

Village of Winthrop Harbor
President and Board of Trustees Meeting
November 16, 2021
Village Hall Council Chambers

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Bruno at 7:00 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, Village Attorney/Interim Village Administrator
Julie Rittenhouse, Village Clerk
Rocco Campanella, Fire Chief
Tim Nearing, Superintendent of Public Works
Edward Mohn, Police Chief

The Invocation was led by Pastor Ken Langley from Christ Community Church followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

ABSENT OFFICIALS WISHING TO ATTEND REMOTELY

None Reported

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1 - A motion was made by Trustee Weiss and seconded by Trustee Hargett to approve the **October 12, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes** 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)

2 - A motion was made by Trustee Marabella and seconded by Trustee Weiss to approve the **October 19, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes** as presented. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote.

Virtual - Regular Board Meeting Minutes 11/16/21

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

3 - A motion was made by Trustee Hargett and seconded by Trustee Levin to approve the **October 26, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes – Village Administrator Interview** as presented. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote.

Ayes: (4) **Hargett, Levin, Marabella, Whitmore**
Nays: (0)
Absent: (0)
Passed: (2) **McCarthy, Weiss**

4 - A motion was made by Trustee Hargett and seconded by Trustee Whitmore to approve the **October 28, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes – Village Administrator Interview** as presented. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote.

Ayes: (4) **Hargett, Levin, Marabella, Whitmore**
Nays: (0)
Absent: (0)
Passed: (2) **McCarthy, Weiss**

5 - A motion was made by Trustee Weiss and seconded by Trustee Hargett to approve the **November 2, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes** as presented. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote.

Ayes: (4) **Hargett, McCarthy, Weiss, Bruno**
Nays: (0)
Absent: (0)
Passed: (3) **Levin, Marabella, Whitmore**

CLOSED SESSION

6 - A motion was made by Trustee Marabella and seconded by Trustee McCarthy to move the meeting into Closed Session for the Purposes of **Appointment, Employment and Compensation of Specific Personnel Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), Collective Bargaining Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2) and Pending Litigation Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)**. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote and the meeting moved into Closed Session at 7:04pm.

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

OPEN SESSION

Virtual - Regular Board Meeting Minutes 11/16/21

7 - A motion was made by Trustee Hargett and seconded by Trustee Weiss to move the meeting into **Open Session** with **no action taken**. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote and the meeting moved into Open Session at 7:45pm.

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

MAYOR'S REPORT

RESOLUTION 2021-R-19 An Appointment Resolution Appointing David Alarcon as Village Administrator

8 - A motion was made by Trustee Weiss and seconded by Trustee Marabella to approve **Resolution 2021-R-19** 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 2021-O-27 An Ordinance Adding One (1) Class "A" Liquor License to Allow Tracy's to Move to a New Location

9 - A motion was made by Trustee Marabella and seconded by Trustee Whitmore to Set Aside the Rules of the President and Board of Trustees and Waive the First and Second Reading of **Ordinance 2021-O-27** 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)

ORDINANCE 2021-O-28 An Ordinance Amending the Wage Policy Ordinance of Winthrop Harbor (Village Administrator - \$135,000.00)

10 - A motion was made by Trustee McCarthy 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 2021-O-28** 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)

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

- Interim Village Administrator, Bob Long, said this has been a busy month with the Vision Sessions. We’re hoping to set up a renewed session, now that you’ve had a chance to review the information, after David Alarcon comes on board sometime in January. The vision is incomplete until the Board adopts and puts it in writing as a vision statement, which will then be adopted by a formal resolution. It will then become a primary document along with the comprehensive plan, the zoning code, the TIF district plan and all of the other plans that go with it. It’s an important document that deserves your thought.
- Bob was able to complete all but the final report on the Holdridge Avenue Bridge Project and secured the final grant money (\$100,000.00) has been received from the State of Illinois and has been deposited to the Cell Tower account. The Cell Tower account has about \$189,000.00.
- Worker’s Compensation insurance change to Traveler’s which saves us over last years and a significant savings over the current carrier that we have. In addition, Blue Cross, Blue Shield came in 1.8% lower than last year’s premium. Since there is not increase we will go ahead and approve it. He added that we ran these both past a couple of brokers to make sure we had comparable quotes.
- Bob called Mr. Alarcon and had a nice talk with him. We will be getting together sometime in the early part of December to start figuring out the transition. Look forward to working with him.

CLERK’S CORRESPONDENCE

None Reported

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE 2021-O-29 A Second and Final Reading of an Ordinance Amending §110.31 of the Municipal Code of Winthrop Harbor Modifying the Hours and Size Regulations for Package Liquor Sales

11 - A motion was made by Trustee Hargett 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 2021-O-29** 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)

NEW BUSINESS

Accounts Payable Warrant

Virtual - Regular Board Meeting Minutes 11/16/21

12 - A motion was made by Trustee Hargett and seconded by Trustee Marabella to approve **Accounts Payable Warrant W2021-8** in the amount of **\$262,232.02**. 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)

Approve Quote from Traveler's to Provide Worker's Comp Insurance at an Annual Premium of \$119,642.00

13 - A motion was made by Trustee Hargett and seconded by Trustee McCarthy to **Approve Quote from Traveler's to Provide Worker's Comp Insurance at an Annual Premium of \$119,642.00**, as savings of about \$15,000. 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)

A Motion to Direct the Clerk to Publish a Copy of the Proposed Tax Levy on the Village Website and to Make Copies Available for Public Review in the Village Hall.

