

Village of Gates Mills
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
July 21, 2026

A regular meeting of the Council of the Village of Gates Mills, Ohio was held at the Community House on Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. with Mayor Siemborski presiding. The meeting was live-streamed to the internet.

1. Roll Call starts at 3:30

Councilmembers present: Broome, Greco, Onysko, Perez, Steinbrink, Turner, Young.

Other Village officials present were Treasurer Spear, Clerk DeCapite, Service Director Biggert, Police Chief Minichello, Fire Chief Majeski, Assistant Fire Chief Jamieson, Fire Captain Feig, Village Engineer Courtney, and Law Director Hunt.

2. Minutes of Regular Council Meeting of June 16, 2026 starts at 3:49

Councilmember Greco moved to approve the June 16, 2026 minutes, and Councilmember Onysko seconded the motion.

Ayes: Broome, Greco, Onysko, Perez, Steinbrink, Turner, Young.

Nays: None

Motion carried.

3. Mayor Siemborski administered the Oath of Office to Firefighter Noah Scanlon at 4:46

4. Pay Ordinance # 1311 \$627,706.42 starts at 7:50

Councilmember Broome moved to approve Pay Ordinance #1311, and Councilmember Steinbrink seconded the motion.

Ayes: Broome, Greco, Onysko, Perez, Steinbrink, Turner, Young.

Nays: None

Motion carried.

5. Mayor's Report starts at 8:27

- 4th of July Parade and Celebration

Thank you to the Gates Mills Improvement Society and Clark Langmack for organizing our fabulous July 4th parade, to Bill Lavigna for organizing the hot air balloons, and to all volunteers, village organizations, participants, and attendees.

- School Pedestrian Bridge - starts at 11:00

The bridge should be delivered this Thursday and installed on Friday.

- 2024 and 2025 Audit - starts at 11:18

The 2024 and 2025 audits have been approved by the Auditor of State, and those reports are available to Council and to the public. The reports came back with an unqualified opinion on a statutory basis - the highest level of assurance to be received. There were two small management letter comments of no serious consequence.

- Snowplow Ordinance - starts at 12:00

Last month one of our residents asked if we would do some research to see whether there's an ordinance to prevent snow from being pushed into the right of way. Law Director Hunt's office will be looking at those ordinances of comparable villages and report back to us in the fall.

- Sign Ordinance - starts at 12:22

The P & Z Committee has agreed to take up at their July meeting the issue about illuminated signs raised last month.

- Aging Well - starts at 12:35

After four months of programming, the Committee desires more notoriety. Even with publicity items in Stroll, the Pink Sheet, Gates Mills Connect, and a postcard mailing in the next week or two, it will take some time to get resident support.

A Key Box program will be starting. This is a locked box attached to the home allowing firefighters, EMS, or police immediate access to the home during an emergency without waiting for house keys to be retrieved from Town Hall. There will be no cost, typically \$35 - \$40 per box, to residents.

- Summer Band Concert - starts at 14:31

Our last summer event will take place at the Village Green on August 16th. Music and tables will be provided at no cost.

- Conservation Levy Town Hall Meeting - starts at 15:27

As promised, on July 29th from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., a Town Hall Meeting will take place regarding the conservation levy. Tom Beres, retired senior political correspondent for WKYC, will moderate. The format will be conversational. There won't be for and against speeches. There will be a description of the levy's background, what has been done with the funds, and an opportunity for those in the audience to ask questions or make their points of view.

- Aging Well Committee Appointment - starts at 16:46

Mayor Siemborski wishes to appoint Paul DiCorleto to the Aging Well Committee. Co-Chairs Jan Bohinc and Joy Banish value his participation and ideas.

Councilmember Broome moved to approve the appointment of Paul DiCorleto to the Aging Well Committee, and Councilmember Greco seconded the motion.

Ayes: Broome, Greco, Onysko, Perez, Steinbrink, Turner, Young.
Nays: None
Motion carried.

(Clerk's Note: Paul DiCorleto was erroneously credited with being a retired Cleveland Clinic physician, and he subsequently provided corrected credentials. He has a doctorate in biochemistry and had a 34-year career at Cleveland Clinic as a federally funded heart disease researcher with 13 years as Chair of all Cleveland Clinic Research. Following retirement from Cleveland Clinic, he served for 6 years as Vice President for Research and Economic Development at Kent State University.)

