

VILLAGE OF MARBLEHEAD REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING HELD JANUARY 24, 2024

Mayor Starcher called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL AND ATTENDANCE

Answering roll call were Dean Dorko, Dennis Kennedy, Matt Kovach, Angie Kukay, Maryann Sauvey, and Lee Walker.

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

Visitors in attendance were Josh Woerner, Debbie Woerner, Lou Cardinale, Al Mazzeo, Joe Gouker, Patty Gouker, Jane Milholland, Ryan Stamp, and Bryant McAfee.

MINUTES

Minutes of the January 10, 2024 regular meeting were approved as submitted.

VISITOR COMMENTS

Joe Gouker commented briefly on the recent task group meeting for the Johnson's Island waterline. In response to a question, Mrs. Sowers stated she and Mr. White are registered for the webinar regarding the 2025 WSRLA nominations. Mayor Starcher stated the finance committee is awaiting some additional information from RCAP and will then be proceeding with the rate study.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Administrator

Mr. White reported the following:

- Cost to repair the water main break under the drive at the water plant totaled \$10,110.29 for leak detection (Aqualine) and excavating (Gill Construction). A second leak near the plant is suspected and will be addressed. On the morning of January 24, a break was discovered at the intersection of James and Prairie Streets. Gill Construction was once again called for excavation. Village crews had the leak repaired and the intersection reopened to traffic within several hours. A boil advisory was not required.
- On January 19, village staff discovered a leaking fire hydrant on Bayshore Road and determined the leak was caused by tampering. This is the fifth hydrant located in the area of Bayshore between Alexander Pike and Gaydos drive to show evidence of tampering. Cost to repair the broken stem is \$500 per hydrant. Tampering with any part of a public water system is illegal. The public is asked to report any suspicious activity to the Police or Water Department.
- The Johnson's Island waterline task group met January 17. Included in the discussion was the need for council to determine the methodology to be used for assessments; whether a revision or amendment to the island's submerged land lease for the causeway before waterlines can be installed within the area of the lease; recommendations from an ODNR urban forester regarding impact to trees located in the construction area.
- Still waiting to hear the status of a grant application to the Ohio Dept. of Development seeking slightly over \$3.6 million for the Johnson's Island waterline project.
- Authorized the village's application for an Ohio EPA H2Ohio Equipment Grant which was denied last spring to be considered for funding in a second round this year.

- Grant reimbursement was received from the OSS Joint Solid Waste District for two awarded last year. The grants were used to purchase picnic tables, benches and trash containers constructed from recycled plastic. Total reimbursement was \$15,715.41.
- Attended the first steering committee meeting for the Marblehead Peninsula Trail Feasibility Study being conducted by the Ottawa County Parks District.
- Will be in Columbus for training on February 14 which precludes him from attending the council meeting that evening.
- Will be coordinating efforts in the village to address the anticipated influx of visitors coming to view the total solar eclipse on April 8.

Mayor

Mayor Starcher reported the following:

- He hopes to form a task group of local officials to coordinate efforts to address safety concerns regarding both the influx and exodus of a potentially large group of visitors for the total solar eclipse.
- Expressed anger that someone has tampered with fire hydrants and reiterated the administrator's request for the public to report any suspicious activity they might witness.
- Extended thanks to village employees who quickly took action to fix the water main break earlier in the day. Those recognized were Tony Joyce and Jim Warner of the water plant who quickly tracked down the break; maintenance employees Bryan Lucas and Tom McNeal who set up traffic barricades and later hauled gravel to the site; Police Chief Kenn Thellmann who notified the school of the road closure that could impact bus routes; Rhonda Sowers who posted updates to social media; and Jeff White who coordinated the repair work. The entire project was completed in five hours with no loss of service and no boil advisory issued.

Fiscal Officer

Mrs. Sowers said thank you notes were received from the Ottawa County and Johnson's Island committees for Wreaths Across America in appreciation of council's recent donations.

Police Chief

Chief Thellmann submitted a written report of recent activity and reported that the new Ford cruiser ordered in 2022 was finally delivered.

GUEST PRESENTATION – OMNI FIBER

Omni Fiber representative, Bryant McAfee was present to apprise council of his company's plans to extend fiber optic broadband service to the village. The Ohio based, privately funded company will provide high speed fiber service to homes and businesses. The company hopes to begin installation of lines in Marblehead by late February and finish prior to Memorial Day. Customers may begin receiving service as soon as the lines are strung in their area.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislative

Mr. Walker had nothing to report.

Finance

Mr. Kovach said he will be scheduling a meeting soon to resume review of the water rate study.

Zoning

Mr. Kennedy had nothing to report.

Infrastructure

Mr. Dorko had nothing to report.

Parks, Cemetery

Mrs. Sauvey plans to schedule a committee meeting within the next several weeks.

Personnel

Mrs. Kukay had nothing to report for her committee but did commend members of the Marblehead Coast Guard Station for the recent rescue of ice fishermen from the lake.

