



# City of Mentor-on-the-Lake

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**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**  
**CITY OF MENTOR-ON-THE-LAKE**  
**DECEMBER 12, 2023**  
**7:00 p.m.**

The Regular Meeting of Council for the City of Mentor-on-the-Lake for December 12, 2023, was called to order at 7:00 pm by Council President Rob Johnson.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**READING OF MINUTES:**

Regular Meeting – November 28, 2023

Mr. Johnson stated we will hold off on the Minutes for the November 28, 2023, Regular Meeting of Council, as there are a number of revisions that need to be made.,

**CORRESPONDENCE:** (None)

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

**Mayor & Safety Director - Mr. Eva**

Mayor Eva read the Fire Department Report for November 2023. For the month of November 2023 there were a total of 84 calls for service as follows: Fire/Service – 18 calls; Rescue/EMS – 66 calls, of which there were 7 calls for Invalid Assist and 2 calls for an overdose requiring Narcan. Department training for November: EMS drills presented by UH Lake Health on Pediatrics; Department shift drills for November were EMS on dementia and prehospital implications, Fire – burned, protecting the protectors. During November, personnel attended the Haz. Mat Conference in Solon. Site plans for Dollar General and Chipotle were approved. Service Anniversaries in November: Andrew Leitch – 1 year and Joe Tennyson – 1 year.

Mayor Eva said Mr. Lunder had a question on the ODNR construction information regarding grants. Grants are offered through the Ohio Coastal Management Program and is a minimum one for one match; non-federal funds are required; and funds are provided on a reimbursement basis. Pre-proposals are due in September/October, and funding is for projects beginning no earlier than July 1<sup>st</sup> of the following year.

**Law Director - Mr. Lyons**

Mr. Lyons advised he has submitted an update to the City Income Tax Ordinances as required by Ohio House Bill 33 passed in September of 2023. These are technical changes, and does address some issues regarding you can't

tax City tax on anybody under 18 and also clarifies extensions and penalties as well as other changes. This should be passed by the end of the year.

**QUESTIONS TO ADMINISTRATION AND DEPARTMENT HEADS:** (None)

**BOARD/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS:**

Mr. Johnson advised the Parks and Recreation Board did not meet.

**Planning and Zoning Commission / December 4, 2023 / Mr. Chabut**

Mr. Chabut advised the Planning and Zoning Commission met on December 5, 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 Vice-President Moore, and Council President Johnson, as well as several residents. Mario's Bar presented a request to amend his conditional use permit and requested additional house for the outdoor patio and for a band. The Commission approved the hours but the hours for outdoor music was limited to 10:00 P.M. Ninja Sushi & Hibachi Restaurant requested a renewal of their conditional use permit, and it was granted. The Sommers Group presented their new plans and drawings for Crane's Landing. With a lot of discussion and input from residents, their plan was tabled until the next meeting. The Commission also requested additional information. The next meeting is scheduled for January 8, 29024, at 6:00 P.M. The Meeting adjourned at 7:05 P.M.

**Committee of the Whole / December 5, 2023 / Mrs. Moore**

Mrs. Moore advised the Committee of the Whole met on December 5, 2023. They reviewed the CRA Ordinance, and are ready to send this back to Council. They also reviewed the right-of-way Ordinance. Everything in that appears to be in line with that and the new tree ordinance, and those are ready to be presented back to Council.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK:** 7:06 P.M.

Susan Lenihan, 7359 Salida Road. Ms. Lenihan read her letter to Council in which she thanked Mr. Chabut and Mr. Morris for their service to the Community; she also thanked the Clerk of Council who is retiring. She also had several comments regarding her opposition to the rezoning of the Crane property and the Sommers Group. A copy of her letter is attached.

**CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK:** 7:10 P.M.

**LEGISLATION BEFORE COUNCIL:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-R-33 (THIRD READING) (ASSIGNED TO COUNCIL OF THE WHOLE)**

A RESOLUTION GRANTING PRELIMINARY APPROVAL TO THE PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD) THAT IS PROVIDED FOR IN CHAPTER 1255 OF THE CODIFIED RESOLUTIONS FOR THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS PERMANENT PARCEL NOS. 19-A-093-B-00-015-0, 19-A-093-B-00-016-0, 19-A-093-B-00-017-0, 19-A-093-B-00-018-0, 19-A-093-B-00-019-0, 19-A-093-B-00-020-0, 19-A-093-B-00-021-0, AND 19-A-093-B-00-075-0

Mr. Johnson stated this is still assigned to the Committee as a Whole.

**LEGISLATION BEFORE COUNCIL (Continued):**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-R-40**

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE LAKE COUNTY BUDGET COMMISSION FOR TAX YEAR 2023, AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE LAKE COUNTY AUDITOR AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Johnson said this has been revised to add in the extra levy for the parks. Mrs. Thompson asked if this needed to be at the Auditor's by a certain date. Mayor Eva said yes.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BITTNER**, Seconded by Mr. Morris, for Suspension of the Rules. ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Council Member Moore, Thompson, Morris, Bittner, Chabut, Lunder, Johnson. Nays: None.

**MOTION CARRIED: 7/0**

**MOTION MADE BY MR. MORRIS**, Seconded by Mr. Chabut, for Passage of Resolution No. 2023-R-40.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Council Member Moore, Thompson, Morris, Bittner, Chabut, Lunder, Johnson. Nays: None.

**MOTION CARRIED: 7/0**

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

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

Mr. Johnson advised this is out of the Committee of the Whole, and needs to be amended by removing the grandfather clause and referring to Chapter 1036.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BITTNER**, Seconded by Mrs. Thompson, to amend Ordinance No. 2023-O-07 as presented. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Council Member Moore, Thompson, Morris, Bittner, Chabut, Lunder, Johnson. Nays: None.

**MOTION CARRIED: 7/0**

**MOTION MADE BY MR. MORRIS**, Seconded by Mr. Chabut, for Passage of Ordinance No. 2023-O-07, as amended. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Council Member Moore, Thompson, Morris, Bittner, Chabut, Lunder, Johnson. Nays: None.

**MOTION CARRIED: 7/0**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2023-O-22 (THIRD READING) (ASSIGNED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE)**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CODIFIED ORDINANCES 1036.04(a) BY CREATING NEW SECTION 1036.04(a)(4) IN ORDER TO REGULATE AND DESCRIBE TREES THAT MAY BE PLANTED ON TREE LAWNS OR WITHIN THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY

Mr. Bittner said the Ordinance Committee had two amendments, Section (a) changing it from 5' from any underground lines to 10' and Section (h) changing it from a minimum of 7' to 10'. Mr. Johnson asked what the reason was to changing it to 10'. Mr. Bittner said it was keeping it uniform all together. Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Bittner to explain. Mr. Bittner stated it was 10' from the hydrant and the edge, now it will be 10' overall. Mr. Johnson said if you make it 10' there will basically be no trees on the tree lawn. He will vote no on amending this.

**LEGISLATION BEFORE COUNCIL (Continued):**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2023-O-22 (THIRD READING) (ASSIGNED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE)**  
**(Continued):**

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BITTNER**, Seconded by Mr. Chabut, to amend Ordinance No. 2023-O-022 as presented. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Council Member Bittner. Nays: Council Member Moore, Thompson, Morris, Chabut, Lunder, Johnson.

**MOTION FAILED: 1/6**

Mr. Johnson asked for a motion to amend as previously presented or is there another amendment someone would like to make.

**MOTION MADE BY MRS. THOMPSON**, Seconded by Mr. Morris, to amend Ordinance No. 2023-O-22 as previously presented. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Council Member Moore, Thompson, Morris, Chabut, Lunder, Johnson. Nays: Council Member Bittner.

