

**Village of Gates Mills**  
**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**  
**May 20, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Council of the Village of Gates Mills, Ohio was held at the Community House on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. with Mayor Siemborski presiding. The meeting was live-streamed to the internet.

1. Roll Call starts at 1:30

Councilmembers present: Atton, Broome, Deacon, Onysko, Press, 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.

2. Mayor Siemborski administered the Oath of Office to Firefighters Jarrod Fritz and Bryce Day at 2:17

3. Mayor Siemborski administered the Oath of Office to Sergeant Dylan Hustosky at 7:30

4. Appointment - Charles Spear - Asst. Treasurer & Tax Administrator starts at 10:50

Outgoing Tax Administrator Robert Reitman was recognized and received a standing ovation for his 35 years of dedicated volunteer service to the village in a variety of appointed and elected positions. The Mayor requested Council approve the appointment of Charles Spear to fulfill the role of Tax Administrator and Assistant Treasurer effective now. Mr. Spear has indicated he will run for Treasurer in the election this fall if Treasurer Morgan does not choose to run again.

Councilmember Atton moved to approve the appointment of Charles Spear to Tax Administrator and Assistant Treasurer. Councilmember Turner seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

5. Mayor Siemborski administered the Oath of Office to Tax Administrator and Assistant Treasurer Charles Spear at 13:42

6. Minutes of Regular Council Meeting of April 15, 2025 starts at 16:11

Earlier today the Mayor emailed the suggestion to change Page 5, second paragraph under Item e., first ten lines and not publicly bash the post office. Councilmember Broome emailed the following suggested summary language:

“A resident made comments about service. Councilmember Broome, in response to a resident inquiry, spoke with the Postmaster and while there have been challenges in hiring, they are working to get staffing sorted out”.

Councilmember Broome suggested three changes: 1) Page 3, second paragraph, first Broome question he requested clarification by adding “offsite storage” to “would we have enough *offsite storage* to start all over again”?, 2) Page 3, second paragraph, second Broome question he requested adding “do” to “*Do* you guys look for any intrusion”?, and 3) Page 11, second Broome discussion, second line, he asked to replace “substance” with “substantive”.

Councilmember Broome moved to approve the April 15, 2025 minutes as amended and Councilmember Deacon seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Added Agenda Item - Introduction of John Brad Deane, Field Representative for US Congresswoman Shontel Brown starts at 19:30

Brad works in Constituent Services and can assist the village with federal grant opportunities and letters of support for grants or appropriations. Residents with issues at the federal level - Social Security, IRS, Veterans Affairs, Railroad Retirement Board - can contact the Beachwood office (216-522-4900) to help resolve the problem or get the needed information.

7. Pay Ordinance # 1297 \$806,327.82 starts at 21:07

Finance Administrator Mulh used a new format to prepare the Payment Listing. The purpose for each payment is now included on the report

Councilmember Broome moved to approve Pay Ordinance #1297. Councilmember Turner seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

8. Mayor's Report starts at 22:44

Added Item - Pickleball/Tennis Court Water Fountain

Installation of the water fountain with a dog bowl and bottle filler should be complete by mid June. The total cost of \$10,000 was contributed by players in memory of a member who passed away and the GM Improvement Society.

Comment was made at the last meeting that little progress has been made with the 2025 priorities, yet how the Mayor manages his time and efforts is based on those priorities. To close the communication gap, a document labeled 2025 Priorities was created listing the strategic and other important items agreed upon by Council along with a progress status grade determined by the Mayor using four categories of progress - 1) not yet started, 2) in process-early stage, 3) in process-advanced stage, or 4) essentially complete.

Councilmember Press indicated two or three items did not make the final list, and he will submit those to the Mayor for discussion in June if merited.

b. Sidewalk Project starts at 27:17

We have been trying to meet face to face with the three affected property owners to discuss and take comments on the plans and drawings mailed to them of the sidewalk connecting the lower parking lot of the elementary school to the village center. The Mayor has met with one owner. The two that he was supposed to meet with this afternoon got cancelled, not by us.

