

Village of Winthrop Harbor
President and Board of Trustees Meeting
December 3, 2019
Village Hall Council Chambers

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Bruno at 7:08 PM

The following Elected Officials were present:

Mayor: Dr. Michael Bruno

Trustees: Buddy Hargett, John Levin, Robert Marabella, Dana McCarthy, Hartmut "Fritz" Weiss, Alanna Whitmore

Also present:

Robert Long, Attorney
Greg Jackson, Village Administrator
Julie Rittenhouse, Village Clerk
Justin Stried, Fire Chief
Joel Brumlik, Police Chief
Pat DiPersio, Community Development

The Invocation was led by Wayne Wallace from North Point Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1 - A motion was made by Trustee Levin and seconded by Trustee Weiss to approve the **November 19, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes** as presented. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote.

Ayes: (5) Hargett, Levin, McCarthy, Weiss, Whitmore
Nays: (0)
Absent: (0)
Passed: (1) Marabella

OLD BUSINESS

None Reported

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

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Village Administrator, Greg Jackson, said that the RFP for the new Village web-site will be released at the end of this week. Greg sent a communication out to each of the Department Heads about going to a zero based budgeting approach. Capital Improvement Plan budget documents were submitted to Greg and will be completed and reviewed by Friday. This year's number was at 2.2 million dollars in capital requests. Computer consolidation contract will be brought to the next meeting. Greg has identified several contractors and will bring forward a recommendation to consolidate all of the computers to save us money and avoid dealing with multiple vendors. The Sustainability Committee met between this meeting and the last meeting. They are aggressive and looking forward to providing us with ideas on how we can be more eco-friendly. Hiring protocol procedures when out. We are now posting all positions for 30 days, both on the web-site as well as various industry web-sites. We have set up protocols for the interview process. The final bridge funding documents have been sent out for the 3rd Street and Holdridge bridge. The IPRF Grand purchased the ergonomic chairs for the council chambers and Board conference room. We also were able to purchase 3 sets of Fire Dept. turnout gear and an infrared detector for the Fire Dept. and a laptop for Parks and Recreation so they can do credit card transactions.

MAYOR'S REPORT

ORDINANCE 2019-O-23 An Ordinance Declaring Personal Property Surplus and Authorizing the Sale or Disposal Thereof – Council Chamber and Conference Room Chairs

2 - A motion was made by Trustee Marabella and Seconded by Trustee Weiss to Set Aside the Rules of the President and Board of Trustees and Waive the First and Second Reading of **ORDINANCE 2019-O-23** and approve as submitted. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote.

Ayes: (6) Hargett, Levin, Marabella, McCarthy, Weiss, Whitmore
Nays: (0)
Absent: (0)
Passed: (0)

CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

None Reported

NEW BUSINESS

Accounts Payable Warrant

3 - A motion was made by Trustee Weiss and seconded by Trustee Marabella to approve **Accounts Payable Warrant W2019-14** in the amount of **\$400,829.03**. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote.

Ayes: (6) Hargett, Levin, Marabella, McCarthy, Weiss, Whitmore
Nays: (0)
Absent: (0)
Passed: (0)

October 2019 Treasurer's Report

4 - A motion was made by Trustee Weiss and seconded by Trustee Marabella to approve **October 2019 Treasurer's Report** as presented. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote.

Ayes: (6) Hargett, Levin, Marabella, McCarthy, Weiss, Whitmore
Nays: (0)
Absent: (0)
Passed: (0)

ORDINANCE 2019-O-24 The 2019 Annual Tax Levy Ordinance (0% increase)

5 - A motion was made by Trustee Weiss and Seconded by Trustee Marabella to Set Aside the Rules of the President and Board of Trustees and Waive the First and Second Reading of **ORDINANCE 2019-O-24** and approve as submitted. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote.

Ayes: (6) Hargett, Levin, Marabella, McCarthy, Weiss, Whitmore
Nays: (0)
Absent: (0)
Passed: (0)

2020-21 Worker's Comp Renewal

6 - A motion was made by Trustee Weiss and seconded by Trustee Whitmore to approve **2020-21 Worker's Comp Renewal** as presented. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote.

