



# Meeting Minutes

Village of Downers Grove - Council Meeting

**Council Chambers**

**January 10, 2023**

**07:00 PM**

In order to give as many visitors as possible an opportunity to speak and in the interest of adjourning the meeting by 9:00 p.m., please limit your comments to 5 minutes in length, unless further time is granted by Council. Thank you.

## 1. Call to Order

Boy Scout Pack #86 from Lester School led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

## 2. 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

Mayor Barnett explained the process for public comment and the methods that could be used to communicate with the Council outside of Village Council meetings including the Village's eRemarks system, the CRC system, Coffee with the Council, direct email, and phone.

## 3. Proclamations

A. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Mayor Barnett encouraged everyone to participate in MLK Day of Service and to find ways to give back to their communities by visiting [serve.illinois.gov](http://serve.illinois.gov), [givingdupage.org](http://givingdupage.org) or [americorps.gov](http://americorps.gov), and by searching MLK Day of Service.

## 4. Minutes of Council Meetings

**MIN 2022-9692** — A. Minutes: Village Council Meeting Minutes - December 20, 2022

**MOTION:** To adopt the meeting minutes of the December 20, 2022 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, and Mayor Barnett

**NAYES:** None

**5. Consent Agenda**

**BIL 2022-9758** — A. Bills Payable: No. 6708 - January 10, 2023

**COR 2023-9821** — B. Claims Ordinance: No. 6487 - Payroll, December 16, 2022

**MOT 2022-9742** — C. Motion: Approve a Contract with Meade, Inc. for Traffic Signal Modernization

**Summary:** This motion approves a contract with Meade, Inc. for traffic signal modernization in the amount of \$310,518.29, which includes a 5% contingency.

**RES 2022-9741** — D. Resolution: Approve an Extension to the Agreement with Kenig, Lindgren, O'Hara, Aboona, Inc. (KLOA, Inc.) for On-Call Transportation Engineering Services. **RES 2023-01**

**Summary:** This resolution approves an extension to the agreement with Kening, Lindgren, O'Hara, Aboona, Inc. (KLOA, Inc.) for on-call transportation engineering services through December 31, 2023. The total not-to-exceed price for the extension is \$45,000, bringing the total not-to-exceed agreement amount to \$90,000.

**RESOLUTION 2023-01**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN EXTENSION TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE AND KENIG, LINDGREN, O'HARA, ABOONA, INC.**

**RES 2022-9753** — E. Resolution: Appropriating Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) Funds for the Improvement of Streets and Highways by Municipality Under the Illinois Highway Code **RES 2023-02**

**Summary:** This resolution appropriates \$1,800,000 of Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) funds for the 2023 Annual Roadway Resurfacing Program.

**RESOLUTION 2023-02**

**A RESOLUTION FOR IMPROVEMENT UNDER THE ILLINOIS HIGHWAY CODE**

**RES 2022-9754** — F. Resolution: Appropriate Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) Funds for the Maintenance of Streets and Highways by Municipality Under the Illinois Highway Code **RES 2023-03**

**Summary:** This resolution appropriates \$350,000 of Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) funds for roadway maintenance in 2023.

**RESOLUTION 2023-03**

**A RESOLUTION FOR MAINTENANCE UNDER THE ILLINOIS HIGHWAY**

**RES 2023-9824** — G. Resolution: Appropriate Rebuild Illinois Funds for the Improvement of Streets and Highways by Municipality Under the Illinois Highway Code **RES 2023-04**

**Summary:** This resolution appropriates \$1,082,420 of Rebuild Illinois funds for the 2023 Annual Roadway Resurfacing Program.

**RESOLUTION 2023-04**

**A RESOLUTION FOR IMPROVEMENT UNDER THE ILLINOIS HIGHWAY CODE**

**RES 2022-9797** — H. Resolution: Approve the Second Extension to the Contract with SNI Solutions

**RES 2023-05**

**Summary:** This resolution approves a two-year contract extension with SNI Solutions Inc. of Geneseo, Illinois for the purchase of Geomelt liquid deicing products in an amount not-to-exceed \$130,000.

**RESOLUTION 2023-05****A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A SECOND EXTENSION TO THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE AND SNI SOLUTIONS**

**RES 2022-9706** — I. Resolution: Approve a Contract with Active Internet Technologies D/B/A Finalsite (F/K/A Blackboard Connect) **RES 2023-06**

**Summary:** This resolution approves an agreement to renew, for up to four years, a contract between the Village of Downers Grove and FINALSITE (formerly Blackboard Connect) for a community-wide notification system in the amount of \$66,215.00.

