

Village of Gates Mills
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
February 18, 2025

A regular meeting of the Council of the Village of Gates Mills, Ohio was held at the Community House on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. with Mayor Siemborski presiding. The meeting was live-streamed to the internet.

1. Roll Call starts at 1:26

Councilmembers present: Atton, Broome, Deacon, Steinbrink, Turner.

Other Village officials present were Clerk DeCapite, Service Director Biggert, Police Chief Minichello, Fire Chief Majeski, Finance Administrator Mulh, Village Engineer Courtney, and Law Director Hunt.

Councilmember Turner moved to excuse Councilmembers Press and Welsh. Councilmember Deacon seconded the motion.

Ayes: Atton, Broome, Deacon, Steinbrink, Turner.

Nays: None

Motion carried.

2. Minutes of the Regular Council meeting of January 21, 2025 starts at 2:10

Councilmember Broome moved to approve the January 21, 2025 minutes and Councilmember Deacon seconded the motion.

Ayes: Atton, Broome, Deacon, Steinbrink, Turner.

Nays: None

Motion carried.

3. Pay Ordinance # 1294 \$663,120.03 starts at 3:09

Mayor Siemborski mentioned the \$2,800 payment to the architectural firm JD Compass Studio is for evaluating the condition of Town Hall and reporting what repairs or replacements they suggest with estimates. Councilmember Turner questioned two payments to Mayfield Village. Finance Administrator Mulh responded \$72,000 is for ambulance service and \$20,000 covers the Life Force amount.

Councilmember Steinbrink moved to approve Pay Ordinance #1294. Councilmember Broome seconded the motion.

Ayes: Atton, Broome, Deacon, Steinbrink, Turner.

Nays: None

Motion carried.

4. Mayor's Report starts at 4:55

a. Gates Mills Land Conservancy Report - Mayor

Mayor Siemborski introduced Nat Smith, former President and current Vice President of GMLC, here tonight to answer questions or hear comments from Council since the 2024 year-end report and 2023 financial statements were submitted at the January Council meeting.

At 5:25 Mr. Smith stated by contractual agreement the Conservancy needs to update Council twice a year on its financials and activities. Highlights of activities contained in the 2024 year-end report are:

- In May, GMLC acquired a heavily forested parcel on the north side of Mayfield Road, the "Kay Perkins Preserve", in a bargain sale transaction which was \$40,000 less than the appraised value.
- Last spring GMLC engaged a botanist to audit their 28 preserves and identified a highly aggressive invasive, the tree of heaven. A multi-year remediation process was started, and hopefully that particular species will be eradicated from our preserves by the end of 2026.
- GMLC published three online newsletters in 2024 and held their second annual environmental seminar in September.
- In October, GMLC membership elected two new Directors - Phil Campanella and Alex Bercheck. Anne Marchetto joined the Board as a mayoral appointment the same month. Jamie Carracher was elected as the Conservancy's new Board President. Three long-term Board Directors and former Board Presidents, representing in total 65 years of service, retired at the end of 2024 - Rob Galloway, John Kramer, and Linda Olejko.
- In December, GMLC received its third national reaccreditation from Land Trust Alliance after an extensive audit of its operations, its records, and its governance. The next LTA review will be in 2029.

Mr. Smith updated GMLC year-end 2024 financials:

- Last year the village transferred \$109,800 in two installments to GMLC representing 50% of the conservancy levy tax receipts. The Conservancy itself raised \$52,000 from its members and contributors.
- For fiscal year ending 12-31-2024 operating income was \$55,400 compared to a budget of \$49,700. Operating expenses were \$54,600 compared to a budget of \$49,400. This resulted in surplus income of \$800 compared to a budget of \$300.
- At the end of 2024 GMLC cash reserves were \$650,000 in the following accounts:

Operating/Special Funds	\$401,000
Stewardship Fund	\$218,000
Levy Fund	\$31,000

- GMLC anticipates approximately \$200,000 in levy distributions from the village over the next two years. With GMLC's commitment to have at least \$700,000 in endowment reserves by the end of 2026, that leaves roughly \$200,000-\$300,000 that will be available for possible land and easement acquisitions in the next two years.

