



# City of Mentor-on-the-Lake

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## MINUTES REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL CITY OF MENTOR-ON-THE-LAKE MARCH 12, 2019

The Regular Meeting of Council of March 12, 2019, for the City of Mentor-on-the-Lake, Ohio, was called to Order at 7:00 P.M. by Council President Desirea Thompson.

**CALL TO ORDER:** PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

**ROLL CALL:**

Aye: **At Large:** JIM LUNDER, Vice President  
Aye: **Ward 3:** ROB JOHNSON  
Aye: **At Large:** KEVIN BITTNER  
Aye: **At Large:** PRESTON WOLK  
**Ward 1:** DAVID CHABUT (Absent/Excused)  
Aye: **Ward 2:** PAUL MORRIS  
Aye: **Ward 4:** DESIREA THOMPSON, President

**READING OF MINUTES:** Regular Meeting of Council – February 26, 2019

**MOTION MADE BY MR. JOHNSON,** Seconded by Mr. Bittner, for Approval of the Minutes of the February 26, 2019, Regular Meeting of Council. **ROLL CALL:** Ayes: Council Member Lunder, Johnson, Bittner, Wolk, Morris, Thompson. Nays: None.

**MOTION CARRIED:** 6/0

**CORRESPONDENCE:** (None)

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

**Mayor & Safety Director – Mr. Eva**

Mayor Eva advised he had attended the March 4, 2019, meeting of the Lake County General Health District Advisory Council, which is an annual meeting. He was able to get an overview of all their Lake Health programs. He has this material in his office if anyone wishes to see it. They always encourage us to have them come to a meeting if there are any questions from Council or the public.

Mayor Eva stated he has received the initial drawings for the library branch expansion. They are adding a meeting room and a proposal to add about 45 parking spaces. They hope to get started once the drawings are approved.

**Administrative Director – Mrs. Bartone**

Mrs. Bartone advised Ordinance No. 2019-O-04 is on the Agenda tonight for First Reading. This is regarding the credit card and purchasing policy for the City. The State passed HB-312 in November 2018, and even though we are a Charter City and are not required to perform exactly as they require, it is still in the best interest of the City to tighten up its credit card policies. Mr. Lyons has requested this be passed tonight on First Reading.

**Law Director – Mr. Lyons**

Mr. Lyons followed up on Mrs. Bartone's report. The State passed HB-312 requiring all cities, villages, townships, any local governments, to pass a formal credit card policy. He put this Ordinance together from material being circulated from some of the other cities, and he is recommending that it get passed. He knows the City has one credit card and in order to use it, they have to go to Mrs. Bartone with a purchase order. There is no plan to change that with this Ordinance. It does limit liability to the City. This just formalizes a policy already in place. When the Auditors come to the City, they will be looking for these types of policies. He cannot think of any reason not to pass this as it protects the City and the people who use the credit card.

**City Engineer – Mr. Sayles (No Report)**

**Fire Chief – Mr. Pechatsko**

Chief Pechatsko gave the Fire Department Report for February, 2019. For the month of February 2019 there were a total of 109 calls for service as follows: Rescue/EMS – 74 calls, one of which was for an overdose requiring Narcan; Fire/Service – 25 calls; and Invalid Assist – 10 calls.

The Fire Prevention Report for February 2019: the Fire Prevention Officer attended the Lake County fire prevention meeting where the State Fire Marshal talked about rules and regulations regarding health care facilities and training employees. A hood test of Angie's Pizza was conducted; there was alarm testing of MHYC mini-storage and Andrews Place; inspections were conducted at Lakeshore Animal Hospital, Lakeshore Laundromat, Tami's Touch Styling, Barber Shop, Cal's Marathon, Attitudes, Verizon Wireless, Mr. Hero, Citizens Bank, and Eagle Loan Company.

Department Training for February consisted of the EMS drill presented by Lake Health the first three Mondays of the month; Sunday, February 10, 2019, the training subject was fire ventilation; and on Wednesday, February 27, 2019, the training subject was patient airway management.

Chief Pechatsko stated he wanted to clarify his comment from last night's Safety Committee Meeting. In no way did he mean to give the impression that the decision made was made strictly by the City Administration. He was merely stating that the City Administration had brought up the possibility of hiring another full-time firefighter and changing to a 24/48 shift if the budget would work out that way. He was asked if he thought it would work, and he said yes, he believed it could.

