

Meeting Minutes

Village of Downers Grove - Council Meeting

Council Chambers

January 12, 2021

7:00 PM

1. Call to Order

Mayor Robert Barnett noted that all of the Commissioners in attendance would be doing so remotely by conference call from their homes. Commissioner Kulovany would not be in attendance. Village Manager Dave Fieldman, Village Attorney Enza Petrarca, Village Clerk Rosa Berardi.

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. He explained the protocol for the remote meeting and the guidelines to submit public comment.

2. Roll Call

Council Attendance (Present): Mayor Barnett; Commissioner Earl, Commissioner Walus, Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt, Commissioner Gray

Absent: Commissioner Greg Hosé, Commissioner Rich Kulovany

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

MOT 2021-8814 A. Motion: Conduct the January 12, 2021 Village Council meeting electronically.

Motion: Motion by Commissioner Earl to conduct the January 12, 2021 Village Council meeting electronically. Commissioner Walus seconded the motion.

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

Nay: None

Mayor Barnett declared the motion carried.

3. Proclamation – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Mayor Barnett spoke of recent events occurring in Washington, DC and how they contradict historical events that have taken place in our Capital; like the march of 1963 when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his “I Have a Dream” speech. He continued by saying that the examples set by leaders, such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., encouraged the way forward to change through peace and not through violence, riots or destruction. Dr. King’s goal was to stand firm through non-violent protests, to build a more perfect nation, not to tear our nation down. Like so many leaders before and since Dr. King lost his life for calling our nation to improve the lives of all people. Mayor Barnett asked for all to reflect, remember, celebrate and take inspiration from the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mayor Barnett read a proclamation recognizing the contributions of Martin Luther King Jr. and declared January 18, 2021 as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in the Village of Downers Grove. He encouraged residents to participate in the King Day of Service and find ways to give back to the community by visiting www.mlkday.gov, www.serve.illinois.gov and www.givingdupage.org.

4. Minutes of Council Meetings

MIN 2021-8811 - A. Minutes: Council Minutes – January 5, 2021

Motion: Commissioner Earl made a motion that Council adopt the minutes of the January 5, 2021 meeting, as presented. Commissioner Walus seconded the motion.

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

Nay: None

Mayor Barnett declared the motion carried.

5. Consent Agenda

BIL 2021-8812 - A. Bills Payable: No. 6570 – January 12, 2021

RES 2020-8806 - B. Resolution: Authorize an Extension to the Contract with Marcott Enterprises, Inc.

Summary: This authorizes the Village to authorize a contract extension with Marcott Enterprises, Inc.

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXTENSION TO THE CONTRACT WITH
MARCOTT ENTERPRISES
RES 2021-06**

RES 2020-8807 - C. Resolution: Authorize an Extension to the Contract with Western Gradall Corporation

Summary: This authorizes an extension to a contract with Western Gradall Corporation.

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXTENSION TO THE CONTRACT WITH
WESTERN GRADALL CORPORATION
RES 2021-07**

RES 2020-8808 - D. Resolution: Authorize an Extension to the Contract with Boughton Materials, Inc.

Summary: This authorizes a contract extension with Boughton Materials, Inc.

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXTENSION TO THE CONTRACT WITH
BOUGHTON MATERIALS, INC.
RES 2021-08**

RES 2020-8809 - E. Resolution: Execute a Second Extension to the Contract with Elmhurst Chicago Stone Company

Summary: This authorizes a second extension to the contract with Elmhurst Chicago Stone Company

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SECOND EXTENSION TO THE CONTRACT WITH
ELMHURST CHICAGO STONE COMPANY
RES 2021-09**

MIN 2021-8813 - F. Minutes: Note Receipt of Minutes of Boards and Commissions

Summary: This notes the receipt of the minutes of boards and commissions.

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

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

Nay: None

Mayor Barnett declared the motion carried unanimously.

6. Active Agenda

ORD 2020-8789 - A. Ordinance: Annex 5430 Belmont Road and 2097 Inverness Avenue to the Village of Downers Grove

Summary: This ordinance annexes 5430 Belmont Road and 2097 Inverness Avenue to the Village of Downers Grove.

**AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING 5430 BELMONT ROAD AND 2097 INVERNESS AVENUE
TO THE VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE
ORDINANCE 5858**

Motion: Commissioner Earl made a motion that the Council adopt an ordinance to 5430 Belmont Road and 2097 Inverness Avenue to the Village of Downers Grove, as presented. Commissioner Walus seconded the motion.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt thanked staff and the Church for responding to questions last week.

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

Nay: None

Mayor Barnett declared the motion carried unanimously.

ORD 2020-8787 - B. Ordinance: Rezone Certain Property located at 5416, 5418, 5430 Belmont Road and 2097 Inverness Avenue

Summary: This authorizes the rezoning of certain property located at 5416, 5418, 5430 Belmont Road and 2097 Inverness Avenue.

**AN ORDINANCE REZONING CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED 5416, 5418,
5430 BELMONT ROAD AND 2097 INVERNESS AVENUE
ORDINANCE 5859**

Motion: Commissioner Earl made a motion that the Council adopt an ordinance rezoning certain property located at 5416, 5418, 5430 Belmont Road and 2097 Inverness Avenue. Commissioner Walus seconded the motion.

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

Nay: None

Mayor Barnett declared the motion carried unanimously.

ORD 2020-8788 - C. Ordinance: Authorize a Special Use for 5416, 5418, 5430 Belmont Road and 2097 Inverness Avenue to Permit Religious Assembly and Private School Use

Summary: This ordinance authorizes a special use for 5416, 5418, 5430 Belmont Road and 2097 Inverness Avenue to permit religious assembly and private school use.

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL USE FOR 5416, 5418, 5430 BELMONT ROAD
AND 2097 INVERNESS AVENUE TO PERMIT RELIGIOUS ASSEMBLY
AND PRIVATE SCHOOL USE
ORDINANCE 5860**

Motion: Commissioner Earl made a motion that the Council adopt an ordinance authorizing a special use for 5416, 5418, 5430 Belmont Road and 2097 Inverness Avenue to permit religious assembly and private school use, as presented. Commissioner Walus seconded the motion.

Mayor Barnett briefly commented that this was a redevelopment going forward and wished the best for the owners.

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

Nay: None

Mayor Barnett declared the motion carried unanimously.

ORD 2020-8791 - D. Ordinance: Establish Special Service Area Number 11 (Downers Grove Downtown Service Area) in the Village of Downers Grove

Summary: This ordinance establishes Special Service Area Number 11 (Downers Grove Downtown Service Area) in the Village of Downers Grove.

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL SERVICE AREA NUMBER 11 (DOWNERS
GROVE DOWNTOWN SERVICE AREA) IN THE VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE
ORDINANCE 5861**

Motion: Commissioner Earl made a motion that the Council adopt an ordinance establishing Special Service Area Number 11 (Downers Grove Downtown Service Area) in the Village of Downers Grove, as presented. Commissioner Walus seconded the motion.

Commissioner Earl thanked everyone involved in this project, noting the process was very long. The new SSA replaces the old SSA, which included multi-family residences (condos) in the downtown area that were owned by residents. The new SSA is a continuation of the downtown special service area but to be supported solely by the businesses and rental apartments in the area and not burdening the homeowners in the area. A special thank you was given to Deputy Village Manager, Mike Baker, and all of the members of Downtown Management that have worked so hard on this.

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

Nay: None

Mayor Barnett declared the motion carried unanimously.

7. First Reading

MOT 2020-8805 - A. Motion: Award a Contract in the Amount of \$4,068,833.52 to A. Lamp Concrete Contractors, Inc. for Burlington Highlands Drainage Improvements

Summary: This awards a contract in the amount of \$4,068,833.52 to A. Lamp Concrete Contractors, Inc. for the Burlington Highlands drainage improvements.

Mr. Fieldman introduced Public Works Director Andy Sikich, who would be presenting information on an awarded contract for a stormwater investment project in the Burlington Highlands neighborhood. Mr. Sikich indicated that this project was brought forth almost a year ago, and was bid in early 2020, but was delayed due to the pandemic. The project was rebid with an added water main project in the vicinity to have less impact on the neighborhood. Mr. Sikich used a map in his presentation to show where both the drainage improvement and the water main projects are located. The low bidder was A Lamp Concrete Contractors, who has done other projects in the village. Total cost was \$4,068,833.52.