Councilmember Broome stated Council and the village should recognize the substantial contributions of John Kramer, Rob Galloway, and Linda Olejko. They put their heart and soul into running the Land Conservancy, and the village owes them a substantial debt of gratitude for their work.

Councilmember Atton believes GMLC will get more money from the levy than approximated because of property valuations going up, and Mr. Smith replied any surplus funds would be gratefully accepted.

Councilmember Deacon thanked Nat Smith for the helpful report.

b. 2025 Budget - Mayor - starts at 12:06

At the last Council meeting, there was a request that the budget be presented to Council, so included in tonight's Council packet are financial statements for 2024 and a column for the 2025 budget, along with a narrative, and the assumptions we use to prepare the budget.

At 12:59 the Mayor read the "Village of Gates Mills - 2025 Budget Presentation to Council" narrative attached and on the website.

At 18:04 Councilmember Turner thanked the Mayor for the materials sent in advance and the helpful explanation.

Councilmember Atton referred to "The Numbers" section in the narrative, second paragraph, and said those numbers relate to the general fund, not all funds. It doesn't say that, but probably should.

Councilmember Broome expressed concern the harsh winter will affect our roads program number; Mayor Siemborski added salt and overtime related to a police officer on leave. Councilmember Atton expressed concern Washington DC funding cuts will cascade down to Gates Mills, as well as Mayfield City School District.

c. Zoning Survey - Press - starts at 20:25

Mayor Siemborski explained in May 2024 Councilmember Press made a motion to proceed with designing and implementing a charter amendment such that any zoning ordinance that either a) changed the five acre minimum, b) modified Section 1160, or c) encouraged higher density or multi-family housing must be submitted to the voters for resolution. The motion passed by a 5:2 margin. After that time we've had several discussions at Council meetings about this issue, including

Mr. Broome's points about improving the notification requirements through a stronger ordinance rather than an actual charter amendment. The Charter Review Committee reviewed the charter and had no recommendations on any zoning changes. Council tried to gauge the level of interest in the topic over the next several months and ultimately talked about creating a survey that, if issued and finalized, would ask two questions-- 1) would you attend a Town Hall to listen to more about the topic, and 2) what's your point of view on amending the charter. The survey was intended to move this item along in our discussions and to give Council a document to review.

On the agenda for this Council meeting, the Mayor made a mistake in putting Councilmember Press' name next to the Zoning Survey topic, because some might construe that as he either endorses or supports that draft survey. The Mayor apologized to Mr. Press for that inadvertency, telling him he was the most consistent voice on the topic and thinking he would want to lead that conversation. The Mayor paused for Council thoughts on what to do with the draft survey.

At 24:26 Councilmember Turner stated this survey is a continuation of an effort to promote a false narrative that villagers don't have a say in zoning issues. Since the Charter Review Committee report in November 2023, there have been different attempts to bring this forward. These efforts have died in Council, there's not been any support that Councilmember Turner can tell, and she has not received comments from the community that there is impetus for moving on this issue. At the Special Council Meeting on Zoning in September 2024, open to the public, Council made the following decisions: 1) all Councilmembers agreed the current provisions and language of Section 1160 remain appropriate and adjustments are not necessary, 2) all Councilmembers agreed no changes to front, side, and setback requirements in the downtown commercial district are required, and items of this nature can best be handled by P & Z, 3) all Councilmembers agreed changes to the historic district should be further discussed by the Historic Subcommittee for future review and presentation, and 4) all Councilmembers agreed that changes to walking paths, bridal trails, and bike paths as suggested in the Comprehensive Plan are unnecessary. Councilmember Turner shared the draft survey with a couple residents and their response was confusion and concern about potential development brewing behind the scenes. Citing favorable responses by the majority to a variety of governance questions in the 2022 Comprehensive Plan, Councilmember Turner feels an obligation to make decisions and not continue to survey individuals about issues not top of mind. We have a whole list of 2025 goals that need to be completed - she would much rather put her energy there.