Village Engineer Courtney needs to put out a RFP for the small pedestrian bridge, which will have a lead time of several months, and a RFP for the concrete sidewalk. Our target ought to be having the needed approvals in front of Council at the June meeting, including the conversations with the neighbors and making sure we're responsive to their comments.

c. Post Office Lease starts at 29:30

At the last Council meeting, Mayor Siemborski reported Jones Lang LaSalle would represent the government in negotiating the postal service lease expiring in 2027. Gates Mills, as Lessor, pays that bill. Following up on resident Jerry Bohinc's suggestion, the Mayor has contacted and is getting proposals from several consultants specializing in negotiating post office leases on behalf of the Lessor. Service Director Biggert and the Mayor will evaluate the proposals expected to be \$5,000 - \$10,000, a fair amount to pay to ensure over \$300,000 worth of rent in five years is fair or needs improvement.

d. Gates Mills Dam Remnant Removal Project starts at 31:28

This subject came up within the last two weeks and is background for Agenda Item No. 19. Since the dam collapsed in 2011, the village and Chagrin River Watershed Partners have approached the State of Ohio a number of times looking for grant funding that would remove the remnants of the dam. The priority for that funding was never high enough to make the cut. About three weeks ago, there was some re-awarding done in ODNR's H2Ohio grant program making \$250,000 available if we move quickly to pull this together and we've done that. Councilmember Turner is Council Representative on the Chagrin River Watershed Partners Board and can comment in more detail.

e. Pedestrian Bridge starts at 33:25

We are waiting for the report from Isaac Lewin - it will be out this month. The bridge is safe; it's going to need some repairs. We can't go forward with funding until we know what the costs are.

f. Senior Services starts at 34:17

A task group of 8-10 people will meet in the next two weeks at the first of several gatherings. Wendy Albin Sattin, Executive Director of Community Partnership on Aging, will be in attendance to comment on trends in aging and help us assess needs, solutions, and costs. Councilmember Turner was involved with the last evaluation of senior services 4 - 5 years ago, and she will join the task group.

Added Item - Election Results starts at 36:15

May 6th Issue 2 and local levy results were reported by the Mayor.

9. Financial Report attached and on the website, starts at 38:33

Mayor Siemborski reported there's a lot of the same in the month of April as we had in the first three months of the year.

At the last meeting there was comment about Sensys Gatso doing a traffic study through the St. Francis school zone to see whether our speed program could be expanded up there, and Councilmember Turner asked what progress had been made. Mayor Siemborski stated Sensys Gatso did the traffic study in May and found 50 to 100 cars per day were speeding over 30 mph in a 20 mph school zone. Chief Minichello will gather school zone speeding and fine data from other communities to put our results into perspective. Council will be presented with the results at the next meeting.

10. Clerk's Report starts at 43:15

The Clerk provided copies of a brochure introducing Hunting Valley's new speed enforcement program - it appears there will be 10 cameras in 6 initial locations.

11. Police Department Report attached and starts at 44:12

Police Chief Minichello added details of the traffic stop by Sergeant Hustosky and Patrolman Cudo that revealed a suspect wanted out of Puerto Rico on a double homicide warrant. The Chief detailed what led to the damaged guard rail at Brigham and River Road.

Councilmember Onysko put the speed camera data into a spreadsheet and was pleased to report every trend line proves this program is working to slow down speed. Councilmember Atton suggested adding a separate column for citations issued so we can see the trend. Citations dictate how much money we make. The Chief agreed.

The Chief advised the full force is prepared and will be present at the St. Francis Church Festival with support from the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Dept.

12. Service Department Report attached and starts at 51:21

Mayor Siemborski thanked Service Director Biggert for providing the first quarter recycling statistics in his report. The statistics will continue to be provided each quarter with comparison to the previous year.

Village Engineer Courtney advised the guardrail replacement project will start in two to three weeks.

13. Fire Department Report attached and starts at 52:22

Fire Chief Majeski pointed out the swearing-in ceremony for our new Engineers (First-Class Firefighters). They have completed all the requirements and testing following Council's approval of the Cadet program last year. The Mayor will swear the Engineers in at 9:30 a.m. before the July 4th parade. Everyone is welcome.

