

VILLAGE OF MARBLEHEAD REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 27, 2023

Mayor Bird called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL AND ATTENDANCE

Answering roll call were Matt Kovach, Angie Kukay, Duane Myers, Maryann Sauvey, and John Starcher.

Also present were Fiscal Officer Rhonda Sowers, Administrator Jeff White, and Police Chief Kenn Thellmann.

Visitors in attendance were Jane Milholland, Dale Harwood, Karyn Harwood, Joe Gouker, Patty Gouker, and Al Mazzeo.

EXCUSE DEAN DORKO FROM CURRENT MEETING

Mr. Starcher moved to excuse council member Dean Dorko from the current regular council meeting. Second by Mrs. Kukay. Vote: Mr. Kovach-yes, Mrs. Kukay-yes, Mr. Myers-yes, Mrs. Sauvey-yes, Mr. Starcher-yes. Motion carried.

MINUTES

Minutes of the September 13, 2023 regular meeting were approved as submitted.

AMEND AGENDA

Mayor Bird amended the agenda to add item B. Tree at Clemons Park under Old Business.

VISITOR COMMENTS

Joe Gouker asked for an update on the water rates and Johnson's Island waterline assessments. Mr. Starcher said RCAP is still reviewing data received from the village to prepare an analysis for council's consideration. Regarding assessments, Mr. Starcher stated council would like to make sure Johnson's Island residents will have a say in the assessment process.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mayor

- Mayor Bird participated in the 125th anniversary celebration at Holy Assumption Church on September 23.
- The all 80's Danbury High School reunion held at Jamestown Tavern on September 23 was well attended and very successful.

Administrator

Mr. White reported the following:

- The sunken storm drain at the south end of James Street was repaired by 7L Construction.
- The Phase I archeological survey report submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for the Johnson's Island waterline project generated review comments. Engineer Dan Barr is determining how to address those comments. The Task Group met Sept. 20 and will meet again in October.
- Last year the valve on the bulk water fill pipe at the water department malfunctioned and the decision was made not to repair it because it is used so infrequently. During the task

group meeting it was pointed out there is still a need for bulk water delivery on Johnson's Island and it would be helpful to have the valve replaced. Mr. Dorko was prepared to make a motion to that effect. Mayor Bird agreed to put this item under New Business for council action.

- There will be an open house style meeting to receive public input on the Radar Park building improvement on Thursday, September 28 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm in the meeting room of the Municipal Services Building.
- Western Reserve Land Conservancy recently conducted its annual stewardship visit at Clemons Park to confirm the village is in compliance with deed restrictions. One notable concern was the observation that vegetation on the break water had been cut by someone not authorized by the village. The plants which have established themselves there are all native species which provide wildlife benefits and also have the potential to stabilize the embankment as they grow. The Parks Committee plans to discuss strategies to alleviate situations like this in the future.
- Attended the inaugural Mayfly Fest meeting to discuss ideas for this festival which is planned for June 15, 2024.
- Received an invitation from the Ottawa County Improvement Corporation to become a village representative on the OCIC Board of Trustees. Because this position requires council approval, Mayor Bird added it to the agenda under New Business.

Fiscal Officer

Mrs. Sowers reported the following:

- There 2021-22 compliance audit will recommend one audit adjustment that proceeds from the sale of graves be deposited into a separate Cemetery Fund. No legislative action will be required to create this fund.
- IGS Energy has corrected the error of improperly enrolling village accounts into the Ottawa County Gas Aggregation program and will send notices to the 530 village account holders affected by this error.
- A recent change in state law provide an option to post legal notices on the village website and social media rather than publishing in a local newspaper. Another change increases the bid limit from \$50,000 to \$75,000 for villages that have an administrator. This amount will automatically increase by 3% annually after 2024. Both changes are effective October 3.
- An anonymous \$600 donation was made for James Park with a request that it be used for memorial benches at the playground. The Parks Committee previously authorized three memorial benches and this donation will be used to add a fourth.
- Acknowledged the generosity of photographers Joey Cassel of New Departure Films, Sandusky and Mark Kempton Photography, Lorain who donated their stunning drone photos of the lighthouse for use on the home page of the village website.
- Extended thanks to master gardener Linda Twarek for her countless volunteer hours planning, planting and monitoring the care of the many pots and baskets of flowers in the village. Mrs. Twarek has completed the designs for next summer's arrangements and also has plans for some fall and winter displays at the village's Main Street entrance.