At 30:00 Councilmember Steinbrink finds the May 2024 motion that passed 5:2 was sprung on Council at the eleventh hour. If we're going to change the charter, we need to follow a strict process. Sending out a survey would be the last item on the agenda after Council has had a robust debate on the issue through an exhaustive process - including bring Bruce Rinker in here for conversation, review the charter, review what other communities with similar demographics are doing with voter approval provisions and why is that. None of that legwork has been done. Residents have already told us their views on housing options, minimum lot size, and cluster

homes for site preservation through the Comprehensive Plan. Councilmember Steinbrink views Section 1160 as a safety valve for P & Z to point to should an attempt be made to seek variances to develop a large parcel.

At 34:02 Councilmember Broome said it pains him that Councilmember Press is not here to participate in the conversation. He believes the May 2024 motion was to consider whether we should amend the charter or not, and he voted yes, because there's nothing wrong with considering whether we should do something. He has now considered it and is not in favor of it. Councilmember Press has done a lot of research and found other communities who have a voter approval provision - Mayfield Village - and Pepper Pike is considering. We are not them. Councilmember Steinbrink pointed out he looked at other villages like us and they don't have a voter approval provision. We can make our own decisions about how we are going to run our village. If we were to consider it a good idea for zoning change to start with the residents through a vote, right now we do not have the facts on the ground or the zoning code the way we would want to have it before we turn it over to a more cumbersome process than getting it worked through on Council and then Council making a recommendation or passing a change which is always subject to a referendum by the voters if they don't like what Council does. We have lot size issues brought up in the Comprehensive Plan that we need to look at and fix - 7500 square foot lots that you can not build on without a whole array of variances. There's other anomalies in the village that just come from being a village for a long time and having things that were built a long time ago. We ought to address them. Initiation of any zoning change now starts with Council. If we're looking to maintain the village the way it is, then initiation by Council has always worked. Previously the minimum lot size was 2-1/2 acres until Council decided that it would be best to make it five and then sought the approval of the voters and they approved that. There has always been a small segment of the residents that pined for some sort of maintenance-free residential housing solution. Councils long before us suggested ways to do it and none of them ever came to fruition. If we surrender Council's initiation role in initiating changes, perhaps a small group of residents could get together, and they could initiate such a change through the ballot - the same way special interest groups now use Ohio's 50% rule to try to change the Constitution through the ballot box process. Councilmember Broome had proposed some changes to the notice rules in our ordinances to communicate more widely and in more forms, as residents have said to him we don't hear about these things when they're happening. He finds there are times when residents cite specific examples of not knowing this or that was happening, and none of the things they cite were things that were actually happening. They were just ideas. Take 781 River Road - a builder had an idea to somehow employ 1160, but never came with the required drawing, It was nothing but a dream and a figment and had no chance. The idea of doing the survey and confusing or riling people is more than is needed. After considering whether we should amend the charter, he finds it would be a good idea to amend our ordinances to provide more expansive notice.

At 44:10 the Mayor clarified the motion that was passed was to "design and implement" - it was more actively worded than "consider".

At 44:30 Councilmember Deacon agreed there was a misunderstanding about what the motion said. She interpreted it as consider. Councilmember Broome did a lot of work to really explain the complexity of Section 1160 at the Special Council Meeting on Zoning, and Councilmember Deacon learned two things - 1) the issue is very complex, and 2) maintaining a check and a balance on legislation is very important. She agrees we need to update the notice and communication requirements either by ordinance or otherwise, and that will help us maintain that balance we need. She believes the survey is confusing because of the complexity of the area. She agrees with Councilmember Steinbrink that legwork needs to be done in order to educate people as to what they are being asked their opinion on.

At 46:20 Councilmember Atton wishes Councilmember Press were here, because he's been sponsoring this idea. First point - we shouldn't get too caught up in what we believe as current councilmembers. We want to be sure that we're doing the right things for the long term and for future Councils, not just for today. Second point - both Councilmembers Press and Atton are on Council because of the fiasco over 781 Chagrin River Road. They believed that was a demonstration of weak leadership and poor governance - no accusations against P & Z. A lot of talk about people in the administration was misleading. It was rectified because the idea for 781 was impossible to do and would never have passed. But there were people involved in progressing it in the administration. Those same people were interested in pushing the Comprehensive Plan to not just discuss, but agree, to recommend changes to Section 1160. Third point - this is not a question of people not trusting Council - it's a question of Council trusting the people. If any significant zoning changes are suggested, they should be approved by the voters. He believes if we were to have the May motion again, it wouldn't be passed by 5:2 - it would probably lose by 5:2. Council is saying no to this survey and no to entertaining this particular change in the charter, leaving plenty of time for a group of people to put together a voter initiative that would do just that. This has simplified the way forward for some people. Another thing is that Councilmember Press put together the survey language. It was modified without his input. It's become hopelessly biased and very confusing, as if there was an attempt to deliberately derail the survey. We clearly have big disagreement within these tables, and we should clear it up one way or another.

