



Meeting Minutes

Village of Downers Grove - Council Meeting

Council Chambers

April 18, 2023

07:00 PM

1. Call to Order

Mayor Barnett called to order the Village Council meeting at 7:00p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The Mayor 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.

3. Roll Call

Council Attendance (Present): Mayor Barnett, Commissioner Hosé, Commissioner Walus, Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt, Commissioner Kulovany, Commissioner Gilmartin, Commissioner Glover

Council Attendance (Not Present): None

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

4. Proclamation

- A. Earth Day
- B. Arbor Day
- C. 2023 Historians of the Year – Willis and Shirley Johnson

Mayor Barnett read the Earth Day, Arbor Day and 2023 Historians of the Year Proclamations. The Mayor presented Willis and Shirley Johnson with the Historians of the Year Proclamation. He explained that the Johnson Family had owned the Historic Tivoli Theater, the second theater in the US to have sound movies, for over 50 years. The Mayor spoke of the Tivoli Theater as playing a central role in the art life of the Downers Grove community for nearly a century. The Mayor proclaimed the week of April 16 through April 22, 2023 as Willis and Shirley Johnson Week in the Village of Downers Grove.

5. Minutes of Council Meetings

MIN 2023-9897 — A. Minutes: Village Council Meeting Minutes - April 11, 2023

MOTION: *To adopt the meeting minutes of the April 11, 2023, regular Village Council meeting, as presented.*

RESULT: *Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.*

MOTIONED TO APPROVE: *Commissioner Hosé*

SECONDED BY: *Commissioner Walus*

AYES: *Commissioners Hosé, Walus, Glover, Gilmartin, Kulovany, Sadowski-Fugitt, Mayor Barnett*

NAYES: *None*

6. Consent Agenda

BIL 2022-9774 — A. Bills Payable: Bills Payable: No. 6726 - April 18, 2023

COR 2022-9775 — B. Claims Ordinance: Claims Ordinance: No. 6501, Payroll - April 7, 2023

MIN 2023-9931 — C. Minutes: Note Receipt of Boards and Commissions Meeting Minutes

Summary: Note Receipt of Boards and Commissions Meeting Minutes: Historic Preservation Design Review Board 12-21-2022; Foreign Fire Fund 1-26-2023, 2-23-2023; Plan Commission 2-06-2023, 3-7-2023; Library Board 2-22-2023

RES 2023-9929 — D. Resolution: Approve a Master License Agreement with Zayo Group, LLC for Use of Village Rights-of-Way **RES 2023-32**

Summary: This resolution approves a master license agreement with Zayo Group, LLC for use of Village rights-of-way.

RESOLUTION 2023-32

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A MASTER LICENSE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE AND ZAYO GROUP, LLC

MOTION: *To adopt all items on the Consent Agenda, as presented*

RESULT: *Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.*

MOTIONED TO APPROVE: *Commissioner Hosé*

SECONDED BY: *Commissioner Walus*

AYES: *Commissioners Hosé, Walus, Glover, Gilmartin, Kulovany, Sadowski-Fugitt, Mayor Barnett*

NAYES: *None*

7. Active Agenda

There was no Active Agenda.

8. First Reading

ORD 2023-9922 — A. Ordinance: Approving an Amendment to Ordinance #5891 and the Village of Downers Grove Budget for Fiscal Year 2022

Village Finance Director Robin Lahey presented the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Amendment. She explained that the actual fiscal year 2022 expenses ended the year below level for most Village funds. Ms. Lahey explained that a budget amendment was required for the General Fund due to its exceptional revenue performance; this was also highlighted by Village Manager Dave Fieldman during the FY2022 Budget closeout presentation at the April 11, 2023 Village Council meeting. Ms. Lahey further stated that the General Fund revenue performance prompted transfers to the Equipment Replacement Fund, Fleet Maintenance Fund, Risk Fund, and the Debt Service Fund for the Civic Center Project. For this reason, she requested a budget amendment of \$6.3 million in the General Fund. Additionally, Ms. Lahey added that the Library Fund required a \$50,000 Budget Amendment because the Library had transferred more to their Capital Replacement Fund than was budgeted.

