

MINUTES
WINNETKA VILLAGE COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING & STUDY SESSION
September 9, 2025

(Approved: October 7, 2025)

A record of a legally convened meeting of the Council of the Village of Winnetka, which was held at Council Chambers on Tuesday, September 9, 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 Kirk Albinson, Rob Apatoff, Scott Myers and Bridget Orsic. Absent: Trustees Tina Dalman and Kim Handler. Also present: Village Manager Robert Bahan, Deputy Village Manager Kristin Kazenas, Village Attorney Peter Friedman, Chief Financial Officer Tim Sloth, Water & Electric Director Nick Narhi, Assistant Water & Electric Director Sam Carrasco, and 4 persons in the audience.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance. Trustee Myers led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3) Quorum
 - a) September 16, 2025 Regular Meeting All of the Council members present said they expect to attend with the exception of Trustee Apatoff due to family obligation.
 - b) October 7, 2025, 2025 Regular Meeting All of the Council members present said they expect to attend.
 - c) October 14, 2025 Study Session All of the Council members present said they expect to attend.
 - d) October 21, 2025 Regular Meeting All of the Council members present said they expect to attend.
 - e) October 30, 2025 All Day Budget Review Meeting All of the Council members present said they expect to attend.
- 4) Public Comment.
 - a) Patricia Walsh shares her wonderful experience working with the Friends of the Green Bay Trail in an effort to restore native plants and the remarkable progress that has been made.
 - b) Ted Wynnychenko addresses Council stop signs and cross traffic, public safety and matters regarding signage.
- 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 Apatoff seconded by Trustee Orsic 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 Meeting Minutes

- i) August 5, 2025 Regular Meeting & Study Session
- ii) August 19, 2025 Regular Meeting

b) Approval of Warrant List Dated August 15, 2025 – August 28, 2025 in the amount of \$2,061,090.30.

c) Resolution No. R-65-2025: Approving the Purchase of a Freightliner 108SD Plus Dump Truck from TransChicago Truck Group (Adoption)

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

8) Ordinances and Resolutions None.

9) Discussion

a) E-Bike and Scooter Regulation

Trustee Dalman enters at 7:10 pm.

Historically, Illinois law has treated electric bicycles like regular bicycles, allowing use on roads and bike paths while prohibiting them on sidewalks. On August 9, 2024, Governor Pritzker signed a new law introducing regulations for some low-speed electric scooters, leaving high-speed scooters unregulated, essentially creating enforcement challenges for municipalities like Winnetka. The Village has observed an increase in the use of e-bikes, e-scooters and other motor-driven sometimes being operated unsafely.

In response, municipalities such as Highland Park, Deerfield, and Glencoe have enacted local ordinances to regulate these devices.

Police Chief Brian O’Connell provides Council and members of the public with the current Illinois laws regulating such devices, implementation of ordinances, classes of devices, device specifications, Illinois motor vehicle requirements, safety concerns and the 2025 Winnetka Caucus annual survey results related to e-bike and e-scooter priority.

Council discusses the implementation of rules and regulations by various governing bodies, community education and communication, matters regarding violations, police officer enforcement and ordinance stipulations.

Public Comment

Pam Faulkner advises Council to consider the needs of the community utilizing the e-bikes and e-scooters for primary forms of transportation as opposed to those for recreational use.

b) Budget Policy Direction

On March 14, 2017, Council accepted a final water rate study prepared by Burns &

McDonnell that set rate increases for 2018 – 2025. On February 13, 2025, a bid was awarded to complete a renewed water rate study for 2026 – 2034. Prior to the consultant finalizing the water utility rate design, policy direction was provided to staff.

Water & Electric Director Nick Narhi provides information related to the 2017 water rate study, 100 year replacement plan, matters related to budgeting, rates and infrastructure.

Dave Naumann, MBA, 1898 & Co., Project Manager, addresses Council regarding the overview of the water rate study including water rate cost fluctuations and increases, residential water bill comparison, study scope, financial planning, capital improvement program including funding and projected cash flow.

Council discusses funding, advanced metering infrastructure impacts, matters related to water main infrastructure and rates.

Chief Financial Officer Tim Sloth, on behalf of staff, recommends scenario number one, levelized rate increases; under this scenario annual rate increases are 6.25% per year. The level rate increases provide sufficient funding to maintain the 100-year replacement cycle, increased capital spending related to the water treatment plant and continue funding the lead service line replacement program. A levelized rate structure provides for stable budgeting and is simple to communicate with customers.

Council discusses the impacts of each scenario the impacts each will have on the residents and community, funding, and replacement.

Chief Financial Officer Tim Sloth provides Council with an update regarding the home rule sales tax, indicating that staff has had direct outreach to the businesses, receiving support for the 1% home rule sales tax. Staff will include the estimated revenue from the home rule sales tax in the FY2026 annual budget and an ordinance will be introduced at the public hearing on the budget.

10) Old Business None.

11) New Business None.

12) Appointments None.

13) Closed Session for the Purpose of Discussing Collective Bargaining, Security Procedures, Pending Litigation and Personnel Pursuant to 2(c)(2), 2(c)(8), 2(c)(11) and 2(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act.

Trustee Myers, seconded by Trustee Dalman, moved to adjourn to Closed Session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining, security procedures, pending litigation, and personnel pursuant to 2(c)(2), 2(c)(8), 2(c)(11) and 2(c)(1) 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 9:02 p.m.

14) Adjournment. The Closed Session meeting ended at 10:00 p.m.

/s/ Berina Gradjan, Deputy Village Clerk

Recording Secretary