**MOTION CARRIED: 6/1**

**MOTION MADE BY MRS. THOMPSON**, Seconded by Mr. Morris, for Passage of Ordinance No. 2023-O-22 as previously presented. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Council Member Moore, Thompson, Morris, Chabut, Lunder, Johnson. Nays: Council Member Bittner.

**MOTION CARRIED: 6/1**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2023-O-23 (THIRD READING) (ASSIGNED TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE)**  
**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CODIFIED ORDINANCE 893.04 – EXEMPTIONS FOR COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA**

Mr. Johnson advised everyone should have received the final version of this after the changes discussed at the Committee of the Whole Meeting.

**MOTION MADE BY MRS. THOMPSON**, Seconded by Mr. Morris, to amend Ordinance No. 2023-O-23 as presented. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Council Member Moore, Thompson, Morris, Bittner, Chabut, Lunder, Johnson. Nays: None.

**MOTION CARRIED: 7/0**

**MOTION MADE BY MR. MORRIS**, Seconded by Mrs. Thompson, for Passage of Ordinance No. 2023-O-23, as amended. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Council Member Moore, Thompson, Morris, Chabut, Lunder, Johnson. Nays: Council Member Bittner.

**MOTION CARRIED: 6/1**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2023-O-25 (SECOND READING) (ASSIGNED TO PLANNING AND ZONING)**  
**AN ORDINANCE REZONING PERMANENT PARCEL NOS. 19-A-093-B-00-015-0, 19-A-093-B-00-016-0, 19-A-093-B-00-017-0, 19-A-093-B-00-018-0, 19-A-093-B-00-019-0, 19-A-093-B-00-020-0, 19-A-093-B-00-021-0, AND 19-A-093-B-00-075-0 FROM BUSINESS DISTRICT I AND/OR SINGLE-FAMILY DISTRICT E TO THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF A PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD) THAT IS PROVIDED FOR IN CHAPTER 1255 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES**

Mr. Johnson this is still assigned to Planning and Zoning as well as the Committee of the Whole.

**LEGISLATION BEFORE COUNCIL (Continued):**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2023-O-26**

**AN ORDINANCE LEVYING LIENS FOR EXPENSES INCURRED FOR LAWN MAINTENANCE AND/OR CULVERT REPAIRS**

**MOTION MADE BY MRS. THOMPSON**, Seconded by Mr. Morris, for Suspension of the Rules. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Council Member Moore, Thompson, Morris, Bittner, Chabut, Lunder, Johnson. Nays: None.  
**MOTION CARRIED: 7/0**

**MOTION MADE BY MRS. THOMPSON**, Seconded by Mr. Morris, for Passage of Ordinance No. 2023-O-26. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Council Member Moore, Thompson, Morris, Bittner, Chabut, Lunder, Johnson. Nays: None.  
**MOTION CARRIED: 7/0**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2023-O-27 (SECOND READING)**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CODIFIED ORDINANCE 250.11 – HEALTH BENEFITS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Mrs. Thompson asked if these benefit changes take place on January 1. Mayor Eva said no, they are still negotiating but it looks like the rates will go up so we have to increase the rates which this will do. Mrs. Thompson asked when. Mayor Eva said he believes June, but we are looking at this now because we have to budget. Mr. Johnson said this Ordinance simply states a maximum that the employees will have to pay, and Mrs. Moore asked if this goes from \$150.00 per month to possibly \$200.00 per month as the cap. Mayor Eva said possibly; they looked at it, and the cap would probably affect the family plan, not so much the single.

**MOTION MADE BY MRS. THOMPSON**, Seconded by Mr. Morris, for Suspension of the Rules. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Council Member Moore, Thompson, Morris, Bittner, Chabut, Lunder, Johnson. Nays: None.  
**MOTION CARRIED: 7/0**

**MOTION MADE BY MR. MORRIS**, Seconded by Mrs. Thompson, for Passage of Ordinance No. 2023-O-27. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Council Member Moore, Thompson, Morris, Bittner, Chabut, Lunder, Johnson. Nays: None.  
**MOTION CARRIED: 7/0**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2023-O-32**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE 2023 PAYROLL ORDINANCE 2023-O-03 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Mayor Eva said they were in the process of hiring a part-time housing/zoning inspector and did not have this category in payroll, and this adds that category to payroll. Mr. Bittner asked if this was time-sensitive and Mayor Eva said yes.

