

**Village of Gates Mills**  
**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**  
**November 8, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Council of the Village of Gates Mills, Ohio was held at the Community House on Tuesday, November 8, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. with Mayor Schneider presiding. The meeting was livestreamed to the internet.

Councilmembers present: Atton, AuWerter, Deacon, Press, Steinbrink, Turner, Welsh.

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

The minutes of the October 11, 2022, regular Council meeting were presented by the Clerk. Councilmember Press commented that during the Mayfield City Schools (MCS) presentation there was fifteen minutes of engagement between Councilmembers and the two presenters, there was quite a bit of interesting data, none of this was mentioned in the minutes, and we need to minute the question and answer session between the four different Councilmembers, Dr. Barnes and Mr. Snyder. Mayor Schneider stated the minutes are a point of discussion lately and she asked the Law Director if a recording is available then could the minutes reflect the meeting and not be word for word. Law Director Hunt stated that is acceptable if that is what Council as a whole decides to do. There are communities that make the video of the meeting the minutes. Councilmember Press asked why not do that, why do both? Mayor Schneider stated she always thought minutes were supposed to be simplified for when you are looking for something and then go to the recording for detail. Law Director Hunt stated that was legally acceptable and it comes down to what Council wants to do. Councilmember Steinbrink commented that a resident of the village on the website trying to find out what takes place in a Council meeting would not be able to navigate between minutes that take 10 minutes to read and a council meeting video that is 3 hours long. He would suggest minutes be more condensed, with bullet points, with reference in the minutes to start and stop times on the You Tube video for a particular subject. Councilmember Atton stated the Mayfield City Schools PowerPoint presentation should be attached to the minutes, and the conversation between Council and officials of MCS, which was the most important part, should be part of the minutes. Councilmember Atton mentioned at the last council meeting Councilmember Deacon said she thought the minutes were a much better way of finding out what was going on than watching the video while Councilmember Steinbrink is saying the opposite. Councilmember Atton said he didn't know, it depends on the topic. Councilmember Press agrees with Councilmember Atton regarding the dialogue being part of the minutes as that dialogue was the most important thing that happened all night. Councilmember Deacon agrees that the MCS PowerPoint presentation should be attached to the minutes and a notation made to the length of the online version of the Q & A session would be efficient. All Committee reports could also be attached to the minutes and copies should be available to the audience. Councilmember Welsh mentioned certain sections of the video can not be heard, the quality

is not there to rely on the video 100%, so the written report with a reference point to go back and look at it is the way to go. Councilmember AuWerter stated he has read some of the emails regarding changing the language in the draft minutes and he doesn't think it is ever practical to try to interpret what was said when an individual Councilperson wants to correct what was said according to what they recall and by definition it's not verbatim. You're getting into what was said versus what a Councilperson thinks was said and how do you ever resolve that? Councilmember AuWerter suggested that Council not approve the draft minutes and go back and do a very summarized draft with the start and stop times included as each topic took place and present to Council at the next meeting for approval and see what we all think of this trial run. Councilperson Turner especially liked the idea of very brief topical headings in an outline form with notations as to the location on the YouTube video, with attachments-more attachments than we do now, especially department head reports. Councilperson Press liked the idea of circulating the minutes to Council and getting their comments in advance and not posting on the website until they are approved. Councilperson Turner stated she recalled posting the draft minutes on the website was something that had not been done but this Council requested it because getting approved minutes onto the website could take a long time. Councilperson AuWerter asked when is the video posted on the website and the answer is the video is accessible within one day after a Council meeting. If the minutes are going to be an outline of topics discussed with reference to what point during the discussion that topic took place they ought to be out within 3-4 days even though they are draft. If somebody really wants to see it, they can see the outline and then they can go and look at the video. We get the best of both worlds-the outline-like minutes are out there very quickly referencing the video which is also out there very quickly. The approval at the next council meeting would be minor wordsmithing. Mayor Schneider stated the minutes of the October 11, 2022 Council Meeting will not be approved. They will be presented next month for approval in a shortened version with attachments. Councilperson Turner thanked Janet for the terrific job she has done doing detailed minutes when it was not her job and it is hard to please everyone. 5:58-19:36

Pay Ordinance #1267 in the amount of \$418,250.89 was presented by the Clerk. It was moved by Councilmember AuWerter to approve Pay Ordinance #1267. Councilmember Welsh seconded the motion.

