

**VILLAGE OF MATTAWAN
24221 FRONT AVE.
MATTAWAN, MI 49071
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

MARCH 23, 2026

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER @ 7:00 PM
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.
3. ATTENDANCE *Begeman, Daniel, Gurley, McLean, Streeter, Stuut*
ABSENT *Monroe*
OTHERS PRESENT *Manager McGrew, Clerk Storm-Artis, Attorney Graham, Lieutenant Britton*
Motion by Daniel, seconded by Gurley to excuse Member Monroe due to prior personal commitments. All members voted in favor. Motion carried.
4. WELCOME TO PUBLIC
5. ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETING BEING RECORDED
6. CONSENT AGENDA
 1. Regular Council Meeting and Closed Session Minutes of March 9, 2026 7:00 PM
 2. Bills in the amount of \$ 43,130.07 + \$3,189.12 = \$45,327.67*Motino by McLean, seconded by Daniel to approve Items 1 and 2 of the consent agenda. All members voted in favor. Motion carried.*
7. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA
President Stuut added Item 8.5 – Lieutenant Britton Employment Contract Discussion
8. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
Motion by Daniel, seconded by Begeman to approve the agenda as amended. All members voted in favor. Motion carried.
- 8.5. LIEUTENANT BRITTON CONTRACT DISCUSSION
Motion by McLean, seconded by Begeman to enter closed session to discuss the employment contract of Lieutenant Britton. All members voted in favor. Motion carried.

Entered Closed Session 7:04 PM

Motion by Stuut, seconded by Streeter to return to open session. All members voted in favor. Motion carried.

Entered Open Session 7:43 PM

Motion by Begeman, seconded by Daniel to approve a wage increase of \$1.00 per hours beginning March 23, 2026.

9. LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY AGENDA ITEM

Gillies Black on behalf of Pauline Williams spoke about the notice received regarding Pauline's fence within the right of way and believes the fence should be grandfathered in as the fence has been in place for 40 years.

Elizabeth Vaughn spoke about the fence at 57584 Murray St. She stated a fence already existed when the property was purchased in 1992. Approximately, five (5) years ago the existing fence was replaced and not an expansion. She spoke with former manager Terri McLean who told her there was nothing additional needed as it was a replacement of existing structure and installation was proceeded with in good faith. She stated earlier this year the fence was damaged during winter activities by the Village of Mattawan. She stated she brought this to the attention of the Village of Mattawan with the hope to resolve the damage. She was informed the fence was in non-compliance under current ordinance and the fence would need to be removed the week of March 23rd. She stated she understands that ordinances and interpretations can change over time, but in their perspective this situation has been confusing and difficult given the prior guidance they had received. To avoid any additional cost or complications she stated she chose to remove the fence prior to the deadline. She stated this was done in an effort to cooperate and to move things forward not because they agree with the situation. She stated she has submitted multiple FOIA requests to the Village of Mattawan to understand how similar situations have been handled to insure consistency with the guidelines and information she is asking for. At this time she states they are requesting a timeline and associated costs for producing the documents by April 15th. This request includes but is not limited to their address, 57283 Main, and the parking lot adjacent to Bird Dog. Our goal is simply gain clarity and insure transparency in how these matters are addressed. Her concern is that a neighbor Pauline that has had a fence in place for many years is now facing similar challenges. Pauline is retired and on a fixed income, she (Elizabeth Vaughn) hopes that consideration for individuals in this financial situation will be given. She also spoke about the damage to Pauline's fence last year that was repaired by the Village, which she states is confusing and challenging to all parties involved. She stated she remains open to working though this in a respectful and constructive way. She stated she is asking for transparency, consistency and clear communication moving forward. She wanted to be clear that she has the time and resources to move forward with this to become a legal matter if necessary based on the review of the FOIA documents requested. She questioned the Board and the Village Manager "do you have the time and the resources."

Erin Garnaat, 24239 Second Ave, spoke about the notice they received regarding their non-compliant fence. She stated her husband had spoken with the Village regarding option to move forward. They had already removed much of the fencing, with just a gate remaining. She stated this fence was in place when they purchased the property. She stated she understood that the fence exceeded the 6-foot limit but did not extend to the

corner and did not impede traffic being able to see around it. The fence protected the privacy of the property from business patrons being able to see. She spoke about Pauline's fence being able to be kept as it has been in place long enough, and it was repaired by the Village. She questioned if this was an issue why was this not brought to attention then instead of the Village repairing it and incurring those costs. She stated it was interesting that the letters were going out at this time instead of what would have been cheaper to repair Elizabeth's fence. She stated there are other violations that are not being addressed, and they have started a list that they would be happy to provide "since you seem to have some free time on your hands."

Pauline Williams asked to speak again. She stated she had a complaint about the wall that is on the corner on second and Main. She believes that will needs to be taken down. She also wanted the vehicles parked in the Frontier trucks parking should not be allowed to do so.

10. BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

11. STAFF REPORTS

A. ENGINEER'S REPORT - *Engineer Woodhams not present*

B. ATTORNEY'S REPORT – *Attorney Graham*

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. MANAGER MCGREW AND LIEUTENANT BRITTON CONTRACTS
Manager McGrew item moved to end of meeting for closed session.

13. NEW BUSINESS

A. ADA WEB CONTENT ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES (WCAG 2.1 LEVEL AA)
COMPLIANCE – *Clerk Storm-Artis*

Motion by Daniel, seconded by Stuut to address this issue at the next budget special meeting. All members voted in favor. Motion carried.

B. APPROVE INVOICE FROM MICHIGAN SECURITY AND LOCK IN THE
AMOUNT OF \$8,456.00 – *Manager McGrew*

Initial approval of \$6,476.00 on 7/28/26. Received Grant from Par Plan in the amount of \$2,500.00

Motion by Streeter, seconded by Daniel to pay the invoice from Michigan Security and Lock in the amount of \$8,456.00. All members voted in favor. Motion carried.

C. RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR A MULTI-USE PATHWAY
BETWEEN MATTAWAN AND PAW PAW, MICHIGAN IN ANTWERP TOWNSHIP

Motion by Daniel, seconded by Begeman to approve the resolution to express support for a multi-use pathway. Voice vote taken. Nay heard. Roll call vote taken. Begeman,

Daniel, McLean, and Streeter voted yes. Gurley and Stuut voted no. Motion carried 4-2.

14. COMMUNICATIONS

Overpayment of millage tax collection from Antwerp
Schedule Policy and Personnel Meeting
State of Michigan FOIA (Act 442 of 1976)

15. COMMENTS FROM VISITORS

Edrie stated the FedEx driver stopped in the road to deliver packages instead of parking in driveways.
President Stuut stated there are safety reasons regarding where and why they park when delivering packages.

16. COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL

Member McLean asked about the fences.
Short discussion took place.
Related items will be on the agenda at the next meeting.

Motion by Stuut, seconded by Gurley to enter into closed session for the purpose of reviewing Manager McGrew's contract. All members voted in favor. Motion carried.

Entered closed session 8:05 pm.

Motion by McLean, seconded by Stuut to return to open session. All members voted in favor. Motion carried.

Entered open session 8:26 PM.

Motion by Streeter, seconded by Daniel to approve the contract with Manager McGrew with adjustments made by Attorney Graham. All members voted in favor. Motion carried.

Short discussion took place regarding FOIA process.

17. ADJOURNMENT @ **8:31 PM**
Meeting adjourned without objection.