MINUTES
WINNETKA VILLAGE COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
June 3, 2025

(Approved: July 8, 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, June 3, 2025, at 7:00 PM.

1) Call to Order. President Dearborn called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. Village Manager Rob Bahan called the roll. Present: Trustees Kirk Albinson, Rob Apatoff, Kim Handler, Scott Myers, Bridget Orsic. Absent: Trustee Tina Dalman. Also present: Deputy Village Manager Kristin Kazenas, Deputy Village Clerk Berina Gradjan, Village Attorney Peter Friedman, Finance Director Tim Sloth, Sustainability Coordinator Elyse Steiner, Water & Electric Director Nick Narhi, Assistant Water & Electric Director Sam Carrasco, Community Development Director Scott Mangum, and Assistant Community Development Director Ann Klaassen and approximately 80 persons in the audience.

2) Pledge of Allegiance. Trustee Myers led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3) Quorum.

   a) June 10, 2025 Study Session All of the Council members present said they expect to attend with the exception of Trustee Albinson.

   b) June 17, 2025 Regular Meeting All of the Council members present said they expect to attend with the exception of Trustee Apatoff who plans to participate remotely.

   c) July 1, 2025 Regular Meeting This meeting will be canceled.

   d) July 8, 2025 Study Session All of the Council members present said they expect to attend.

4) Public Comment:

   a) Terry Dason addresses matters related to the Farmers' Market first day was a success 55 vendors, 2,500 shoppers opening day.

   b) Ted Wynnychenko addresses matters related to lakefront access.

5) Reports:

   a) Trustees. No report.

   b) Attorney. No report.

   c) Manager. No report.

   d) Village President. No report.

6) Establishment of the Consent Agenda.

   Trustee Myers seconded by Trustee Apatoff moved to approve the Establishment of the Consent Agenda. By voice vote, the motion carried.

7) Approval of the Consent Agenda

   a) Approval of Village Council Minutes

i. May 6, 2025 Regular Meeting

ii. May 13, 2025 Study Session

b) Approval of the Warrant List Dated May 16, 2025 – May 29, 2025 in the amount of $1,762,768.29

c) Ordinance No. MC-04-2025: Amending the Winnetka Village Code to Rename the Environmental and Forestry Commission to the Environmental, Forestry, and Sustainability Commission (Introduction/Adoption)

d) Resolution No. R-51-2025: Approving a Multi-Year Contract with Schroeder Asphalt Services for Asphalt Patching Services (Adoption)

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

8) Ordinances and Resolutions.

a) Ordinance No. M-06-2025: Approving a Final Plat of Subdivision, Granting a Special Use Permit, an Amendment to a Special Use Permit, Variations from the Winnetka Zoning Ordinance and a Certificate of Appropriateness for the Construction of Additions to an Existing Church Within the R-5 Single-Family Residential District (440 Ridge Avenue and 760 Cherry Street) (Introduction/Adoption)

Assistant Community Development Director Ann Klaassen advises Council of an application submitted by Grace Presbyterian Church of the North Shore proposing to demolish the existing residence and detached garage located at 760 Cherry Street, consolidate 760 Cherry Street and 440 Ridge Avenue into a single lot, and construct additions to the existing church.

Ann Klaassen provides information regarding property zoning, proposed consolidation, zoning standards, zoning nonconformities, special use standards, proposed site plan, landscaping plans, and zoning relief.

Pastor Marshall Brown advises Council of the need to enhance security, accessibility, and functionality.

Council discusses concerns about stormwater concerns and proposed drainage conditions.

Pastor Brown affirms the congregation has no plans to open a preschool or daycare.

Public Comment

Nancy Riddle, 761 Cherry Street, previously expressed concerns for safety and security of children, noting that her concern was addressed, and she now supports the project. She recommends additional lighting and security cameras.

President Dearborn notes the lengthy process and commends the plan revisions. Council discusses the landscaping plans, installation of mature trees, neighbor feedback, safety enhancements, and the opportunity to tour the church.

Trustee Dalman enters the meeting at 7:45 PM.

Trustee Albinson, seconded by Trustee Handler, moved to waive introduction of

Ordinance No. M-06-2025.