At 50:44 Mayor Siemborski stated he is hearing two things. One is we table the topic until all seven Councilmembers are present. That doesn't need to happen. We can act with the Council here, we have a quorum. Second, we have a motion to improve the ordinance by changing the notice and communication requirements, and we stop there and not proceed with anything that would change the charter. The Mayor asked if that was a fair summary and how might you all want to proceed.

At 51:55 Councilmember Broome indicated he had drafted the proposed amendments to the ordinances on notice, and he would be happy to pick the subject up at the next meeting. As much as he would like to do away with this right now, he can not in good conscience do it without Councilmember Press here. Councilmembers Steinbrink and Atton agreed. Councilmember Steinbrink

commented on the frequent rezoning and significant commercial presences in Brecksville, Solon, and Mayfield evident by comparing aerials from 50 years ago to now. He is not convinced that just because it goes to the voters means protection of a way of life - a developer offers the sun, moon, and stars, and it gets passed. Councilmember Atton asked Councilmember Steinbrink if he didn't trust the villagers to acknowledge what's right, and the response was he didn't know if that was the case in Brecksville or Solon or elsewhere. Councilmember Deacon thinks we need to update the notification and communication requirements so that we can maintain that check and balance. Councilmember Broome explained when the five acre minimum lot size change was passed, it allowed time for people to plat their properties, and a lot of people did that. He has the utmost confidence this Council would do nothing to disturb the five acre minimum lot requirement, but the residents might not always be quite a few people. The reason why the village maintains the appearance it has today has a lot more to do with the Land Conservancy and the efforts made there than it does with any zoning changes made by Council or not made by Council.

At 56:41 Councilmember Broome made a motion to table this because we have to have Councilmembers Press and Welsh here to have a full conversation. Councilmember Steinbrink seconded the motion.

Councilmember Turner found Councilmember Atton's comments about the process at P & Z during the 781 River Road meeting to mean that he supported the outcomes of that process. However, he implied that the "administration" at that time was not supporting the process. It should be noted that such a statement is unfair.

Law Director Hunt advised if this is tabled, it's not going to appear on any agenda. At a future council meeting, a Councilmember will have to make a motion to take it off the table to discuss, whether it's discussed at that meeting or put on an agenda for the next meeting.

Ayes: Atton, Broome, Deacon, Steinbrink, Turner.

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Moved to Agenda Item 10. **Resolution No. 2025-5 (Second Reading)** starts at 59:05

"A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Service Agreement, an Indefeasible Right-to-Use Agreement, and a Grant of Right of First Refusal Agreement with Chagrin Valley GIG, LLC to Provide a Fiber Optic Broadband Communications Network in the Village of Gates Mills".

Councilmember Deacon reminded Council one of the next steps in the Broadband process was to have a Q&A with OhioGig so that Councilmembers could ask questions. Several of you submitted questions in advance and Tim Berelsman, CEO/Board Advisor of OhioGig, has those questions and joins us by Zoom tonight. Nick Hunter, CEO of Fiber Capital Partners, and Drew Hunter, CEO of OhioGig, are here in the audience tonight.

At 1:01:08 the question “the proposed prepayment of \$455,000 - exactly what future expenses are being prepaid - dollars per month for 25 years” was read and answered by Mr. Berelsman supplemented by a Google Earth image of town center on the screen.

At 1:08:55 Mr. Berelsman moved to the next question, “I have heard that Chagrin Valley Gig will not be bundling phone/TV/streaming services. In which case, if I subscribe to CVG for internet service, what steps will I need to take to preserve my current phone/TV/streaming service”, and he responded. Drew Hunter made additional comments.

