

Council Meeting Minutes – August 17, 2023

VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL AND IN-PERSON

Council Members Present: Andrew Kauders; Susan Fattig; Arthur Alexander; Katie Howard

Other Attendees: Village Manager: Michael Silliman; Village Engineer: Doug Lohmeyer; Marty Langelan; Lynne Welle; Larry Wasson; Hiromi Maruyama; Doug Grob; Peter Kahn; Susan Kahn; Steve Howard; Jean Sperling.

7:30 PM Call to Order: Alexander

Announcement of Officer Positions

Arthur Alexander is Chair, Katie Howard is Vice Chair, Jeff Blander is Treasurer, Susan Fattig is Secretary, and Andrew Kauders is at-large. Andrew Kauders said a few words of thanks to his colleagues as outgoing Chair.

Opportunity for Council to Hear Residents' Comments

Arthur commented that we will try to keep the first comment period to 20 minutes. Noted that several people submitted comments ahead of time, which is encouraged. One comment that was received was why are only adjacent neighbors invited to pre-construction informational meetings. Another comment received was that we should encourage young people to vote in the Village Elections. And another comment submitted was regarding the elections and the possibility of setting a timeline for how long someone is allowed to live outside of the Village and still be considered temporarily away and therefore still eligible to vote.

Marty Langelan confirmed that the Village has about 5.5 million dollars in the different reserve accounts, mentioned that we might want to do an audit of the voter roll, and thanked the Council for resolving the tax rate issue.

Larry Wasson asked about a comment that corporations might be able to vote in Village Elections. The Council acknowledged that question and said they would address it in a proposed charter amendment on the topic.

Doug Grob asked for a status report for the construction sites at 3417 and 3419 Cummings Lane regarding the building lot coverage. Arthur noted that we will be receiving legal advice on this issue. Village Manager Michael Silliman provided an update on two stop work order he has issued on this site.

Susan Kahn asked for clarification on the limited time for comments at the beginning of Council meetings.

7:46 PM Manager's Report: Silliman

Village Manager Michael Silliman delivered his report.

8:13 PM Building Administrator's Report: Lohmeyer

Village Engineer Doug Lohmeyer delivered his report.

Approve June Meeting Minutes

Susan moved to approve the minutes. Katie seconded. The minutes passed unanimously.

Approve July 13 Meeting Minutes

Susan moved to approve the minutes. Katie seconded. The minutes passed unanimously.

Approve July 31 Meeting Minutes

Katie moved to approve the minutes. Susan seconded. The minutes passed unanimously.

8:16PM FY23 Budget Amendment

Budget resolution to increase FY23 general government budget by \$2,100, increase community events by \$3200, and reduce snow shoveling by \$5,300. Arthur moved and Susan seconded. The amendment passed unanimously.

Correction to the FY24 Tax Rate Resolution

Resolution 2023-3 to correct the real property tax rate resolution to .002 instead of 0.02. Arthur moved. Katie seconded. This passed unanimously.

8:25 PM Discussion and vote on FY24 Committees and Task Forces

Katie Moved and Andrew seconded to establish two new ad-hoc committees. One Antisemitism Awareness and Education Taskforce and one on Storm and Ground Water Management Taskforce. These new committees passed unanimously.

Opportunity for Council to Hear Residents' Comments

Larry Wasson asked for clarification on the plans for 3412 Taylor and asked for something to be done about vegetation growing in the right of way on the north side of Thornapple.

Jean Sperling commented that the Village is responsible for pruning Village trees and that the regular pruning hasn't appeared to have been happening.

Marty Langelan asked who is responsible for clearing brush back from around Fire Hydrants. Marty further commented that we need some sort of solution around parking enforcement.

Larry Wasson commented on parking. Further adding that our part time off duty Montgomery County Police Officers are resistant to issuing parking tickets because of the requirement to attend traffic court.

Katie Howard thanked Andrew for his two years of service as Council Chair and asked Keith Allen for a weather update.

8:47 PM Adjourn

Susan moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 PM. Katie Second. Adjournment was unanimous.