

Meeting Minutes

Village of Downers Grove - Council Meeting

Council Chambers

February 16, 2021

7:00 PM

1. Call to Order

Mayor Robert Barnett noted the commissioners present in Council Chambers and those attending remotely; he also welcomed Commissioner Kulovany back.

Mayor Barnett called to order the Village Council meeting at 7:00 p.m. and led those in the room in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. He explained the protocol for the meeting and the guidelines to submit public comment.

2. Roll Call

Council Attendance (Present): Mayor Barnett; Commissioner Greg Hosé, Commissioner Earl (remote), Commissioner Walus, Commissioner Rich Kulovany (remote), Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt, Commissioner Gray.

Absent: None

Non-Voting: Village Manager Dave Fieldman, Village Attorney Enza Petrarca, Village Clerk Rosa Berardi

MOT 2021-8861 - A. Motion: Conduct the February 16, 2021 Village Council Meeting Electronically.

Motion: Commissioner Hosé made a motion to conduct the February 16, 2021 Village Council meeting electronically. Commissioner Walus seconded the motion.

Votes: Yea: Commissioner Hosé, Commissioner Walus, Commissioner Earl, Commissioner Kulovany, Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt, Commissioner Gray, Mayor Barnett

Nay: None

Mayor Barnett declared the motion carried.

3. Minutes of Council Meetings

MIN 2021-8851 - A. Minutes: Village Council Meeting Minutes – February 2, 2021

Motion: Commissioner Hosé made a motion that Council adopt the minutes of the February 2, 2021 meeting, as presented. Commissioner Earl seconded the motion.

Votes: Yea: Commissioner Hosé, Commissioner Walus, Commissioner Gray, Commissioner Kulovany, Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt, Commissioner Earl, Mayor Barnett

Nay: None

Mayor Barnett declared the motion carried.

4. Mayor's Report – 2020 Annual Report

In reviewing a PowerPoint of the Village's 2020 Annual Report, Mayor Barnett discussed the initiatives the Village Council originally planned for in 2019 – mainly Village facilities – which was only to be downplayed in the Spring of 2020 by the pandemic. However, he reflected upon the positive initiatives undertaken by a team comprising of the Village Council, staff, stakeholder partnerships, volunteer board commission members and the residents of Downers Grove. The Stay Home Save Lives campaign was launched as the Village worked with the DuPage County Health, the IL Department of Public Health and the CDC to encourage best practices to minimize the spread of COVID. The Mayor spoke of the Council members creating short videos encouraging residents to follow the State's guidance; Wear in this together messaging with the Village's Pierce Downers wearing a mask; the Show You Know the 3 W's poster contest to raise awareness and reduce the spread of COVID. The Mayor thanked the families that made posters for the poster contest. The Village made changes to deliver essential services to residents by expanding remote and contactless services. This included online opportunities to submit payments and plans; online inspections using video conferencing; the launching of a fire safety inspection program. Modifications were made to temporary use permits in order to follow the Governor's orders. Adjustments were made to crossing guard schedules to meet the needs of the modified school schedules. The Village worked with local restaurants to safely comply with the Governor's Restore Illinois Plan by increasing the use of public spaces, making temporary signage allowances, providing fee-free permitting and expanding the downtown 15-minute parking spaces to assist with the curbside delivery efforts. Liquor license regulations were modified for restaurants to sell drinks to residents that picked up meals. The Take Home for the Holidays campaign was created so residents could patronize local restaurants through take-out orders. Fire Prevention Week was held virtually and videos providing safety tips were made available to all residents. The Holiday Tree Lighting event took place virtually with residents creating and donating ornaments for the event. Village staff created a COVID-19 financial response plan, created in April 2020, to reduce operating expenses by \$2.0M by freezing new hires and reducing capital spending by suspending capital projects. The Village also received a \$2.5M CARES Act federal grant distributed by DuPage County. By taking such steps over the past year, it resulted in Village savings, which exceeded early plan estimates. Also, because retail sales were up during the summer/fall months, revenue was not as bad as originally estimated for 2020.

Per the Mayor, 2020 raised awareness about diversity. The Village offered the community an opportunity to discuss, ask questions and comment at a public forum about policing in the Village; this proved to be positive. The engagement effort was successful due to the expertise and efforts of many local government partners and community members. During the summer, the Village was also the site of a peacefully held Say Their Names march led by high school students, both current and former.

