



City of Mentor-on-the-Lake

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www.CityMOL.org

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL CITY OF MENTOR-ON-THE-LAKE AUGUST 22, 2023

The Regular Meeting of Council for the City of Mentor-on-the-Lake for August 22, 2023, was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Council President Rob Johnson.

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:

Aye	At Large:	MICHELLE MOORE, Vice President
Aye	Ward 4:	DESIREA THOMPSON
Aye	Ward 2:	PAUL MORRIS
Aye	At Large:	KEVIN BITTNER
Aye	Ward 1:	DAVID CHABUT
Aye	At Large:	JIM LUNDER
Aye	Ward 3:	ROB JOHNSON, President

READING OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting of Council – July 25, 2023

MOTION MADE BY MR. MORRIS, Seconded by Mr. Bittner, for Approval of the Minutes of the July 25, 2023, Regular Meeting of Council. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Council Member Moore, Thompson, Morris, Bittner, Chabut, Lunder, Johnson. Nays: None.

MOTION CARRIED: 7/0

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mrs. Thompson advised she and several other Members of Council had been contacted by Diane Faehnrich, 7723 Salida Road, regarding trespassing and destruction of her property by her neighbor. A meeting has been scheduled at her home on Tuesday at 4:00 P.M. with the Administration, Police Chief, and a couple of other Council Members.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

Mayor and Safety Director - Mr. Eva

Mayor Eva advised he had given all Members of Council a hand-out from Jim Turosky, Service Department Foreman, regarding the City of Mentor-on-the-Lake 2024 Banner Program, and explained the banner program to the residents at tonight's meeting. This is a tribute to recognize and honor our residents and their immediate family members who are currently serving or who have served our County in the Armed Forces. Other cities have this program, and Mr. Turosky researched this and was able to find someone who can do these banners.

Mayor Eva stated he had received an email from Tim Lannon, City Engineer, advising the Southland Storm Water Project is moving forward. If all goes as planned, the City is line to get a \$350,000.00 grant, and the funds will be available July 1, 2024. Final approval is still needed, but Mr. Lannon feels the City can start

going out to get bids next May and June, for a contract after July 1, 2024. It looks like Southland can be done by the end of 2024.

The City's Charter is reviewed every ten years, and the City is looking for volunteers to participate in the Charter Review Commission. If anyone is interested, please send a letter of interest to the Council Clerk at

The Fall Festival will be held at City Hall on Saturday, September 9, 2023, from 2:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. We're always looking for volunteers. Please contact City Hall if you would like to volunteer.

Mayor Eva has been contacted by Wendy Zele, First Energy, who sent over information regarding the power reliability improvements First Energy is reviewing/making to the Mark substation. Mayor Eva reviewed what First Energy has been working on. As far as what happened last week, the residents on Salida Drive experienced an outage on 8/17/23 due to a tree off the right of way that brought down power lines. This tree top broke off and damaged the electrical secondaries. She was explaining that with the tree trimming, they will do the right of way, but in this case when a tree is outside the right of way, it is the property owner's responsibility.

Mayor Eva placed a Memo in everybody's mail box, dated August 18, 2023, regarding the use of Mentor-on-the-Lake assigned emails. This has also been reviewed by Mr. Lyons. Mayor Eva read the Memo which was to remind everyone about the use of City email accounts that are issued to employees and elected officials and are only to be used for City related purposes. It may not be used for any purpose other than official City governmental matters. This includes a prohibition on any matters related to private business purposes for any City email account holder or for organizations involved with such City email user. In addition, an employee's position or title should not be used in any manner other than for City related purposes. The personal use of City issued emails has been a subject of concern in the past, and the solution has been, and continues to be, that the emails are for City related uses only.

Mayor Eva read the Fire Department Report for July 2023. In July 2023, there were a total of 149 calls for service as follows: Fire/Service – 52 calls; EMS calls – 97, of which there were 20 calls for invalid assist and 3 calls for an overdose requiring Narcan. In July the Fire Department oversaw the annual fireworks show at Mentor Harbor Yacht Club. The annual flow testing of the S.C.B.A. packs was completed. The annual pump testing of the fire trucks has begun. New business inspections were completed for Bubbakoos Burritos, Nova Plus, Lakeshore Smokes, and Happy Tails Pet Sully. Service anniversaries in July were Battalion Chief Konitsky – 32 years, Chief Pechatsko – 25 years, and Firefighter Campaign – 13 years. A couple of weeks ago a new Firefighter/Paramedic was sworn in, Jack Hann. He has certifications as a Firefighter 2 Paramedic and is also a full-time firefighter with the City of Kirtland. He also lives in the City of Mentor-on-the-Lake.

Mayor Eva advised the Mentor Public Library Lake Branch turns 25, and this Saturday, August 26, 2023, they are having a carnival there from 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. He is also going to drop off a Proclamation to them for their 25th Anniversary.

Administrative Director - Mr. Ness

Mr. Ness stated the Service Department did a fantastic job on the new sign in front of City Hall. They are working on getting landscaping around it soon. Training on programming the sign will be on Friday.

