

**VILLAGE OF MARBLEHEAD REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
HELD MAY 24, 2023**

Mayor Bird 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, Matt Kovach, Angie Kukay, Duane Myers, Maryann Sauvey, and John Starcher.

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

Visitors in attendance were Dale Harwood, Karyn Harwood, Tom Breslin, Sally Moennich, Connie Roe, Joe Gouker, Patty Gouker, Al Mazzeo, Dave Reed, and Kelly Reed.

MINUTES

Minutes of the May 10, 2023 regular meeting were approved as submitted.

GUEST SPEAKER

Connie Roe, Executive Director of the Family Advocacy Center was present to give an overview of the many services her agency provides to support families in Ottawa County. One of these programs, free “grab and go” meals for youth will be distributed each Wednesday from June 7 to August 17 at the parking lot adjacent to the Marblehead Police Department. There are no income restrictions but registration is required to ensure enough bags are prepared.

VISITOR COMMENTS

Joe Gouker asked to defer his comments until after the Village Administrator’s report.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mayor

Mayor Bird received a complaint of debris piled along the fence behind home plate at the large ballfield in James Park. Attempts to report it to the maintenance department had not been successful. Mr. White will have the maintenance crew address the situation.

Administrator

Mr. White reported the following:

- The village’s drinking water Consumer Confidence Report for 2022 is available on the village website.
- Staff will be meeting June 1 with representatives of the Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP) to review the draft water department capital improvement plan. Once complete, this plan will provide needed financial information for the water rate analysis.
- Johnson’s Island waterline task group met May 17 and a June meeting date was set. The engineering process continues. The village plans to retain special counsel to assist with the assessment process for this project.
- The village’s application for an EPA equipment grant was not accepted for funding.
- Installation of Bay Point waterlines and meters is progressing.
- Four new picnic tables for Clemons Park and seven for James Park were delivered. Lions Club members have volunteered to assemble the tables.

- Installation of the safety surfacing for the James Park playground should be completed in early June.
- The outdoor musical instruments have been installed at James Park and will be a focal point of the area being developed as a sensory garden.
- In preparation for mayfly season Ohio Edison will be turning off streetlights along Main Street beginning in early June.
- Church Street plans and estimates have not been received yet from the engineer.
- Community volunteers undertook the planting of village flower pots and beds the week of May 16. Thanks goes to volunteer organizer Linda Twarek and her assistants Judy Indorf, Lisa Bauer, Gwen Funderwhite and Natalie Fontana for their efforts.

Joe Gouker wanted to verify which village officials will be present for the informational meeting on Johnson’s Island. He also volunteered to help Mr. White prepare an agenda for this event. Mr. White said he will be mailing a notice to all island property owners in advance of the meeting.

Fiscal Officer

Mrs. Sowers reported the following:

- Any resident who previously opted out of the village electric aggregation program may opt back in by calling 1-866-636-3749.
- Not all of the village’s electric accounts were included in the aggregation program. That has been corrected and all accounts – including streetlighting – will benefit from the aggregation rate.
- Several law firms have been contacted for proposals regarding legal counsel for the Johnson’s Island waterline assessment project.

Police Chief

Chief Thellmann submitted a summary of departmental activity from May 10-24 and reported on a recent theft of a large number of packages stolen from a front porch on East Bayshore Road. The products were removed and the empty boxes discarded in a dumpster a short distance away. The Chief asked that residents be alert and keep an eye out for activity of this type.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel

Mrs. Kukay will have a preliminary meeting with the Administrator and Fiscal Officer before calling a committee meeting to begin tackling the personnel policy updates.

Zoning

Mr. Kovach said he volunteered during the Johnson’s Island task group meeting to put together a summary of the permitting process for the waterline project to show the steps and timeline for completion. He determined, however, that there are specific project permitting details which the village engineers are more knowledgeable so he will defer to them to address these during the June 24 meeting on the island.

