

**MINUTES
WINNETKA VILLAGE COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION & SPECIAL MEETING
July 8, 2025**

(Approved: August 5, 2025)

A record of a legally convened meeting of the Council of the Village of Winnetka, which was held at Council Chambers on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at 7:00 PM.

- 1) Call to Order. President Bob Dearborn called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Manager Bahan called the roll of the Village Council. Present: Trustees Rob Apatoff, Kim Handler and Bridget Orsic. Absent: Trustees Kirk Albinson and Tina Dalman. Also present: Village Manager Robert Bahan, Deputy Village Manager Kristin Kazenas, Deputy Village Clerk Berina Gradjan, Village Attorney Courtney Trefil, Chief Financial Officer Tim Sloth, and 3 persons in the audience.

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

Manager Bahan called the roll for Trustee Scott Myers. Present: Trustee Scott Myers.

- 2) Pledge of Allegiance. President Dearborn led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3) Public Comment.
 - a) Ted Wynnychenko addresses Council regarding permitting at 205 Sheridan Road and on matters related to correspondence with the Cook County State's Attorney.
Trustee Dalman enters at 7:02 pm.
 - b) Scott Myers commends Village staff and first responders for their contributions to the Winnetka Music Fest.
 - c) Trustee Handler states that at the Farmer's Market, a resident commended the Police Department for creating a safe atmosphere during the Winnetka Music Fest.

- 4) Establishment of the Consent Agenda.

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

- 5) Approval of the Consent Agenda

- a) Approval of Village Council Meeting Minutes
 - i) June 3, 2025 Special Meeting
 - ii) June 3, 2025 Regular Meeting
 - iii) June 10, 2025 Study Session
- b) Approval of Warrant List Dated June 13, 2025 – June 26, 2025 in the amount of \$2,324,009.67.
- c) Resolution No. R-57-2025: Approving a Sixth Amendment to a Lease Agreement

Between the Village of Winnetka and the United States Postal Service (Adoption)

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

6) Budget Overview (Alternate Forms of Revenue for the Business District Revitalization Fund)

Government Pritzker signed Public Act 103-0781 repealing the 1% statewide grocery tax as part of the State Fiscal Year 2025 budget package. The repeal will take effect on January 1, 2026 and is estimated to reduce Village sales taxes by approximately 10% of the annual sales tax revenue collected. The approved legislation permits municipalities the ability to adopt the same 1% grocery tax as a local tax.

Chief Financial Officer Tim Sloth advises Council of the request for policy feedback in advance of the Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Budget; Policy Feedback Item #1: implementing a 1% local grocery tax to replace the existing state grocery tax. The local tax will not generate additional revenue and simply replaces the existing grocery tax while continuing to be collected and distributed by the State; Policy Feedback Item #2: implementing a 1% home rule sales tax dedicated 100% to the Business District Revitalization Fund and eliminating a \$1.1 Million transfer from the General Fund. This will generate an additional \$400,000 in revenue for the Business District Revitalization Fund and free up \$1.1 Million in available funding for the General Fund; Policy Feedback Item #3: staff will also be requesting policy feedback from Council on other additional revenue sources available to the Village in FY2026 or future years.

Tim Sloth provides information regarding each of the three policies presented including matters related to budgeting, Village funds, grants, revenue, ordinance requirements, tax, and the implementation process.

Council discusses various revenue streams, sales tax, pay as you go approach related to Village funding, matters related to business sales, jurisdictional transfers, various business district projects, scope and costs, and engagement with the business community.

Council provided direction for staff to proceed with drafting an ordinance for Council consideration of the implementation of a 1% local grocery tax to replace the existing state grocery tax.

7) Closed Session for the Purpose of Discussing Specific Personnel and Reviewing Closed Session Minutes Pursuant to 2(c)(1) and 2(c)(21) of the Open Meetings Act.

Trustee Apatoff, seconded by Trustee Orsic, moved to adjourn to Closed Session for the purpose of discussing specific personnel and reviewing closed session minutes pursuant to 2(c)(1) and 2(c)(21) 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 Apatoff, Dalman, Handler, Myers and Orsic. Nays: None. Absent: Trustee Albinson.

The Council adjourned into Closed Session at 8:02 p.m.

8) Adjournment. The Closed Session meeting ended at 9:06 p.m.

/s/ Berina Gradjan, Deputy Village Clerk

Recording Secretary