Ayes: (6) Hargett, Levin, Marabella, McCarthy, Weiss, Whitmore
Nays: (0)
Absent: (0)
Passed: (0)

Zion-Benton Enterprise Zone – Zone Management Board Appointment – Chief Elected Official or His or Her Assigned Designee

7 - A motion was made by Trustee Hargett and seconded by Trustee Marabella to approve **Zion-Benton Enterprise Zone – Zone Management Board Appointment – Chief Elected Official or His or Her Assigned Designee** as presented. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote.

Ayes: (6) Hargett, Levin, Marabella, McCarthy, Weiss, Whitmore
Nays: (0)
Absent: (0)

Passed: (0)

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Leigh Gardella– 628 College – received a letter Friday that said the Village attempted to work with them. She said that they have been working with the Village but things happened such as surgery and that should be taken into consideration. She feels the property on Sheridan Road and State Line is in violation and that’s Village Owned. This was bought with tax payers money and the Village receives no taxes on this property. She stated that she has bought two properties that were paying no taxes, and now she pays taxes. She has a meeting with the PZB for a variance but isn’t sure what she’s asking for because nobody can explain exactly what the code says. She can only do what the Village tells her to do and she feels she has been trying to do that. The wording in the letter, saying that, “we attempted to work with you”, bothers her. She spoke to Mr. Jackson and met with him and I kept track of everything. When she started to do the variance for parking, she was told she needed to speak with Pat DiPersio. She was trying to be proactive. She felt that they had been in communication with the Village and when she got the letter she didn’t understand what they wanted regarding the cars and parking. She is willing to do what needs to be done, she just doesn’t understand what needs to be done. She’s trying to get things done in a timely fashion. She feels like she’s gone above and beyond.

Jesse Wood – 628 College – he had a couple of questions that he doesn’t understand. He’s asked Pat and Greg and now he’s asking Mr. Long. He asked what the code (154.184 maximum spaces) means. Attorney Long declined to answer Mr. Wood’s question. Mr. Wood asked how he was supposed to fix anything if he doesn’t understand the code and Attorney Long couldn’t answer his question. Attorney Long told him that he didn’t say he couldn’t, he said he wouldn’t do to the many attempts to defame him. There is just a limit to what Attorney Long will put up with. The insults towards Attorney Long on-line, in the Board room and telling these folks as recently as today, that you are talking to an attorney, that you feel you’ve been harassed. Attorney Long told Mr. Wood that his job is to advise the Village not to advise him how to run his property. Mr. Wood asked Attorney Long, if he doesn’t know how to fix the problem, shouldn’t you have to explain how the code is written? Everyone that Mr. Wood has asked, won’t answer, doesn’t know or both. Pat DiPersio said that the violation letter gave them a specific way to remedy the violations on parking. If the vehicles are not registered in your name, they should be remove from the property. It was very clear language, vehicles that aren’t yours can’t be parked there. When it becomes a legal interpretation and you start bringing in an attorney, he suggested they interpret the language for him.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Trustee McCarthy – Police Department

- The Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting is this Saturday. The details are on the web-site. Thanked the Department Heads. There was a late start this year but there was great teamwork putting everything together. Hopefully everyone will attend.

Trustee Whitmore – Recreation Department

- This Saturday is Lunch with Santa from 12-2. There is also the Light Parade leading into the Tree Lighting.

Trustee Marabella – Public Works Department

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- People have approached me about leaf pickup. It was horrendous this year. We need to address the issue. Greg Jackson told Trustee Marabella that the Village Clerk is coordinating a meeting with Groot and him to discuss this and figure out what the problem is on their end.
- Public Works have been working hard. They have done a good job. They are down a guy.

Mayor Bruno

- The Tree Lighting is this Saturday. Parade line-up is at 4 and step off is 4:30 and we will be at the Fire Station at about 5:30. Please come out and enjoy hot chocolate and cookies.
- Chief Stried just finished the Executive Fire Officer Program through FEMA. There are about 200 from Illinois. It's a 4-year program. The Mayor received a letter from FEMA, congratulating Chief Stried and the Village. Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

8 - A motion was made by Trustee Weiss and seconded by Trustee Whitmore to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Bruno declared the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m. on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: (6) Hargett, Levin, Marabella, McCarthy, Weiss, Whitmore
Nays: (0)
Absent: (0)
Passed: (0)

APPROVED:

DR. MICHAEL BRUNO, MAYOR

ATTEST:

JULIE RITTENHOUSE, VILLAGE CLERK

Note: This is not a verbatim record.