Commissioner Earl commented that the project was much overdue for the area. The work will take some time but the Village will be disturbing the neighborhood only once to make all of the improvements. She is pleased to support the project.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt seconded Commissioner Earl. She said she lived through the 55th Street construction for two years and is hopeful that the Village can stay on track and get the improvements finished up by October.

Mayor Barnett also expressed supportive words for the affected residents. He explained that the project cannot wait any longer and needs to be done to keep the Village in the condition the residents expect.

8. Manager's Report

Mr. Fieldman provided an update to the Village's Financial Response to the COVID-19 pandemic, via a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Fieldman originally presented the Village's Financial Response Plan in April of 2020. He started by stating the pandemic has affected the Village's revenue sources and increased expenses. He reviewed the Village's goals and objectives while giving a brief history of the use and balance of funds. The Village will continue to focus on maintaining robust balances in its Health and Risk Funds while ensuring that the plan is in alignment with the timing and magnitude of the issue and will always try to maintain at least 50% of the Village's General Funds reserve during this response. Slides of the presentation followed, including the 4 Tiers of the response. He noted that the Village only needed to use Tiers 1 and 2 in 2020. Tier 1 included a \$2,500,000.00 Cares Act Grant from the Federal Government and DuPage County. Tier 2 included the Village's expense reduction efforts including cutting General Fund expenses by nearly \$2,000,000.00. Revenue performance for the Village's four main revenue sources were noted with Mr. Fieldman explaining the declining revenue funds that resulted from 2019 to 2020 initially -- some months performing better than others. He explained there was a concern for the performance of Sales Tax, especially for the months of November and December 2020. Expected data for those months would be available in 60 to 90 days. As a cautionary

comment, Mr. Fieldman indicated that approximately 20% of the Village's total Sales tax revenue comes in during those two months. For the year, Sales Tax was down over \$500,000 as compared to the previous year (decline of 6.15%). Home Rule Tax was also reviewed and noted to be down 13.5% as compared to the previous October and year to date was down by over \$170,000 (11% decline). The Food and Beverage tax revenue numbers followed. Overall revenue for this tax was down by over \$300,000 (17% decline). Hotel Tax revenue was down by over \$600,000 (66% decline). Revenue projections followed and monitoring would continue.

Mr. Fieldman posed a few questions for the Commissioners to ponder:

- 1) How will the Food and Beverage tax revenue perform in the cold-weather season?
- 2) How will the sales tax and Home Rule Sales tax perform during November and December?
- 3) When and to what extent will Hotel tax revenue performance improve?
- 4) When and how will the governor make changes to the Restore Illinois Plan?

Per staff, continued monitoring of revenue will take place; staff will continue to seek assistance from the State and Federal Government to fill gaps and control General Fund expenses; and staff will continue to provide monthly reporting to Council and the public.

Mayor Barnett invited commissioner comments and staff was thanked for their report. Mayor Barnett reminded the commissioners and the Village that the data being provided tonight was from October and November of 2020 and the Village will mostly likely have final revenue numbers for 2020 at the end of the first quarter of 2021.

9. Public Comments

Mayor Barnett reported an e-remark was received prior to tonight's meeting. The e-remark included a series of questions concerning the election process, efforts to secure the integrity of the election process and security locally. Mayor Barnett stated that the person will be responded to and the e-remark in its entirety will become part of the night's record and will be circulated to the balance of the Council. Most of the questions are to be directed to the DuPage County Election Division but Mayor Barnett stated that the person will be responded to and will be given additional direction shortly.

10. Mayor and Council Member Reports

Commissioner Walus commented that the Ice Festival will be opening on February 13 and 14. She asked everyone to wear their masks while attending the event. She recited a quote that encourage everyone to hope, perceive and have faith. She reminded everyone to be kind and "hang in there."