Trustee Albinson, seconded by Trustee Orsic, moved to adopt Ordinance No. M-06-2025. By roll call vote, the motion carried. Ayes: Trustees Albinson, Apatoff, Dalman, Dearborn, Handler and Myers. Nays: None. Absent: None.

b) Ordinance No. M-05-2025: Authorizing the Execution of a New Power Sales Contract and a New Capacity Purchase Agreement with the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency for the Delivery Period Commencing October 1, 2035 (Introduction)

Water & Electric Director Nick Narhi provides information regarding the IMEA contract extension concerning the cost of power, municipal PJM participation comparables, potential impacts of Naperville deciding not to renew with IMEA, Winnetka sustainability measures, IMEA's sustainability plan, and renewal energy credits (RECS). Mark Pruitt, consultant with the Power Bureau, presents a retail cost of power analysis comparing ComEd to Winnetka.

Trustee Meyers asks Director Narhi to clarify behind the meter – residential solar and New Trier's solar project which are within local control. IMEA has meters to determine the power usage within the Village, and bills the Village for only the power that is used. There was discussion about future costs, the debt payments, the current generation assets, limitations on the operation of the plant, limitations on MDR, RECS, market hedging, legal review of the IMEA contracts, retirement of the debt service on Prairie State, market volatility, future supply versus demand considerations, and power marketer considerations.

Public Comments

a) Susie Schraeder on Woodland Avenue, addresses reliance on coal power plants and the negative environmental impacts of coal.
b) Ted Wynnychenko addresses net metering and solar power RECS.
c) Brian Scullion addresses Bob Zabors letter that was sent to Council.
d) Terri Cross addresses energy conservation in Winnetka to reduce electricity consumption in the Village.
e) Tom Berens addresses power marketer options and community priorities.
f) Katie Scullion addresses contract terms, power market outlook, and alternate consultants.
g) Colin Cross addresses benefits of Winnetka owning the electric distribution system, and further study on alternatives.
h) Roger Hothschild addresses rapidly evolving energy market, and Naperville's analysis.
i) Marcus Wedner addresses contract performance, peak shaving, and decommissioning costs.
j) Derek Vendervorst, 847 Ash, addresses community solar, and battery storage.
k) Laith Amin addresses carbon dioxide emissions from the Prairie State plant, and an energy plan.
l) Anne Wedner addresses matters related to solar on the landfill.

Council formally acknowledges that while coal and fossil fuels are not sustainable long-term energy solutions, IMEA continues to deliver reliable and affordable energy for the residents while moving towards a cleaner and more sustainable energy future. As a member of the IMEA board, the Village will continue to represent and have a say in decisions regarding energy generation and the agency's transition to cleaner sources.

President Dearborn states that Council and Village staff will collectively take proactive steps to improve on its responsibility to the environment while remaining committed to resident services.

Trustee Myers, seconded by Trustee Albinson, moved to introduce Ordinance No. M-05-2025. By voice vote, the motion carried.

9) Old Business. None.

10) New Business. None.

11) Appointments:

a) Re-appoint Layla Danley as Chairperson of the Plan Commission – her term will expire on May 1, 2027.

b) Re-appoint Jonathan Alt to a full term on the Plan Commission – his term will expire on May 1, 2027.

c) Re-appoint Mamie Case to a full term on the Plan Commission – her term will expire on May 1, 2026.

d) Appoint Christopher Blum to a full term on the Plan Commission (Christopher is filling a current vacancy) – his term will expire on May 1, 2028.

e) Appoint Kate Van Vlack to a full term on the Plan Commission – (Kate is filling a current vacancy) – her term will expire on May 1, 2028.

f) Appoint Stephen Dewart to a full term on the Police Pension Board of Trustees. (Stephen is filling a current vacancy) – his term will expire on May 1, 2027.

Trustee Dalman seconded by Trustee Apatoff, moved to appoint, and re-appoint, the said chairperson, commissioners, and members to their respective boards as set forth by appointments a – f, by omnibus vote.

12) Closed Session for the Purpose of Discussing Probable or Imminent Litigation, Response to Danger to Employees, and Criminal Investigations Pursuant to Sections 2(c)(8), 2(c)(11), and 2(c)(14) of the Open Meetings Act.

Trustee Albinson, seconded by Trustee Apatoff, moved to adjourn to Closed Session for the purpose of discussing probable or imminent litigation, response to danger to employees, and criminal investigations pursuant to sections 2(c)(8), 2(c)(11), and 2(c)(14) 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, Handler, Myers, and Orsic. Nays: None. Absent: None.

The Council adjourned into Closed Session at 10:34 p.m.

13) Adjournment. The Closed Session meeting ended at 11:09 p.m.

/s/ Berina Gradjan, Deputy Village Clerk
Recording Secretary