The Chief reported the fire engine specs were submitted to five potential bidders to test the market before going through the actual process of bidding. Two bidders have sent back engineering specs with related costs; we're waiting for the other three. As firetruck emissions standards get higher, the price tends to go up, and the emissions standards are being reevaluated by the EPA at the request of the new administration in January. It would be prudent at this time to wait for all the engineering studies to come back. We will reevaluate and submit to Council and the Mayor.

14. Committee Reports starts at 57:16

• Broadband (Councilmember Deacon)

- June: We move into the fiber to the home phase of communication. CVG community engagement efforts include post flyers, participate in the July 4th parade, attend the July picnic, and use of Gates Mills Connect to advise residents of project status updates.
- September: CVG informational sessions and office hours to talk about subscriptions commence.
- Councilmember Onysko has been helping, especially with technology specifications. He finds CVG to be a very impressive group and is shocked at their ability to manufacture their own conduit and machinery and not subcontract anything out.

Councilmember Atton asked if CVG has signed the agreement yet. Councilmember Deacon answered no. Some of it wasn't executed properly on our end, so we're going to redo it and get it over to them for signature.

• Tree Canopy (Councilmembers Turner and Atton) starts at 1:01:27

- The county wide "Caring For your Woods: First Steps" presentation at the Community House on May 12th was a real success attended by 53 people, 35 from Gates Mills. Eighteen professional foresters were on hand - resources we can engage as we go forward.
- The county has announced at the beginning of May that they are going to continue the grant program by which they distribute \$1,000,000 a year in the interests of a healthy urban tree canopy. The committee thought it was sensible to apply. There are three grant categories - tree maintenance, tree planting, and

tree planning. To be qualified for the first two categories, you need to have a tree plan, which we don't have. So, we are applying for a tree planning grant - initially just for the properties owned by the Land Conservancy and the village. That plan becomes a platform for proper staffing, for fundraising, for informing residents, and setting a good example through leadership. The odds are not strong that we will be awarded a grant, but it's a good process to go through. Applications are due June 6th.

• Wastewater (Mayor Siemborski) starts at 1:05:47

- We need to put together the revised ordinance with the revised rates and run those up the line, including through the Wastewater Committee, and use those as the basis for our wastewater reimbursement from the Hunt Club. The time frame is expected to be 30 days.

• Finance/Budget (Mayor Siemborski) starts at 1:06:42

- Spring meeting to be scheduled over the next three weeks

• Safety (Mayor Siemborski) starts at 1:06:54

- Committee met last week. Topics discussed have already been covered.

• Service (Mayor Siemborski) starts at 1:07:14

- Next meeting to be scheduled over the next 2 - 3 weeks
- The Mayor has asked Chip AuWerter to help us look at the road program that he started with Dave Biggert and Chris Courtney four years ago. We're halfway through the program having spent over \$3,000,000 of our \$6,000,000 budget. We think we are making great progress, yet ought to ensure the standards we use to measure progress are consistent.

15. Resolution No. 2025-16 (Second Reading) starts at 1:08:17

"A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Professional Services Agreement with TechSpert Data Services LLC for Managed Information Technology Services" was read by the Mayor. At the first reading, Councilmembers deferred approval until Councilmember Onysko provided an opinion. After several meetings and calls, tonight Councilmember Onysko reports he is in total agreement with the provider's philosophy, and he couldn't have done it better himself. Kudos.

Councilmember Broome indicated the indemnification clause has been taken out, as requested, and a new paragraph 9 was put in. Councilmember Steinbrink noted the agreement covers a three year term and wondered if Council will have to revisit every year because of the CPI adjuster or will this approval cover us through the term. Law Director Hunt replied the term is covered as long as Council appropriates funds each year.

Councilmember Steinbrink moved that the rules requiring an ordinance to be read on three different days be suspended and that Resolution No. 2025-16 be placed on its final passage. Councilmember Broome seconded the motion to suspend the rules.

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

Nays: None  
Motion carried.

Councilmember Steinbrink moved to approve Resolution No. 2025-16 and Councilmember Broome seconded the motion.