Projects that will continue under the 2020 plan include key recommendations. The actions will be a future funding source for investments in the downtown area and will strengthen the partnership between the Downtown Management Corporation and the Village. Mayor Barnett discussed the Human Service Ad Hoc Committee Report, received by the Village in December 2020, which contains 14 recommendations to the Council as it pertains to social services in the community. In the coming months, as financial conditions allow, the Village will be creating a social services referral program identifying gaps in the provision of social services and creating strategies to address them. The plan also calls for the engagement of qualified staff to lead the efforts. Special thanks went to the residents who contributed to the recommendations: Rebecca Campbell, Tom Connolly, Chris Gilmartin, Azizi Marshall, Kimberly Nagy, Stephanie Williams and Committee Chair Samantha Haycock.

Council Minutes

Village of Downers Grove

February 16, 2021

The Mayor reported that 2020 initiatives included the implementation of the Village's Water Smart Software; the District 99 Pedestrian Safety Study; being honored and receiving the Distinguished Budget Award; the Certificate of Achievement Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting awarded by the Government Finance Officers Association and recognition of the Village's Fire Department by the American Heart Association's Mission Lifeline EMS Recognition Award. The Mayor continued by saying the Downers Grove Fire Department was recognized two years in a row for treating cardiac emergencies and strokes and is only one of seven departments in Illinois to be recognized; this is a true testament to the quality of care provided by the people that serve. The Village has held S&P Global's AAA bond rating - the highest rating that can be issued - since 2013. Additionally, the Police Department has earned the Gold Standard Accreditation with Excellence and the Fire Department continues with its ISO Class 1 rating. Mayor Barnett emphasized that the pandemic will continue; however, he asked that the community continue to practice the 3 W's to minimize the spread of COVID-19.

5. Consent Agenda

BIL 2021-8853 - A. Bills Payable: No. 6578 – February 16, 2021

BIL 2021-8852 - B. Bills Payable: No. 6576 – February 16, 2021

COR 2021-8860 - C. Claims Ordinance: No. 6397 – Payroll, January 29, 2021

MOT 2021-8842 - D. Motion: Award a Contract to Trotter and Associates, Inc. in an Amount not to Exceed \$34,430.00 which includes a 10% Contingency for Engineering Services

Summary: This awards a contract to Trotter and Associates, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$34,430.00 which includes a 10% contingency for engineering services.

RES 2021-8844 - E. Resolution: Authorize a Contract Extension to Safebuilt Illinois, LLC in an Amount not to Exceed \$31,000 for Building Inspection Services

Summary: This authorizes a contract extension to Safebuilt Illinois, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$31,000 for building inspection services,

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT EXTENSION TO SAFEBUILT ILLINOIS, LLC IN
AN
AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$31,000 FOR BUILDING INSPECTION SERVICES
RES 2021-15**

RES 2021-8843 - F. Resolution: Authorize a One Year Agreement in an Amount not to exceed \$31,000 for Building Inspection Services to B&F Construction Code Services, Inc.

Summary: This authorizes a one-year agreement in an amount not to exceed \$31,000 for building Inspection services to B&F Construction Code Services, Inc.

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A ONE YEAR AGREEMENT IN AN
AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$31,000 FOR BUILDING INSPECTION SERVICES TO
B&F CONSTRUCTION CODE SERVICES, INC.
RES 2021-16**

Council Minutes

Village of Downers Grove

February 16, 2021

RES 2021-8840 - G. Resolution: Authorize an Extension to the Contract with Hard Rock Concrete Cutters, Inc. of Wheeling, IL in the Amount of \$83,525.74 for the 2021 Sidewalk Rehabilitation Project (S-006)

Summary: This authorizes an extension to the contract with Hard Rock Concrete Cutters, Inc. of Wheeling, IL in the amount of \$83,525.74 for the 2021 Sidewalk Rehabilitation Project (S-006).

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXTENSION TO THE CONTRACT WITH HARD ROCK
CONCRETE CUTTERS, INC. OF WHEELING, IL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$83,525.74 FOR THE
2021 SIDEWALK REHABILITATION PROJECT (S-006)**

RES 2021-17

RES 2021-8848 - H. Resolution: Authorize an Agreement with Konica Minolta of Ramsey, New Jersey for a Thirty-Six Month Lease of a Konica Minolta Bizhub C360i Copier

Summary: This authorizes an agreement with Konica Minolta of Ramsey, New Jersey for a Thirty-Six Month Lease of a Konica Minolta Bizhub C360i Copier.