Legislative

Mr. Myers plans to meet with Mrs. Kukay to clarify policy responsibilities that may overlap between their committees.

Infrastructure

Mr. Dorko has been contacted by a number of people regarding the poor cellular service at the eastern end of the village. Mr. Myers said the equipment on the tower has been checked and is working properly and will not be upgraded unless Verizon receives enough complaints about dead spots. He encouraged everyone who experiences an outage to contact Verizon.

Parks, Cemetery, Trees

Mrs. Sauvey reported the James Park restroom building has been painted in preparation for the sensory garden mural. The beds will be tilled and prepped prior to participants in the library's summer reading program helping to plant the garden on June 3.

Finance

Mr. Starcher had nothing to report for his committee but did ask to address an additional item under old business.

LEGISLATION

There was no legislation.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. **Radar Park Improvements** – Before proceeding with revised architectural plans, Mr. White sent a request to the National Park Service for their concurrence with the village's intention to simplify the scope of the Radar Park project by converting the existing building to a community meeting space as originally proposed in 1971. Once that is received a public meeting can be scheduled and bidding documents prepared.
- B. **Public Hearing for Zoning Amendment** – Council will hold a public hearing at 5:45 pm on June 28. The applicant, Matthew Richmond, proposes to rezone 1.2 acres at 614 E. Main from Residential-1 to Business.
- C. **Memorial Day in Lakeside 5/29/23** – Reminder that Lakeside Chautauqua will host this year's Memorial Day services on May 29.
- D. **Clemons Street Parking Complaint** – Mr. Starcher received complaints from Clemons Street residents about cars being parked on the pavement by persons patronizing nearby businesses. The Infrastructure Committee will schedule a meeting at Clemons Street to assess the situation.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Recommendation from Finance Committee regarding 2.2 mill levy** – On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, Mr. Starcher moved to seek a replacement this year of the 2.2 mill levy for general operating expenses. Second by Mr. Dorko. Vote: Mr. Dorko-yes, Mr. Kovach-yes, Mrs. Kukay-yes, Mr. Myers-yes, Mrs. Sauvey-yes, Mr. Starcher-yes. Motion carried.
- B. **Request by Lions to use hydrant at Lakepoint Park** – Council had no objections to a request from the Lions Club to obtain water from the hydrant near Lakepoint Park for the purpose of power washing the picnic tables and shed.

- C. **Request for portable toilet at 214 E. Main** – Mayor Bird received a request to locate a portable toilet on village owned property at 214 E. Main St. across from Clemons Park. The Mayor referred this request to the Parks Committee for study and a recommendation.
- D. **Date for Johnson’s Island public meeting** – Mr. White stated an informational meeting will be held Saturday, June 24 at 10:00 a.m. in the Johnson’s Island Clubhouse for the purpose of sharing current information regarding the Johnson’s Island waterline extension.
- E. **Grant opportunity for village trees** – The Ottawa Soil and Water Conservation District and the City of Port Clinton are organizing an effort for communities in the county to collectively apply for a US Forest Service Grant to develop tree management plans and provide funds for tree removals and plantings. Council agreed to have Mr. White send a letter of commitment from the village in support of this effort.

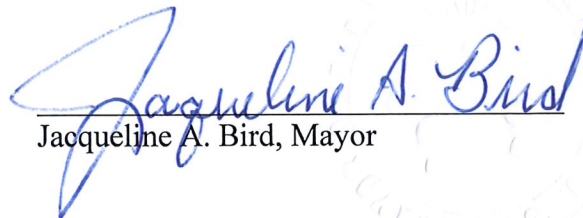
AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion to authorize payment of bills totaling \$29,758.13 was made by Mr. Starcher and seconded by Mr. Dorko. Vote: Mr. Dorko-yes, 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. Meeting adjourned by unanimous vote at 7:20 pm.

APPROVED:


Jacqueline A. Bird, Mayor

Attest:


Rhonda I. Sowers, Fiscal Officer