

Council Meeting Minutes – February 15, 2023

VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL AND IN-PERSON

The audio recording for this meeting is available on the [Village website](#).

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

Other Attendees Include: Village Manager: Michael Silliman; Village Attorney: Ron Bolt; and residents Marty Langelan, Paul Weller, Paula Desio, Lynn Welle, Alex Ghesquiere, Sally Maran, John Sharrow, Keith Allen, and Naomi Naierman.

7:30 PM Call to Order: Alexander

7:31 PM Weather Report: Keith Allen

Keith Allen reported that we are expecting a snowstorm tomorrow up to 5 or 6 inches, but after we are expecting the sun and warmer weather ahead.

7:32 PM Public hearing and possible adoption of Ordinance No. 2023-9-1 to Amend the Ethics Ordinance to Expand the Definition of “Official” and Indemnification to Include Members of All Committees and Ad Hoc Committees Appointed by the Council

Alex Ghesquiere commented on an email sent to the private Village listserv regarding the Ethics amendment, which he is unable to respond to on the listserv. Alex said the objections to the ethics amendment are misinformation and personally perplexing as the maximum the Ethics Committee could do is recommend to the Village Council to remove someone from their Village position.

Andrew Kauders expressed his support and agreed with Alex’s comment.

Katie Howard said she was perplexed by the return of this ordinance and how and why we’re still talking about the Ethics code.

Naomi Naierman commented that the results of the survey should be respected.

Marty Langelan said this ordinance has been like a zombie, it keeps coming back. She agreed with what Naomi said and added that the ethics committee is untrained and recommended instead hiring an outside professional independent investigator if there are complaints about volunteers.

Andrew Kauders clarified that this ordinance is already in place and that he feels comfortable serving with this process in place.

Alex commented that he does not believe that the amendments will impose “legal liability” on volunteers. Ron Bolt agreed with this comment. The sanction for a violation

is recusal or removal and enforcement appears to be remote, as we've had only a couple complaints in decades and no complaints since the edit has been proposed.

Marty asked why this is coming up now? She added there was not a public forum this time around and that this is not benign as some Council members make it sound. The punishment so to speak is not just being removed from a volunteer position but being put through this machine process.

Jeff Blander commented on including an indemnification clause in this ordinance. Jeff further noted that this adoption vote has been pushed back several months to give time for public comment in the survey.

Susan moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2023-9-1 and Arthur seconded. Andrew, Arthur, and Susan voted in favor. Katie voted against and Jeff voted present.

8:25 PM Approve January 18 Council Meeting Minutes

Susan moved to accept the minutes. Arthur seconded. The minutes passed unanimously.

8:26 PM Committee Reports

Election Committee reported that tracking envelopes is proving difficult, and they are investigating alternative tracking methods. Their written report was included in the meeting packet. They asked for the Council's approval of a one-page declaration of eligibility voter form, which was reviewed by counsel. The Council approved the voter form unanimously.

Community Engagement Committee reminded everyone about the Community Brunch event on March 3rd from 1 to 4PM at the La Ferme Restaurant.

Ground and Stormwater Taskforce reported a \$600 fee for an upcoming seminar on stormwater management by Clark Azar.

Antisemitism Awareness and Education Taskforce reported their next meeting is next week. The American Jewish Committee will share their perspective of the webinar that was held and the feedback they have received.

8:37 PM Discussion #2: Ordinance Development Process and Draft Guideline: Blander

Jeff shared additional thoughts on a step-by-step process for drafting, researching, and public discussion prior to enacting a policy, ordinance, or regulation. A PowerPoint slide was shared and will be attached to these minutes.

8:49 PM Manager's Report: Silliman

Michael delivered his report, which is in the meeting packet.

Treasurer's Report: Blander

Jeff delivered his report, which is in the meeting packet.

9:04 PM Opportunity for Council to Hear Residents' Comments:

Marty Langelan thanked Michael for putting up all permits on the Village office wall.

Marty also asked about parking enforcement in the Village. Village Manager Michael Silliman clarified that the Village does not have parking enforcement. The Village office asks people to move their cars on a regular basis, but residents are currently directed to call the Montgomery County Police non-emergency number to report illegal parking.

Paula Desio commented that she has observed painted curbs working better than other signage at communicating no parking to drivers.

9:13PM Adjournment: Alexander