6. Financial Report attached and on the website starts at 17:56

Mayor Siemborski said going forward, the Finance Administrator will still compile the report and prepare the narrative, while the Treasurer will present the monthly report to Council.

Treasurer Spear reported the difference between this year and last year could be called alarming, but flat revenues and increased expenses were anticipated in the budget, and we are doing better this year than the budget said we would. Traffic camera numbers are badly affected by the closing of Mayfield Road for two months. On the other hand, personal income tax income is up. Property taxes are basically flat.

The Budget and Finance Committee will be starting fairly soon to work on the 2027 budget. A lot of effort goes into it, but it doesn't get voted on by Council. It's presented to Council. Since there are no Councilmembers on that committee, being involved in the budget process is probably a very good idea.

7. Clerk's Report - starts at 22:57

The Clerk noted the Finance Administrator prepared and distributed tonight to Council a description of the difference between "suspending the rule" and "declaring an emergency". The terms are often confused. Councilmember Onysko suggested the same be done for the difference between an ordinance and a resolution.

8. Treasurer's Report - starts at 23:35

Treasurer Spear reported he and guests David Young and Dixon Morgan met with Ancora representatives. The portfolio is in conformity with the investment policy statement. The average rate of return is 4-1/2%. We still have room to improve the portfolio over the next 18 months. Investments of \$1,100,000 made during the Covid period that carry coupons as low as 1/2% will roll off, and at the current moment we would get 4.5% in treasuries and about 5.4% in agencies.

The Ancora meeting was not an official meeting of the Treasury Investment Board, so there wasn't a notice of it. Once we get the Treasury Investment Board staffed for a quorum, notice will be posted for all meetings and they will be available for the public to attend.

Mayor Siemborski stated the small group of David Young, Chuck Spear, and Janet Mulh met 3 or 4 times to put together a three to five year financial plan. Spreadsheets, narratives, and recommendations will be forthcoming, and it will be helpful to have the multi-year outlook as we enter the budget season in September.

9. Police Department Report attached and on the website - starts at 25:49

Chief Minichello reported June was especially active for the road officers on night shift - with OVIs, crashes, abandoned vehicles, and a vehicle pursuit.

When asked by the Mayor if the St. Francis traffic cameras will be effective when school starts on September 1, the Police Chief replied he believes by August 1 the cameras will be activated outside of school zone hours and then enforceable September 1. The Mayor added the conclusion has been that no additional advanced notice is required, since the signage has been in place for a number of years and no change has been made to the school zone or hours. The Police Chief responded the Service Dept did put up a 45mph sign today to make sure we're in compliance with what was required.

Councilmember Turner wondered if there is a sense of whether or not state legislation mentioned at the last Council meeting and requiring the renewal of speed camera contracts to go to a vote by our residents would pass. Might we want to take action to extend the contract that we have? The Mayor stated the best indicator of what might or might not happen with the law is following the Ohio Municipal League, an outside firm that monitors legislative developments and provides advice.

Councilmember Turner asked if once ticket data is provided by the collection agency, would it be shared with Council via another line item on the grid we already have. Police Chief Minichello agreed that was something to discuss. Councilmember Onysko suggested a separate report rather than modifying the existing report.

10. Service Department Report attached and on the website - starts at 30:38

Service Director Biggert shared exciting news found in the 2025 Residential Recycling Report from the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District received last Friday. Of 59 communities, Gates Mills ranked second with a 29% recycling rate. Only one other community recycled more - Linndale with a 37% recycling rate. In the past, we were second from the bottom. The Service Director thanked residents Jim Stafford and Jennifer Pinto, who suggested alternate recycling methods beyond the blue bag be considered, and Town Hall Coordinator Jean Misch and Joe from Rumpke, who figured out a successful way to do it. Included in our recycling number are the tote contents, cardboard in bins, ground up trees, hazardous household waste, and the electronics round up. Well done villagers! Councilmember Perez suggested we might be able to use this information for future trash pickup rate negotiations with Rumpke or other companies.