Roll call: Ayes: Atton, AuWerter, Deacon, Press, Steinbrink, Turner, Welsh.  
Nays: None.  
Motion carried.

Treasurer Siemborski read his report which is attached. 20:04-27:00. The discussion following his report can be found at 27:01-37:36

Mayor Schneider reported on a thank you note sent to Fire Chief Robinson from Vicky M, a wonderful Halloween party with many volunteers, and the receipt of a \$22,500 donation to the safety fund to be used for guns and tasers. 37:37-39:24

Clerk DeCapite did not have a report.

Councilmember Turner reported the Positively Gates Mills Committee and the Community Club sponsored a very successful new residents social on November 4 and the event should be repeated at least on an annual basis. Councilmember Turner reported the Gates Mills Land Conservancy Board met today. The new Board officers are Nat Smith (President), Jamie Carracher (Vice President), Rob Galloway (Secretary) and Cindy Zins (Treasurer). 39:33-41:51

Councilmember AuWerter provided a report for the Comprehensive Plan project. The next meetings are November 15 and December 15. A public forum is targeted for January to review what the Advisory Committee is preliminarily starting to conclude. Using that feedback the Advisory Committee will reconvene in late January/early February followed by three or four more meetings. 41:52-44:54

Councilmember Steinbrink reported the Safety Committee met last week. The police department is trading and upgrading new sidearms, rifles, and tasers due to the private donation mentioned earlier by Mayor Schneider. The new body cams that integrate with dash cams were available for viewing. The traffic cam installation is moving slowly as Gatso and the software vendor for Lyndhurst Court are working together for the first time to allow the passage of files between Gatso and the Court. The problem with power to the location has been fixed. 44:55-47:19

Councilmember Steinbrink reported for the Real Estate Committee that a for lease sign is being constructed for the space formerly occupied by Cindi Halle. The Committee is very close to potentially having a use for Burton Court. 47:20-48:10. The discussion following his report can be found at 48:11-49:05

For the Insurance Committee, Chairperson Ann Whitney reported the Aetna employee health insurance renewal was increased by 7.6% but the agent was able to reduce the increase to 4%. The employee dental insurance renewal with Delta Dental remained unchanged from last year. 49:06-50:00

Chairperson Ann Whitney reported the Broadbank Committee met November 4 to hear presentations from four knowledgeable consultants, the information from which will now be digested. 50:01-50:24

Councilmember Deacon reported the Charter Review Committee met earlier in the week and bucketed what areas they thought might need to be addressed in our Charter adopted in 1972. They looked for outdated provisions, best practices, areas needing improvement for efficiency and effectiveness, and balance between branches. The next step is to survey current and prior elected officials to get their ideas. 50:25-52:00

Chief Minichello had provided his report in the Council packets. There were no other questions. Additional items he wished to mention were a presentation on scams hosted by the Cuyahoga County Division of Consumer Affairs at the Community House on November 17 from 6-7pm as well as a one day toy drive with the Marines on December

10 from 1-4pm put together by Officer Suchetka. 52:01-54:07. A discussion over the Dispatch Center following Chief Minichello's report can be found at 54:08-55:06.

Service Director Biggert had provided his report in the Council packets. There were no other questions. 55:07-55:29

Fire Chief Robinson had provided his report in the Council packets. He shared a video presentation for the Saddleback Lane fire. 55:30-1:14:52

Ordinance No. 2022-27 "An Ordinance Amending Zoning Code Section 1157.03, 'Accessory Uses in U1 Single-Family House District; New Standards' to Adopt a New Subsection (n) to Permit the Keeping of Chickens and Certain Other Domesticated Fowl as an Accessory Use in Residential Zoning Districts and Amending the General Offenses Code to Adopt a New Section 518.18, 'Backyard Chickens and Certain Other Domesticated Fowl'" was scheduled to be put on third reading by Councilperson Steinbrink, but there is no voting tonight because a Public Hearing is needed at the December 13 Council Meeting. Discussion by Councilmembers and the audience can be found at 1:14:53-1:36:56