**RESOLUTION 2023-06****A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT RENEWAL BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE AND ACTIVE INTERNET TECHNOLOGIES D/B/A FINALSITE (F/K/A BLACKBOARD CONNECT)**

**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

**6. Active Agenda**

There was no Active Agenda.

**7. First Reading**

**ORD 2022-9740** — A. Ordinance: Amending Certain Traffic Control, Parking and Speed Provisions and Pedestrian/Bike Safety Improvements

Public Works Director Andy Sikich presented this item via PowerPoint. He explained this was the Village's eighth traffic study. He reviewed the study area which included the following boundaries, 63<sup>rd</sup> Street on the north, 75<sup>th</sup> Street on the south, Main Street on the east, and Woodward Avenue on the west. The traffic engineering firm, KLOA, completed the study. The recommendations included the following improvements:

- The addition of stop signs at various locations.
- A reduction in the speed limit on the south section of Dunham Road.
- Installation of school and park zone speed limit.
- Curb extensions on Norfolk at Powell.
- Work with DuDot to install countdown pedestrian signals at signalized intersections.
- Bikeway improvements.

Mr. Sikich gave a detailed explanation of the study. He concluded by stating that the traffic study had been reviewed by the Transportation and Parking Commission in November 2022 and received a positive recommendation for approval by the Village Council.

**Public Comment**

Marshall Schmitt, resident, said he thought the changes made sense and were driven by safety. He asked if there was a process in place that alerted the neighborhood impacted and provided an opportunity for their input.

Village Manager Dave Fieldman said with neighborhood traffic studies, mailers are sent to every property in the study area, as are notices from the Transportation and Parking Commission.

Rich Bennema, resident, expressed his disappointment in the traffic study proposal and asked that the Council reject it. He requested that a plan be devised to control the speeds of outside commuter vehicles and school traffic - without punishing the residents of the neighborhood.

### **Village Council Comments/Questions**

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt said that though she knew it was a large volume area, she wanted to know what the size of this traffic study was in comparison to a typical size traffic study.

Mr. Sikich replied that he thought the area of this study was about twice the size of the last few studies completed. He said this was due to the fact that the area of this study did not lend itself to being split up into multiple regions.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt said she understood it was twice the size of most studies but wanted to know if the proposed plan was typical given the volume of traffic in the area, in addition to the school traffic.

Mr. Sikich said it was hard to compare this study to others completed because the studies had started to involve newer developed areas with different road patterns. He said this area had a lot of uncontrolled intersections with a lot of yield signs, which was why the proposal included more stop signs than normal.

Commissioner Gilmartin said he was for the plan but asked about the rationale behind designating the bike lanes on 71<sup>st</sup> Street and Norfolk.

Manager Fieldman said he thought it was part of the 2013 Bicycle Plan, but he would double check and get back with the Commissioner.

Commissioner José said he would like to go back and look at Bolson Drive to see if there was a way to add a stop sign in order to slow traffic. He said as far as the uncontrolled intersections with yield signs were concerned, they were a safety hazard. The Commissioner said he wanted to proceed with the plan unless there was any other information as to why the intersections should remain uncontrolled.

Commissioner Kulovany said he lived in the study area and his first reaction was that there was not much traffic in the area and this plan tried to solve problems that were not there, but he realized that was anecdotal. He said once he read the traffic study, much of it made sense. He gave the example of the intersection of Norfolk and Powell, where there was a grade school. He spoke of the proposed bike lanes, including one on 71<sup>st</sup> Street, which he thought would include narrowing the wide lane to slow the speed of traffic. Then he said he was unsure as to what the advantage was of the proposed bike lane on Springside because it ran into 71<sup>st</sup> Street where it dead ended. The Commissioner thought it might be used to slow down traffic in that area as well. He said he realized plans like this (which included the addition of stop signs) had been completed in areas such as that around North High, but was still unsure of where he stood on the proposed plan and wanted to do more research before making his decision.

Mayor Barnett said he thought the main summary of the proposal was a plan to allow some streets with higher traffic volumes to be more capable of managing those volumes and creating more controlled intersections.

Mr. Sikich concurred.

Mayor Barnett said this was consistent with the way the Village had tried to manage most neighborhoods. He stated that the discussion would continue at the next Village Council meeting.

## 8. Manager's Report

Village Manager Dave Fieldman said that Coffee with the Council was to take place on Saturday, January 14, 2023, from 9-10 a.m. at the Downers Grove Public Library and the public was welcome to attend.

Deputy Village Manager Mike Baker gave an update on the Civic Center Project. He said the project was on schedule and under budget. Mr. Baker shared a video that showed the most recent work completed, including basement construction and foundation work.

## 9. 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 amending certain traffic control, parking and speed provisions and pedestrian/bikesafety improvements.

