

Village of Winthrop Harbor
President and Board of Trustees Meeting
August 17, 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: Robert Marabella, Dana McCarthy, Alanna Whitmore

Absent: Buddy Hargett, John Levin, Hartmut "Fritz" Weiss

Also present:

Robert Long, Village Attorney/Interim Village Administrator

Julie Rittenhouse, Village Clerk

Ed Mohn, Police Chief

Rocco Campanella, Fire Chief

Michael Sheedy, IT Director

Scott Fuller, Recreation Director

Tim Nearing, Superintendent of Public Works

The Invocation was led by Pastor Doug Carlson from Grace Missionary 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 Marabella and seconded by Trustee McCarthy to approve the **July 20, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes** as presented. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote.

Ayes: (4) Marabella, McCarthy, Whitmore, Bruno

Nays: (0)

Absent: (3) Hargett, Levin, Weiss

Passed: (0)

MAYOR'S REPORT

Presentation of Retirement Badge and Commendation of Medal for Years of Service – John Ewing

Chief Mohn presented Sergeant John Ewing with his retirement badge and Commendation Medal for 26 years of service to the Village of Winthrop Harbor.

ORDINANCE 2021-O-23 An Ordinance Enacting and Adopting a Supplement to the Code of Ordinances S29 for the Village of Winthrop Harbor, Illinois

2 - A motion was made by Trustee Marabella and seconded by Trustee McCarthy to Set Aside the Rules of the President and Board of Trustees and Waive the First and Second Reading of **Ordinance 2021-O-23** and approve as submitted. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote.

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

ORDINANCE 2021-O-24 An Ordinance Amending §31.008 of the Municipal Code of Winthrop Harbor Making Technical Amendments to Spending Authority to Align with the Current Committee Structure

3 - A motion was made by Trustee McCarthy 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 2021-O- 24** and approve as submitted. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote.

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

Winthrop Harbor Lions Club Request to Hold Candy Days on Friday, September 24th from 3pm-6pm and Saturday, September 25th, 2021 from 9am-1pm on the Corners of Lewis & Stateline and Kenosha & 9th Street

4 - A motion was made by Trustee Whitmore and seconded by Trustee Marabella to approve **Winthrop Harbor Lions Club Request to Hold Candy Days on Friday, September 24th from 3pm-6pm and Saturday, September 25th, 2021 from 9am-1pm on the Corners of Lewis & Stateline and Kenosha & 9th Street** as presented. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote.

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

The Salvation Army Request to Have Red Kettle Campaign Monday-Saturday, November 1st-December 24th, 2021

5 - A motion was made by Trustee Marabella and seconded by Trustee Whitmore to approve **The Salvation Army Request to Have Red Kettle Campaign Monday-Saturday, November 1st-December 24th, 2021** as presented. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote.

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

Mayor Bruno said at the last meeting we had a resident here, Linda Mellijor 2303 11th Street, who had a water leak leading to a substantial water bill. The Board had agreed to cut the bill by \$100.00. After talking with her on the phone last Thursday, she decided to go ahead and pay the whole bill. Just wanted it to be on record that she paid the whole bill.

On August 12th the Department of Motor Vehicles had a mobile event at the Community Center. The event was for vision screening, driver's license, state ID card renewal, replacement and corrections. Also license plate renewal stickers, organ donor, voter registration and seniors who are 65, no charge for ID. It was very successful. State Rep. Joyce Mason's Office put this all together. They would like to do it again by the end of the year.

Thanked Mark Stevens for Venetian Night. It was a beautiful night and the parade and fireworks were great. Thank you for all you do to bring the events here to Winthrop Harbor.

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- Interim Village Administrator, Bob Long, said it's been about a month and a half of filling in for this position and it's been a lot of work to try and figure out where we're at.
- John Ewing is one of the last 2 people that was here when Bob started, 24 years ago. He wished him well in his retirement and thanked him for his years of service.
- The Census figures are on-line. As of April 2020 our population grew by about 75 people. Our median age has increased. This is something that we are going to have to take into account as we move forward. Whether we try to attract younger families or finding a way to provide services for seniors.
- We have engaged the firm of Lauterbach and Amen for accounting assistance to bring our general ledger current. They started about 2 weeks ago and we expect to have updated reports in about a month. Once we get those reports, we should be in a position to give you valid reports on what our budget is and how our spending has been. We'll be able to review the projections that were made to establish the budget and have the opportunity at that point to consider whether additional hiring is appropriate, if we can afford it, to right-size our workforce to meet some of the challenges we are facing
- We need to watch the impact of the Delta Variant and Covid as well as financial turmoil and the national markets. It really does have an impact on our residents, from a

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spending point of view, from sales tax. The thing that set Winthrop Harbor apart and why we weren't hurt as badly as some communities during the Covid crisis, from the perspective only of tax revenue, is the way our finances are put together. Typically, most Villages have a blend of sales tax, property tax, user fees. We have that blend also, but our sales tax figures were down so much over the last few years because we've been working very hard to find ways to get more commercial development. We didn't suffer the loss of sales tax, yet our property taxes remain pretty stable.

