

**MINUTES
WINNETKA VILLAGE COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION**

April 12, 2022

(Approved: May 3, 2022)

A record of a legally convened meeting of the Council of the Village of Winnetka, which was held at Council Chambers on Tuesday, April 12, 2022, 2022 at 7:00 PM.

- 1) Call to Order. President Rintz called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM. Manager Bahan called the roll of the Village Council. Present: Trustees Tina Dalman, Bob Dearborn, Kim Mancini, and John Swierk. Absent: Trustees Robert Apatoff and Andy Cripe. Also present: Village Manager Robert Bahan, Assistant Village Manager Kristin Kazenas, Village Attorney Ben Schuster, Deputy Village Clerk Berina Gradjan, and Chief of Police Marc Hornstein, and approximately 1 persons in the audience.
- 2) Public Comment. None.
- 3) Gasoline Powered Leaf Blower Working Group Update.

President Rintz states Police Chief Marc Hornstein and King Poor will be providing Council an update regarding the regional working groups research and findings, indicating that he has had previous working history with King Poor and believes that Mr. Poor will represent the Village with dignity. As Winnetka offers a sense of peace and quiet, President Rintz believes that leaf blowers compromise Winnetka's charm and impact the community.

Chief Hornstein provides Council history of the Village's leaf blower ordinance, enacted in 1994, and how the ordinance has since been modified and enforced. Historically, enforcement of the ordinance by the Police Department solely relied on complaints before officers began issuing \$100 fines.

As the pandemic increased the number of residents working from home, the Police Department also saw an increase in complaints regarding gasoline powered leaf blowers. Chief Hornstein confirms that in 2021, an initiative by the Village was put in place; a letter that was sent to landscape companies requesting their written pledge to honor Winnetka's gasoline powered seasonal leaf blower ban, effective between June 1 – September 30, and with restricted hours from October 1 – May 31. Chief Hornstein informs Council that by referencing the landscape companies that have taken the initiative to sign the pledge in Winnetka Report, this offers a positive marketing tool for these companies, displaying a positive sustainability approach.

King Poor informs Council that 2021 brought significant attention to gasoline powered leaf blowers not just a local level, but nationally as well. Studies that were conducted revealed toxic pollution from leaf blowers due to lack of gas efficiency, but also indicate that their low frequency made the loud noise almost impossible to block out. These issues urged Go Green organizations within the North Shore region to come together on the issue to form an alliance, sharing local ordinances that are in place and to effectively figure out an approach to resolve the issue.

Council discusses the impact public education regarding gasoline powered leaf blowers can have, informing residents, business owners, and the general public on the issues and concerns

related to leaf blowers, but also raising awareness of all issues that have caused the regional working group to come together and the greater effect that a regional response can have rather than individual municipalities.

Council deliberates alternative options, such as the use of electric leaf blowers and their use within the surrounding communities in the North Shore. Council also discusses the cost effectiveness for landscapers, and how homeowners can play a vital role in the transition process. King Poor references that certain communities allow the use of only electric leaf blowers and believes that the school district and park districts should be on board with moving towards a more sustainable driven approach.

Trustee Swierk and members of Council commend the enforcement of the ordinance in place and challenge the community to take part in the efforts to eventually ban gasoline powered leaf blowers.

Public Comment.

- i) Liz Kunkle informs Council that the ban for gasoline powered leaf blowers has been in the works for some time, however, it did not have enough support to enforce further actions. Ms. Kunkle agrees that the pledge can have a positive impact for the landscape companies and that the Village should continue striving to raise awareness related to these matters and follow enforcement by surrounding communities.
- 4) Closed Session for the Purpose of Discussing the Sale or Lease and Related Compensation of Village Property Pursuant to Section 2(c)(6) of the Open Meetings

Trustee Mancini, seconded by Trustee Dalman, moved to adjourn to Closed Session for the Purpose of Discussing the Sale or Lease and Related Compensation of Village Property Pursuant to Section 2(c)(6) 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 Dalman, Dearborn, Mancini, and Swierk. Nays: None. Absent: Trustees Apatoff and Cripe.

The Council adjourned into Closed Session at 8:24 PM.

- 5) Adjournment. The Special Closed Session meeting ended at 8:37 p.m.

/s/Berina Gradjan, Deputy Village Clerk
Recording Secretary