**MOTION MADE BY MRS. THOMPSON**, Seconded by Mr. Bittner, for Suspension of the Rules. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Council Member Moore, Thompson, Bittner, Chabut, Lunder, Johnson. Nays: Council Member Morris.  
**MOTION CARRIED: 6/1**

**LEGISLATION BEFORE COUNCIL (Continued):**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2023-O-32 (Continued):**

**MOTION MADE BY MRS. THOMPSON**, Seconded by Mr. Bittner, for Passage of Ordinance No. 2023-O-32.  
ROLL CALL: Ayes: Council Member Moore, Thompson, Morris, Bittner, Chabut, Lunder, Johnson. Nays: None.  
**MOTION CARRIED: 7/0**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2023-O-33**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE 2023 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Mayor Eva said this is an annual adjustment so the funds balance and shows the actual balances.

**MOTION MADE BY MRS. THOMPSON**, Seconded by Mr. Morris, for Suspension of the Rules. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Council Member Moore, Thompson, Morris, Bittner, Chabut, Lunder, Johnson. Nays: None.  
**MOTION CARRIED: 7/0**

**MOTION MADE BY MRS. THOMPSON**, Seconded by Mr. Morris, for Passage of Ordinance No. 2023-O-33.  
ROLL CALL: Ayes: Council Member Moore, Thompson, Morris, Bittner, Chabut, Lunder, Johnson. Nays: None.  
**MOTION CARRIED: 7/0**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2023-O-34**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING VARIOUS SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 891 IN ORDER TO UPDATE THE CITY INCOME TAXES ORDINANCES SO THAT THEY ARE IN COMPLIANCE WITH OHIO HOUSE BILL 33 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Mr. Johnson said Mr. Lyons already spoke to this, and asked if there were any questions. There were none.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. LUNDER**, Seconded by Mr. Chabut, for Suspension of the Rules. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Council Member Moore, Thompson, Morris, Bittner, Chabut, Lunder, Johnson. Nays: None.  
**MOTION CARRIED: 7/0**

**MOTION MADE BY MR. LUNDER**, Seconded by Mr. Chabut, for Passage of Ordinance No. 2023-O-33.  
ROLL CALL: Ayes: Council Member Moore, Thompson, Morris, Bittner, Chabut, Lunder, Johnson. Nays: None.  
**MOTION CARRIED: 7/0**

**OLD BUSINESS:** (None)

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Johnson asked for a motion to amend the Agenda to add Resolution No. 2023-R-41, copies of which he passed out to everyone.

**MOTION MADE BY MRS. THOMPSON**, Seconded by Mr. Bittner to amend the Agenda by adding Resolution No. 2023-R-41. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Council Member Moore, Thompson, Morris, Bittner, Lunder, Chabut, Johnson. Nays: None.  
**MOTION CARRIED: 7/0**

Mr. Johnson then read Resolution No. 2023-R-41.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-R-41**

A RESOLUTION COMMENDING JOYCE M. SAXE FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE AS CLERK OF COUNCIL.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BITTNER**, Seconded by Mr. Morris, for Suspension of the Rules. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Council Member Moore, Thompson, Morris, Bittner, Chabut, Lunder, Johnson. Nays: None.  
**MOTION CARRIED: 7/0**

**MOTION MADE BY MR. MORRIS**, Seconded by Mrs. Thompson, for Passage of Resolution No. 2023-R-41. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Council Member Moore, Thompson, Morris, Bittner, Chabut, Lunder, Johnson. Nays: None.  
**MOTION CARRIED: 7/0**

The Clerk thanked everyone. The Mayor then read a Proclamation for the Clerk commending her on her years of service to the City. She thanked the Mayor. The Clerk was then presented with gifts, which she thanked everyone for.

