

**MINUTES
WINNETKA VILLAGE COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION
April 11, 2023**

(Approved: May 2, 2023)

A record of a legally convened meeting of the Council of the Village of Winnetka, which was held at Council Chambers on Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at 7:00 PM.

- 1) Call to Order. President Rintz called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Manager Bahan called the roll of the Village Council. Present: Trustees Rob Apatoff, Andy Cripe, Tina Dalman, Bob Dearborn, and Kim Handler. Absent: Trustee John Swierk. Also present: Village Manager Robert Bahan, Assistant Village Manager Kristin Kazenas, Village Attorney Ben Schuster, Interim Police Chief Brian O'Connell, and 1 persons in the audience.
- 2) Public Comment.
 - i) Ted Wynnnychenko addresses Council on concerns regarding renewable energy, lakefront regulations, and street ends.
- 3) Gasoline Powered Leaf Blowers.

President Rintz states Interim Police Chief Brian O'Connell will be providing Council an update regarding the regional working groups findings and policy recommendations.

Interim Police Chief O'Connell provides Council the history of the Village's leaf blower ordinance, enacted in 1994, the current regulations, and the enforcement measures that have been taken by Police due to an increase in complaints regarding gasoline powered leaf blowers.

The regional working group identified three primary key impacts related to leaf blowers; the environmental impact comparing noise and air pollution, technological comparison between the power of a gas-powered versus an electric/battery powered leaf blower, and cost impacts regarding expenses for purchase and maintenance of the equipment.

After the completion of the study, several policy considerations were presented based on existing ordinances within communities, restrictions that prohibit and permit the use of gasoline powered leaf blowers during certain times within the year, exemptions to various properties, annual licensing requirements, and implementation measures in 2024 consisting of education and outreach for residents and landscapers.

King Poor, former Trustee and Go Green Winnetka member, provides historic context of gasoline powered leaf blower concerns and the collaboration of Go Green groups alongside residents and Village officials throughout the North Shore. Mr. Poor indicates the significance of a unified approach that standardizes leaf blower regulations across the North Shore and discusses the current implementations that have been enacted in surrounding communities. Mr. Poor discusses matters related to proving notices, enforcement measures, public education, property exemptions, financial subsidies.

Council discusses regulations prohibiting the use of types of leaf blowers; gasoline powered leaf blowers versus electric/battery operated leaf blowers, comparison of noise pollution, exemptions related to property, and cost related matters pertaining to the Village.

Council deliberates regulations related to annual licensing agreements, concerns related to violations and enforcement measures, and Village contractor recognition regarding usage of electric and battery powered leaf blowers.

President Rintz confirms the proposed leaf blower regulations consisting of a 9-month ban, use of gasoline powered leaf blowers would only be allowed during the months of April, October, and November, requirement of an annual license and license fee, and with a target implementation date of January 1, 2024.

Staff will engage all stakeholders including the Park District, School Districts, and community organizations to assess the impact of the proposed ban and recommend to Council if any exemptions (i.e. golf courses) are appropriate.

Adjournment. Trustee Dearborn, seconded by Trustee Cripe moved to adjourn the meeting. By voice vote, the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm.

/s/Berina Gradjan, Deputy Village Clerk
Recording Secretary