14 - A motion was made by Trustee Hargett and seconded by Trustee Weiss to **Direct the Clerk to Publish a Copy of the Proposed Tax Levy on the Village Website and to Make Copies Available for Public Review in the Village Hall**. 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)

A Request to Approve Engineering Services for 2022 Street Improvement Program with Baxter & Woodman Consulting Engineers

15 - A motion was made by Trustee Marabella and seconded by Trustee Levin to **Approve Engineering Services for 2022 Street Improvement Program with Baxter & Woodman Consulting Engineers** 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)

Request to Approval Agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc. for the Purchase of 17 – Taser 7 Conducted Energy Weapons (CEW's)

16 - A motion was made by Trustee McCarthy and seconded by Trustee Marabella to **Approve Agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc. for the Purchase of 17 – Taser 7 Conducted Energy Weapons (CEW's)** 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 COMMENT

Darin Smith – 3118 James Ave. – is in need of Temp Occupancy for his new homes. The window for building is short. Not having a temporary occupancy, we have trouble getting driveways and yards put in. Even if you start building in July, you're into November by the time you finish. He plans on building 2 houses a year but runs into trouble trying to get them done. Mayor Bruno asked how people would get into the house and was told that gravel would be put down. Nothing would be unsafe. There would be no piles in the yards and positive drainage away from the house. Mr. Smith said if they have to do driveways in the cold, the pavement would fail and sink. Trustee Hargett said we do have a temporary occupancy in our ordinance but it is for landscaping only. Trustee Hargett said if the crushed gravel was there but the asphalt companies were closed, I think there's some flexibility there. The grading is the biggest concern. Mr. Smith said, it has to have a positive flow, it has to go away from the house. He said that's no problem. Trustee asked Mr. Smith if the grading was done. Mr. Smith said yes, they will get the yards graded and the stone in for the driveways. Trustee Marabella said, when you get to the summer months, things will settle. It happens all of the time. Trustee Hargett asked, if we have a provision in the ordinance that allows for a temporary occupancy, it requires a \$5,000 bond, and you come back for the final in the spring, what is the gap between the current ordinance and what you're suggesting you need? Mr. Smith said he just needs the driveway added. He feels like they should have a year. Sometimes it takes that much time to settle. The way it says now, it says everything has to be done by May 1st. That's when the driveway failed. Trustee Hargett asked, if the grading is done, the engineer has signed off on that, crushed gravel is in for them to do the driveway in the spring and landscaping is done in the spring, we would issue a temporary occupancy? Attorney Long said what we did in this particular instance, is gave the request to the engineer and said what are we supposed to do in this circumstance? We have on other occasions, let this happen. Sometimes it worked out and sometimes it didn't. We try to leave it in the hands of the engineers, they're the experts. In this particular instance they said it looks like the grading is complete and the plants will be closing sometime in the next couple of weeks, depending on weather, you should go ahead and put the driveway in, which is what Mr. Smith did. As far as the trees and grass, that all has to wait. Attorney Long said this is the only complaint that we've had since the ordinance was created. The landscape bond has been in place for as long as Bob has been attorney. Attorney Long told Mr. Smith, if you run into problems at the end of the growing season, you have the opportunity

Virtual - Regular Board Meeting Minutes 11/16/21

to post bond and get a temporary occupancy permit. That is conditioned upon review by the engineer.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Trustee Marabella

- Public Works are doing good. Everything seems to be going smoothly.
- We have a great community. A lot of people have reached out to me.

Trustee McCarthy

- Glad to have Trustee Marabella back and glad he's on the road to healing.
- Thank you to the committee for the Village Administrator's search.
- Thank you to Attorney Long for the time he has served as Village Administrator.

Trustee Hargett

- Welcome back Trustee Marabella.
- Nothing but gratitude for Interim Administrator/Attorney Long for keeping things moving as we transition. Your passion has always been clear. Appreciate you reaching out to Dave.

Trustee Whitmore

- Good to have Trustee Marabella back
- The Glow-walk was cold but really nice. Thank you to everyone who attended. About 50 people attended.
- December 4th will be our Lunch with Santa as well as the parade afterwards.
- Wants to give a lot of credit to our Department Heads. They are very hands on. Our two Chiefs are right there in the cold helping.

Trustee Levin

- Welcome back Rob. I'm glad you're doing well.
- Welcome to the new Village Administrator
- Showed some appreciation to Bob Long and all of his work on the vision session.

Trustee Weiss

- Great to see Robbie back, missed you.
- Thanked Attorney Long for his interim. It's great to have an Attorney who is so knowledgeable.
- Thank you to the interview committee.

Mayor Bruno

- Bob has done a great job as the interim, with the finances and the vision sessions. You do a great job and have nothing but passion for this Village. I want you to be here and help the new Administrator with our vision.
- Dave has gone through our website and out codes. He's very excited. Looking forward to Dave Alarcon coming on. He's planning on being here next month for the meeting with some comments and be sworn in as our Village Administrator.
- Gland Robbie is here.
- Will be out of town until Saturday
- Thanked Trustee Hargett, Trustee Whitmore and Village Administrator Mark Huber, who were our panelist for the interviews.

ADJOURNMENT

Virtual - Regular Board Meeting Minutes 11/16/21

17 - A motion was made by Trustee Weiss and seconded by Trustee Levin to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Bruno declared the meeting adjourned at 8:35p.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.