Mr. Johnson asked for a motion to amend the Agenda to add Resolution No. 2023-R-42, copies of which he passed out to everyone.

**MOTION MADE BY MRS. MOORE**, Seconded by Mrs. Thompson, to amend the Agenda by adding Resolution No. 2023-R-42. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Council Member Moore, Thompson, Morris, Bittner, Lunder, Johnson. Nays: None. Abstain: Council Member Chabut.  
**MOTION CARRIED: 6/0/1**

Mr. Johnson then read Resolution No. 2023-R-42.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-R-42**

A RESOLUTION COMMENDING DAVE CHABUT FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE AS A COUNCIL MEMBER FOR WARD 1.

**MOTION MADE BY MRS. MOORE**, Seconded by Mr. Morris, for Suspension of the Rules. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Council Member Moore, Thompson, Morris, Bittner, Lunder, Johnson. Nays: None. Abstain: Council Member Chabut.  
**MOTION CARRIED: 6/0/1**

**MOTION MADE BY MRS. THOMPSON**, Seconded by Mr. Lunder, for Passage of Resolution No. 2023-R-42. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Council Member Moore, Thompson, Morris, Bittner, Lunder, Johnson. Nays: None. Abstain: Council Member Chabut.  
**MOTION CARRIED: 6/0/1**

Mr. Johnson asked for a motion to amend the Agenda to add Resolution No. 2023-R-43, copies of which he passed out to everyone.

**MOTION MADE BY MRS. MOORE**, Seconded by Mrs. Thompson, to amend the Agenda by adding Resolution No. 2023-R-43. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Council Member Moore, Thompson, Bittner, Chabut, Lunder, Johnson. Nays: None. Abstain: Council Member Morris.  
**MOTION CARRIED: 6/0/1**

Mr. Johnson then read Resolution No. 2023-R-43.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-R-43**

A RESOLUTION COMMENDING PAUL MORRIS FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE AS A COUNCIL MEMBER FOR WARD 2.

**MOTION MADE BY MRS. MOORE**, Seconded by Mrs. Thompson, for Suspension of the Rules. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Council Member Moore, Thompson, Bittner, Chabut, Lunder, Johnson. Nays: None. Abstain: Council Member Morris.

**MOTION CARRIED: 6/0/1**

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BITTNER**, Seconded by Mrs. Thompson, for Passage of Resolution No. 2023-R-43. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Council Member Moore, Thompson, Bittner, Chabut, Lunder, Johnson. Nays: None. Abstain: Council Member Morris.

**MOTION CARRIED: 6/0/1**

Mr. Johnson personally thanked Mr. Chabut and Mr. Morris for their service. They have been outstanding Members of Council. They have not always agreed on every issue, but he thinks we are a much better City because of their service.

Request for Proposals (RFP) – Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Johnson stated everyone has received a copy of the Request for Proposal. Council voted to move forward with a request for proposals, and this is now approving the verbiage of said proposal. He asked for any questions; there were none.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. MORRIS**, Seconded by Mr. Bittner, to approve the verbiage of the Request for Proposal (RFP). ROLL CALL: Ayes: Council Member Moore, Thompson, Morris, Bittner, Johnson. Nays: Council Member Chabut, Lunder.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5/2**

Mr. Johnson the Request for Proposal is now moving forward. This is now in Council's hands. The date for the requests to be back by has been left blank and now needs to be filled in.

Mr. Johnson said everyone should have received a copy of the email regarding preliminary legislation from the State of Ohio for the resurfacing of Munson Road in the City, which is their State road. It is numbered Ordinance No. 2023-O-35. We are not going to try to pass it tonight, this will just be a First Reading, but he would like to amend the Agenda to add this Ordinance so it has First Reading tonight.