**QUESTIONS TO ADMINISTRATION AND DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

Council Member Wolk asked Mrs. Bartone when the Auditors are coming. Mrs. Bartone advised on Thursday. Council Member Wolk asked if this was the reason why Ordinance No. 2019-O-04 should be passed tonight. Mrs. Bartone stated that was an additional reason.

## **BOARD/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS:**

### **Parks & Recreation Board / February 28, 2019 / Mr. Lunder**

Council Vice President Lunder advised the Parks & Recreation Board met on February 28, 2019, at 7:14 P.M. Present were Chairperson Michelle Moore, Meredith Higgins, Carol Stafinski, Dorinda Myers, Council Vice President Lunder, Council President Thompson, and Mayor Eva. The Board discussed the cash donations from Fill the Cruiser and the car wash events. This money was used to replenish the school supplies at Lake Elementary. All money has been exhausted. The meeting adjourned at 7:31 P.M.

### **Planning & Zoning Commission / March 4, 2019 / Mr. Johnson**

Council Member Johnson advised the Planning & Zoning Commission met on Monday, March 4, 2019, at 7:00 P.M. The first order of business was a fence variance at 6027 Reynolds Road. The fencing in the front of the yard was denied, the rest of the fence was approved. The next order of business was a conditional use permit for the Crooked Corner at 5816 Andrews Road. One food truck was approved, and the Commission asked for him to return with plans for the layout for additional food trucks. He wants to have up to seven food trucks there to create a food truck park.

### **Safety Committee / March 11, 2019 / Mr. Morris**

Council Member Morris advised the Safety Committee met on March 11, 2019, at 7:00 P.M. to discuss proposed changes in the Fire Department staffing. Present were Council Members Morris, Wolk, Bittner, Johnson, Council Vice President Lunder, Council President Thompson, Mayor Eva, Fire Chief Jamie Pechatsko, retired Chief Mahoney, Battalion Chief Huelsman, Lt. Boomer, many firefighters from the part-time ranks and one full-time firefighter, and resident Diana Remaley. The meeting started off with an explanation of the proposed changes to the Fire Department staffing by Mayor Eva and Chief Pechatsko. The proposed changes would result in hiring another full-time firefighter, permitting the three full-time firefighters on 24/48 hour shifts, and leaving the full-time Lieutenant on day shift. The rest of the time would be supplemented with part-time staff. This would result in a three-man shift around the clock and possibly a four man shift counting Chief Pechatsko when he is on duty. It was presented that a three-man shift potentially violates State law. The meeting was opened to anyone for comments. Many of the part-time firefighters spoke about concerns with the operation of the Fire Department as it is as well as with the proposal. There is a concern that the change would result in reduction of part-time hours. Some have indicated they might leave if the plan is implemented. The issue of pay parity with the police was also discussed. They are substantially behind the Police Department. Mrs. Remaley spoke concerning the lack of support for the firefighters and money not being spent to support them. Full-time Firefighter Jeremy Campaign spoke concerning the advantages of the proposal. Council Members also had questions and comments concerning the proposal and concerns that were discussed at the meeting. Council Member Bittner pointed out that this appears to be an increase in cost with no increase in service. There was discussion that there was no solid plan in place to implement the change. The Committee requested that the Mayor draft a plan for adding the fourth full-time firefighter during the day and adding a fourth part-time firefighter at night and on the weekends. He was also asked to draft a plan not adding the next full-time firefighter, placing the three current ones on shifts, and use the money from the fourth full-time firefighter to hiring more part-time firefighters and give the part-time firefighters an increase to bring them to parity. A motion was made by Council Member Wolk to amend the current budget to move the money from the full-time line to the part-time line so that the part-time shifts would remain the same. All of the Committee Members supported the motion as did some of the other Council Members present, and it will be presented at the next Regular Meeting of Council. The meeting adjourned at 8:48 P.M.