Police Chief

Chief Thellmann submitted a written summary of recent departmental activity. The Chief also informed council he enlisted the aid of PETA in an effort to have modifications made to the fence surrounding the Confederate Cemetery on Johnson's Island to prevent deer from being impaled on

the fence spikes. The federal government is now consulting with a fence company on modifications.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel

Mrs. Kukay had nothing to report.

Zoning

Mr. Kovach had no zoning report but did expand on information provided at the Johnson's Island Task Group meeting. He explained that the State Historic Preservation recommendation for a second Phase I archeological study could cause a slight delay in the progress of the project.

Legislative

Mr. Myers had nothing to report.

Infrastructure

No report.

Parks, Cemetery, Trees

Mrs. Sauvey stated much of the committee's business was included in the administrator's report but added she will have more to update following the Radar Park open house meeting.

Finance

Mr. Starcher had nothing to report.

LEGISLATION

President Pro Tem Starcher read the following legislation by title only:

- A. **ORDINANCE NO. 11-2023** – An Ordinance Setting Wage Rates for the Billing/Records Clerk and Declaring an Emergency

Motion to waive three readings on three separate occasions made by Mr. Myers with second by Mrs. Kukay. Vote: Mr. Kovach-yes, Mrs. Kukay-yes, Mr. Myers-yes, Mrs. Sauvey-yes, Mr. Starcher-yes. Motion carried.

Motion to retain the emergency clause made by Mr. Starcher with second by Mrs. Kukay. Vote: Mr. Kovach-yes, Mrs. Kukay-yes, Mr. Myers-yes, Mrs. Sauvey-yes, Mr. Starcher-yes. Motion carried.

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 11-2023 made by Mrs. Kukay with second by Mrs. Sauvey. Vote: Mr. Kovach-yes, Mrs. Kukay-yes, Mr. Myers-yes, Mrs. Sauvey-yes, Mr. Starcher-yes. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. **Radar Park public meeting** – Reminder that the public meeting to receive input on the Radar Park improvement project will be held September 28 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm in the meeting room of the Municipal Services Building.

- B. **Tree at Clemons Park** – Following council action at the September 13 meeting to remove the dying ash tree at Clemons Park, Mr. Starcher received a complaint that this tree is a favorite perch for eagles and should not be removed. Mr. Starcher advised council he then contacted a naturalist who stated it is not a problem removing the tree if there are other suitable trees in the area. Mr. Myers and Mrs. Sowers concurred, saying they had received the same information from two other naturalists.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Bulk water fill station** – Mr. Starcher moved to authorize replacement of the valve to repair the bulk water fill station at the water department. Second by Mrs. Kukay. Vote: Mr. Kovach-yes, Mrs. Kukay-yes, Mr. Myers-yes, Mrs. Sauvey-yes, Mr. Starcher-yes. Motion carried.
- B. **Appoint Jeffrey White to OCIC Board of Trustees** – Mr. Myers moved to authorize Administrator Jeffrey White to serve as a village representative on the Ottawa County Improvement Corporation Board of Trustees. Second by Mr. Starcher. Vote: Mr. Kovach-yes, Mrs. Kukay-yes, Mr. Myers-yes, Mrs. Sauvey-yes, Mr. Starcher-yes. Motion carried.

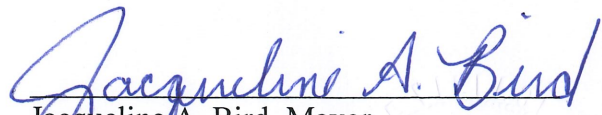
AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion to authorize payment of bills totaling \$31,405.34 was made by Mr. Starcher and seconded by Mr. Kovach. Vote: Mr. Kovach-yes, Mrs. Kukay-yes, Mr. Myers-yes, Mrs. Sauvey-yes, Mr. Starcher-yes. Motion carried.


ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Mrs. Kukay and seconded by Mr. Starcher. The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:58 pm.

APPROVED:


Jacqueline A. Bird, Mayor

Attest:


Rhonda I. Sowers, Fiscal Officer