



Village of Winnetka

Village Council Regular Meeting

July 21, 2026 at 7:00 PM
Village Hall
510 Green Bay Road

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

President Dearborn called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. Village Manager Kristin Kazenas called the roll. Present: Trustees Kirk Albinson, Rob Apatoff, Tina Dalman, Kim Handler, Scott Myers and Bridget Orsic. Absent: None. Also present: Deputy Village Manager Hannah Lipman, Deputy Village Clerk Berina Gradjan, Village Attorney Peter Friedman, Sustainability Manager Elyse Steiner, Water & Electric Director Nick Narhi, Community Development Director Scott Mangum, and approximately 10 people in the audience.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Trustee Handler led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Quorum

- a. August 4, 2026 Regular Meeting
All of the Council members present said they expect to attend with the exception of Trustee Myers.
- b. August 18, 2026 Regular Meeting
All of the Council members present said they expect to attend.
- c. September 1, 2026 Regular Meeting
All of the Council members present said they expect to attend.

4. Public Comments

- Liz Kunkle encourages Council to work with the Environmental, Forestry, & Sustainability Commission to consider the Illinois Exotic Weed Act allowing municipalities to adopt an ordinance to eradicate exotic weeds identified by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

5. Reports

Trustees.

- Trustee Myers addresses Council sign-ups for the Farmer's Market.

Village Attorney.

- No report.

Village Manager.

- No report.

Village President.

- President Dearborn congratulates EFSC Commissioner Liz Kunkle on hosting the 15th Anniversary of Go Green Winnetka.

6. Establishment of Consent Agenda

MOTION: Motion to approve the foregoing items on the Consent Agenda by omnibus vote.

MOVER: Trustee Myers

SECONDER: Trustee Apatoff
The voice vote was approved unanimously

7. Approval of Consent Agenda

a. Approval of Village Council Minutes

i. June 9, 2026 Special Meeting

ii. June 16, 2026 Regular Meeting

b. Approval of Warrant List Dated July 3, 2026 - July 16, 2026
The Warrant List Dated July 3, 2026 - July 16, 2026 in the amount of \$771,619.34.

c. Ordinance No. MC-03-2026: Amending the Winnetka Zoning Ordinance to Prohibit Short-Term Rentals in the Village (Adoption)

d. Resolution No. R-55-2026: Waiving Bidding and Approving the Purchase of Indoor Range Equipment and Services from Inveris Training Solutions, Inc. (Adoption)

e. Resolution No. R-57-2026: Approving the Purchase of a Public Works Vehicle from Transchicago Truck Group (Adoption)

f. Resolution No. R-58-2026: Approving Closed Session Minutes, Determining the Need to Keep Minutes of Certain Closed Meetings of the Village Council Confidential, and Authorizing the Destruction of Verbatim Recordings of Certain Closed Meetings of the Village Council (Adoption)

g. Approval of Annual Outdoor Seating Area Permits

MOTION: Motion to approve the foregoing items on the Consent Agenda by omnibus vote.

MOVER: Trustee Myers

SECONDER: Trustee Apatoff

AYES: Trustees Albinson, Apatoff, Dalman, Handler, Myers, and Orsic
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

8. Ordinances and Resolutions

- a. Resolution No. R-54-2026: Approving and Authorizing the Adoption of the Village of Winnetka Climate Action Plan (Adoption)

i. Village and IMEA Sustainability Plan Update

Sustainability Manager Elyse Steiner provides information regarding the implementation of a Climate Action Plan (CAP), including the engagement of an environmental consulting firm KERAMIDA Inc., Winnetka's previous and ongoing environmental initiatives, and proposed upcoming actions following approval of the CAP.

ii. Electric Generation Update

Water & Electric Director Nick Narhi provides an update regarding the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency's Sustainability Plan adopted in 2024, year-to-date updates and accomplishments, and the process for the 2027 plan update. Additionally, Council is provided information regarding present and future of power generation, as well as lead service line updates.

Council discusses lead service line replacement progress and resident notifications per state mandate, Winnetka's power generation, conservation voltage reduction, and IMEA renewable contracts.

Public Comments.

- King Poor emphasizes the importance of the implementation of the Climate Action Plan and commends the involvement of Village staff, EFSC members, and the community.
- Peter Eck addresses Council regarding the EFSC's commitment to the Climate Action Plan goals and initiatives.
- Katie Scullion addresses concerns regarding the lack of transparency from IMEA.
- Liz Kunkle encourages the Village's involvement with IMEA and highlights various EFSC initiatives leading to the development of the Climate Action Plan over the years.