At 1:16:54 Councilmember Broome referred to the minimum upload and download speeds provided in the agreement, and asked what if the standard increases over the 25-year period. Is there incentive for CVGig to pump up the speed and will the equipment allow for that? Mr. Berelsman responded, and Nick Hunter made additional comments.

At 1:23:00 Mr. Berelsman read the last question he had received in advance - “in spite of the CVG system being almost entirely below ground, will its service be interrupted if the utility power to my neighborhood home is interrupted” - and he responded.

At 1:24:52 Councilmember Deacon read a question that came in from Councilmember Atton, “What will be the process, expected timing, and steps up to the service agreement being signed”. She advised we are on second reading. We have a town hall tomorrow evening 5:00pm - 7:00pm, and Mr. Berelsman, Mr. Hunter, and Mr. Hunter will be in attendance to take questions from villagers. We will go on third reading at the March Council meeting, and if the ordinance is approved, then the Mayor will have the authority to sign the agreement. Finding it troubling that residents will not be asked whether they want to subscribe and without more input before the agreement possibly is signed, Councilmember Atton wondered if Hunting Valley sent out a questionnaire before or after their agreement was signed. Tim Berelsman and Nick Hunter responded.

Resolution No. 2025-5 remains on second reading.

Agenda Item 4. Mayor’s Report continues at 1:28:42:

d. Virtual and/or Electronically Conducted Meetings - Turner

After Councilmember Press brought up the issue of virtual meetings at the last Council meeting, Councilmember Turner and Law Director Hunt were asked to make a report back to Council.

At 1:29:26 Councilmember Turner read the comparison she had prepared representing the results of her canvass of neighboring communities on how virtual/

electronic meetings are addressed, number of Councilmembers, and number of Council meetings per month. Pepper Pike is not on the comparison. They do not have virtual or electronic meetings.

At 1:32:40 Law Director Hunt offered his legal opinion. He has some trepidation about going virtual since it was rescinded by the General Assembly after the covid pandemic had subsided - mostly because if you violate the Open Meetings Act, your actions that have been taken are null and void. Yet there is a lot of support in Ohio case law with respect to Gates Mills home rule authority. Gates Mills has one of the most expansive power provisions in our charter - Gates Mills can do almost anything when it is a matter of local self-government. Generally the courts have said things such as how you run meetings is a matter of local self-government. He would feel much more comfortable if there was a charter provision, but he believes that if challenged, an ordinance passed pursuant to our expansive charter powers would prevail. If you want to move forward with virtual meetings, that's your choice, and there can be restrictions on and conditions for when virtual meetings would be authorized. In April there will be a new state statute that in effect says as long as you're a public body that is not elected or is not paid to be a member, you can not have a virtual meeting - setting out a policy that says legislative meetings of local government such as this Council should not meet virtually. Law Director Hunt believes we do have the home rule authority to move forward if we wish.

At 1:36:07 Councilmember Atton explained Councilmember Press is eager to do this because he believes making this provision available for people to attend remotely under prescribed circumstances would broaden the number of candidates who would run for Council. Councilmembers Atton and Press believe this village needs competitive Council elections. Councilmember Atton noticed eight of the ten communities canvassed by Councilmember Turner have more than one Council meeting a month. With our long list of priorities and the routine matters, we don't have the time to address the more complicated and unusual issues. The only alternative seems to be more meetings. Mayor Siemborski suggested the consent approach mentioned at the last meeting is an alternative; you're starting to ask a lot of a volunteer. He complimented Councilmember Turner and Law Director Hunt for the work done and asked if Council wanted to do anything with it at this point. No reply.

5. Financial Report attached and on the website starts at 1:38:39

Mayor Siemborski made an overall comment - one month does not make a year. We are on a cash basis. The vast majority of our receipts are dependent on other people giving us the money when they collect it.

6. Clerk's Report - None

7. Police Department Report attached and starts at 1:39:55

Police Chief Minichello read his report. He added that effective April 1 a government agency has the ability to charge up to \$75 per hour to a maximum of

\$750 for public records requests (dash camera and body camera videos) in an effort to discourage time-consuming frivolous requests. We will take a wait and see approach. Law Director Hunt advised all communities are facing this. It's an all or nothing thing - you can't pick and choose who you charge. A lot of requests come from social media outlets who in turn put the video out there on the internet for a fee.