At 36:15 Village Engineer Courtney updated Council on the road program. We are 75% - 80% done. We've completed all crack filling and all pavement striping on county roads. We've completed patching and resurfacing on West Hill, Settlers Ridge, and Glenwood. Having run into more repairs on West Hill than anticipated and not wanting to come back to Council for more money, we opted to forego the chip seal and

fog seal on Beverly and Chelsea this year. We'll put them at the top of the list for next year. The reconstruction of Colvin will start July 29th and will be completed within two weeks. We're replacing full-width asphalt pavement with full-width concrete pavement to make the road tougher for the school bus traffic.

11. Fire Department Report attached and on the website - starts at 39:08

Fire Chief Majeski reported the dept finished their regional water supply drills with area communities as part of training.

The Fire Chief provided on the back side of the report an excerpt from an article he found pertinent to Council's recent discussions on ambulance costs and billing. The average transport cost nationwide is \$2,673 to provide. Medicare only pays about \$329 for that. The practice known as "balance billing" - when an insurer pays less than the provider charges, the provider bills the patient for the balance - is illegal with Medicare and Medicaid. So we can't go back and charge those folks. He can make the full 28-page article available if requested.

Of the original 50 fire hydrants that were reported as needing to be replaced, 24 have been replaced, and a number of other hydrants have had minor repairs. We added another 11 hydrants to the needing replacement list. The Fire Chief is hopeful Cleveland Water will have most of the work completed by fall.

12. Report of the Ad Hoc Levy Committee - starts at 42:04

Mayor Siemborski stated the committee consisting of Councilmembers Young and Turner and the Mayor formed early this year to look at the levy fund history, to identify the needs of the conservation levy going forward, and to make other comments has delivered to Council this weekend a two-page summary report. If we haven't made it available on the website, we'll do that tomorrow morning.

At 42:47 Councilmember Young read the Report of the Ad Hoc Levy Committee which contained five basic questions:

- What is the purpose of the Conservation Levy?
- Has the Levy historically been successful?
- What is the benefit of the public/private partnership between the Village and the Gates Mills Land Conservancy?
- What makes Gates Mills Land Conservancy and the Village Council qualified to manage Conservation Levy funds?
- Is the Levy still necessary?

At 50:12 Councilmember Onysko recalled shortly after moving into the paradise of Gates Mills, he and his wife decided to look at giving to the Land Conservancy a 17-1/2 acre parcel of park-like ravine meeting the river. They found there were two Land Conservancies - Western Reserve Land Conservancy, of which they were familiar, and Gates Mills Land Conservancy. They read both 990s, interviewed them, showed them the land, and started the process of "what's the long term effect of doing this". A few months later at the ballot box, there is a conservation levy on the ballot. He believes the five eligible voters in his family, having read the placard that gave the entire verbiage of the conservation fund, all voted for the

conservation levy. Who wouldn't? Who's against conservation? But he can now tell empirically they didn't know what they were voting for.

Fast forward to one month ago when the first reading of the very same levy comes up, and he is supposed to make a decision and start the fiduciary process of finding if this is the right thing to put on the ballot. But the only information given is the previous 95/5, then 50/50, and now 80/20 split. He didn't get any other information at first reading. So, he did his own research, and he doesn't think that's right. No individual citizen or Councilmember should have a first reading without the report just given. He received information from Finance Administrator Mulh, talked to patrons at Addie's Cup, talked to Councilmembers Turner and Broome and the Mayor. The Mayor was in the room in 1988 during the formation of the Land Conservancy, knew when it turned to being a 501(c)(3), and knew when the conservation levy went in to support that. The story is fascinating and it's an amazing process that happened. But where Councilmember Onysko's research landed was really clear - the levy and the Conservancy exist to buy land so developers can't. Historically, the vast majority of the funds have been used to buy land. That's absolutely fine. It worked. Look around this place. It's fantastic. But we need to have the courage to put the correct verbiage on the levy, so it's clear what we are voting for. The word "acquisition" is a subordinate clause in the 70-word sentence, and the only time the Gates Mills Land Conservancy is mentioned is that we may give to an organization like them should Council deem to do that. There's nothing wrong with that. It's just that it's not clear what the tax levy is going for.

