

**Village of Gates Mills**  
**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL**  
**March 13, 2025**

A special meeting of the Council of the Village of Gates Mills, Ohio was held at the Village Town Hall Council Chambers on Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. with Mayor Siemborski presiding. The meeting was live-streamed to the internet.

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

Other Village officials present were Finance Administrator Mulh, Law Director Hunt, and Clerk DeCapite (arrived at 11:25 a.m.).

1. Motion to appoint Acting Clerk starts at 0:59

Councilmember Steinbrink made a motion to appoint Finance Administrator Mulh as Acting Clerk. Councilmember Press seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

2. Introduction - starts at 1:23

Mayor Siemborski stated we are here today to fulfill a requirement in the Charter occasioned by the vacancy on Council with the passing of Ed Welsh. We want to recognize Ed and his over 25 years of service as a Councilman and as a Trustee on many of our organizations.

There is a two sentence mandate in the Charter to fill Ed's spot. There is no specific process that is outlined. With Council, we have agreed on a process that will include an information session to explain to potential candidates what a Council position entails, the responsibilities, and the rules. We had that on Monday, March 10 in this chamber. We agreed the second step would be to interview all candidates. There are five that are interested in the position. All five have responded to and returned our advance questions and/or resumes - this material was sent to Council last night. We also agreed that after the interviews, whether it be today or Sunday, we would deliberate and Council will make a decision.

Each interview will last for 30 minutes with a 5 minute warning that we're coming to the end. Councilmember Turner advised there are six questions that came from the original pool of questions. Some of the questions in the pool were already in the pre-interview packet, and the remaining questions were combined into these six questions. Each of the six Councilmembers has been assigned one question to ask all candidates in the same order. The goal is consistency among candidates. Hold any follow up questions until the end after all six questions have been asked.

Councilmember Steinbrink expressed excitement at the candidates we have - a very diverse group of candidates and backgrounds and a lot to bring to village government and residents. Councilmember Press agreed - we are spoiled for choice.

The order of Councilmembers and their questions follow:

Sandra Turner -

During your preparation for today's interview, what is one thing that you learned that you didn't know previously and found interesting or significant?

Craig Steinbrink -

What skills do you believe a person needs in order for a group to work cohesively for the greater good of the Village?

Michael Press -

What skills, talents, or experience do you have that would be complementary and not duplicate those that already exist on Council?

Laurie Deacon -

As a Councilmember, how would you handle questions from residents about issues they are having with the Village?

David Atton -

How should Council balance transparency with confidentiality?

Scott Broome -

Hypothetically you are on the minority side of a Council vote, what do you see as your next step?

### 3. Interviews - starts at 12:18

- 12:18 - 41:15 Meghan Perez
- 44:27 - 1:17:55 Charles M. Spear
- 1:22:34 - 1:48:05 John Onysko
- 1:57:41 - 2:23:20 Grace Ann Bourne
- 2:27:00 - 2:48:56 Alfred R. Cowger, Jr.

Councilmember Turner canvassed Council and it was agreed deliberation would take place on Sunday, March 16 at 4 p.m. when Council will go into Executive Session. Councilmember Deacon suggested evaluations focus on some competencies, and she has made a note of some and will send them around to give Councilmembers a way of evaluating each candidate systematically.

### 4. Adjourn

There being no further business, it was moved by Councilmember Broome, seconded by Councilmember Deacon, and unanimously carried, that the special council meeting be adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Beth DeCapite, Clerk

Approved:



Steven L. Siemborski, Mayor