

# DECEMBER SPECIAL MINUTES

## December Special Meeting Minutes

Date: December 10, 2024

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Mentor Town Hall  
N3049 King Street

Chairman Gile called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. All board members were present.

Chairman Gile explained that the purpose of the meeting was to brainstorm ideas for enforcing Ordinance 106 – Public Nuisances and Ordinance 113 – Junk Vehicles. He thanked Attorney Ben Ludeman, Ordinance Officer Isaac Guyer, and Ordinance Specialist Officer Adam Olson for attending the special meeting and for their willingness to assist.

To begin, Chairman Gile asked the participants to walk through the process for issuing ordinance citations or warnings.

- Officer Guyer outlined the following steps:

1. Identify the violation
2. Notify the town
3. Town mails a 14-day notice
4. Wait 14 days
5. If the violation is unresolved, issue a citation

- Attorney Ludeman provided a general overview of what happens after a citation is issued:

1. The court sets an initial appearance
2. The defendant enters a plea
3. If the plea is guilty, the citation fine is paid or payment arrangements are made
4. If the plea is not guilty, the process continues, potentially leading up to a jury trial

**General Discussion:** Overall, this process works well as many violators comply before a citation is issued. However, a small number of habitual violators continue to disregard the ordinances. The group discussed ways to improve compliance.

**Ideas Presented:**

- Be consistent with issuing citations and follow-up actions.
- Raise minimum fines to \$100, aligning with other small municipalities.
- Involve the DNR for potential environmental concerns.
- Issue one citation per violation (e.g., 4 junk vehicles = 4 citations).
- Utilize state statutes when appropriate.

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- Review withholding liquor licenses for non-compliance.
- Inform violators about local metal scrappers who can assist with debris and junk vehicle removal.
- Offer community resources to violators willing to accept help.
- Review the ordinance language to ensure it remains relevant and effective.

Chairman Gile thank all the participants including those audience members who were in attendance. He appreciated everyone's input on this matter and would like to continue this discussion later. All participants agreed. Clerk will arrange another meeting soon.

Chairman Gile adjourned the meeting at 7:04 PM.

Dated this 11th day of December 2024, Jack Ikhtiari Sr, Clerk /Treasurer