The flyer mailed to all residents this past weekend by the Gates Mills Land Conservancy has so much great information, but not one word says "please donate". Thirty-five years of living off a tax has put them in such a position that fundraising doesn't even come to mind when you put a mailer in every single person's mailbox. Councilmember Onysko's goal is not to say there's something wrong with the organization or the levy. It's that the process is broken. Let's unwind that. He wants the Land Conservancy to have it in their DNA to ask for support from their neighbors with their every word. Tin cup. That's what 501(c)(3)s do. That's what unwinds this entanglement that we have, and it's their obligation to do such a thing.

At 1:00:46 Councilmember Greco stated, having had to educate herself as Councilmember Onysko did, that she believes we are moving too fast. Having that first reading last month was not really a first reading at all, and it caught a lot of us off guard. She is not against the Gates Mills Land Conservancy at all. What she is against is using tax dollars to fund their mission. That is wrong. This is the beginning of the process to end that program. This levy got on the ballot and has been automatically renewed for all these years. She is not a sheep, she doesn't follow along just for the ride, and she has to do her own research.

There's some problems with the five-year operating agreement that Council agreed to with the Land Conservancy that ends at the end of the year. The Gates Mills Land Conservancy was required to come before this body in January and in July and make a report as to its activities and its finances. This is our July meeting. She doesn't see the Gates Mills Land Conservancy on the agenda. That's an issue for her. This five-year agreement also said that the Gates Mills Land Conservancy was refocusing its mission towards stewardship and away from acquisition and that they would establish an endowment. \$700,000 was what they said five years ago would suffice

according to their concerns and make them a perpetual organization. On their 990 - we only have the 2024 990/2025 hasn't been filed - there's a box that they have to check if they have an endowment. That box is not checked. That's an issue. Most interestingly, in that five-year agreement, the village said that at the end of the five-year period, which is where we are now, that they hoped that the Conservancy would have sufficient funds set aside to carry it on in perpetuity. She says that they do.

Being presented this report by the Ad Hoc Levy Committee generates some questions to be directed to the Law Director. 1) Does the Ad Hoc Levy Committee's preparation of this report comply with Ohio's Open Meetings Act? There are two Ohio Supreme Court cases on the books - one just decided in March - that would say that maybe it doesn't. 2) Please state whether preparing and circulating this report using village resources and time complies with Ohio Revised Code Section 9.03(C). 3) If the Ad Hoc Levy Committee meetings were in violation of the law, she is formally requesting that the minutes of every meeting be prepared, if they were not, and submitted to Council before we can do anything.

This report also asks voters to approve an additional \$1.3 million. When combined, the Conservancy and the village have \$1.5 million unspent. She thinks that is untenable. The report doesn't answer the real question before this Council - why residents' tax dollars should keep being the default source of funding for conservation, rather than the Gates Mills Land Conservancy's own membership, donors, and grants. Every charity has to make their case to their own supporters and this charity should not be exempt.

She thought the report that the Gates Mills Land Conservancy sent out was misleading in certain ways. It bemoans the fact that over 70% of the land in Gates Mills remains unprotected. That means that 30% of the land in this village is protected - either owned or conserved by the Conservancy, the village, and other entities. When is that going to stop? What's the end? Every acre that we add to that column is an acre that stops contributing to the cost to run this village. We run a fairly tight financial ship here, but we do not have a lot of cash. We have to watch what we're spending and where it comes from. At some point, conserving land stops being stewardship and starts being something we do to ourselves.

Councilmember Greco respects the Gates Mills Land Conservancy and what they've done over 35 years, but it is a charity. This Council's job, our fiduciary duty, is to represent the taxpayer, not to backfill a charity's budget with taxes instead of donations. She is asking her colleagues not to continue to rush through this. If we don't get it on the ballot in November, perhaps we can get it on the ballot in some other time.

At 1:08:32 Councilmember Broome finds people often overstate that the purpose of the Conservancy is to prevent developers from coming in. It's a common overstatement and people say it all the time. That's not the case. In his time with the Conservancy, lots of properties were looked at and passed over because they didn't have a conservation value worth pursuing. The Conservancy has tried to preserve primarily properties along the river to protect it. Some of the properties that the Conservancy owns are properties that are donated and might not be along the river. Hopefully the outlook on what value everyone in the village gets out of the Conservancy is that a well-run land conservancy program enhances the value of all

properties and enhances the beauty of living here and is worth saving. We all have fair opinions about how we get there.