9. Manager's Report

Deputy Village Manager Mike Baker presented an update on The Civic Center Project. He explained that the project remained on schedule and under budget. He thanked the Village Council for their input and approval of the project and showed a short video of the most recent activity that had taken place on the project site.

10. Attorney's Report

Pursuant to Section 2.5 of the Downers Grove Municipal Code, Village Attorney Enza Petrarca presented the following for Village Council consideration:

1. An ordinance providing for an amendment to Ordinance #5891 and the Village of Downers Grove Budget for Fiscal Year 2022

11. Public Comments

Tom Schroeder thanked the current Council for all their efforts. He also thanked Village Manager Dave Fieldman, Village Attorney Enza Petrarca, and Communications Director Doug Kozlowski for their assistance with events he put together for the Consolidated General Election. Mr. Schroeder also mentioned that he was happy to see that the Village Fire and Police Departments utilized homes for training purposes that were scheduled to be demolished in town.

12. Mayor's Report

A. Recognition of Commissioner Kulovany and Commissioner Walus

The Mayor explained that this was the last meeting for the current Council, and that Commissioner Rich Kulovany and Commissioner Nicole Walus were choosing to move on to other endeavors. He commended them for being selfless stewards of the town they called home.

Commissioner Kulovany

Commissioner Danny Glover thanked Commissioner Kulovany for his commitment to the Council and expressed appreciation for his passion, his research on topics, and always giving residents 110%. Commissioner Glover stated his belief that Downers Grove was better for having Commissioner Kulovany on the Village Council. He said he looked forward to seeing what Commissioner Kulovany would do with his future endeavors.

Commissioner Gilmartin stated it was a pleasure to serve on the Council with Commissioner Kulovany. He spoke of Commissioner Kulovany being an inspiration to all because of all of his involvement in the Community over the years including being a part the Village Council, the Plan Commission, the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Downers Grove Historical Society and the Pierce Downers Heritage Alliance. Commissioner Gilmartin stated that Commissioner Kulovany had truly "walked the walk" in his commitment to the vibrancy of Downers Grove. He attributed Commissioner Kulovany's life-long residency in Downers Grove to how well-rounded the Commissioner was in his understanding of the community and that was reflected in the Commissioner's informed and unique perspective on matters that came before the Council. Commissioner Gilmartin also commented on all of the research Commissioner Kulovany would do on matters, always attending Village Council meetings prepared to approach every agenda with thoughtful, engaging, and meaningful dialogue. Commissioner Gilmartin said that in 2019, when he made his first attempt to be on the Village Council and failed, Commissioner Kulovany reached out with encouragement, and that meant a lot to him. He said it was an honor to work alongside Commissioner Kulovany over the past two years.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt said she was grateful that Commissioner Kulovany's goodbye was on his terms so

that he could spend time with his family. She spoke of her fondness for his wittiness, knowledge of how the Village had progressed over time, and his thoughtfulness and consideration on every issue. Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt stated she appreciated Commissioner Kulovany's collaboration on tree preservation and environmental efforts, stating that she would continue that legacy. She spoke of his involvement with the Plan Commission, the Historical Society and the Downtown Design Guidelines. Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt expressed that she knew that Commissioner Kulovany would continue his work volunteer work with other local organizations. She said that it had been a pleasure to serve on the Village Council alongside him.

Commissioner Walus discussed how, if not for the Village Council, her path would not have crossed with Commissioner Kulovany's. She stated how grateful she was that they met and were friends, even though they were in different parts of their lives. She spoke of Commissioner Kulovany's passion in everything he did. Commissioner Walus gave an example of a time when Commissioner Kulovany helped her in a time of need (with a car battery), without hesitation. She expressed her gratitude for their friendship, and his passion for the Downers Grove community and its trees. She wished him all the best as he moved forward.