## 10. Public Comments

This is the opportunity for the public to comment on non-agenda items.

Louise Kelly, resident, spoke about the Greenest Region Compact. She expressed her hope that the Council would vote in favor of learning more about it.

Carol Richart, resident, spoke about climate change and said she too hoped that the Village Council would consider joining the Greenest Region Compact. She also stated she hoped that the Environmental Concerns Commission would be reinstated and renamed.

## 11. Mayor's Report

There was no Mayor's Report

## 12. Council Member Report

### A. New Business - MOT 2023-9823

**MOTION:** To investigate joining the Greenest Region Compact.

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

**MOTIONED TO APPROVE:** Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt

**SECONDED BY:** Commissioner Gilmartin

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

**NAYES:** None

### Village Council Comments/Questions

Mayor Barnett said that the new business item was listed and linked with the meeting's agenda items on the [Village website](#) and he hoped that everyone took the time to review the information. The Mayor said he thought that staff should get the details needed to make the decision of whether or not to join the Compact.

Commissioner Gilmartin said that he supported getting information to learn more about the Greenest Region Compact. He said he was interested in seeing what the Village was already doing without the distinction and how that would fit into Greenest Region Compact. He said he felt this was the right thing to do.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt said that dating back to 2019, when she first joined the Council, she had been interested in seeing if the Village could do more with a sustainability and energy audit. She said that even though it did not pass as a Priority Action Item, it had been something she had remained interested in. The Commissioner stated that with the Civic Center Project, the Village included extra money in the budget for improvements that were environmentally sustainable. She said there had also been several community discussions regarding new developments, downtown density and aesthetics, and green spaces. She said conversations were likely to continue and could possibly include the Complete Streets Plan, making it a more walkable and bike-able community. The Commissioner said she felt this was a holistic way to connect with other municipalities that had already done the planning. She spoke of climate change and that the Village could not combat the climate crisis alone. The Village was already a part of the DuPage Mayor and Managers Conference (DMMC) and they had signed onto the Greenest Region Compact. Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt said her hope was that becoming a part of the Greenest Region Compact would give the Village opportunities to collaborate with other communities already doing the work. She said she wanted to investigate that types of collaborations, resources and funding that was out there for the Greenest Region Compact.

Commissioner Kulovany said he thought it was a good idea to study this more. He said he was interested in finding out what other municipalities were doing – that was free staff work for the Village and taxpayers. The Commissioner stated that the Council received a lot of emails on this subject. This was a way for the Village to be stewards of the environment. He said his only concern was that the public may not have been aware of what Downers Grove had done up to this point - such as being nationally ranked seven years in a row as #50 of the Greenest Municipal Fleets of approximately 38,000. He continued by stating that the Village also planted a lot of trees, at least 400 trees a year, for decades. Commissioner Kulovany said he hoped the report would show a list of what the Village had already been doing and also what the Village needed to improve upon.

Commissioner Walus said the Council had always done a really great job of doing their due diligence, which they owed to the residents. She said she thought this was a great plan and that there may have been some misconceptions about the Village joining the Greenest Region Compact. She said she wanted to see more information spelled out about what the Village's obligations were, whether financial or recording, and she wanted clarity on exactly what that would entail. She said, to Commissioner Kulovany's point, the Council did receive emails from residents about recycling and other things that she was unclear on, so she was interested in finding out what the Village was already doing without the distinction (just as Commission Gilmartin had mentioned).

Mayor Barnett said there was a responsibility to the community and the planet. He said the Village's process was evaluated periodically and would continue to be. He mentioned that the Village had looked at joining SolSmart a couple of times over the years and each time, it didn't seem to be the right time. He said what was important was to be aware of things, to be current on them, and that the Village was doing all it could. The Mayor said every decision the Village had made has involved some consideration of the impact it could have on the environment. He said not to discount the work that individual communities were obligated to do, whether they were part of the Greenest Region Compact or not. He said being a part of the Compact didn't change the Village's obligation. Mayor Barnett said he was all for learning more and getting current information.

### **Public Comment**

Marshall Schmitt returned to the podium and said not only was it important to learn more about the Compact but the value of collaboration among municipalities should be the prime consideration in deciding whether the Village joined the Greenest Region Compact.

Mariam Badkey, resident, said she hoped that the Council agreed to look into the Greenest Region Compact. She also said she hoped that the Council reinstated the Environmental Concerns Commission, and that the Village publicized any accomplishments and efforts involving environmental sustainability.

Council Minutes

Village of Downers Grove

January 10, 2023

**13. Adjournment**

Mayor Barnett asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**MOTION:** *To adjourn the January 10<sup>th</sup>, 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*

Mayor Barnett declared the motion carried by voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosa Berardi  
Village Clerk