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH KONICA MINOLTA
OF RAMSEY, NEW JERSEY FOR A THIRTY-SIX MONTH LEASE OF A
KONICA MINOLTA BIZHUB C360I COPIER**

RES 2021-18

MOT 2021-8847 - I. Motion: Authorize Agreements with National Auto Fleet Group Watsonville, CA in the Amount of \$436,740.18 and Minuteman Security Technologies, Tinley Park, IL in the Amount of \$24,924.33 for Replacement Vehicles and Equipment.

Summary: This authorizes the Village of Downers Grove to enter into agreements with National Auto Fleet Group Watsonville, CA in the amount of \$436,740.18 and Minuteman Security Technologies, Tinley Park, IL in the amount of \$24,924.33 for replacement vehicles and equipment.

MOT 2021-8856 – J. Motion: Award a Three Year Contract to Rag’s Electric, Inc. of Woodridge, IL in the Amount of \$342.150.00 for Street Light Maintenance and Repair Services.

Summary: This awards a three-year contract to Rag’s Electric, Inc. of Woodridge, IL in the amount of \$342.150.00 for street light maintenance and repair services.

Motion: Commissioner José moved that the Council adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Walus seconded the motion.

Votes: Yea: Commissioner José, Commissioner Walus, Commissioner Earl, Commissioner Kulovany, Commissioner Earl, Commissioner Gray, Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt, Mayor Barnett

Nay: None

Mayor Barnett declared the motion carried unanimously.

Council Minutes

Village of Downers Grove

February 16, 2021

6. Active Agenda

RES 2021-8826 A. Resolution: Granting a Historic Landmark Designation for 200 Shady Lane.

Summary: This authorizes the Village to grant a Historic Landmark designation for 200 Shady Lane.

**A RESOLUTION GRANTING A HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION
FOR 200 SHADY LANE
RES 2021-19**

Motion: Commissioner José moved that the Council adopt a resolution granting Historic Landmark Designation for 200 Shady Lane, as presented. Commissioner Walus seconded the motion.

Votes: Yea: Commissioner José, Commissioner Walus, Commissioner Earl, Commissioner Kulovany, Commissioner Gray, Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt, Mayor Barnett

Nay: None

Mayor Barnett declared the motion carried unanimously.

ORD 2021-8831 B. Ordinance: Accept a Plat of Dedication of the South Half of Wisconsin Avenue between Belmont Road and Sterling North Park from the Downers Grove Park District.

Summary: This adopts a Plat of Dedication of the South Half of Wisconsin Avenue between Belmont Road and Sterling North Park from the Downers Grove Park District.

**AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A PLAT OF DEDICATION OF THE SOUTH HALF OF
WISCONSIN AVENUE BETWEEN BELMONT ROAD AND STERLING NORTH PARK
FROM THE DOWNERS GROVE PARK DISTRICT
ORD 5862**

Motion: Commissioner José moved that the Council adopt an Ordinance accepting a Plat of Dedication of the south half of Wisconsin Avenue between Belmont Road and Sterling North Park from the Downers Grove Park District, as presented. Commissioner Walus seconded the motion.

Votes: Yea: Commissioner José, Commissioner Walus, Commissioner Kulovany, Commissioner Earl, Commissioner Gray, Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt, Mayor Barnett

Nay: None

Mayor Barnett declared the motion carried unanimously.

7. First Reading

RES 2021-8849 – A. Resolution: Extending and Amending Resolution No. 2020-58 and Certain Emergency Orders regarding Outdoor Dining

Summary: Deputy Village Manager Mike Baker summarized that the resolution establishes outdoor dining rules for 2021 which will allow businesses to expand outdoor dining. The Village will be working with the Downtown Management Corporation to ensure its success. The Downtown Management Board did support the resolution at

Council Minutes

Village of Downers Grove

February 16, 2021

its recent meeting. Mayor Barnett thanked Erin Venizia, Executive Director of the Downtown Management Corporation, for attending the meeting. Commissioner Walus commented that she is excited to see this program move forward in 2021. Commissioners Kulovany and Commissioner Earl both agreed with Commissioner Walus. Mr. Baker indicated staff will be reaching out to the restaurants and asking for their participation. Village Manager Fieldman also expressed his appreciation to the restaurant owners and operators for their work, efforts, and continued investment in the community during a challenging time; he also thanked residents and non-residents for their support.