Commissioner José stated that all the comments about Commissioner Kulovany's passion, work, and love of the community were correct and couldn't be overstated. He said that Commissioner Kulovany inspired him personally, especially with the remarkable commitment shown through some of the most trying and difficult times. He continued by stating that the love Commissioner Kulovany had for the Village was shown through the joy he brought to being a Commissioner over the past four years – from the preparation he put into his research on topics, the time and commitment he put into talking to residents, to the work he put in with fellow Council members, it was apparent. Commissioner José shared the opinion that one of Commissioner Kulovany's greatest accomplishments during his time on the Village Council was his work on the Downtown Design Guidelines. He said everything built in the downtown for generations to come would be part of Commissioner Kulovany's legacy and Downers Grove was a better community because of his service.

The Mayor explained how Commissioner Kulovany had lived in Downers Grove since he was ten months old, attended Downers Grove schools, raised his children in Downers Grove and that his grandkids also lived in the community. He explained how before being elected as Village Commissioner in April of 2019, Commissioner Kulovany served on the Downers Grove Plan Commission (2017-2019) and the Zoning Board of Appeals (2015-2017). The Commissioner also attended and participated in a lot of Village Council and Long Range Planning meetings; Budget, Stormwater, and Facilities workshops; Historic Preservation and Comprehensive Plan meetings; and most of the ad hoc committee meetings. The Mayor spoke about his first meeting with Commissioner Kulovany after he was elected in 2019 when the Commissioner expressed his desire to be part of a team that worked together for the Village. The Mayor stated that Commissioner Kulovany's many contributions had been significant and would be long-lasting. He spoke of the Commissioner being the driving force behind the Downtown Design Guidelines, ensuring the Downtown Development had the highest aesthetic and architectural quality for years to come. Mayor Barnett continued by stating that Commissioner Kulovany was a consistent advocate for outdoor dining, a supporter of historic preservation, and was engaged with local nonprofit organizations to landmark notable properties. The Mayor also credited Commissioner Kulovany for leading on financial sustainability, making sure the Village continued its history of keeping taxes low and controlling costs. He discussed how COVID nearly robbed the Village of Commissioner Kulovany's contributions when he contracted COVID in December 2020. After 99 days of being hospitalized, which included being on a ventilator and in a coma, he was able to go home. The Mayor said that the Commissioner relied on this faith, family, and community through it all. He said that Commissioner Kulovany's candor and sincerity were models for all, with his willingness to listen and consider other viewpoints as examples of good leadership. Mayor Barnett thanked the Commissioner for his service to the community, his council as part of their team, and his friendship. The Mayor then presented Commissioner Kulovany with an award, a Village Flag, and a street sign titled "Kulovany Drive".

Commissioner Kulovany expressed how meaningful everyone's words were to him. He spoke about how he had lived roughly 80 percent of his life in Downers Grove. He said he grew up, raised his children, had 10 grandchildren, and even a great-granddaughter that all lived in Downers Grove. Commissioner Kulovany stated that it had been a pleasure to work with the Mayor and his fellow Commissioners over the past four years. He said that regardless of their political differences, they respectfully worked together on important issues while striving to reach a consensus. He noted that the respect this Village Council had for each other, was unlike other communities. He said he was also proud to have worked with Village Manager Dave Fieldman, Village Attorney Enza Petrarca, and Village Clerk Rosa Berardi. Commissioner Kulovany thanked all the department heads for their amazing work and for winning prestigious awards including ISO Class 1 (Public Protection Rank) for the Fire Department, CALEA (Gold Standard Accreditation with Excellence) for the Police Department, the top 50 Greenest Fleets in North America (out of 38,000), distinguished budget awards, public works awards, Tree City USA for 37 years, and two Savvy Awards for The Bees Eye View and Night at the Firehouse videos (shout out to Doug Kozlowski). He expressed how proud he was of the Downtown Design Review put in place and that the Parkway Tree Protection Ordinance was passed, with much progress made towards a Tree Protection Ordinance that would keep the "Grove" in Downers Grove while protecting property rights. Commissioner Kulovany said it was laudable that 1836 trees had been planted during his four years in office, and a total of 5281 trees were planted in the past 10 years. He spoke about being proud to have operated with a flat Budget Levy since he had been in office. He expressed his excitement that after many years of study and discussion, he served on the Village Council that finally moved forward with the new Civic Center that would serve the Village of Downers Grove and District 58 for the next 100 years to come. The Commissioner further stated that it was the true legacy of the Council he served on and it was being built in an environmentally responsible way that could be used as an example for other communities. Commissioner Kulovany said that serving during civil unrest and COVID had been challenging, but also gratifying, seeing residents pull together to support local restaurants and businesses. He expressed his belief that outdoor dining was the silver lining during it all, making Downers Grove festive and vibrant with almost a vacation-like atmosphere. The Commissioner also said he was excited about the new Village Council continuing to make Downers Grove one of the best places in the US to live. Finally, Commissioner Kulovany thanked his wife of 50 years, who stood behind him with total understanding and being his "rock" through it all.