The curtain will be shipped by September 19th, and he hopes it will be here before October.

He has also spoken to Wendy Zele recently and reached out to Jenny Costanzo with Nopec. It turns out we can switch our traffic and street light accounts to Nopec which will save us about \$657.00 per month starting in October.

Law Director – Mr. Lyons

Mr. Lyons had no report, but did have some historical background about the purchase of the land for the specific purpose of building a library. There was a recent addition to the library which was partially funded by money left to the Mentor-on-the-Lake Library Branch by a person who thought very highly of the Library.

Police Chief – Mr. Forsythe

Chief Forsythe advised 3 personnel have been hired. Chris Stolarski has been hired as a Full-Time Patrol Officer. Patrol is back to full staff once the new hire is done with field training. A full-time dispatcher, Reilley Geyer, has been hired, which will bring them to full staff. He also recently hired a part-time communication officer, Seth Moore.

Chief Forsythe read a letter of commendation to Scott Daubenmire, Clay Braidic, Conner Matson, Kevin Brodzinski, Kristen Storey, and Jennie McPeek for their exceptional work when the worst storm on record hit the City on July 20th, 2023. Jeremy Campaign from the Fire Department assisted Kristen Storey in dispatch until Jeannie McPeek arrived. Scott Daubenmire and Clay Braidic were out in the storm doing their best to help people and received assistance from third-shift officers Conner Matson and Kevin Brodzinski.

Chief Forsythe stated in September, John Gielink, prior to his retirement, secured a 2023 Ford Explorer to replace another police car. He has put in a request for a 2024 Ford Explorer through State Wide Ford. He has been in contact with the Statewide Manager, who recommends we purchase a second vehicle this year, for the reason that prices are going up and continue to go up. In the last three years, the cost has gone from \$45,000.00 to \$54,000.00, and now they are at \$63,000.00. The one secured car in the budget is \$58,250.00. This one is \$63,000.00. By getting a 2023 they will still save money, and there is the possibility if they go for a 2024, they won't get one at all. He has talked to the Mayor and Mr. Ness about where the funds would come from, and is asking Council if they could get a second one this year with the understanding he would not ask for one in next year's budget. Mayor Eva said they were thinking of using ARPA funds but is not sure what will be left from the Police Department remodel and are looking at other line items, and reviewed what changes can wait. As the Chief said, we would like to get two cars as we are not sure when another one will be available. Chief Forsythe said he would keep Council updated as to the progress on the remodel. When he does bring something to Council, he asked that there not be three readings.

QUESTIONS TO ADMINISTRATION AND DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Mrs. Thompson, regarding the storm sewer, asked Mayor Eva if he has a list of streets that have already been completed, and streets that need to be completed. Mayor Eva said from Pinehurst they have done Miami, then Southland. Dahlia would need it the most after Southland. Everything going north/south is done; it's just going the western side of Andrews going this way. The reason they had a high score on Southland is because we have already paid for the engineering. Mrs. Thompson asked how are the streets determined that need to be replaced. Mayor Eva said when they go through after a storm, it pretty much tells them. At one time we thought we could do one a year, but that is not going to happen. To do Southland, with the \$350,000 grant, and probably with a low interest loan, it's still going to be at least \$1,000,000.00. Mrs. Thompson asked if Sharon on the west side has been looked at, and Mayor Eva said he was not sure. Mrs. Thompson said some residents there have been complaining about flooding.

Mr. Lunder asked the Police Chief if there was a deadline to order the car. Chief Forsythe said they don't have them yet. The one secured last year by John Gielink, normally we get a new cruiser around May, but we are still waiting on the new one, and we are supposed to get it next month. He was told it was in their inventory, but we don't want to wait too long as they are going to want to sell it. As long as they know he is working on it, they will hold it.

Mrs. Moore asked if there was a deadline for submitting an interest letter for the Charter Review Committee. Mayor Eva said he believes the ad says until September 7, 2023, but in going back, there has never been a full board after that deadline, so they have had to go out to get members for the Committee. He does not believe it is a hard deadline.

BOARD/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS:

Planning and Zoning Commission / August 7, 2023 / Mr. Chabut

Mr. Chabut advised the Planning and Zoning Commission met on August 7, 2023, at 6:00 P.M. Present were Committee Members Suzanne Cason (Chair), Mike Sweeney, Gary Leonard, Brent Moore, Council Members Chabut, Lunder, Morris, Council President Johnson, Mayor Eva, and some residents. A variance was approved for a driveway at 7648 Primrose. The next Meeting is Monday, September 11, 2023, at 6:00 P.M. The Meeting adjourned at 6:10 P.M.

Zoning Committee / August 10, 2023 / Mr. Chabut

Mr. Lunder advised the Zoning Committee met on August 10, 2023, at 6:00 P.M. Present were Council Members Chabut (Chair), Lunder, Thompson, Bittner, Morris, Council Vice-President Moore, Council President Johnson, and Mayor Eva. The Committee met to review Chapter 893 Community Reinvestment. The Committee approved to send to Council to repeal Chapter 893 of the CRA as of June 30th, 2024, and make an amendment to the repeal that applications must be submitted and approved by June 30th, 2024.