**7:12 P.M. EXECUTIVE SESSION OF COUNCIL**

**MOTION MADE BY MR. WOLK**, Seconded by Mr. Morris, to move into Executive Session to discuss a spending concern in relationship to an employee of the City. **ROLL CALL:** Ayes: Council Member Lunder, Johnson, Bittner, Wolk, Morris, Thompson. Nays: None.

**MOTION CARRIED: 6/0**

**7:23 P.M. COUNCIL RECONVENED.**

**MOTION MADE BY MR. MORRIS**, Seconded by Mr. Lunder, to reconvene. **ROLL CALL:** Ayes: Council Member Lunder, Johnson, Bittner, Wolk, Morris, Thompson. Nays: None.

**MOTION CARRIED: 6/0**

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK: 7:24 P.M.**

Scott Maynor, President, Northern Ohio Firefighters Association. Mr. Maynor was here tonight to speak on behalf of the firefighters, and thanked Council for allowing him to speak. They are a regional association of firefighters from five different Counties, Cuyahoga, Summit, Lake, Wayne, and Portage. The organization has a history of service and knows the importance of working with local and state governments to promote issues important to firefighters and the communities they serve. He was here tonight to speak in favor of adding one full-time firefighter/paramedic to the Mentor-on-the-Lake Fire Department. He believes in promoting the use of full-time employees in the fire service. As a union leader, he also promotes union membership and is a proud member of the International Association of Firefighters. His organization engages in spirited debate over the issue of part-time firefighters. He is not here today to demonize part-time firefighters. He understands there are two sides to this issue. While he does not work part-time as a firefighter himself, many of his friends do. Those friends have conveyed to him the benefits of working part-time. However, he believes it is in the best interest of the City of Mentor-on-the-Lake to go forward with the plan to add a full-time firefighter. In his experience, full-time employees have a higher rate of productivity, better work consistency, and higher employee loyalty and focus. While he admits part-time firefighters often cost less in terms of wages and benefits, this does not tell the whole story. Many part-time firefighters who do not work full-time as a firefighter have their eye on moving into a full-time position of their own. In the case of firefighters who work part-time on their days off, they have a primary responsibility to their full-time department, and rightfully so. The full-time employee is providing them with livable wages, health care, vacation time, and retirement benefits. As firefighters, their goal is to save lives and property and arrive home safely to their families. As a union leader, his goal is to do everything he can to help firefighters earn a livable wage, provide for their families, feel a part of the community they serve, and to make the fire service a little better for those that will continue in this profession after we are gone. He believes hiring full-time firefighters is one way to accomplish these goals. Finally, he commended the City for considering different and creative ways to add full-time staffing. There are not a lot of cities or departments out there who are increasing firefighters right now, and the fact this is being taken into consideration should be commended. He again thanked Council for listening to him on this important issue.

Brian Dunlap, also not a resident, and was with the representatives from the Northern Ohio Firefighter's Association. He lives in Broadview Heights, and shared an experience they had in Broadview Heights in 1995 when they went from a full part-time department to a career combination department. He too applauds the City for moving forward in today's world with all the things that are changing and happening; with Homeland Security; decisions that have to be made by the Administration, Law Director, Mayor and Safety Director, Fire Chief. They started with twelve guys in 1995 and now have a 32-man Department. He has been in Broadview Heights for a number of years, and can be liked and disliked by firemen. He encouraged a full-time department, but was against building a new fire station; sometimes you have to put the money where it belongs and manpower was where it was at. The 24-hour manning was very instrumental and very positive for their Safety Director at the time. There was a certain level of accountability being there 24 hours and full-time. Accountability was first and foremost they noticed

a huge thing with. Second was manageability of the Fire Chief to manage that work force which became more dependable because of their obligation to the residents first and foremost. The last thing was the long-term dependability. He jokes with firefighters that there are two things firefighters do not like. They don't like change, and they don't like when people who make changes. He applauds what the City is doing moving forward in today's world, and thanked Council for their time.

Patrick Lovejoy, Vice-President, Northern Ohio Firefighters Association. He wanted to speak this evening. He sympathizes as there are difficult decisions to be made; he has been in this position before, so he knows. His community, the Village of Richfield, had this same problem. He wanted to say that the decision Council makes is very important for the community. It was a great decision when Richfield made the decision to go to a shift schedule that brought in more employees in and made it a more desirable place to work for the employees there. They have a full-time schedule and part-timers that fill in other places. It is possible for accommodation departments to work. Mentor is an accommodation department that promotes a lot within the department. He applauds Council for looking into this, it is a difficult decision to make, and he hopes the right decision is made.