Commissioner Walus

Commissioner Glover thanked Commissioner Walus for her service to Downers Grove and for being someone he could turn to for advice and direction since his time began on the Council. He said he considered her and her family as some of the most selfless, caring, and giving people he had ever met with their time, actions, and even their Downers Grove restaurant dinner rotations. Commissioner Glover referenced that the Walus family was featured in the Downers Grove Living Magazine, commenting "There is no family more Downers Grove than the Walus Family." He said he looked forward to many more years of future friendship and to see what volunteering opportunities she would opt for with her newfound free time.

Commissioner Gilmartin commented that it was an honor to serve with Commissioner Walus over the last two years. He noted that she was often the first to recognize the great work of the Village staff and never hesitated to show an open mind to the opposing sides of issues. Commissioner Gilmartin spoke of the effective and empathetic leadership of Commissioner Walus with her kind and funny demeanor. He further stated that she brought a sense of warmth and camaraderie to the Council. Commissioner Gilmartin noted that Commissioner Walus was also a volunteer for the Rotary Club and the Grove Express Foundation, which showed her unwavering commitment to the community. Commissioner Gilmartin spoke of the invaluable lessons Commissioner Walus showed him regarding the importance of taking time with vote decisions and that not all matters were black and white. He commended her willingness to be vulnerable, often expressing opinions that many of the Council members were feeling. Commissioner Gilmartin thanked Commissioner Walus for making Downers Grove a better place.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt stated that it was wonderful serving with someone as empathetic and thoughtful as Commissioner Walus. She said she would miss her perspective as a teacher, fellow mother, and her non-bias approach during their many discussions over issues. Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt thanked Commissioner Walus for her guidance as she came into her own when being elected to Council. She also noted that Commissioner Walus

always had the Village's best interest at heart and had no doubt that the Commissioner would continue to serve Downers Grove through her volunteer activities.

Commissioner Kulovany spoke of his first impressions (as a spectator) of Commissioner Walus when she was a newly appointed Commissioner. He said he noticed that she took her time to absorb information and didn't speak much at meetings. He noted that eventually, she found her voice; during the pandemic, she inspired everyone with reminders that local businesses needed help - shopping local was important to her. Commissioner Kulovany said that he watched her grow into her position, further commenting that oftentimes he would call Commissioner Walus for her opinion and many times she would surprise him with her response, always leaving him with a kernel of something to think about. He said he understood she was leaving to spend more time with family, but he didn't think this was the last time she would be serving her community in an amazing capacity. Commissioner Kulovany thanked Commissioner Walus for her friendship and assistance when he had been injured and contracted COVID.

Commissioner José explained that from the very beginning, when Commissioner Walus applied for the Village Council vacancy, her resume jumped out, showing great experience as a teacher, a volunteer, and experience with social work. He expressed that he was going to miss having her as part of the Council and mostly her perspective that was perfectly informed and very in tune with the community. He stated it was a pleasure to serve with her and an honor to watch her work serving the community. Commissioner José added that both Commissioner Walus and Commissioner Kulovany approached things from a common sense point of view. Lastly, Commissioner José stated that he would miss the thought, devotion, and enthusiasm that Commissioner Walus brought to the Council the most.