At 1:13:13 the Mayor asked GMLC President Carracher and other GMLC members in the audience to hold their comments until the end of the meeting when the agenda calls for comments from the audience.

At 1:13:55 Councilmember and former GMLC member Turner addressed the implications made by Councilmembers Greco and Onysko that this body has not been scrupulous in the oversight of the Land Conservancy and that reports were not made on time at a given date. There are five members appointed by the Mayor who are at every Land Conservancy Board meeting, who look at the budget, who are aware of the marketing plan and the application for grants and everything that the Land Conservancy is doing with regard to the management of its properties, including conservation easements, and getting donations from villagers. The fact that the Land Conservancy has not approached Councilmember Onysko directly for a donation is unfortunate, but she doesn't think it indicts the whole marketing program. There have been occasions when there was not a report to Council at a specific time, but because of a full Council agenda, the report offered has been deferred for another time, or it's been accepted and given to Council without an actual presentation. She does not want to leave the impression that the Land Conservancy is not, on its own or by Council oversight, scrupulous about how it spends money.

13. **Ordinance No. 2026-25 (Third Reading)** - see page 11

14. **Ordinance No. 2026-31 (Second Reading)** starts at 1:15:54

"An Ordinance Providing for the Submission to the Electors of the Village of Gates Mills a Proposed Amendment to the Charter of the Village of Gates Mills to Renew for a Period of Five Years the Existing One Mill Tax Levy for the Public Purpose of Conserving, Retaining, Protecting and Preserving Land, Water, Forest, Open, Natural or Wetland Areas in this Municipality Predominantly in their Natural, Scenic, Open or Wooded Condition or as Suitable Habitat for Fish, Plants or Wildlife, Including the Acquisition of Such Real Property or Interests Therein as may be Necessary to Carry Out That Purpose; and Declaring an Emergency" was read by Councilmember Turner.

Mayor Siemborski asked for a motion to suspend the rules. Councilmember Young moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Ordinance No. 2026-31 be placed on its final passage. Councilmember Broome seconded the motion.

Discussion starts at 1:17:50 -

Greco - Why make the motion to suspend the rules and not have a third reading?

Siemborski - There still will be discussion. There'll be the town hall meeting. We have four months to discuss this. This just is a question of do we want one more reading to put it on the ballot.

Onysko - This is wrong. There's three readings and there's no emergency here.

Greco - She is surprised that would be done right now given the fact that this is an issue that does nothing but need to be discussed.

Young - He does not think it's our responsibility to decide this for the villagers. It's important that this get on the ballot, and we let the villagers vote for themselves.
Greco - She thinks it's our fiduciary duty not to put it on the ballot. This is a tax.
Young - He understands.
Perez - We should wait for the town hall meeting to happen and not suspend the rules.

Ayes: Broome, Turner, Young.
Nays: Greco, Onysko, Perez, Steinbrink.
Motion failed.

Ordinance No. 2026-31 remains on second reading.

15. **Ordinance No. 2026-35 (First Reading)** starts at 1:20:06

"An Ordinance to Amend the Annual Appropriation Ordinance No. 2025-51 to Increase Certain Appropriations and Other Expenditures of the Village of Gates Mills, Ohio for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2026" was read by Mayor Siemborski.
This item is to fund the Arboretum stair replacement project being done by Siteworx and approved last month by Council. We've provided pictures showing the unsafe condition of the stairs.

Councilmember Broome moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Ordinance No. 2026-35 be placed on its final passage. Councilmember Steinbrink seconded the motion.

Ayes: Broome, Greco, Onysko, Perez, Steinbrink, Turner, Young.
Nays: None
Motion carried.

Councilmember Broome moved to approve Ordinance No. 2026-35 and Councilmember Greco seconded the motion.

Ayes: Broome, Greco, Onysko, Perez, Steinbrink, Turner, Young.
Nays: None
Motion carried.

16. **Resolution No. 2026-36 (First Reading)** starts at 1:22:38

"A Resolution Authorizing Participation in the ODOT Road Salt Contracts Awarded in 2026" was read by Mayor Siemborski.