8. Manager's Report

Village Manager Fieldman reviewed the Village's financial report on the pandemic, providing a review of FY2020 revenue performance in four major revenue areas including Sales Tax, Home Rule Sales Tax, Food and Beverage Tax, and Hotel Tax. Compared to 2019, Manager Fieldman noted there was a decline in revenue of approximately 11%. Details of revenue performance followed. Closing out 2020, staff prepared year-end estimates on the revenue and expense side: revenue in the General Fund was down by \$1.7M; expenses were cut by \$2.0M. Staff was commended for cost control. The Village also received a \$2.5M CARES Act grant. In closing, Mr. Fieldman pointed out that while total General Fund revenues were off by \$1.7M, almost all revenues performed better than the year-end estimate presented in August 2020. A slide reflecting positive numbers followed. Manager Fieldman shared his recommendation to move slightly more than the CARES Act grant amount to the Major Buildings Fund where it would be available in the General Fund in 2021. Should the funds not be needed in 2021 then they would be available for the pending future facilities projects. Per Mr. Fieldman, if revenue performance continues to perform better than the budget, he suggested filling the vacant positions as part of the budgeting process. Mr. Fieldman indicated the target decision date for this action is mid-April, as final figures on January's sales tax should be available. Mr. Fieldman thanked the Council for their attention and leadership throughout this process.

The Village Council shared their appreciation to Village staff for their leadership; the residents and business owners for their commitment to make their way through the pandemic with positive financial results. Village staff was commended for working as a team and alleviating the burden of the pandemic as much as possible. Several Commissioners stated that they are excited to continue with The residents were also commended for supporting local businesses, following the three W's, working to stay safe and most of all as working as one united team with Village staff and Council throughout the past year.

9. Public Comments

None.

10. Council Member Reports

Commissioner Gray mentioned his visit to the African American Museum a few years back and spoke about an exhibit about the economy of slavery. He shared his interest in entrepreneurship and talked of how others built their wealth, how they held onto it and how it was passed down through generations. In doing his own calculation on the worth of cotton in 1832 and the time value of money, Commissioner Gray shared that money from cotton would have totaled about \$88.9B Dollars in today's market. He continued by saying to get a real picture he

Council Minutes

Village of Downers Grove

February 16, 2021

suggested multiplying that number by 400 years. He ended by stating that the final number is incomprehensible and staggering.

Commissioner Earl thanked Commissioner Gray for sharing his experiences at the last Village Council meeting and for bringing all of the information he has shared to the meetings. She also thanked him for recognizing Black History Month. She stated she will continue to ponder on what Commissioner Gray has shared this evening.

Commissioner Hosé concurred and said this last story that Commissioner Gray shared is mind boggling and is something we all need to think about.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt thanked Public Works for clearing the snow in the Village; she thanked Commissioner Gray for sharing his experiences; she hoped to see continued work between the Village and the Unity Partnership organization; she is excited for the return of the Human Services Commission.

Commissioner Walus thanked Commissioner Gray for sharing his experiences and commented how well the topic fit in with her American History class. She also expressed the delight she felt to hear Commissioner Kulovany's voice again. She said that the Council is a team and it's good to have everyone back.

Commissioner Kulovany shared his personal comments about COVID-19. He asked that the community be more considerate of each other's health during the pandemic and asked for all to wear a mask to protect all. He thanked Commissioner Walus for her kind words.

Mayor Barnett stated that he hopes that the Village Council and staff have modeled the behavior/actions that reflect the values of the community. He commented on how thankful he is that his colleagues, staff and the community have taken the steps necessary to get through the challenges they have encountered.

11. Adjournment

Mayor Barnett asked for a motion to go into Executive Session.

Motion: Commissioner Hosé moved to adjourn into Executive Session pursuant to Section 2 (C)(2) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act to consider collective negotiating matters between the Village and its employees or their representatives. Commissioner Walus seconded the motion.

Votes: Aye: Commissioners Earl, Commissioner Hosé, Commissioner Kulovany, Commissioner Gray, Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt, Commissioner Walus, Mayor Barnett

Nay: None

Mayor Barnett declared the motion carried and the meeting adjourned into Executive Session at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosa Berardi

Village Clerk