

MINUTES of a regular meeting of the Mayor and the Board of Trustees of the Village of Skokie, Cook County, Illinois held in the Council Chambers at 5127 Oakton Street at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, July 3, 2023



Pledge of Allegiance led by Village Clerk Pramod Shah.

Mayor Van Dusen called the meeting to order.

The Clerk call the Roll. Those present were Trustees Sutker, Robinson, Khoehn, Johnson, Pure Slovin, Klein and Mayor Van Dusen.

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Moved: Trustee Pure Slovin

Seconded: Trustee Johnson

Ayes: Sutker, Robinson, Khoehn, Johnson, Pure Slovin, Klein and Mayor Van Dusen

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

MOTION CARRIED

* Approve, as submitted, minutes of regular meeting held Tuesday, June 20, 2023.

Omnibus vote.

* Approve Voucher List #3-FY24 of July 3, 2023.

Omnibus vote.

Appointments, Reappointments and Resignations.

* A. Appointments

Beautification & Improvement Commission: Katharine Darr

Public Safety Commission: Doug Rocklin

Telecommunications & Technology Commission: Vince Giovannone

Mayor Van Dusen introduced Katharine Darr and Doug Rocklin and thanked them for serving.

* B. Reappointments

Telecommunications & Technology Commission: Scott Shamberg as Vice Chair and Sam Corcione as Chair

* C. Resignations

Human Relations Commission: John Muszynski

Public Safety Commission: Ken Mantel

Omnibus vote.

Report of the Village Manager.

No Report.

Report of the Corporation Counsel.

Assistant Corporation Counsel Barbara Mangler presented the report.

CONSENT:

*A. Ordinance 23-7- C-4647

Motion to adopt an ordinance amending various sections to update the Village Code pertaining to construction. Item A is on the agenda for second reading and adoption. The first reading was on June 5, 2023.

Omnibus vote.

FIRST READING:

B. An ordinance providing and making an appropriation for the Village of Skokie, Cook County, Illinois, for the general corporate purposes, the Skokie Public Library, the Firefighters' Pension Fund, the Police Pension Fund, the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund, the Motor Fuel Tax Fund, the Community Development Block Grant Fund, the Economic Development Fund, the Water Revenue Fund, the Capital Project Fund, the Visitors Bureau Fund, the Casualty and

Self-Insurance Fund, the Local Fuel Tax Fund, the Wireless Alarm Fund, the Payment of Principal and Interest on General Obligation Debts, the Science and Technology Tax Increment Financing Fund, the West Dempster Street Tax Increment Financing Fund, the Oakton Street/Niles Avenue Tax Increment Financing Fund, the Performing Arts Center Fund, and the SSA #10 Fund, for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2023 and ending April 30, 2024. Item **B** is on the agenda for first reading and will be on the July 17, 2023 agenda for second reading and adoption.

C. An ordinance amending Chapter 46, Article VI, Sections 46-193 of the Skokie Village Code pertaining to water rates. Item **C** is on the agenda for first reading and will be on the July 17, 2023 agenda for second reading and adoption.

Finance Director Julian Prendi provided a power point presentation and answered questions from the Board.

Unfinished Business

Trustee Pure Slovin spoke about a survey she requested of other municipalities concerning visual time clocks for Public Comments. A resident had concerns whether there is an Ordinance against homeowners spraying pesticides. The legislation against pesticides should be addressed to the State. She thanked the Village for the Composting program which is helping with sustainability for our environment and encouraged residents to discard the plastic bag in a separate trash can.

Hillary Hunter also spoke about pesticides and the Mosquito abatement district. She had questions about the lead water service line replacement program. Sewer problems on her property. Manager Lockerby answered her questions.

Judy Mendel and Kimberly Polka commented on the 3 minute clock used for public comments and mostly how much time someone has left when they start talking. Release the entirety of audio of the meeting, disclose everything, confusing, vague, and about transparency.

New Business.

A. Discussion - Open Meetings Act regarding January 3 and 17, 2023.

After discussion with outside counsel and members of the Board, Trustee Klein made a motion to release for public inspection the following portions of executive session audio recordings that took place on January 3, 2023 and January 17, 2023.

1. For the executive session meeting that took place on January 3, 2023, the entire audio recording beginning at the 26:40 minute mark to the end of the executive session : and
2. For the executive session meeting that took place on January 17, 2023, portions of the audio recording beginning at the 34-minute mark through the end of the executive session meeting that do no relate to Attorney Lorge's conduct and job performance as Corporation Counsel.

Moved: Trustee Klein

Seconded: Trustee Robinson

Mayor Van Dusen made a statement that the Village Board was sued on June 23rd. This motion is consistent with the determination with the Public Access Counsel and the outside council. We will see how it plays out in Circuit Court.

Trustee Johnson stated discrepancies from the Attorney General recommendation and the recommendation from the outside counsel. He also mentioned that the Agenda packet had no information on what exactly was being discussed, Attorney General's determination, misconduct and the Legal Department.

Public Comment.

Noelle Sullivan Professor at Northwestern University spoke about Policy, tax payer money spent on outside counsel, legal fees, partisan council and ethics violation.

Emi Yamauchi spoke about complying with the Attorney General's determination, transparency, tax problem. She also asked if there was an update on the Homewood Suites and timeline on the commission members for the Housing Sub Commission.

Diana Rumsley, owner of Village Inn spoke about the possibility of modifying the gaming ordinance. The Economic Development Commission have plans to discuss the subject in the near future. Zak Sabella spoke about concerns of gambling addictions.

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Vicky Wolfinger thanked the Board about the issue of the time clock, Public Comments included in the Board packet, non-binding Resolutions concerning possibility of banning leaf blowers, possibility of banning non-recyclable plastic bags, and municipal vehicles idling for hours.

Trustee Johnson tried twice to amend the Original Motion that the Board comply with AG's determination rather Ferrolo's response. There was not a second, so the motions failed.

Roll call on the original motion.

Ayes: Sutker, Robinson, Khoeun, Pure Slovin, Klein and Mayor Van Dusen

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

Abstain: Johnson

MOTION CARRIED

New Business

Agenda Items.

Trustee Johnson wanted the Board to review and revise to clarify the process by which Trustees can request public agenda items for Board meetings..

Mayor Van Dusen expressed condolence to the family of George Mitchell, a long time resident and a Village Commissioner.

Trustee Johnson also spoke about the Attorney's General investigation, the ethics Commission, January 17th Board Meeting, Comprehensive review of the Village's compliance with the Open Meetings Act and apologized for his participation in violating the OMA.

Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn at 8:36 p.m.

Moved: Trustee Sutker

Seconded: Trustee Klein

Ayes: Sutker, Robinson, Khoeun, Johnson, Pure Slovin, Klein and Mayor Van Dusen

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

MOTION CARRIED

Pramod Shah Village Clerk

Approved:

 Mayor Van Dusen

Items marked with an asterisk (*) indicate they are part of the Consent Agenda that contains routine items or items which have already been discussed by the Mayor and Board at a previous public meeting and require a second reading. Items on the Consent Agenda are passed in one vote at the beginning of the Board Meeting. Prior to the vote on the Consent Agenda, the Mayor will inquire if there is any matter which anyone wishes to remove from the Consent Agenda. If there is an item on the Consent Agenda which you wish to address, please inform the Mayor at that time you wish to remove it from the Consent Agenda.

