

**ORDINANCE 2020-O-8**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING §31.023  
OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF WINTHROP HARBOR  
RELATING TO DESIGNATION OF A MAYOR PRO TEM**

**WHEREAS**, the provisions of Section 31.023 of the Winthrop Harbor Municipal Code currently designate a process whereby a mayor pro tem will be elected from among the Village Board members in the event of a temporary vacancy in the office due to illness or absence, and

**WHEREAS**, the recent coronavirus pandemic and the declarations of national, state and local emergencies demonstrates that the need for a healthy, able person to serve as mayor at all times is of critical importance to providing the guidance and leadership to the Village staff and to the citizens they serve, and

**WHEREAS**, the Village Board finds that it is appropriate to modify and improve the provisions of this section of the Code so as to provide clearer certainty of the chain of command in the event a sudden illness such as COVID-19 renders a sitting mayor unable to perform the duties of his or her office without warning,

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Village of Winthrop Harbor, Lake County, Illinois, as follows:

**SECTION ONE:** Section 31.023 of the Winthrop Harbor Municipal Code is hereby repealed and replaced by the following new section 31.023:

**31.023 TEMPORARY ABSENCE OR VACANCY IN OFFICE.**

- A) **President pro tem.** The Village Board shall elect one (1) of its members to act as president pro tem at the first meeting following the qualification of Trustees after each municipal election. The president pro tem shall chair meetings of the Village Board in the absence of the president. If the president is temporarily absent from the village for a period greater than three (3) days or suffers a disability which temporarily incapacitates him or her from the performance of his duties, but does not create a vacancy in the office, the president pro tem shall perform the duties and possess all the rights, responsibilities and powers of the president. If the president expects to be absent from the village for a period greater than three (3) days, he or she shall notify the president pro tem in writing of such absence and file a copy of the notice with the village clerk.
- B) **Vacancy in Office.** A vacancy in the office of president shall be deemed to occur in case of failure to qualify within thirty (30) days after election; death, resignation or removal of residence from the village; conviction of a felony; absence from more than four (4) consecutive regular meetings of the village board for reasons other than sickness; conviction of malfeasance, misfeasance or nonfeasance in exercising the powers of his or her office; or continuous absence from the village for more than thirty (30) days, but if additional time is needed, leave may be granted by the village board for a longer absence.

C) **Acting President.** When a vacancy in the office of president occurs, the village board shall, without delay, appoint an eligible person to fill the office as acting president. The acting president shall perform the duties and possess all the rights, responsibilities and powers of the president until a successor to fill the vacancy has been elected at a consolidated municipal election of the voters of the Village and has qualified, all pursuant to the provisions described in 65 ILCS 5/3.1-10-50.

**SECTION TWO:** To effectuate the immediate filling of the position of the president pro tem, the Village Board shall elect one of its members to such position at the next ensuing regular board meeting following adoption of this amendatory ordinance.

**SECTION THREE:** This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval and publication as required by law.

PASSED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF WINTHROP HARBOR,  
ILLINOIS, ON THIS 5<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MAY, 2020.

ATTEST:

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DR. MICHAEL BRUNO, MAYOR

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JULIE RITTENHOUSE, VILLAGE CLERK