



**Public Comments for June 14, 2020 Village Council Meeting**  
 (Comments published as of 4:00pm. Public comments can still be submitted any time before or during the meeting)

Agenda Section	Agenda Item	Comment	Commenter
4. Public Comments	Comments of a General Nature	<p>The COVID 19 pandemic closures / restrictions have devastated both private business and public coffers. The mayor and council have informed us that revenues will be down dramatically and we will have to make very difficult choices regarding public services. However, there are actions the village council can take to increase revenue that they seem to be ignoring. The council can immediately approve video slot machines in Downers Grove. These would provide additional income for the village as well as help local business to compete on a level playing field with surrounding communities. Downers Grove is nearly surrounded by jurisdictions that allow VLT's, and our village leadership seems unwilling to even debate the topic. Lombard now offers video slots and is another community that is siphoning off business from the village. This situation is simply not fair to your businesses in Downers Grove and needs to be addressed. Another source of income for the village would be to approve marijuana dispensaries. Even Naperville is reconsidering allowing them.</p> <p>Council members encourage us to shop local and support restaurants by purchasing take out. These are great however, we need concrete action that will dramatically make a difference for the short and long term. Both of the aforementioned revenue generating actions can be implemented quickly with little capital expense for the businesses or effort on behalf of the village leadership. The time for strong, bold leadership is now, before this financial crisis turns into a fatal blow to many Downers Grove businesses and public services.</p>	Bryan W Bentley 4455 Wilson Ave Downers Grove
4. Public Comments	Comments of a General Nature	<p>I live in Lisle, but my husband and I frequently go out to restaurants and bars in surrounding communities. We love some Downers Grove establishments, but would like to see video gaming be made available there. My husband is a big fan, so he tends to pick places to go that have video poker. So I find we are not going to the Downers Grove places as often as we used to and I miss them. We like the alternative of having this entertainment available in a clean, local, welcoming place, rather than a large, busy, sometimes seedy casino. The bars and restaurants that offer it tend to have a small section, secluded from the rest of the restaurant/ bar, so it's not intrusive to patrons who are not partaking in the gaming. In talking to the owner of a place that offers it, he emphasized that the revenue he receives from having the machines is one of the only ways he is able to stay afloat in the economic crisis caused by the pandemic. I understand that the villages and towns that allow gaming also see a good bit of revenue from it. Seems like a win-win-win, for customers, business owners, and the village. Is Downers Grove considering this?</p>	Jenny Lisle
4. Public Comments	Comments of a General Nature	<p>Hello, as many businesses as well as the Village have been devastated by COVID I think it's a reasonable time to look to help the businesses and in turn help the Village. I have been in business (63rd Street Billiards to Q Billiards to Q Pub &amp; Grill) in Downers Grove since 1998. COVID almost caused me to close my doors. Even now with being open June 2020 vs June 2019 was down over 60% after over 3 months of no income. My other locations are in towns that allow video slots. They not only help the businesses survive but also can bring much needed revenue into the Village. As video slots have been legal in Illinois now for around 10 years I believe that is a long enough track record to have the issue discussed in Downers Grove. I haven't heard a single issue that arose in the State due to video slots. I believe it could be a good addition to current liquor licensed establishments (not allow a bunch of new places to come in just for video slots) within the Village. Allowing them would help businesses be at least on an even playing field with similar businesses in surrounding communities that do allow video slots (Lombard, Westmont, Woodridge and Darien all allow them). It would be great to at least have a discussion on the issue. Thank you for your time. Sincerely, Robert Taft owner Q Pub &amp; Grill.</p>	Robert Taft 2707 63rd Street Downers Grove