Ordinance Committee / July 13, 2023 / Mr. Bittner

Mr. Bittner advised the Ordinance Committee met on August 21, 2023, at 7:00 P.M. which Meeting was postponed until after the Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting. The Meeting resumed at 7:34 P.M. The purpose of the Meeting was to discuss short term rentals. Present were Council Members Bittner (Chair), Morris, Chabut, Lunder, Council Vice-President Moore, Council President Johnson, Mayor Eva, and members of the public. After a brief discussion, Richmond Heights put a ban on short term rentals on August 11, 2023, and the Committee will wait and see how that works out. At this time no further action will be taken by the Committee. The Meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

Board of Zoning Appeals / August 21, 2023 / Mr. Lunder

Mr. Lunder advised the Board of Zoning Appeals met on August 21, 2023, at 7:00 P.M. to discuss a variance for a garage at 5845 Lake Road. Present were Committee Members Ray Gieling (Chair), Mike Sweeney, Brandi Montgomery, Council Members Lunder, Morris, Council Vice-President Moore, Council President Johnson, Mayor Eva, and Jason Morris, the property owner. The variance was for a garage with a height limit of 20'. The property owner is going for a 22' variance. The variance Was granted. The Meeting adjourned at 7:15 P.M.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK: 7:28 P.M.

Andy Rose, 8027 Linden. Mr. Rose made several comments on keeping the CRA, including having discussions with local business owners, and had suggestions for amending the CRA. He also advised new Rules for CRA's was signed by the Governor in January and went into effect in April.

CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK: 7:35 P.M.

LEGISLATION BEFORE COUNCIL:

ORDINANCE No. 2023-O-07 (THIRD READING) (AMENDED) (ASSIGNED TO COUNCIL OF THE WHOLE)

AN ORDINANCE CREATING NEW ORDINANCE 1022.12 LOCAL TREE LAWN REGULATION NOT INVOLVING UTILITIES AND/OR TELECOMMUNICATION DEVICES.

Mr. Johnson stated this is still assigned to Council of the Whole.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-O-17

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING CHAPTER 893 – COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA

Mr. Johnson advised Ordinance No. 2023-O-17 has been referred back to Council as amended and all Council Members have been given a copy of the amended Ordinance. There was discussion about repealing or not repealing the CRA, including looking into the new Rules regarding CRA's by the State of Ohio. Mr. Johnson referred Ordinance No. 2023-O-17 back to the Zoning Committee to review the new Rules and whether to continue with the residential portion.

OLD BUSINESS (None)

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Johnson advised he is going to be introducing amendments to Council Rules to address one of the things in the Memo from Mayor Eva on regarding use of City emails and certain ethical things he feels should be documented in the Council Rules so that everyone who is on Council currently and in the future are aware of them and agree with them, so we do not have issues in the future. He will have the amendments at the next Council Meeting.

Mayor Eva brought up the inconsistencies with the cases heard by the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Planning and Zoning Commission. There seems to be some disconnect in some of the City Ordinances. He doesn't recall the exact numbers of the Ordinances, but he suggested a change in legislation could make it a little clearer when we get these cases in so there is no confusion what goes to Planning and Zoning and what goes to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. Johnson referred this to the Ordinance Committee to review whether fences on corner lots and driveways should go to Planning and Zoning or the Board of Zoning Appeal. Mayor Eva said when we talk about variances, he looks at it that any variance would be an appeal; and the fence situation and driveways, it could be other things, but these should be looked at. Mr. Ness said, being new, he thought these would go to Planning and Zoning first, and if not approved, then would go to the Board of Zoning Appeals. He also said the fee schedule is different. Mr. Bittner said this was covered in the rental ordinance.

OPEN TO PUBLIC: 7:45 P.M.

CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC: 7:45 P.M.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SETTING OF MEETINGS:

Parks and Recreation Board	Thursday, August 24, 2023, at 6:00 P.M.
Ordinance Committee	Tuesday, August 29, 2023, at 7:00 P.M.
Zoning Committee	Thursday, August 31, 2023, at 6:00 P.M.
Utility Committee	Thursday, August 31, 2023, at 7:00 P.M.
Service Committee	Thursday, August 31, 2023, at 7:30 P.M.
Planning and Zoning Commission	Monday, September 11, 2023, at 6:00 P.M.
Community Development Committee	Thursday, September 14, 2023, at 7:00 P.M.

Next Regular Agenda Meeting
Next Regular Meeting of Council

Thursday, September 7, 2023, at 6:00 P.M.
Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at 7:00 pm

ADJOURNMENT:


MOTION MADE BY MRS. THOMPSON, Seconded by Mr. Morris, for Adjournment. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Council Member Moore, Thompson, Morris, Bittner, Chabut, Lunder, Johnson. Nays: None.

MOTION CARRIED: 7/0

The Regular Meeting of Council Adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

APPROVED:

September 12, 2023
Date



ROBERT JOHNSON
President of Council

Attest: Joyce M. Dore
Clerk of Council