

**MINUTES
WINNETKA VILLAGE COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION
July 9, 2024**

(Approved: August 6, 2024)

A record of a legally convened meeting of the Council of the Village of Winnetka, which was held at the Council Chambers on Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at 7:00 PM.

- 1) Call to Order. President Rintz called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. Village Manager Bahan called the roll of the Village Council. Present: Trustees Kirk Albinson, Rob Apatoff, Tina Dalman, Bob Dearborn, and Kim Handler. Absent: Trustee Bridget Orsic. Also present: Village Manager Robert Bahan, Village Attorney Peter Friedman, Assistant Village Manager Kristin Kazenas, Deputy Village Clerk Berina Gradjan, and approximately 6 persons in the audience.
- 2) Public Comment
 - a) Ted Wynnynchenko addresses Council regarding matters related to the Bertling-Hill-Woodland Pathway vacation closed session minutes, Village street ends, construction matters at 205 Sheridan Road, and concerns related to an issued citation.
 - b) Irene Smith addresses Council regarding concerns related to pollution along the lakefront at 205 Sheridan Road and urges Council to host a study session related to the Elder Centennial plan project.
 - c) Phil Enquist commends Council for the successful completion of various Village projects, however, expresses concerns related to the Elder Centennial project. Mr. Enquist encourages Council to host a study session related to the project.
- 3) Discussion.
 - a) Post Office Plaza – Village President Update

President Rintz provides an update to Council and members of the public regarding the future development of the post office site. While the post office plaza has been an ongoing project, President Rintz believes that Council, Village staff, and the community need to engage in strategic conversations to ensure successful project development given the impact it will have on the community.

At the March 12th study session, Council provided consensus for Community Development Director David Schoon and Village staff to continue compiling various architectural firms for consideration. Mr. Schoon reached out to qualified firms, and the Village received four responses. President Rintz confirms that although Studio Gang removed themselves from consideration regarding the project, he will reach out to the firm to request that they reconsider.

Council unanimously agrees that the project will need to be considered in a very attentive manner and discuss proceeding with demolition prior to further project development.

b) IMEA Power Supply Contract Review – Next Steps

Village Manager Rob Bahan states that since the May 14th study session regarding the new Power Sales Contract and Capacity Purchase Agreement presented by IMEA representatives, staff has since been providing updates on the Village's website regarding next steps.

The IMEA has confirmed that twenty of the thirty-two members have approved the Power Sales Contract and Capacity Purchase Agreement. Council is requested to review and provide feedback and questions related to the proposed updates in order for Village staff to begin the decision-making process.

Trustee Dalman advises that there has been an increase in members of the community requesting additional information related to the Power Sales Contract and Capacity Purchase Agreement stipulations and IMEA's request for urgency to approve the extension.

Council discusses the complexity of the contracts, partnership with the Environmental & Forestry Commission, and the importance of not only educating the public regarding the matter, but also engaging the community regarding the next steps.

Public Comment

Terry Cross addresses Council regarding the complexity of the Power Sales Contract and Capacity Purchase Agreement and the importance of consider cost effectiveness, reliability, and sustainability of the power supply.

Ted Wynnichenko expresses concerns related to the urgency of transitioning to become a more sustainable community.

King Poor urges Council to continue educating the community regarding the Power Sales Contract and Capacity Purchase Agreement. Additionally, Mr. Poor requests that Council host a community forum in efforts to engage members of the community.

c) Village Council Terms of Office Discussion

President Rintz provides feedback related to the terms of office for Village elected officials, and believes that there is significant value in gaining experience before applying knowledge to various Village business, ongoing and new projects, attentiveness to policy decision making, and various initiatives.

Village Manager Rob Bahan reviews the Northwest Municipal Conference survey results regarding the term of office for Trustee and Village President and community term limits.

Village Attorney Peter Friedman reviews the referendum requirements for changes to length of terms for Village elected officials.

Council discusses concerns regarding the Winnetka Caucus' policies and procedures, process to change the term length for Village elected officials, and concerns related to increases in term length. Additionally, Council discusses concerns related to potential decreased interest in running for office due to the length of term, impacts of personal life obligations, elected official roles, and impacts on Village staff.

Public Comment

Jude Ofley addresses Council regarding the Caucus' processes and rules related to elections.

Ted Wynnichenko addresses Council regarding concerns related to length of terms of office for Village elected officials.

- 4) Adjournment. Trustee Dearborn, seconded by Trustee Apatoff moved to adjourn the meeting. By voice vote, the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

/s/ Berina Gradjan, Deputy Village Clerk

Recording Secretary