Councilmember Atton noted January passes were much higher than December but the number of citations was much lower. The Police Chief responded the weather and realignment of the eastbound camera mid-January were factors.

Councilmember Atton was under the impression the FBI scam/fraud seminar was to be broadcast over Zoom. The Police Chief replied that was the intention, but there was a hiccup when starting up the seminar on Zoom at the same time the tree canopy meeting was being Zoomed. Mike Feig will attempt to rescue the seminar Zoom in the next couple days. The seminar was attended by 40 - 45 people.

8. Service Department Report attached and starts at 1:46:46

Service Director Biggert updated item three on his report. We are getting close to our agreed upon amount of salt to be purchased this year. He is confident in saying we will not have to pay for salt storage this year. Of the last six years, four times we had no room in our salt bin and had to store the additional salt at an average cost of \$4200 per year.

9. Fire Department Report attached and starts at 1:48:07

Fire Chief Majeski explained "FIU" as it is used in the report. Gates Mills is part of the Heights Hillcrest regional area, and part of that agreement is that we provide people for some of the specialty teams. Right now we have two people on the FIU (Fire Investigation Unit) team, and we have nobody on the Technical Rescue team. Two FIU callouts occurred in January - one to the big apartment fire in Cleveland Heights.

The Fire Chief noted a letter of commendation was given for August Call 157 to Assistant Fire Chief Jamieson, Firefighter Nick Nemastil, and Firefighter Armando Farinacci; also a letter of commendation to Captain Michael Feig for acquiring reimbursement funds for the August storm. The Fire Chief also thanked Sue Reid from the Chagrin Valley Times for the excellent article about our firefighters and our cadet program.

The Mayor wished to footnote the State FEMA reimbursement mentioned. We will be reimbursed 75% of \$80,000 (roughly \$60,000) for costs incurred on the August 6 storm. Mike Feig and a number of others put together a lot of effort to get those dollars.

11. **Motion to obtain bids for the 2025 guardrail program** starts at 1:51:36

Village Engineer Courtney stated \$100,000 was provided in the 2025 budget to remove, repair, or replace certain areas of damaged guardrail. After a village-wide inventory of guardrail was completed, it was determined what areas were in the worst shape; then we prioritized them as really bad/bad/kind of bad. We have established a priority within that \$100,000 to start with the worst and work towards the best - much like we're doing with the roads. Our hope is when the bids come in, it will allow us to do all of the \$100,000 worth of work we had scoped. If not, we'll do as much as we can, and propose to either extend this years contract if Council so wishes to do that or come back to do a follow on program next year. A motion tonight will allow for opening bids in time to have a recommendation along with the road program for Council next month. When asked by Councilmember Atton where is the very worst guardrail, the Village Engineer answered Chagrin River Road north of Brigham through the S-curves; then Wilson Mills, Sherman, Old Mill, Brigham. A complete list by address in the specs is available.

Councilmember Broome moved to authorize the Village Engineer to bid the 2025 Guardrail Program. Councilmember Atton seconded the motion.

Ayes: Atton, Broome, Deacon, Steinbrink, Turner.

Nays: None

Motion carried.

12. **Ordinance No. 2025-6 (First Reading)** starts at 1:54:56

“An Ordinance Authorizing All Actions Necessary to Accept Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) 2025 Energized Community Grant” was read by Mayor Siemborski. We need this documentation to be able to accept a grant for \$8,000. We have not yet earmarked what that money is going to be used for.

Councilmember Broome moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Ordinance No. 2025-6 be placed on its final passage. Councilmember Atton seconded the motion.

Ayes: Atton, Broome, Deacon, Steinbrink, Turner.

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Councilmember Broome moved to approve Resolution No. 2025-6 and Councilmember Turner seconded the motion.

Ayes: Atton, Broome, Deacon, Steinbrink, Turner.

Nays: None

Motion carried.