Ordinance No. 2022-28 "An Ordinance Amending Section 1163.11, 'Fences; New Standards', of Chapter 1163, 'Lot and Yard Regulations', to Further Regulate Chain Link Fences" was scheduled to be put on third reading by Councilperson Steinbrink, but there is no voting tonight because a Public Hearing is needed at the December 13 Council Meeting. Discussion around corner lots with chain link fences needing screening and sunset provision relief can be found at 1:36:57-1:40:25

Resolution No. 2022-33 "A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Community Cost-Share Agreement with the Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Inc. for Stormwater Monitoring, Watershed Planning and Flood Response" was read by Councilmember Turner. Discussion can be found at 1:40:26-1:42:51

Councilmember AuWerter moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Resolution No. 2022-33 be placed upon its final passage. Councilmember Steinbrink seconded the motion to suspend the rules.

Roll call: Ayes: Atton, AuWerter, Deacon, Press, Steinbrink, Turner, Welsh.  
Nays: None  
Motion carried.

Councilmember AuWerter moved to approve Resolution No. 2022-33. Councilmember Steinbrink seconded the motion to approve Resolution No. 2022-33.

Roll call: Ayes: Atton, AuWerter, Deacon, Press, Steinbrink, Turner, Welsh.  
Nays: None  
Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 2022-34 “An Ordinance Authorizing a Contract with Aetna Health Care to Furnish and Provide Hospitalization and Health Care Coverage for Village Employees and Declaring an Emergency” was read by Mayor Schneider. 1:43:37-1:44:00

Councilmember AuWerter moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Ordinance No. 2022-34 be placed upon its final passage. Councilmember Deacon seconded the motion to suspend the rules.

Roll call: Ayes: Atton, AuWerter, Deacon, Press, Steinbrink, Turner, Welsh.  
Nays: None  
Motion carried.

Councilmember AuWerter moved to approve Ordinance No. 2022-34. Councilmember Welsh seconded the motion to approve Ordinance No. 2022-34.

Roll call: Ayes: Atton, AuWerter, Deacon, Press, Steinbrink, Turner, Welsh.  
Nays: None  
Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 2022-35 “An Ordinance Authorizing a Contract with Delta Dental to Provide Dental Insurance Coverage for Village Employees and Declaring an Emergency” was read by Mayor Schneider. 1:44:27-1:44:37

Councilmember Welsh moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Ordinance No. 2022-35 be placed upon its final passage. Councilmember Steinbrink seconded the motion to suspend the rules.

Roll call: Ayes: Atton, AuWerter, Deacon, Press, Steinbrink, Turner, Welsh.  
Nays: None  
Motion carried.

Councilmember Turner moved to approve Ordinance No. 2022-35. Councilmember Welsh seconded the motion to approve Ordinance No. 2022-35.

Roll call: Ayes: Atton, AuWerter, Deacon, Press, Steinbrink, Turner, Welsh.  
Nays: None  
Motion carried.

#### Council Matters:

Discussion around Mayfield City School performance, potential for performance improvement, future school levy, and Gates Mills influence without School Board representation can be found at 1:44:59-2:03:28

Councilmember Atton stated a couple of housekeeping issues existed. Three Planning & Zoning Committee Members and two Gates Mills Land Conservancy appointees have expiring terms. 2:03:29-2:04:30

Business from the Audience: Chuck Spears stated the Mayfield City School Superintendent has got plans, he is new, and he is enthusiastic. Mr. Spears found realtor Dave Malone loves Mayfield City Schools from an interview. We should be asking Mayfield City Schools what we can do to help. 2:04:40-2:06:44

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

Roll call: Ayes: Atton, AuWerter, Deacon, Press, Steinbrink, Turner, Welsh.  
Nays: None  
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Beth DeCapite, Clerk

Approved:



Karen E. Schneider, Mayor