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt commented on our election process, both locally and at a national level. She indicated that we all work together to move the community forward. She spoke of the unfortunate events that occurred last week at the nation's Capital. She hopes in the weeks to come that all choose peace over violence. She continued by ensuring everyone that our local election will take place on April 6th. She said that the election will be safe and secure and that everyone's vote will count. She reminded everyone that due to the pandemic, vote by mail is now open and an option to vote safely.

Given the recent events that occurred, Commissioner Gray said that he reminds himself of the role he plays as the bridge for the community. He thanked the Village for recognizing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and honoring his day. He spoke of one of Dr. King's speeches and a documentary he watched about Dr. King. He spoke of the people that screamed hate toward Dr. King. He said that Dr. King's contributions are profound, both globally and

locally. He commented on the history of slavery and racism. Commissioner Gray spoke of images embedded in his head from last week's events and how difficult it is to move on from something of that magnitude. He stated that he hopes the nation moves on from the events that have occurred and that people will have a different mindset, but he believes it will be difficult to do so.

Commissioner Earl also expressed her feelings on the matter and was hopeful that people will come together rather than divide our county.

11. Adjournment

Mayor Barnett asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Commissioner Earl made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Walus seconded the motion.

Voice Votes: Aye: Commissioner Earl, Commissioner Walus, Commissioner Gray, Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt, Mayor Barnett

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

Respectfully submitted,

Rosa Berardi

Village Clerk



rRemarks Data for January 12, 2021 Village Council Meeting

Agenda Section	Agenda Item	Comment	Commenter
Comments of a General Nature		We would like to present a brief proposal in support of Downers Grove Police Dept.	Regina Brent/Paul Scott/Unity Partnership, NFP, P.O. Box 5072, Naperville
Comments of a General Nature		We would like a future meeting with Commissioner Gray, Chief Gillette, Mrs. Blanchard regarding the issues with African-Americans residing in Downers Grove, IL. What can we do to bridge the gap and to rebuild trust between all parties.	Unity Partnership, Regina Brent, P.O. Box 5072, Naperville
<i>The following comment was received after 5:00p.m. and summarized at the Village Council meeting.</i>			
Comments of a General Nature		My name is Anjali Alva and I have been a resident of Downers Grove for almost 6 years and am proud to be a part of this community, along with my husband and daughter. I am calling upon Village Council to provide public assurances as to how Downers Grove will ensure the integrity of our upcoming local municipal elections, so that our community can trust the certified results. I am concerned by the polarization of our country that literally resulted in an attack on our democracy as both Chambers of Congress were under siege in our nation's Capitol in an effort to disrupt our election process. I am not here to get into the reasons this happened – even though those are absolutely issues that our community needs to urgently address. There is clearly a part of the community that isn't just unhappy that their candidate did not win the Presidency, but that they reject the certified outcomes and are willing to resort to violence. It would be naïve to deny that some of those people live here in our community. Every voter should feel confident that we have safe and secure elections as they mail in their ballot or walk into their local polling places, including right here in Village Hall. Yes, the election process itself in Downers Grove is controlled by the Illinois Board of Elections, and locally by the DuPage County Clerk's Office. The process and documentation in place for voting and the election process is not in question. My worst nightmare would be to see the terrible events of last week play out here within our local community – violently or otherwise – in an effort to undermine the legitimacy of our democracy. My fundamental questions are, what will you do to ensure that all members of our community recognize lawfully and legitimately elected officials for the Village in the upcoming elections? If there are challenges to the results, what is the Village prepared to do to prevent violence in the community? Given recent events, every elected official has a duty to work in service of strengthening our democratic institutions. I know that Downers Grove can be a model for others facing the same challenges. Each of you has an opportunity to lead – as a voice of reason to members of your party, to your neighbors, and the rest of our country – not just as individuals but collectively representing the Village, as a democratic institution. It is more important than ever to have a proactive, bipartisan effort working to build greater trust in these institutions. I invite other members of our community to add their support for the Village Council to address these challenges that will directly impact our upcoming local elections – by email, phone calls and additional public comments, in the defense of our democracy	Anjali Alva, 7219 Ticonderoga Pl, Downers Grove