- We have applied for the American Rescue Plan Act Grant. According to the state, we're supposed to get almost \$900K in 2 payments, half this year, half next year. We are supposed to get a check in the amount of \$450K next month. We will see. This money can only be used for certain things. It can only be used to provide relief, such as a water and sewer project, but it can't be used for roads. We can reimburse our general fund a small amount, possibly up to 4.1% of our budget. That's not a huge amount, but it's something. We can use it for overtime for people that have worked during the Covid crisis, but we've already done that through the CARES Act funding that we have received. We can provide some relief for our businesses and I have asked the Department Heads to try and come up with some ideas. We do have to report on the use. We should know sometime in September, when and how much we will receive.
- We have completed the Grant for the \$100K reimbursement for the Holdridge Bridge Project. We're waiting for payment from the State. That money will go back into the Rainy Day Fund.
- We have applied for the Grant for the Public Works Building. There are two parts to that grant. One for \$520K and another one for \$94K. The first portion of the grant was filed and we're waiting on the state to tell us when we can file for the second portion.
- We've come up with two additional ideas for grant opportunities. One is the OSLAD (Open Space Land Acquisition and Development Fund) funded through the State of Illinois. This fund has more money than most of the other State Grants because the money is taken from a charge to record a deed or a mortgage on your property. A small fee is given to the State.
- I have tasked Scott to come up with a wish list. He found \$600K worth of things that would really make a difference out at the park. We are going to submit for all of it. If we only get half, we would be \$300K to the good. I'm told that this is either an 85/15 or a 90/10 local match. Our actual contribution, out of pocket, would be much smaller.
- We've been invited to a presentation through Congressman Schneider's Office to look at a storm water grant. There's a significant amount of money that has been put into storm water remediation. He's looking for projects worthy, in his congressional district.
- Thanked all of the Department Heads. You are always great to work with and helpful and of course the members of the Board of Trustees. This is a great place to work and I look forward to continuing to try to help, for as long as I can.

CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

None Reported

OLD BUSINESS

None Reported

NEW BUSINESS

Accounts Payable Warrant

6 - A motion was made by Trustee Marabella and seconded by Trustee McCarthy to approve **Accounts Payable Warrant W2021-5** in the amount of **\$618,258.81**. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote.

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

A Motion to Ratify the Engagement of Lauterbach & Amen to Provide Accounting Assistance

7 - A motion was made by Trustee Marabella and seconded by Trustee McCarthy to **Ratify the Engagement of Lauterbach & Amen to Provide Accounting Assistance** as presented. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote.

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

ORDINANCE 2021-O-25 Revisions to the Wage Policy Ordinance for Rec Employees

8 - 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-25** and approve as submitted. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote.

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

RESOLUTION 2021-R-13 A Resolution Accepting the Contribution Agreement Between Zion Landfill, Inc. and the Village of Winthrop Harbor

9 - A motion was made by Trustee McCarthy and seconded by Trustee Whitmore to approve **Resolution 2021-R-13** as presented. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote.

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

Request Approval for Appropriation Expenditures for Emergency Water Repair – Ratifying Expenses – Charles Ave. \$44,851.00

10 - A motion was made by Trustee Marabella and seconded by Trustee McCarthy to **Approve Request for Appropriation Expenditures for Emergency Water Repair** as presented. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote.

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

RESOLUTION 2021-R-14 Request Approval of the Lowest, Responsible Bidder (Chicagoland Paving, Inc.) for the Base Bid (\$359,000.00) for 2021 Street Rehabilitation Project

11 - A motion was made by Trustee Marabella and seconded by Trustee Whitmore to approve **Resolution 2021-R-14** as presented. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote.

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

Request Approval of the Bid from Waukegan Roofing Company for Schlader Building Roof Repairs - \$37,500.00

12 - A motion was made by Trustee Marabella and seconded by Trustee McCarthy to approve the **Request of the Bid from Waukegan Roofing Company for Schlader Building Roof Repairs in the Amount of \$37,500.00** as presented. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote.

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

Request Approval of the Lowest Responsible Bidder for 2021 Patching Program Project

13 - A motion was made by Trustee Marabella and seconded by Trustee McCarthy to approve the **Request of the Lowest Responsible Bidder (NP Paving Inc.) for 2021 Patching Program Project in the Amount of \$15,460.00** as presented. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote.

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

Passed: (0)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Donald West– 1442 Sheridan Road – last house on the West side of Sheridan Road – He asked the Police Department if they stopping speeders. Chief Mohn told him “yes” that he stopped a someone who was going over 100 miles per hour. He also told him that, when we aren’t on other calls, we are patrolling Sheridan Road. Mr. West also inquired about what was going on between 13th and 14th. Is it a new subdivision? Mayor Bruno told him it was going to be a house. A large house. It’s just one house on the entire property.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Trustee Whitmore

- Thanked Mark Stevens for everything he’s doing down at the Marina. She had a really good time at Venetian Night. You did a great job.
- Next weekend we have our Touch a Truck and Summer Bash events. Touch a Truck will be from 12pm-3pm and the Summer Bash will follow. There will be lots if games, food, beer garden and lots of fun things to do. Vista Health is coming to do wellness check-ups.

Trustee McCarthy

- He heard great things about Venetian Night. It’s cool to see other events planned.
- Excited to see Rec events
- Thanked Department Heads for their Reports
- Thanked Attorney Long for filling in as interim Village Administrator. He’s still doing the job of Village Attorney too.
- Congratulations to Sergeant Ewing.

Trustee Marabella

- To Mark Stevens, your guys did a great job with parking. Everything went smoothly. They did a good job.
- Touch a Truck
- Fall Ball coming up. Sign-up is on-line. It will be a good event.
- Public Works did a great job picking up tree limbs from storm damage. We are still short a man. They did a great job.
- Stay safe and enjoy the rest of summer.

ADJOURNMENT

14 - A motion was made by Trustee Marabella and seconded by Trustee Whitmore to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Bruno declared the meeting adjourned at 8:07p.m. on the following roll call vote.

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

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APPROVED:

DR. MICHAEL BRUNO, MAYOR

ATTEST:

JULIE RITTENHOUSE, VILLAGE CLERK

Note: This is not a verbatim record.