



Meeting Minutes

Village of Downers Grove - Council Meeting

Council Chambers

May 9, 2023

07:00 PM

1. Call to Order

Mayor Pro-Tem José 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.

2. Roll Call

Council Attendance (Present): Mayor Pro-Tem José, Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt, Commissioner Gilmartin, Commissioner Glover, Commissioner Tully, Commissioner Davenport

Council Attendance (Not Present): Mayor Barnett

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

3. Proclamations

A. Mental Health Awareness

Mayor Pro-Tem José read proclamations in honor of Mental Health Awareness Month and presented the proclamation to members of Grit2 and Navigate Adolescence. Ann Cummins with Navigate Adolescence spoke and thanked the Village for supporting mental health and for hiring a social worker.

B. National Bike Month

Mayor Pro-Tem José read a proclamation in honor of National Bike Month. He presented Bill Chalberg and the Downers Grove Bicycle Club accepted the proclamation.

Mr. Chalberg spoke and thanked Council, staff and Public Works for making improvements throughout the Village that have made it safer for pedestrians and bicyclists. He welcomed all to join in the Ride of Silence on Wednesday, May 17th.

4. Minutes of Council Meetings

MIN 2023-9899 — A. Minutes: Village Council Meeting Minutes - May 2, 2023

MOTION: *To adopt the meeting minutes of the May 2, 2023, regular Village Council meeting, as presented.*

RESULT: *Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.*

MOTIONED TO APPROVE: Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Gilmartin

AYES: Commissioners Sadowski-Fugitt, Gilmartin, Davenport, Tully, Glover, Mayor Pro-Tem José

NAYES: None

5. Consent Agenda

BIL 2022-9780 — A. Bills Payable: No. 6730 - May 9, 2023

MOTION: To adopt the Consent Agenda, as presented

RESULT: Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

MOTIONED TO APPROVE: Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Gilmartin

AYES: Commissioners Sadowski-Fugitt, Gilmartin, Davenport, Tully, Glover, Mayor Pro-Tem José

NAYES: None

6. Active Agenda

There was no Active Agenda.

7. First Reading

ORD 2023-9875 — A. Ordinance: Authorizing a Special Use for 2539 Ogden Avenue to Permit a Personal Vehicle Repair and Maintenance Business

Village Community Development Director Stan Popovich presented with a PowerPoint. He reviewed the zoning classification, signage, maps of the location, traffic flow around the building, and plans for stormwater mitigation. Mr. Popovich also reviewed some of the changes petitioner made to the plans after it was presented to the Plan Commission, including revisions to landscaping, soundproofing, light pollution, and the west side of the building. He explained that staff recommended approval of the request under the conditions listed in the draft ordinance.

Village Council Comments/Questions

Commissioner Gilmartin asked if the sound barriers, included in the packet posted online for this item, were for the grinding room only. Mr. Popovich replied yes, with the Grinding Room in Option 1.

Commissioner Gilmartin said there had been a question regarding electric vs. pneumatic tools and that the petitioners plan was to use electric. He asked if there was a way to enforce this.

Village Manager Dave Fieldman said that the Village's general noise regulations would be enforced.

Commissioner Davenport asked if the proposed masonry wall would impede the flow of stormwater from properties to the south and also asked how existing stormwater piping, running from the southeast corner to the detention area at the northwest corner, would be handled.

Manager Fieldman said both of those questions would be addressed in the engineering submittal, ensuring

the wall would not impede stormwater and the existing infrastructure would be addressed.

Mayor Pro-Tem José reviewed the public comment protocol.