**MOTION MADE BY MRS. THOMPSON**, Seconded by Mr. Bittner, to add Ordinance No. 2023-O-35 to the Agenda. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Council Member Moore, Thompson, Morris, Bittner, Chabut, Lunder, Johnson. Nays: None.

**MOTION CARRIED: 7/0**

Mrs. Thompson asked if this had to be done by a certain date. Mr. Johnson said January 29, 2024. Mayor Eva said he signed off on the draft already but they need a certified copy of the Ordinance.

Mrs. Moore asked to make a motion for an amendment to Council Rules at Section 22 amending the length of time for people to speak during the Open to the Public portion of meetings from 10 minutes to 3 minutes. Mr. Johnson asked for discussion. Mrs. Thompson asked what time limits other cities have. Mrs. Moore said 3 to 5 minutes. Mr. Johnson said his preference was to limit it to 5 minutes, then if necessary it can be changed again in the future if needed.



Mr. Morris said he would prefer to change it to 5 minutes. Mr. Johnson reminded everyone the Chair does have discretion to extend that. Mr. Bittner said that was his point as well and would also prefer 5 minutes.

**MOTION MADE BY MRS. MOORE**, Seconded by Mr. Lunder, to amend Council Rules at Section 22 to limit the time to speak during the Open to the Public portion of meetings to 3 minutes. **ROLL CALL:** Ayes: Council Member Moore, Chabut, Lunder. Nays: Council Member Thompson, Morris, Bittner, Johnson.  
**MOTION FAILED: 4/3**

**MOTION MADE BY MR. MORRIS**, Seconded by Mr. Bittner, to change it to 5 minutes. **ROLL CALL:** Ayes: Council Member Moore, Thompson, Morris, Bittner, Chabut, Lunder, Johnson. Nays: None.  
**MOTION CARRIED: 7/0**

Mayor Eva stated the Charter Review Commission will start in 2024. He will ask the Fire Department, Police Department, Administration, to look at the Charter to see if there are any discussion points or ideas that they collectively may want to change in the Charter, and asked Council to do the same thing. Speaking with the Elections Board, he knows there are some inconsistencies in there as far as filing dates and the number of signatures required to get to file. He will get more information on that and pass it on to the Charter Review Commission.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK: 7:41 P.M.**

Jeff Shick, 7533 Salida Road. Mr. Shick recommended getting a clock so Council and the person speaking can see it. Mr. Shick joined in Ms. Lenahan's congratulations to Mr. Chabut and Mr. Morris. He looks forward to staying involved with Council and the Administration, and had several comments about a city plan. He asked to have the City Charter put on the City's website.

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SETTING OF MEETINGS:**

Organizational Meeting of Council	Thursday, January 4, 2024, at 7:00 P.M.
Agenda Meeting	Thursday, January 4, 2024, at 7:45 P.M.
Charter Review Committee	Thursday, January 4, 2024, at 8:00 P.M.
Planning and Zoning Commission	Monday, January 8, 2024, at 6:00 P.M.

Mr. Johnson stated the Public Hearing on Ordinance 2023-O-25 needs to be rescheduled and asked for discussion. The options are January 23<sup>rd</sup> and February 13<sup>th</sup>. After discussion, the **Public Hearing is rescheduled to February 13, 2024, at 7:00 P.M.**

Next Regular Meeting of Council

Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 7:00 P.M.

Mr. Morris asked to take a moment before Adjournment to thank the residents who supported him and let him represent them on Council, and also wanted to thank the people who considered him for Mayor. He also wanted to impart some parting wisdom to everyone and Mayor Eva. There have been multiple comments brought up by Councilman-Elect Gray about a city-wide ditching program. He has not found a particular ordinance, but there was at one time a ditching program where the Service Department went through and checked the ditches on the City streets. He would think this would go a long way in preventing homes from being flooded before the storm sewers can be fixed. He hoped this could be brought back. To Council, you are going to be saddled with a lot of responsibilities. There are a couple of pearls of wisdom he has run across, (1) just because you can doesn't mean you should, think long and hard before you approve what you are going to approve as it affects a lot of people

sometimes, and (2) listen to the residents. This is not your City, not the Mayor's City, it is everybody's City. We have listened to a lot of people complain they do not want Crane's Landing and did not want the Dollar Store. We could not stop the Dollar Store but Council can stop Crane's Landing. The PUD does not have to be applied to that property. Keep that in mind and listen to the public. He knows everybody wants to do what is best for the City.