Service Director Biggert explained we submit our tonnage request to ODOT. Once ODOT compiles all requests, they solicit and receive bids. So we do not know the price now, but we should in the next few weeks. This authorization form to participate in the program needs to get to ODOT. The Service Director is behind in getting this in front of Council; usually we do this earlier.

Councilmember Broome moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Resolution No. 2026-36 be placed on its final passage. Councilmember Onysko seconded the motion.

Ayes: Broome, Greco, Onysko, Perez, Steinbrink, Turner, Young.
Nays: None
Motion carried.

Councilmember Broome moved to approve Resolution No. 2026-36 and Councilmember Perez seconded the motion.

Ayes: Broome, Greco, Onysko, Perez, Steinbrink, Turner, Young.
Nays: None
Motion carried.

13. **Ordinance No. 2026-25 (Third Reading)** starts at 1:25:00

“An Ordinance Amending Section 155.04 of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of Gates Mills to Eliminate the Treasury Investment Board” was read by Councilmember Greco.

Mayor Siemborski provided background. Since the time Councilmember Greco recommended eliminating the Treasury Investment Board, the Law Director has provided information on what the roles and responsibilities of the Board members would be. The Mayor has spoken with two Councilmembers who would be interested in sitting on the Board if it continues to exist. Several Councilmembers like the fact that there is an Investment Board with members of Council or our community that could provide advice and perspective, despite the fact we have hired outside professionals. Councilmember Greco stated we do have the investment policy statement that not only is Ancora bound by, but we are. She feels that it's unnecessary and duplicative.

Law Director Hunt got the impression when it was on first reading that there were a couple of Councilmembers that expressed a desire to continue to have a Treasury Investment Board, if only to be an advisory board to the Treasurer. The Law Director has put together a draft for discussion with the Treasurer and Mayor some role that the Treasury Investment Board would have in either an advisory position to the Treasurer or maybe something more than that. He leaves it up to Council to decide whether to pass this tonight to eliminate the Board entirely, or he can come back with a proposed ordinance way ahead of the next meeting so Council can review and decide whether to move forward with something on an advisory position or more than that. Councilmember Greco stated this is the first she is hearing of this and doesn't mind hearing additional information. Councilmember Onysko asked the Law Director to include a one-page opinion on the subject.

Treasurer Spear thinks, because this has gone on for a very long time, we should look at the ordinance. The ordinance says Council shall appoint at least two of its members. You could do that today and not in any way prejudice what you're going to do later. The truth is he has had his quarterly meeting with Ancora, so there's no sense of urgency here. Having David Young and Dixon Morgan at his meeting with Ancora made that a better meeting. He is perfectly happy to have consultation on the Board. Councilmember Turner asked does it need to be Councilmembers, and the Treasurer answered there is a purpose for two Councilmembers - that is the Treasurer is watching the portfolio manager and Councilmembers are watching the Treasurer. Councilmember Greco asked, other than Councilmember Young, who is going to serve if we do this. The Mayor responded he has asked Councilmember Perez to serve in that

role and she is willing to do that. Councilmember Broome stated his only hesitancy is there are a lot of smart people in the village.

Ordinance No. 2026-25 remains on third reading.

17. Executive Session starts at 1:32:49

Councilmember Broome moved to go into Executive Session to discuss the acquisition of property for public purposes and obtain confidential legal advice from the Law Director. Councilmember Turner seconded the motion.

Ayes: Broome, Greco, Onysko, Perez, Steinbrink, Turner, Young.

Nays: None

Motion carried. Executive Session commenced at 7:04 p.m.

Mayor Siemborski reconvened the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

Added Agenda Item **Resolution No. 2026-37 (First Reading)** starts at 1:52:58

“A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute an Agreement with the Chagrin Valley Hunt Club for a Sanitary Sewer Project and Declaring an Emergency” was read by Councilmember Broome.

The agreement is the culmination of negotiations with the Hunt Club to construct a wastewater pumping station, on Hunt Club property and to be paid for by the Hunt Club, to tie into the village’s existing wastewater treatment system. The money for this project is entirely from a \$250,000 Ohio Dept of Public Works grant plus Hunt Club funds. There is no cost to the village. The agreement provides for payments to the village for sewage treatment at NEORSD market rates and it provides for contributions to the operating costs of the system based on flow. The agreement also provides additional protections in the form of a deed restriction concerning zoning and the right of notification and offer for the village should the Club property ever go up for sale.

