

MINUTES
WINNETKA VILLAGE COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
April 15, 2025

(Approved: May 20, 2025)

A record of a legally convened regular meeting of the Council of the Village of Winnetka, which was held at the Council Chambers on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 7:00 PM.

- 1) Call to Order. President Rintz called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. Village Manager Rob Bahan called the roll. Present: Trustees Kirk Albinson, Tina Dalman, Robert Dearborn, and Bridget Orsic. Absent: Trustee Handler. Also present: Assistant Village Manager Kristin Kazenas, Deputy Village Clerk Berina Gradjan, Village Attorney Peter Friedman, Sustainability Coordinator Elyse Steiner, Police Chief Brian O'Connell and 16 persons in the audience.

President Rintz confirms that Trustee Apatoff has provided the required notice that he will be unable to attend the regular meeting due to work obligations. The Village's policy provides that Trustee Apatoff may participate remotely unless 2/3 of the Council objects. With no objections, Trustee Apatoff participated remotely fully in the meeting.

- 2) Pledge of Allegiance. President Rintz led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

- 3) Quorum.

- a) May 6, 2025 Regular Meeting All of the Council members present said they expect to attend.
- b) May 13, 2025 Study Session All of the Council members present said they expect to attend.
- c) May 20, 2025 Regular Meeting All of the Council members present said they expect to attend with the exception of Trustee Dalman due to work obligations.

- 4) Public Comment:

- i. Erin Martin addresses Council regarding Elder beach safety.
- ii. Jeffrey Liss commends President Rintz for his service to the Village.
- iii. Peggy Martay urges Council to consider reopening Elder beach and matters related to beach safety.
- iv. Jennifer Hernandez commends the Police Department for utilizing additional security services and addresses matters related to unleashed dog beaches and pier safety.
- v. Tom Barron commends President Rintz on his service to the Village and addresses matters related to power generation.

- 5) Reports:

- a) Trustees.

- i. Trustee Dearborn commends the Environmental and Forestry Commission on their service.

- b) Attorney. No report.

- c) Manager. No report.
- d) Village President.
 - i. President Rintz states that Ordinance No. MC-02-2025 will be considered at a later date. Council and staff will further consider the implications of passing such an ordinance. Additionally, President Rintz shares remarks regarding his role as Village President and addresses matters regarding the IMEA Power Sales Contract and Capacity Purchase Agreement.
- 6) Presentations.
 - a) Arbor Day Proclamation

President Rintz declares April 25, 2025, as Arbor Day.

Trustee Orsic, seconded by Trustee Dalman, moved to adopt the proclamation. By voice vote, the motion carried.
 - b) Mayors' Monarch Proclamation

President Rintz declares April 15, 2025 as Monarch Butterfly Remembrance Day.

Trustee Dalman, seconded by Trustee Orsic, moved to adopt the proclamation. By voice vote, the motion carried.
 - c) EFC Green Awards

Environmental & Forestry Commission Chair Patrick Hanley presents the 2025 Green Awards to Christina and Michael Collins for the Sustainable Residential Yard award, Erik Kaplan for the Sustainable Residential Home award, and April Potterfield for the Sustainable Non-Residential award.
- 7) Establishment of the Consent Agenda

Trustee Dalman seconded by Trustee Albinson moved to approve the Establishment of the Consent Agenda. By voice vote, the motion carried.
- 8) Approval of the Consent Agenda
 - a) Approval of Village Council Minutes
 - i. February 27, 2025 Special Meeting
 - ii. April 3, 2025 Regular Meeting
 - b) Approval of Warrant List Dated March 28, 2025 – April 10, 2025, in the amount of \$829,697.67.
 - c) Ordinance No. MC-03-2025: Amending the Winnetka Village Code to Rename the Positions of Assistant Village Manager and Finance Director (Adoption)
 - d) Ordinance No. M-02-2025: Authorizing the Disposition of Surplus Personal Property Owned by the Village of Winnetka (Adoption)
 - e) Resolution No. R-39-2025: Waiving Bidding and Approving an Agreement with Rickman Contract Services, Inc. for Meter Reading Services (Adoption)

- f) Resolution No. R-40-2025: Waiving Bidding Requirements and Authorizing the Procurement of Vehicle Barriers from Meridian Rapid Defense Group Sales, LLC (Adoption)

- g) Approval of Annual Outdoor Seating Area Permits

Trustee Albinson seconded by Trustee Dalman, moved to approve the foregoing items on the Consent Agenda by omnibus vote. By roll call vote, the motion carried. Ayes: Trustees Albinson, Apatoff, Dalman, Dearborn, and Orsic. Nays: None. Absent: Trustee Handler.

9) Ordinances and Resolutions.

- a) Ordinance No. MC-01-2025: Amending Title 9 of the Winnetka Village Code to Prohibit the Sale of Illicit THC Products and Kratom (Introduction/Adoption)

In recent years, there has been an increase in availability and marketing of synthetic or chemically altered forms of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and kratom products. While these products are being found at local convenience stores, gas stations, vape shops, and online, there are increasing concerns that these products are associated with addiction, withdrawal, and in some cases, death.

Police Chief Brian O'Connell provides information regarding THC and kratom products, information regarding illicit drugs, various chemical effects, health risks, testing, consumption, sales, marketing and legality.

Council discusses the availability of products and sales in surrounding communities and within the Village, product marketing, age restrictions, possible benefits, and various cons of the product. Additionally, Council discusses concerns regarding marketing to the younger residents of the Village.

Public Comment

Heidi Sykora provides information regarding kratom health benefits and encourages Council to reconsider the ban of the product.

James Hemmings addresses Council regarding Kratom health benefits and urges Council to continue researching the product.

Jim Pratt addresses Council regarding the safety and health benefits of kratom and encourages Council to reconsider approving a ban.

Council opted to defer the item to a later date in order to conduct further research.

- b) Ordinance No. MC-02-2025: Amending Chapter 6.08 of the Winnetka Village Code Regarding Limited Public Off Leash Dog Areas on Lake Michigan (Introduction/Adoption)

This item is deferred to a later meeting.

10) Old Business. None.

11) New Business. None.

12) Appointments: None.

- 13) Closed Session for the Purpose of Discussing Specific Personnel and Municipal Utility Contracts relating to the Purchase, Sale, or Delivery of Electricity or Natural Gas Pursuant to 2(c)(1) and 2(c)(23) of the Open Meetings Act.

Trustee Albinson, seconded by Trustee Dalman, moved to adjourn to Closed Session for the purpose of discussing specific personnel and municipal utility contracts relating to the purchase, sale, or delivery of electricity or natural gas pursuant to 2(c)(1) and 2(c)(23) of the Open Meetings Act and to adjourn the Open Meeting automatically and immediately upon the conclusion of the Closed Session without the conduct of any further business or comments. By roll call vote, the motion carried. Ayes: Trustees Albinson, Apatoff, Dalman, Dearborn, and Orsic. Nays: None. Absent: Trustee Handler.

The Council adjourned into Closed Session at 8:33 p.m.

- 14) Adjournment. The Closed Session meeting ended at 9:13 p.m.

/s/ Berina Gradjan, Deputy Village Clerk

Recording Secretary