

VILLAGE OF MARBLEHEAD REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING HELD APRIL 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 Jeffrey White, and Police Chief Kenn Thellmann.

Visitors in attendance were Ryan Stamp, Dale Harwood, Karyn Harwood, Jane Milholland, Linda Waters, Marilyn Miller, Al Mazzeo, Katy Mazzeo, Joe Gouker, and Maureen Kennedy.

MINUTES

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

VISITOR COMMENTS

Dale Harwood announced Confederate Memorial Day would be observed at the cemetery on Johnson's Island at noon on May 4. Members of the Daughters of the Confederacy and descendants of those interred on the island plan to attend.

Marilyn Miller was present to express concern about a notice she received from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources informing of plans by the adjacent property owner to construct a waterfront patio next to her home. The property is owned by the Wave Hotel which is currently being renovated across the street. Mrs. Miller is very concerned the patio will eventually evolve into a covered structure used for entertainment. She encouraged everyone to voice objections to ODNR during the public comment period.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mayor

Mayor Starcher stated he and Mr. White will meet with a representative from CT Consultants to try to determine why there is still a drainage issue on properties northeast of the Elliott and Stone Street intersection.

Administrator

Mr. White reported the following:

- The Johnson's Island task group met April 17. Most of the permitting items are still in progress but the group did receive notice that Ohio EPA approved the engineering plans.
- Rehabilitation of the #1 clarifier was completed. Work on the #2 clarifier is planned for next year.
- The US EPA recently issued its first-ever standards to control exposure to PFAS, also known as "forever chemicals" considered hazardous, long-lasting and thought to cause cancer. Water systems have three years to complete the initial monitoring. State-level rules will be established in the near future.
- Corso's Landscape completed grading and seeding in the playground area of James Park.
- The Park District of Ottawa County is seeking public input for the Marblehead Peninsula Trail Feasibility Study. A survey is currently available online.

- Despite improvements made last year, the property at 922 Elliott is still experiencing flooding from stormwater runoff. A site meeting is being planned to determine whether there is anything further that can be done regarding the problem.
- Terri Cassel, Director of the Marblehead Peninsula Chamber of Commerce advised the Mayfly Festival, initially planned for June 15 in James Park, will not be held.

Fiscal Officer

Mrs. Sowers reported the following:

- She filed paperwork with the Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA) acknowledging the total of the WSRLA loan for the Johnson's Island waterline design is \$521,142 and the first payment amount of \$52,114.20 will be due by July 1.
- Notices were sent to property owners who list short-term rentals on VRBO and Airbnb advising they need to collect and remit lodging tax to the village. Two of ten owners have responded and registered. Solicitor Barney sent certified letters to those who have not complied with previous notices.
- Received Auditor of State Bulletin 2024-03 containing information and actual examples of payment re-direct and email compromise schemes which resulted in financial losses to government entities. The bulletin lists guidelines to protect against cybercriminals and warned that public employees who fail to follow the guidelines could be held personally liable for any cyber loss of funds.
- This year's Ohio Plan insurance renewal application includes a series of new cybersecurity questions which could impact coverage. Firelands IT Services is reviewing the questions on the village's behalf.

In response to a question from Joe Gouker, Mrs. Sowers explained that the original plan for the WSRLA design loan was to roll it into the construction loan meaning repayment would not begin until construction was completed. Delays in permitting prevented bidding in time to obtain a construction loan before the due date of the first design loan payment. The loan payments will come from the Water Revenue Fund which will eventually be reimbursed by assessments.

Police Chief

Chief Thellmann submitted a written report of recent activity and added that invitations for the May 27 Memorial Day service were sent to participants. The Chief also asked for clarification on filling the sergeant position. Mr. Kovach said there are spending concerns that need to be addressed by the finance committee before further action on the sergeant's position.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Zoning

Mr. Kennedy had nothing to report.

Finance

Mr. Kovach had nothing to report.

Legislative

Mr. Walker is waiting for advice from the solicitor regarding legislative updates.

Personnel

Mrs. Kukay had nothing to report.

Parks, Cemetery

Mrs. Sauvey said the Parks Committee will meet at 3:30 pm on Friday, May 3.

Infrastructure

Mr. Dorko had nothing to report for his committee but stated he will be having surgery May 17 and will miss the May 22 council meeting.

Excuse Dean Dorko from May 22 regular meeting

Mrs. Kukay moved to excuse Dean Dorko from the May 22 regular council meeting. 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.

LEGISLATION

President Pro Tempore Dorko read the following legislation by title only:

A. RESOLUTION NO. 2-2024 – Resolution Authorizing Participation in the ODOT Road Salt Contracts Awarded in 2024 and Declaring an Emergency

Motion to waive three readings on three separate occasions made by Mr. Dorko with 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.

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

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2-2024 made by Mrs. Kukay with second by Mr. Kennedy. Vote: Mr. Dorko-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes, Mr. Kovach-yes, Mrs. Kukay-yes, Mrs. Sauvey-yes, Mr. Walker-yes. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. **Informational meeting for water rates** – Council will host an informational meeting on Thursday, May 21 at 6:30 pm in the Danbury High School Auditorium for the purpose of presenting water rate information. The finance committee has spent the past year preparing a comprehensive rate analysis with help from the Great Lakes Community Assistance Program (RCAP). Included in the analysis are comparisons of projected costs to obtain water from the Ottawa County regional system. RCAP representatives will be on hand at the informational meeting to present the results of the study.
- B. **Radar Park update** – Mr. White informed council no bids were received for the Radar Park improvement project. He advised the National Parks Service that the project will not be able to proceed as planned and asked for input on other possible options for the park building. Mrs. Sowers reminded council that the ARPA funds which council planned to use for this project will need to be allocated for another project by the end of 2024.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Discussion/action on lease of 418 W. Main** – Mrs. Sowers was contacted by someone interested in using the gazebo in front of 418 W. Main for a commercial venture this summer. She advised that the law requires the village to advertise for bids for six consecutive weeks prior to entering into a lease of any village owned property. Because this was a revenue producing property, it is not tax exempt so the village has been paying

real estate taxes on it even though it has not had a tenant for the past two years. She asked if council would like to advertise for bids to lease or whether they would like to discontinue leasing and file paperwork to make it tax-exempt. Discussion followed with mixed opinions. It was the consensus to seek public input before deciding.

- B. **Streetlight turn-off for mayflies** – Council agreed to once again have Ohio Edison turn off lights along Main Street for mayfly season to prevent attracting the aquatic insects when they hatch in late spring and early summer.

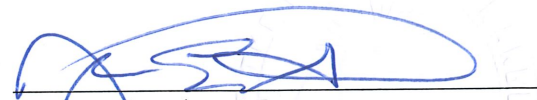
AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion to authorize payment of bills totaling \$22,208.02 was made by Mr. Dorko and seconded by Mr. Kovach. 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