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

**16. Ordinance No. 2025-17 (Second Reading) starts at 1:12:42**

“An Ordinance Amending Section 155.03, Water Debt Service Fund, of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of Gates Mills” was read by Mayor Siemborski. This ordinance adds language that would allow us to use the water debt service fund for water repairs, replacements, maintenance, and ongoing operations of \$25,000 or greater.

Ordinance No. 2025-17 remains on second reading.

**17. Ordinance No. 2025-18 (Second Reading) starts at 1:13:37**

“An Ordinance Amending Chapter 131, Council, of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of Gates Mills” was read by the Mayor. Law Director Hunt explained he made revisions based on the virtual attendance comments that were made at the last meeting. The most substantive revision resulted from Councilmember Steinbrink’s feedback - there will always be an in-person meeting and a presiding officer (the Mayor or President Pro Tem) will need to be sitting in a room in the village doing it live in person. We don’t anticipate all seven Councilmembers will be attending virtually; the audience is guaranteed there’ll be a place they can come and observe and ask questions.

Councilmember Turner asked what happens if you lose connection. Can you vote? Is there provision for that in the ordinance? The Law Director answered no, if you are not connected, you don’t vote. Councilmember Turner, still of a mixed mind about this, reached out to 3 communities around us who have allowed for virtual meetings to see what their experience has been. In one community, since early 2025, at least one Councilmember, not the same Councilmember, has been virtual every meeting. In the other two communities, it’s more occasional that Councilmembers participate virtually. One community commented virtual attendance especially benefitted dept. heads.

Councilmember Press is in favor of drafting some guidelines for what we regard to be acceptable behavior if we had virtual meetings - guidelines would not go into the ordinance. Discussion:

Deacon - Special meetings without much notice are challenging.

Broome - In favor of having some rules. Prefers in-person meetings.

Deacon - If we’re going to adopt an ordinance, it would be good to do the rules at the same time.

Onysko - In favor of rules. Suggested using his draft from last month as a starting point for the guidelines. In favor of in-person meetings; however, on the technical side, we would be behind the times if we didn't approve the ordinance.

Siemborski - Does someone want to draft those rules or should we ask the Law Director to do that?

Hunt - Needs guidance from Councilmembers, either via email or set up an ad hoc committee.

Steinbrink - What is involved in repealing an ordinance after it's been passed? If virtual attendance is being abused down the road and the other six Councilmembers say this isn't going the way we intended, can we repeal it?

Hunt - Yes, at the next Council meeting.

Deacon - We need to set the expectation so people know what's expected. They'll be on camera. How do you notify that you're going to attend virtually?

Siemborski - Asked each Councilmember to send to the Law Director for compilation suggested rules or the areas they want rules.

Hunt - Some of it will go in the ordinance and some will go in the guidelines.

Siemborski - He will send to the Law Director his views and those of Finance Administrator Mulh on committees, since some of the language in the ordinance addresses all committees. We have some committees that are very structured and some that are very loose. We need to know which are really committees, which are boards, and what rules apply to which ones.

Broome - The committee is where it might be most important to establish rules.

Siemborski - Comments and ideas back to the Law Director. We'll cover this at the next meeting.

Ordinance No. 2025-18 remains on second reading.

**18. Resolution No. 2025-19 (First Reading) starts at 1:28:00**

"A Resolution Submitting the Question of the Renewal of an Existing 3.5 Mill Tax Levy for the Purpose of Current Expenses; and Declaring an Emergency" was read by Mayor Siemborski. Being one of our three levies that we renew every several years, this one is \$616,000 annually over five years as certified by the county fiscal officer per Council's request at last month's meeting. Discussion:

Press - Why do we need to declare an emergency? This is something we're doing a year in advance anyway.

Hunt - If you want it on the ballot this November, August 6th is the deadline. It does not have to be an emergency. Emergency means it goes into effect immediately; not talking about waiving the three readings.

Siemborski - We can reread in June and July if you want. This is a procedural thing.

Press - This is a tax renewal. The three readings rule is there to give residents a chance to express their point of view. He would rather not make it an emergency.

Hunt - If it's passed in July, it would need to be an emergency, but it would be third reading.