This has been the product of many meetings with the Club, the Mayor, and the Law Director, and a lot of back and forth. What this does is it takes a system that the Club is operating now, an on-site wastewater treatment system that is not functioning very well, and it gets the Club tied into a system that is working to protect the river. It provides a revenue stream to the village. It’s a win-win for everybody.

Acceptance of the grant is required to be signed 45 days from July 2nd. That timeframe will expire before the next meeting. Councilmember Broome moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Resolution No. 2026-37 be placed on its final passage. Councilmember Steinbrink seconded the motion.

Ayes: Broome, Greco, Onysko, Perez, Steinbrink, Turner.

Abstain: Young

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Councilmember Broome explained we're going to be acquiring permanent easements from the Hunt Club on their property so that we can access the system. Acquisition of land and changes that were made to the document yesterday and today necessitated all Councilmembers be given the benefit of consulting with the Law Director in Executive Session about the effect and legal implication of those.

Councilmember Broome moved to approve Resolution No. 2026-37 and Councilmember Steinbrink seconded the motion.

Ayes: Broome, Greco, Onysko, Perez, Steinbrink, Turner.

Abstain: Young

Nays: None

Motion carried.

18. Council Discussion - starts at 1:58:54

Councilmember Perez, relative to the robust discussion earlier about the conservation levy, does not want residents to walk away with the implication that the Land Conservancy does not conduct fundraising efforts, because she received an envelope in the mail not more than two months ago seeking a donation. She believes the Land Conservancy report in February, due in January, was postponed by village request due to the lengthy January agenda and not for lack of trying.

Councilmember Perez reported the elementary school (turning 100 this year) in partnership with the village will be hosting our second annual family-friendly 5K in the village on September 12 at 9 a.m. with a kids run, a one-mile, and a 5K.

Councilmember Greco recommends looking at Form 990 to see exactly how much fundraising the Conservancy does.

19. Business from the Audience - starts at 2:00:53

Resident and Gates Mills Land Conservancy President Jamie Carracher appreciates the time and the consideration given by Council as they think about this issue. He put forth points that are important to him and to the Conservancy Board:

- We are not about stopping development in Gates Mills. He would not be involved in an organization that is about stopping development. We never had enough money to stop development wholesale in Gates Mills. Our job is to protect the unique natural heritage of the Chagrin Valley.
- We work hand in hand with conservation partners around the region, including the Western Reserve Land Conservancy. We are extremely friendly with them; we share conservation easements with them; we partner with them. We had an event here in town with Land Trust Alliance, a national association for land trust in America, attended by 50 conservation folks. We partnered with Western Reserve Land Conservancy to bring them here. Their mission is just like our mission. We work together.
- Like Western Reserve Land Conservancy and other land conservancies, we work closely with cities and jurisdictions - and that includes getting funding to do our work. What makes us unique is we are focused 100% on Gates Mills. We bring in about \$40,000 a year and want to drive that number up.

We sent a fundraising letter out May 15th, consistent with Councilmember Perez's observation. We do two mailings a year. We do a lot of communication in terms of newsletters and events. We work hard to make sure people know what we are doing. We want them to come and learn about us, ask questions, probe, challenge us. We want to be delicate about how we ask for money. Some people don't take too kindly to us knocking on their door asking for money, but some people may be ok with that. We have fundraising professionals on our Board working for organizations like Lake View Cemetery, much larger than our little nonprofit.

- The people he volunteers with are passionate. We spend so many hours doing this for the betterment of the community. We really believe in it. We are ready to continue to work with the community, look forward to answering questions at the town hall next week, and look forward to keeping it going.

Councilmember Broome noted this is the last week of GM Nature Camp. Thank you Joe and Carmela Hayes and son Josh for the great job and taking advantage of our river and the beauty we have. The kids have a blast. Councilmember Perez agreed.

20. Adjourn

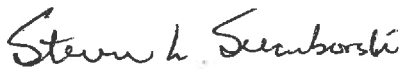
There being no further business, it was moved by Councilmember Broome, seconded by Councilmember Steinbrink, and unanimously carried, that the council meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Beth DeCapite, Clerk

Approved:



Steven L. Siemborski, Mayor