Mr. Chabut said he did not have a speech.


**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION MADE BY MR. MORRIS**, Seconded by Mr. Chabut, for Adjournment. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Council Member Moore, Thompson, Morris, Bittner, Chabut, Lunder. Nays: Council Member Johnson.  
**MOTION CARRIED: 6/1**

The Regular Meeting of Council adjourned at 7:50 pm

**APPROVED:**

January 9, 2024  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**ROBERT JOHNSON**  
President of Council

Attest: Joyce M. Pap  
Clerk of Council

December 12, 2023

Members of Council,

Good evening and Happy Holidays to everyone. I understand this is the last Council meeting of the year. I wanted to take a moment to thank Mr. Morris and Mr. Chabut for their lengthy service to our city. They have been excellent representatives of our community, dedicated public servants, a joy to work with and they will be missed. I also wanted to thank our Clerk of Council, Joyce Saxe, who I believe is retiring, probably because some of us drove her crazy the past few years. I hope that is not the case. Regardless, may you enjoy a quieter, less stressful next chapter, Joyce.

I think our city leadership and the community have learned a lot in the last few years. Those of us fortunate enough to attend meetings in person and become more involved have recognized missed opportunities and the importance of being engaged. Our leadership has hopefully recognized that the community seeks elected officials who truly listen to and properly represent their constituents. Leaders who talk about what they can do instead of what they can't do. Leaders who don't make decisions based on fear. Leaders who work towards a vision that maximizes our community's assets and creates a vibrant waterfront community.

On that note, I would be remised, and deemed unpredictable, if I didn't reiterate that I remain against the rezoning of the Crane property and the Crane's Landing project. I know some may have thrown in the towel. I have not. And I know some are working to ensure a coastal feel to any future development, which is wise should this project proceed against the bulk of the community's wishes.

To me, the fact that the Sommers Group continuously presents incomplete documentation, agreements with ambiguous and/or conflicting language, insufficient architectural details, etc., all after having at least 5 additional months to professionally compile the necessary paperwork, should be telling. These materials for submission are deemed standard for any developer proposing a project to a municipality.

It's interesting that during roughly the same or perhaps even shorter time frame, Dollar General and its representatives had no problem presenting a clear concise plan, development agreement and detailed architectural renderings. THAT is the norm, and they have long completed that process with the city and already started construction. And they certainly had a great deal of community pushback on their project as well. Regardless, they got it done and professionally so, even with accommodation for community desired architectural upgrades and other enhancements.

The PUD was created to provide for higher quality development of a site to, among other things, encourage creative approaches to the uses of land and related physical facilities that result in better urban design, higher quality construction and the provisions of aesthetic amenities. I do not see that at all with this current potential Crane's project. The proof is the pudding, and the pudding has been missing ingredients and messy at best. Further, if Mayor Eva truly intends to pursue reacquiring Mentor Beach Park, there is even more reason to hold off on approving a different use for the corner than originally intended. Our small city is greatly impacted by every decision made, much more so than other larger communities.

I trust Council will continue to be vigilant when reviewing this project. I look forward to working together in 2024 in an environment where different opinions are not viewed as adversarial or personal attacks. I feel I have a respectful, friendly relationship with most of you with whom I've communicated, even if we disagree on certain issues. As always, I thank each of you for your dedication and hard work and wish you and your families a very happy holiday.

Respectfully,  
Susan Lenihan  
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