Broome - We could always vote after second reading giving everyone a chance to see it and comment.

Press - It was discussed last meeting as well.

Broome - The only reason we should do it earlier is to give some cushion if there's a problem at the Board of Elections.



Resolution No. 2025-19 remains on first reading.

19. **Resolution No. 2025-20 (First Reading)** starts at 1:31:55

“A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Subcontractor Agreement with Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Inc. (“CRWP”) for a Project to Remove the Remnants of a Dam on the Chagrin River to be Funded by a Grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (“ODNR”) to CRWP” was read by Councilmember Turner. The Mayor previously did a good job of summarizing this - see Agenda Item No. 8d.

Councilmember Turner added CRWP will directly enter into the grant agreement with ODNR, and the village will be a subcontractor to CWRP to provide engineering oversight/approval in collaboration with CRWP and legal review of all documents to be entered into by the village. The overall amount is \$250,000 for the work - the village would be reimbursed for our engineering and legal expenses up to \$10,000.

Benefits of the project are water will no longer be diverted and cause erosion around the river banks, and it will be scenic, not unsightly. The equipment will only be on the side of the river owned by the village. A private owner is on the other side, has already given permission for the successful contractor to be on the property, but not to be invasive.

We need to approve this tonight because it's part of the current fiscal allocation and has to be done by the end of the month. If we don't accept it, they probably go to somebody else. Village Engineer Courtney expects permitting could take a year and the demolition to occur next summer during the driest weather.

Councilmember Broome moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Resolution No. 2025-20 be placed on its final passage. Councilmember Steinbrink seconded the motion to suspend the rules.

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

Councilmember Broome moved to approve Resolution No. 2025-20 and Councilmember Deacon seconded the motion.

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

20. **Resolution No. 2025-21 (First Reading)** starts at 1:39:32

“A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contractual Agreement with the City of Solon for Jail Services for Village of Gates Mills Prisoners and Declaring an Emergency” was read by Mayor Siemborski. We have a very limited need for jail services, maybe less than 10 times a year. Geauga County is usually full when we need jail services. Solon has the capacity and is a full service jail - which includes medical

attention. The Police Chief added when Geauga County is full, we turn to Mayfield Heights or Lyndhurst, but they're not full service and it becomes a burden for that department.

Councilmember Press asked why is this one an emergency. Finance Administrator answered it would go into effect immediately if you pass it as an emergency, instead of waiting 30 days if you don't pass it as an emergency.

Councilmember Onysko moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Resolution No. 2025-21 be placed on its final passage. Councilmember Steinbrink seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Councilmember Broome moved to approve Resolution No. 2025-21 and Councilmember Deacon seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

**21. Ordinance No. 2025-22 (First Reading) starts at 1:44:04**

"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. We need an additional appropriation of \$22,000 to the police dept. because we sold the Tesla car rather than trading it in as planned when the replacement was purchased, resulting in a larger disbursement. Secondly, we need an additional appropriation of \$39,000 to the service dept. for items unknown when we did the budget - \$30,000 for infrastructure upgrades needed to support the broadband being installed and \$9,000 for the refresh of common areas at the Mills Building.

At 1:46:15 Councilmember Onysko provided detail of the \$30,000 infrastructure upgrades in layman's terms. Referring to the TechSpert quote, he explained the rationale for two firewalls and noted the hardware installation cost of \$6,000 - \$8,000 is not included. See Agenda Item No. 23.

Councilmember Turner moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Ordinance No. 2025-22 be placed on its final passage. Councilmember Deacon seconded the motion to suspend the rules.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Councilmember Deacon moved to approve Ordinance No. 2025-22 and Councilmember Broome seconded the motion.

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

22. **Resolution No. 2025-23 (First Reading)** starts at 1:55:39

“A Resolution Authorizing Additional Fees to be Paid to the Law Firm of Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP for Special Legal Services; and Declaring an Emergency” was read by Mayor Siemborski. Our agreement with Taft was hourly based work with an expectation of not to exceed \$25,000 unless discussed with us. We have bills that add up to \$35,963 for the total broadband project, so we need authorization for an additional \$11,000 to increase the \$25,000 amount to \$36,000. The bills were reviewed by Councilmember Deacon and the Mayor. The Mayor finds their fees to be fair for the services provided.