**CLOSED OPEN TO THE PUBLIC SECTION: 7:31 P.M.**

**LEGISLATION BEFORE COUNCIL:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2019-R-01 (THIRD READING)**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR TO PERFORM ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO ACCEPT NORTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL (NOPEC) 2019 ENERGIZED COMMUNITY GRANT(S) FUNDS

**MOTION MADE BY MR. MORRIS**, Seconded by Mr. Johnson, for Passage of Resolution No. 2019-R-01. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Council Member Lunder, Johnson, Bittner, Wolk, Morris, Thompson.  
Nays: None.

**MOTION CARRIED: 6/0**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2019-R-03 (THIRD READING)**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR TO SELL SURPLUS CITY PROPERTY BY WAY OF INTERNET AUCTION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

**MOTION MADE BY MR. MORRIS**, Seconded by Mr. Johnson, for Passage of Resolution No. 2019-R-03. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Council Member Lunder, Johnson, Bittner, Wolk, Morris, Thompson.  
Nays: None.

**MOTION CARRIED: 6/0**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2019-O-02 (THIRD READING)**

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE COMPENSATION OF ELECTED AND APPOINTED SALARIED AND HOURLY EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF MENTOR-ON-THE-LAKE; REPEALING ANY AND ALL OTHER ORDINANCES AND PARTS THEREOF WHICH MAY BE INCONSISTENT HERewith OR WHICH MAY BE REDUNDANT HERETO; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

**MOTION MADE BY MR. JOHNSON**, Seconded by Mr. Morris, for Passage of Ordinance No. 2019-O-02. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Council Member Lunder, Johnson, Bittner, Wolk, Morris, Thompson.  
Nays: None.

**MOTION CARRIED: 6/0**

**LEGISLATION BEFORE COUNCIL (Continued):**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2019-O-03 (THIRD READING)**

**AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF MENTOR-ON-THE-LAKE FOR THE YEAR 2019, REPEALING ANY ORDINANCE PRIOR THERETO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Council Member Johnson asked for discussion. He heard last night there was a desire for a couple of different proposals for the Fire Department budget. What he is going to propose is that tonight Council amend the budget back to what it was previously until Council reviews the new proposals and then Council can revisit the budget for that. The other option is that the budget be tabled completely. Mrs. Bartone stated she was confused as to restoring the budget to which state. Council Member Johnson said remove the full-time firefighter, restore the part-time firefighters, until the requested proposals that have been made are brought to Council for review. Then Council can revisit the proposed appropriations for the Fire Department. It is either table the whole budget or if that was ok. Council Member Johnson said he would make a motion to amend. He asked if Council President Thompson wanted him to read all the line items. Council President Thompson said no, thank you. Council Member Johnson said ok, there is a long list, and he will pass them on to Mrs. Bartone. Council Member Johnson said the motion is to amend what the Department request is for 2019 to the lines and sections where there are no additional full-time firefighter. Those numbers all change to where there is no additional FT. Mrs. Bartone suggested, for simplification, since Council is passing lump sums, since the additional money came from the General Fund, would be to reduce the General Fund, Fire Personnel Services, by she would guess \$60,000.00, Council could even bump that up to \$70,000.00 since it is being revisited anyway which would guarantee it. Council Member Wolk asked Council Member Johnson if copies could be made of his proposed line items so everyone could see his proposals. Council Member Johnson said sure, these are the line items and asked if Council Member Wolk had a copy of the Ordinance, which he did. Council Member Johnson asked Mrs. Bartone where she was recommending the reduction be made. Mrs. Bartone stated under General Fund, Page 2, Fire Department Personnel Services, from \$118,800.00, which will leave enough money for part-time additional funds which was reduced. Council Member Bittner for clarification asked if this was being reduced to keep the staffing where we are at currently, we want a better proposal of the possibility of going to 4-man shifts including another full-timer to just adding another full-timer, put them on their shift work, leaving the part-time staff the way it is, and going to a 4-man shift. There were some other proposals that other Council Members want to see. If they can make it happen as Council, maybe possibly make everybody happy. Mrs. Bartone said there also had to be an adjustment to the General Fund total, Page 4.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. JOHNSON**, Seconded by Mr. Morris, to amend the budget at Page 2, Fire Department Personnel Services, by reducing that amount by \$70,000.00, and at Page 4 to adjust the total by the reduction of \$70,000.00. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Council Member Lunder, Johnson, Bittner, Wolk, Morris, Thompson. Nays: None.

