales to object to the electoral college votes from certain states in the 2020 elections. I also understand that other members of Better Brecksville have chimed in.

While I will not participate in the next ongoing social media debate with Ms. Kapur and her associates, I will respond here:

First and foremost, the entire CVR leadership condemns and detests the violence that occurred in Washington DC on January 6th. We were all shocked and saddened by what happened there. Anyone who knows the CVR, including its many members here in Brecksville and neighboring communities, already knows that.

Second, I must point out that Ms. Kapur's claims are blatantly false.

The Cuyahoga Valley Republicans did NOT send a bus to Washington DC on the 6th.

Having said that, we did and do support the right of the 99% of those Americans who went to Washington to assemble peacefully and hear directly from the President of the United States in response to his request to voters to attend a rally for which he had a valid permit from the Washington DC city government.

As for Ms. Kapur's other assertions, they are even more irresponsible.

She deliberately misquotes and takes out of context the section of our letter to Senator Portman and the Congressmen where we reference the defense of liberty and the phrase "our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor".

In reality the letter to the Senator and Congressmen states *"It is up to all of us as citizens to defend liberty. We once again point out that we, in the Republican Party, are walking in the footsteps of men who signed the Declaration of Independence with the pledge 'our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor'."*

It is incredible that Ms. Kapur feels that a direct quote from the founders of our country is incendiary. If she thinks that fellow citizens should not quote the Declaration of Independence when reminding members of Congress of their constitutional duty, then apparently the cancel culture has come to Brecksville.

It is a shame that Ms. Kapur and Better Brecksville want to exploit a tragedy to advance their political agenda. Ms. Kapur's post was reckless and libelous, and she should apologize for her comments.

Mr. President, people like me have served as volunteers on the Planning Commission and other boards and committees, largely because of the cordial atmosphere that has made Brecksville such a nice community. Until Better Brecksville came along, national politics was not a factor in our city. Most residents probably had no idea who on city council or our various boards were Republicans and who were Democrats. I count prominent Democrats and Independents in Brecksville as friends and colleagues. They are wonderful people, and regardless of party affiliation, we all pull together to do positive things for our fellow residents. During times of personal hardship, we help each other, as friends and neighbors do everywhere. And we don't determine another person's worth or moral value based on who they voted for. When you hear city leaders from both political parties refer to Brecksville as a family, know that they mean it.

Now Better Brecksville/Represent Brecksville, (or whatever they are calling themselves these days), wants to change all that. If you read what they have to say in Brecksville Magazine and elsewhere, you know that they seem to go out of their way to find things to complain about. They seem constantly angry and critical, and they refuse to find anything to celebrate about our community. Frankly, I don't think that they really want to make Brecksville better. They just want to divide us and turn us against each other. They believe that will enable them to take over our city government.

I think they're wrong.

Respectfully,



Dom Sciria