Councilmember Deacon agreed. The services agreement did end up fairly complex because of the right of first refusal, the indefeasible right to use, other exhibits, the in-kind credit, and so on. The committee did a fair amount of work themselves to mitigate cost. We didn't just punt it to the lawyers - we did a lot of leg work. She thinks the bills are very reasonable.

Councilmember Steinbrink moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Resolution No. 2025-23 be placed on its final passage. Councilmember Deacon seconded the motion to suspend the rules.

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

Councilmember Turner moved to approve Resolution No 2025-23 and Councilmember Deacon seconded the motion.

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

23. **Other Council Matters** starts at 1:58:32

Councilmember Onysko, having just done some quick research online, continued his analysis of the firewall cost in the TechSpert quote (Agenda Item No. 21).

At 1:59:37 Councilmember Deacon, on behalf of the GM Garden Club, noted the first week in June is National Garden Week. The community is invited to two events. On June 4th, Restoring Natures Beauty: Celebrating 90 Years of the Gates Mills Arboretum will feature the CEO of Better Meadows & Woodlands to speak about invasives. On June 6th, there is a Garden Tour at the Historic Gates Mills Garden Club. Both events are in and around the Barn. Please RSVP.

At 2:01:21 Councilmember Press wonders whether we ought to think about a broader than Mayfield Road traffic camera program in view of Hunting Valley's program. We have roads where people speed - County Line and maybe Wilson Mills. It's something we ought to give some thought to. Councilmember Onysko agrees. Mayor Siemborski said the camera companies put up their own nickel funding such projects, and it has to be good for them economically or the community has to pay for the service.

At 2:03:12 Councilmember Press wonders if the GM Land Conservancy would want the same treatment we're giving the 3.5 mill renewal levy and put their levy on this year's ballot instead of waiting for next year's ballot. It would be nice to have the visibility if an acquisition came along to know whether there were funds to count on down the road or not. Councilmember Atton said remember that the sharing agreement is only in place until the end of next year, so if the levy is put on and it passes and we don't renew the sharing agreement, they don't gain. Mayor Siemborski has said in the past he doesn't think either the village or the Land Conservancy has demonstrated enough use of the levy monies received to make a compelling case. Councilmember Steinbrink agrees. The required \$700,000 reserve by the end of 2026 was discussed. Councilmember Press asked the Mayor to call the new president of the GM Land Conservancy and see what he would like to do. The Mayor is happy to call him.

At 2:07:21 Councilmember Atton commented that Hunting Valley at their May election voted to prohibit initiatives and referenda on a number of topics, one of which is zoning. The Constitution of the State of Ohio says that voters have the right to conduct a referendum to overturn a council decision or an initiative to put something of their own on the ballot, and Hunting Valley seems comfortable saying no that is not the case. He did not know home rule supersedes the State Constitution, as home rule supersedes the Ohio Revised Code.

Law Director Hunt has discussed this subject with the law director of Hunting Valley, Michael Cicero, who happens to be our Prosecutor. Hunting Valley's population is very small and they were dealing with issues such as road improvement standards on private vs public streets. The Law Director explained the pertinent section of the Ohio Constitution, the ballot language used, including the 25% voter requirement. Hunting Valley probably won't be challenged, but our Law Director thinks they've gone way too far.

#### 24. Business from the Audience starts at 2:11:17

Resident/Assistant Treasurer/Tax Administrator Charles Spear didn't go to the microphone, so his usual wisdom gets lost in the translation. The Open Meetings Act applies to this Council and is clear - this publicly elected body may not hold virtual meetings. Meetings will always be in person, although members of Council can attend them online.

Five hundred motorcycles will be coming through Gates Mills on May 25th for the 21st Firefighters' Motorcycle Memorial Ride. Our former fire chief Tom Robinson will be leading that ride.

#### 25. Adjourn

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

Respectfully submitted,



Beth DeCapite, Clerk

Approved:



Steven L. Siemborski, Mayor