**MOTION CARRIED: 6/0**

Council Member Johnson asked for more discussion, and asked if there was something else Council was supposed to amend, to add in, was it the ADP or was it NOPEC? Mrs. Bartone stated it was not in Council's budget, it is in this budget. Council Member Johnson said he just wanted to make sure.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. MORRIS**, Seconded by Mr. Johnson, for Passage of Ordinance No. 2019-O-03, As Amended. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Council Member Lunder, Johnson, Bittner, Wolk, Morris, Thompson. Nays: None.

**MOTION CARRIED: 6/0**

**LEGISLATION BEFORE COUNCIL (Continued):**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2019-O-04**

**AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A NEW CREDIT/PURCHASING CARD POLICY FOR THE CITY OF MENTOR ON THE LAKE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

**MOTION MADE BY MR. JOHNSON**, Seconded by Mr. Lunder, for Suspension of the Rules. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Council Member Lunder, Johnson, Bittner, Wolk, Morris, Thompson. Nays: None.  
**MOTION CARRIED: 6/0**

**MOTION MADE BY MR. JOHNSON**, Seconded by Mr. Morris, for Passage of Ordinance No. 2019-O-04. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Council Member Lunder, Johnson, Bittner, Wolk, Morris, Thompson. Nays: None.

**MOTION CARRIED: 6/0**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Council Vice President Lunder advised, regarding the complaints about CCA from residents, all of the disputes have been cleared up and taken care of.

Council Member Morris asked Mayor Eva if anyone has heard from any of the Chagrin Drive residents about their complaints with the water company yet or have they been completed. Mayor Eva said, when you say completed, Mr. Bowers has completed everything from when they were here for the Council Meeting, all of their concerns. It also looks like at this point that they do not like the idea of Mr. Bowers' proposal to put up another fence. Mayor Eva did hear from a resident at the corner of Salida and Chagrin who proposed that Aqua Ohio buy every house on the east side of the street. Aqua Ohio came back and said they were not going to do that. Council President Thompson said that would make things easier though. Council Member Johnson said then the west side of the street would want their houses bought also. Mayor Eva said that was the latest from last week that he knows of.

**NEW BUSINESS:** (None)

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK: 7:44 P.M.**

**CLOSED OPEN TO THE PUBLIC SECTION: 7:45 P.M.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SETTING OF MEETINGS:**

Ordinance Committee	Monday, March 25, 2019, at 6:00 P.M.
Parks & Recreation Board	Thursday, March 28, 2019, at 7:00 P.M.

Council President Thompson asked Mayor Eva when he might have the reports and stats ready for the Fire Department, so it can be scheduled and so the firemen are not hanging on that. Mayor Eva said the Auditor is at City Hall this week. Council President Thompson asked if they are only here for a week? Mrs. Bartone said they would probably be here, give or take, a month. Mayor Eva said maybe two weeks for the proposals. Council President Thompson suggested this be held off until the next Council Meeting. She noted there are a number of firefighters here tonight, and she wanted them to know Council will work on this and will make it right as best it can.

Regular Agenda Meeting	Thursday, March 21, 2019, at 6:00 P.M.
Regular Council Meeting	Tuesday, March 26, 2019, at 7:00 P.M.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION MADE BY MR. MORRIS**, Seconded by Mr. Lunder, for Adjournment. ROLL CALL:  
Ayes: Council Member Lunder, Johnson, Bittner, Wolk, Morris, Thompson. Nays: None.  
**MOTION CARRIED: 6/0**

The Regular Meeting of Council adjourned at 7:47 P.M.

**APPROVED:**

March 26, 2019  
Date

Desiree Thompson  
Desiree Thompson  
President of Council

Attest: Jose M. Saxe  
Clerk of Council