Chris Enright, Architect for Belle Tire, stated that the sound engineer, design engineer, property manager and director of equipment were present to answer any questions. Via PowerPoint, he reviewed the location, traffic counts, and traffic analysis that had been completed. Mr. Enright explained there would be no parking on Drendel Rd and there will be markings on the site regarding this. He said the master plan explained that this area was classified as corridor commercial, with uses identified as automobile, retail, and multifamily use. Mr. Enright stated the property was zoned B3 Commercial Zoning and reviewed the test drive route that would be used, which did not include Drendel Road. He also indicated that the district managers mandated the test drive routes for each of the stores. Using a map, he reviewed the locations of properties that included automobile use along Ogden Ave., all of which backed up to residential properties. He also reviewed maps showing the flow of rainwater and addressed Commissioner Davenport's concern regarding the flow of water due to the masonry fence. He explained that water would be collected via the swale that was designed to direct water to the rain garden and then eventually to the existing regional detention pond on the northwest corner of the property. Mr. Enright said a sound report was submitted, which fell within the scope of the Village sound regulations. He stated that sound would be controlled with interior implementation measures, the distance of the building from the property lines, the masonry wall along the perimeter of the lot, and with landscaping. He added that the landscape architect was directed to install the largest trees available and provide for drainage at the sound wall. Mr. Enright reviewed the hours of operation and indicated that overhead doors and opaque doors were also added to the plan.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt asked who would be responsible for the maintenance of the bioswale and rain garden.

Mr. Enright stated the property management system of Belle Tower would be responsible for everything.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt asked how Drendel Road access would be used.

Mr. Enright stated Drendel Road access will be for the delivery vehicles that could not come from Ogden Avenue due to turn restrictions.

Commissioner Gilmartin asked the sound engineer if the gap in the brick wall would reduce its ability to attenuate sound.

Sound Engineer Mandy Kachur said that sound would get through, but the sound would still fall within the Village's sound regulations.

Commissioner Gilmartin asked if any other Bell Tower locations had sound analysis testing completed. Ms. Kachur responded yes.

Commissioner Gilmartin asked if lower frequencies tend to be harder to attenuate. Ms. Kachur responded yes.

Commissioner Gilmartin also asked if any there had been any analysis or comparisons of sounds at other Belle Tires, regarding the frequency ranges of the equipment.

Ms. Kachur said the best example was on Page 3 of the report comparing a pneumatic wrench to a battery operated wrench.

Commissioner Gilmartin asked if most of the sound was high frequency. Ms. Kachur confirmed that it was higher and easier to control.

Commissioner Gilmartin asked what attenuation there would be for the sound in the grinding room and if there would be sound blocking implemented.

Ms. Kachur said the sound blocking was the room itself. She said depending on the materials used on the interior walls and the door to the room, the decibels would go down about 35 to 50 decibels. She said the main way to attenuate sound is through the enclosure itself.

Commissioner Gilmartin asked if the enclosure of the main garage, the space and interior walls, would also have attenuation.

Ms. Kachur explained that the only sound absorption needed was within the grinder room. She said the sound energy was concentrated because of using loud tools within a small space – the absorption of the sound by the walls, ceiling and acoustic tile would decrease sound levels.

Commissioner Gilmartin asked for a point of reference to understand what 35 DB meant.

Ms. Kachur said a 3 DB reduction was “just noticeable”, a 10 DB reduction “made it half as loud”, a 20 DB reduction “made it a quarter loud”, and a 35 DB reduction was about six or seven times as quiet. She compared it to having an office door that was sealed, being on the outside of the office, and knowing someone is speaking from the inside, hearing sound, but not what is said – like mumbling.

Public Comments

Elizabeth Rigsby, 80 year old resident of Downers Grove, stated that she was in favor of this and in all her years as a resident, Ogden Ave. had always been the business district. She asked the Council to continue to invite businesses to the community and not allow the opinions of a few residents, in such a large community, to impede their decision. She also recommended the Village invest in a gateway sign, with flowers, on the west side of town.

Meredith Rogers, 4504 Drendel Road, wanted clarification on the grinder room sound and expressed her neighbor’s concern, Mr. Gupta at 4505 Drendel, of the proximity of the masonry wall to his home; he believed could cause flooding issues. She proposed a taller wall, higher trees, and also expressed additional concerns including parking, lighting, and signage.

Scott Rogers, 4504 Drendel Road, expressed concerns about access in and out of Drendel Rd., odor from the property, and also requested that more sound barrier measures be taken.