LEGISLATION

There was no legislation.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Request for partial release of escrow to Bay Point Acquisitions** – Mrs. Sowers stated that in 2022 Bay Point Acquisitions escrowed \$305,000 with the village as assurance that it would correct zoning violations in the Waterview at Bay Point development. Bay Point Acquisitions has completed twenty-six units and asked for a partial refund of the escrow in the amount of \$130,000. Zoning Administrator Bob Hruska confirmed that the twenty-six units comply with zoning. Mr. Kovach moved to refund \$130,000 to Bay Point Acquisitions. Second by Mrs. Kukay. Vote: Mr. Dorko-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes, Mr. Kovach-yes, Mrs. Kukay-yes, Mrs. Sauvey-yes, Mr. Walker-yes. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Adopt 2024 Rules of Council** – Mrs. Kukay moved to adopt the 2024 Rules of Council. Second by Mrs. Sauvey. Vote: Mr. Dorko-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes, Mr. Kovach-yes, Mrs. Kukay-yes, Mrs. Sauvey-yes, Mr. Walker-yes. Motion carried.
- B. Recommendation for final appointment of Officer Shawn Craig** – Upon the recommendation of Chief Thellmann and Mayor Starcher, Mr. Dorko moved for a final appointment of Officer Shawn Craig following the successful completion of his six-month probation. Second by Mrs. Kukay. Vote: Mr. Dorko-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes, Mr. Kovach-yes, Mrs. Kukay-yes, Mrs. Sauvey-yes, Mr. Walker-yes. Motion carried.
- C. Recommendation to appoint Joshua Woerner as part-time police officer** – Mrs. Kukay moved to accept the recommendation of Chief Thellmann and Mayor Starcher to appoint Joshua Woerner as a part-time police officer effective January 28. Second by Mrs. Sauvey. Vote: Mr. Dorko-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes, Mr. Kovach-yes, Mrs. Kukay-yes, Mrs. Sauvey-yes, Mr. Walker-yes. Motion carried.

Administer Oath of Office

Mayor Starcher administered the oath of office to Officer Woerner.

- D. Authorization to order police cruiser** – Mr. Dorko moved to authorize the purchase of a Ford police cruiser through the State Purchasing Program at a cost of \$52,705.00. Second by Mr. Walker. Vote: Mr. Dorko-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes, Mr. Kovach-yes, Mrs. Kukay-yes, Mrs. Sauvey-yes, Mr. Walker-yes. Motion carried.

- E. Archaeological Risk Management Plan for JI waterline project** – Mr. White informed council the State Historic Preservation Office and National Park Service have determined that an Archaeological Risk Management Plan must be established to determine protocols in the event an archaeological resource is discovered while installing Johnson’s Island waterlines. Cost of the study which would be done by ASC Group is \$6,118.16. Mr. Kennedy moved to authorize \$6,118.16 from the Water Revenue Fund for an Archaeological Risk Management Plan. Second by Mr. Walker. Vote: Mr. Dorko-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes, Mr. Kovach-yes, Mrs. Kukay-yes, Mrs. Sauvey-yes, Mr. Walker-yes. Motion carried.
- F. Council action authorizing the Administrator to re-nominate the south water tower project for a WSRLA construction loan** – Mrs. Kukay moved to authorize the Administrator to re-nominate the south water tower project for a WSRLA construction loan. Second by Mr. Dorko. Vote: Mr. Dorko-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes, Mr. Kovach-yes, Mrs. Kukay-yes, Mrs. Sauvey-yes, Mr. Walker-yes. Motion carried.
- G. Council action authorizing the Administrator to re-nominate the Johnson’s Island waterline extension project for a WSRLA construction loan** – Mrs. Kukay moved to authorize the Administrator to re-nominate the Johnson’s Island waterline extension project for a WSRLA construction loan. Second by Mrs. Sauvey. Vote: Mr. Dorko-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes, Mr. Kovach-yes, Mrs. Kukay-yes, Mrs. Sauvey-yes, Mr. Walker-yes. Motion carried.
- H. Council action authorizing the Administrator to re-nominate the north water tower painting project for a WSRLA construction loan** – Mrs. Sauvey moved to authorize the Administrator to re-nominate the north water tower painting project for a WSRLA construction loan. Second by Mr. Walker. Vote: Mr. Dorko-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes, Mr. Kovach-yes, Mrs. Kukay-yes, Mrs. Sauvey-yes, Mr. Walker-yes. Motion carried.

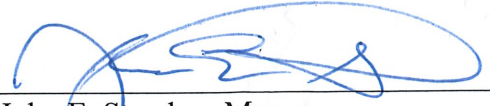
AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion to authorize payment of bills totaling \$117,999.30 was made by Mr. Dorko and seconded by Mrs. Sauvey. Vote: Mr. Dorko-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes, Mr. Kovach-yes, Mrs. Kukay-yes, Mrs. Sauvey-yes, Mr. Walker-yes. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

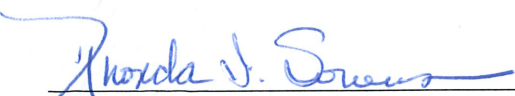
Motion to adjourn made by Mrs. Kukay and seconded by Mr. Kovach. The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:04 pm.

APPROVED:



John E. Starcher, Mayor

Attest:



Rhonda I. Sowers, Fiscal Officer