Trustee Handler, Council liaison to the EFSC, commends the efforts of the commissioners as well as the framework for future discussions and initiatives of the Climate Action Plan.

Council commends the collaborative approach regarding the Climate Action Plan and expresses support for the proposed initiatives. Trustee Myers encourages the EFSC and Council to further challenge themselves regarding their

accountability to sustainability commitments.

MOTION: Motion to Adopt Resolution No. R-54-2026
MOVER: Trustee Handler
SECONDER: Trustee Orsic
AYES: Trustees Albinson, Apatoff, Dalman, Hadnler, Myers, and Orsic
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

9. Old Business

a. Zoning Ordinance Rewrite - Council Direction

Community Development Director Scott Mangum advises Council that a necessary zoning code rewrite is needed given the code is over 40 years old and in some cases, dates back to the 1920s. The current code has accumulated inconsistencies through ad hoc amendments, includes outdated land use categories and definitions, misalignment with the Winnetka Futures 2040 Comprehensive Plan, various complexities and ambiguity delaying the development review process, and inadequate provisions for diverse housing types and sustainability measures. It is important to note that solar was addressed on an ad hoc basis, but more comprehensive treatment is needed. These gaps lead to difficulty enforcing and addressing non-compliance with current state law, including the People Over Parking Act, which took effect earlier this year.

Village staff identified and established a number of initiatives from the Comprehensive Plan, adopted in 2023, that can be addressed through the zoning code rewrite, finalizing scope of work and issuing a request for proposals to land use consultants, and, with the selection of a consultant, staff anticipates the rewrite to be completed in 18–24 months.

Council is advised regarding anticipated funding for the total project, scope of proposed work, consultant selection criteria, and use of a project steering committee.

Council discusses special consultation with taxing bodies, steering committee engagement, and consultant criteria and expectations.

Council expressed support to move forward with the zoning code rewrite with considerations to project timeline, implementation of a steering committee, and provided direction for the consultant to consider emerging land use and zoning issues rather than limitations to historic code provisions and addressing design review guidelines as well as open space zoning initiatives.

b. Open Space Zoning Text Amendment - Council Direction

At the April 14th Council study session, Council discussed establishing a new zoning district as it relates to the protection of open space. Council provided direction to create a new open space zoning district and advised the Village Attorney to prepare a draft ordinance addressing regulations for discussion in

July ahead of the commencement of the zoning ordinance rewrite project.

Community Development Director Scott Mangum provides information regarding open space regulations in neighboring communities. Staff asked for Council consideration of a phased approach including phase 1: preserving open space properties from development and phase 2: refining regulations through the zoning ordinance rewrite, and next steps regarding each phase.

Council discusses implementing the open space zoning text amendment with consideration of the zoning ordinance rewrite, level of priority, possibility of expediting the project timeline, phase 1 impacts on the Park District, school districts, and library, and special use requirements.

Public Comment

- Dan Waters, District 36 President, addresses Council regarding intergovernmental communications, school operations, and maintaining and protecting open space at each school.
- Elise Gibson, Park District President, seeks clarification regarding maintenance of Park District property, protection of open space, and potential impacts on special use permits.

Council provides direction to move forward with phase 1, considering Village property, green space, and public schools, and for staff to hold a public hearing at the Plan Commission level. Additionally, Council requests that the RFP process be expedited.

- c. Council Priorities - Mid Year Status Report
Village Manager Kristin Kazenas provided a briefing on upcoming Council priorities and associated expectations.

10. New Business

None.

11. Appointments

None.

12. Closed Session

MOTION:

Motion to adjourn to closed session for the purpose of discussing the purchase of real property and probable, imminent, and pending litigation pursuant to sections 2(c)(5) and 2(c)(11) of the Open Meetings Act, respectively. Under the motion, when closed session is adjourned, the public meeting will automatically and immediately adjourn without the conduct of any further business or comments.

MOVER:

Trustee Apatoff

SECONDER:

Trustee Albinson

AYES:

Trustees Albinson, Apatoff, Dalman, Handler, Myers, and Orsic

NAYS:

None

ABSENT:

None

13. Adjournment

The Closed Session meeting ended at 9:55 p.m.

/s/ Berina Gradjan, Deputy Village Clerk
Recording Secretary