Donna Samiec, 4615 Drendel Road, expressed noise concerns from the tools, traffic patterns and the quality of the water in the retention pond. She wanted reassurance that Belle Tire would not switch from using electric tools to pneumatic tools in the future.

Jeff Mond, resident on Cross Street, discussed his concerns about the traffic on Cross Street and test drives in the neighborhood.

Gary Horak, 4507 Drendel, expressed concerns about traffic patterns, noise, and stormwater. He said he thought this was the wrong location for Belle Tire.

Martha Richardson, 4416 Cross Street, expressed concern with fluids absorbing into the ground that could affect her well water. She was also concerned with property values diminishing, flooding, noise, and increased traffic.

Todd Richardson, 4416 Cross Street, concurred with all the concerns already stated, especially light and noise pollution, air quality, fluid runoff and the test drive route.

Village Council Comments/Questions

Commissioner Tully thanked all for the emails and those that attended the meeting and expressed their concerns. He stated he lived near a fire station, with a tornado siren. He reviewed the Standards of Special Use and said that due to the Comprehensive Plan, the Village could not pick and choose the businesses that came to the Village. Commissioner Tully noted that Belle Tire fit within the plan, was consolidating lots, and had no request for exceptions or variances. He reviewed the three standards for special use that would be met:

1. *Whether the proposed use is expressly authorized as a special use in the district in which it is to be located.* He said the answer to this was yes. He asked staff if other odor and noise complaints were received from residents that lived near other automotive facilities. Commissioner Tully discussed the need to look at the best interests of the entire community and not just a limited number in the Village.
2. *Is it necessary or desirable to provide a service or facility that is in the interest of the public convenience and will contribute to the general welfare of the neighborhood or the community?* Commissioner Tully said that though people may disagree, there was a need in the community.
3. *The proposed use will not be detrimental to the health, safety or general welfare of persons residing or working in the vicinity, or be injurious to property values or improvements in the vicinity.* He said all the questions asked by residents were fair and the Village was sensitive to their concerns.

Commissioner Tully also pointed out that the Village Council could impose conditions or restrictions upon a special use request in order to ameliorate or lessen any perceived issues that might be impactful in the neighborhood. He explained that the petitioner had made efforts to mitigate noise and there was also a general noise ordinance that will be enforced. Commissioner Tully also stated that parking and traffic issues were valid concerns. He noted that strict enforcement and physical barriers would reduce the likelihood of unwanted test driving.

Commissioner Tully acknowledged that stormwater was always a concern during construction. He said the Petitioner would need to meet the requirements of the stormwater ordinance, just as every other petitioner had. Commissioner Tully stated he believed the sign ordinance was being complied with and any fluid runoff would be strictly enforced at every government level. He also noted that if the conditions of special use were not met, it could be revoked by the Village Council. Commissioner Tully also expressed that the

Village Council was very sensitive to the impact on the neighborhood and they were trying to mitigate the concerns of the residents.

Commissioner Davenport stated that Commissioner Tully said it well. He explained that the special use provision gave the Council an opportunity to help shape what would happen and they could put restrictions on this petition. Commissioner Davenport said he believed it was in an ideal location and that it would help improve the flooding issues in the neighborhood.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt said she was in agreement with the other Commissioners. She acknowledged it would be a large change from what was on the property, but the requirements would be strictly mandated and enforced. Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt asked for confirmation that the test drive route went north and not south.

Manager Fieldman confirmed and that it will be an area of focused enforcement.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt explained that Belle Tire would be required to follow all the ordinances of the neighborhood. As an example, she noted that even residents could have bright lights that may bother a neighbor, but the brightness could fall within ordinance allowance. She also stated she was sensitive to the stormwater concerns and appreciated the plans for the use of bioswales, rain gardens, and the infrastructure that were in place.