The Mayor began by stating that Commissioner Walus was always thinking of the community. He explained that she grew up in a service-oriented environment, gaining her Bachelor's Degree in History, Secondary Education, and Music, a Master's Degree in Education Administration, and another Master's Degree in Teaching and Learning, all while serving her community. The Mayor explained that Commissioner Walus and her husband had lived in Downers Grove since 2010, near Downers South High School. He said she made marks during her time on the Council by advocating to drive the Council to reinstate the Human Service Commission (HSC), then directing the HSC to provide recommendations on how the Village should work on social issues. The Mayor noted that Commissioner Walus spoke clearly and forcefully, helping push the Council to hire a Social Worker to ensure that the Village was properly staffed to connect residents in need of social services with the agencies that provided the services needed. He continued by stating that the perspective Commissioner Walus brought to the Council would be missed. Mayor Barnett further stated that she was always working to keep the tax burden low and was a lead advocate for efforts to slow the spread of COVID. The Mayor credited Commissioner Walus with introducing clarity and simplicity when conversations would drift. Finally, Mayor Barnett thanked Commissioner Walus for all she had done for the Village of Downers Grove. He presented her with an award, Village Flag and a street sign titled "Walus Way".

Commissioner Walus said that in the fall of 2016, during a casual conversation, she was encouraged to apply to fill a vacancy to serve on the Village Council. She explained that she recently had her second child and when she was appointed, she thought she would only serve for six months (the remainder of the term), but she ended up running for another two years in 2017, and then another four years in 2019. Commissioner Walus explained that she never set out to use her experience as a springboard to serve on the County Board or Congress, but the experience has taught her to never say never, but it is not for right now. She continued by stating that she wanted to focus on giving more time to her children. Commissioner Walus thanked Dave Fieldman, Enza Petrarca, Mike Baker, and Doug Kozlowski for teaching her so much, stating that they had her utmost respect. She also thanked the Downers Grove Police and Fire Departments for their talent and professionalism. Commissioner Walus noted that during her time she had served on three different councils, each one taught her something about herself. The Commissioner added that only those who have served on the Council could understand all the difficulties and amazing moments that surrounded the position. She thanked her family for enduring her time away to attend meetings, study materials, be on phone calls, send and read emails, campaign, and much more. She expressed hope that her efforts had shown her daughters the incredible strength of women and all the things they could achieve with continued learning, growing,

and hard work, along with the importance of serving others. Commissioner Walus then thanked her husband for his partnership, their teamwork, and for supporting her in her passions. She said she couldn't do this without his support and now it was his turn to take on his leadership roles. Commissioner Walus stated that this job taught her so much about herself, other people in society, and the world – especially serving through a global pandemic. She said that she met some of the greatest people while in this role, some of whom she cared deeply for. She said during her time serving she learned the importance of getting to know people and she loved the community that she lived in more than she ever thought possible. Commissioner Walus concluded by stating that this experience had been a focal point to her and she would not say goodbye, only so long for now. She said she would continue to be as engaged as possible with the community.

The Mayor said there were hundreds of decisions that Council members made during their tenure, many of which required the same effort as those which made headlines, but they go unnoticed. He stated that Commissioner Rich Kulovany and Commissioner Nicole Walus would be remembered as key members of Village leadership. The Mayor thanked them for their commitment to teamwork and their families for their support.

13. Council Member Reports

Commissioner Kulovany said that the Downers Grove Historical Society's documentary about the Historians of the Year, Willis and Shirley Johnson, would take place at the Tivoli on May 2nd at 6:00 pm. He also stated that the Friends of the Edwards House and the Pierce Downers Heritage Alliance were hosting a special event called Our Precious Growth on Thursday, May 4th from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Alter Brewing. He said that Dr. M. Isabel Loza Rivera of the Global Tree Conservation Program at the Morton Arboretum would be speaking. He said she would share strategies for the conservation of Oaks, including conservation, planning, population, recovery, and restoration.

Commissioner Walus stated that the Grove Fest would be taking place on Thursday, June 22nd through Sunday, June 25th.

14. Adjournment

Mayor Barnett asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

***MOTION:** To adjourn the April 18,, 2023 Village Council Meeting*

***RESULT:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.*

***MOTIONED TO APPROVE:** Commissioner José*

***SECONDED BY:** Commissioner Walus*

***AYES:** Commissioners José, Walus, Glover, Gilmartin, Kulovany, Sadowski-Fugitt, Mayor Barnett*

***NAYES:** None*

Mayor Barnett declared the motion carried by voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosa Berardi
Village Clerk