13. **Ordinance No. 2025-7 (First Reading)** starts at 1:55:49

“An Ordinance to Amend the Annual Appropriation Ordinance No. 2024-52 to Increase Certain Appropriations and Other Expenditures of the Village of Gates Mills, Ohio for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2025” was read by the Mayor. Some might ask why we already need to expand on the numbers that we said we shouldn’t need much change to. Because we do this on a fund by fund basis. You can’t just rely on the largess of the general fund to take care of these things. The water fund bill received from the water department was \$25,750 - we budgeted and appropriated \$25,000 and paid that amount. We owe them \$750, so we’ve asked for the appropriation to be increased by \$1,000. The second appropriation is for refunds in the amount of \$36,000 to RITA. We don’t budget refunds. At times RITA says certain taxpayers paid too much and we need to refund money we collected. That would be an additional need from the general fund.

Councilmember Turner moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Ordinance No. 2025-7 be placed on its final passage. Councilmember Atton seconded the motion to suspend the rules.

Ayes: Atton, Broome, Deacon, Steinbrink, Turner.
Nays: None
Motion carried.

Councilmember Steinbrink moved to approve Resolution No. 2025-7 and Councilmember Deacon seconded the motion.

Ayes: Atton, Broome, Deacon, Steinbrink, Turner.
Nays: None
Motion carried.

14. **Resolution No. 2025-8 (First Reading)** starts at 1:58:11

“A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Purchase Agreement with Preston Ford for a 2025 Ford F-550 4 X 4 Cab and Chassis” was read by Mayor Siemborski, and

15. **Resolution No. 2025-9 (First Reading)**

“A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Purchase Agreement with Best Truck Equipment, Inc. for a Dump Body, Snowplow, Strobe Lighting and Associate Equipment” was read by Mayor Siemborski.

Both quotes came through the purchasing cooperative that is available for municipal equipment. These are the best prices we could find - about \$8,000 higher than budget. Councilmember Steinbrink noted a typo in No. 2025-9 - the dollar amount in the first paragraph and the second are different. The Mayor advised a revision was sent out. The second number, the larger one, is the true number.

Councilmember Broome moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Resolution No. 2025-8 be placed on its final passage. Councilmember Atton seconded the motion to suspend the rules.

Ayes: Atton, Broome, Deacon, Steinbrink, Turner.

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Councilmember Broome moved to approve Resolution No. 2025-8 and Councilmember Deacon seconded the motion.

Ayes: Atton, Broome, Deacon, Steinbrink, Turner.

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Councilmember Broome moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Resolution No. 2025-9 be placed on its final passage. Councilmember Deacon seconded the motion.

Ayes: Atton, Broome, Deacon, Steinbrink, Turner.

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Councilmember Steinbrink moved to approve Resolution No. 2025-9 and Councilmember Deacon seconded the motion.

Ayes: Atton, Broome, Deacon Steinbrink, Turner.

Nays: None

Motion carried.

16. Business from the Audience - starts at 2:00:57

Resident Meghan Perez noticed the 2025 priority list in the packet for tonight's meeting and that there had been a special council meeting. Following the discussion earlier about notification to the public, she suggested a Gates Mills Connect email for special council meetings to make sure residents are aware of them. Especially because the priorities discussion Council had might engender some more enthusiasm than the consent agenda. The Mayfield Board of Education, in addition to the consent agenda, does email out and posts on their website when there is a special meeting and the purpose of the meeting.

Having just watched the special counsel meeting on YouTube, Mrs. Perez was aware of the Zoom participation and that there were some challenges. She encouraged Council to think about that when considering Zoom meetings in this forum.

The last thing is that there were some concerns and external perceptions about Mayfield Schools raised at that meeting. The Mayfield School Liaison Committee body is actively working to address misperceptions about the quality of Mayfield schools, and we'll continue to work with Council on that. Councilmembers who have concerns about addressing that are welcome to reach out to us and we can continue to partner. Part of that starts in this room - the kind of narrative that is raised about the quality of the schools to our constituents and external parties. Unfounded concerns or statements about the quality of the schools or the district's commitment to this location and Gates Mills Elementary don't contribute to that. Hopefully we can continue to engage on those as we move forward.

17. Adjourn

There being no further business, it was moved by Councilmember Broome, seconded by Councilmember Atton, and unanimously carried, that the council meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Beth DeCapite, Clerk

Approved:



Steven L. Siemborski, Mayor