Commissioner Gilmartin expressed that he agreed with his fellow Commissioners. He said there were many other businesses on Ogden that had similarly consolidated lots. He said this particular location had some issues and that it was on the Council to mitigate those. Commissioner Gilmartin acknowledged that stormwater issues were and would continue to be addressed. He said that he lives near a Firestone, off Ogden Ave., so he had empathy for this topic. He noted that the revisions and changes that had been made to the plans by the Petitioner were reasonable. The Commissioner said that it was the Council's duty to welcome businesses and also let the residents know that their concerns were being addressed. Commissioner Gilmartin stated that with the conditions discussed, he would support this.

Mayor Pro-Tem José noted that the stormwater ordinance had evolved since 2005. He said that any water runoff concerns would be addressed by the EPA and that noise enforcement would fall within code. The Mayor Pro-Tem said that these kind of test drive issues had come up before, i.e. Packey Webb, and it had been made very clear that test drives were not allowed in the neighborhood. He also referenced Fresh Thyme as having a similar configuration to prevent turns into neighborhoods with signs and physical barriers and no concerns of violations had ever been expressed to Council. He also spoke of other tire stores located on Ogden Ave. which were close, and some adjacent, to neighborhoods. Mayor Pro-Tem José said he believed that the standards for special use had been met.

ORD 2023-9921 — B. Ordinance: Amending Chapter 14 of the Downers Grove Municipal Code

Village Manager Dave Fieldman presented this item. He stated that if this action was approved, it would codify temporary no parking restrictions approved under the Village Manager's authority in three particular locations: Drendel Road, Wisconsin Avenue, and Downers Drive (South of Ogden).

Village Council Comments/Questions

Commissioner Tully asked how long the temporary authority had been in place.

Village Attorney Enza Petrarca said 180 days.

ORD 2023-9933 — C. Ordinance: Approving an Amendment to Planned Unit Development #57 to Add Limited Industrial Use and Warehouse as Allowed Special Uses at 3300 Finley Road

Village Community Development Director Stan Popovich presented this item via PowerPoint. He showed the location of the building, which was the former Fry's Building. Mr. Popovich said the Petitioner was requesting an amendment to the PUD, to allow all the special use to include warehouse. He reviewed the Comprehensive plan and said that the Plan Commission recommended approval of limited industrial special use with conditions and warehouse special use with required retail sales and conditions.

The petitioner's Attorney Andrew Scott, with the Law Offices of Dykema Gossett, spoke on behalf of the owner of this property, SCLP 1 Downers Grove LLC. He explained that Sterling Organization purchased the site two years ago and is the affiliate parent company of the applicant. Mr. Scott said they had been looking for a retail use tenant but had not been successful due to the location of the site being isolated from other retail sites. Mr. Scott said he was requesting an amendment to the PUD to limited industrial use and warehouse, as a special use.

Village Council Comments/Questions

Commissioner Gilmartin said that Mr. Scott mentioned there has been some interest in the property from a number of parties, yet the zoning required was not allowed. He asked what businesses were showing interest.

Dominic Carbonari, with JLL, said that over the past couple of years the interior of the building had been renovated and there was a plan to continue with the exterior, once the use of the building was better know. He said that corridor was mostly small and medium big box retailers and that the interest they were receiving was from third party logistics firms that wanted to throughput goods and packaging groups. He said the location of the property was attractive, as it is not located in Cook County, nor is it in a high traffic area such as Bolingbrook or the O'Hare area.

Commissioner Tully said he appreciated the dilemma and remembered when Fry's took over the property and all the challenges that came along with the property. He said he was not fully convinced of approving this because sometime in 2008-2009, decisions were made because of the economy and there were regrets later. Commissioner Tully said he was willing to meet halfway. He said he could be convinced on the elimination of the retail sales requirement, but because of the Council's special use authority, he was reluctant on making light industrial a permitted use. He wanted to keep it as a special use.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt said she felt similar to Commissioner Tully regarding the flexibility of maintaining that special use with conditions. She said she would be interested in hearing about examples of businesses in the area that had uses with retail sales, further stating that anecdotally they did not do well. She gave the example of the Pepperidge Farm warehouse with a space for retail sales. She said, like Commissioner Tully, she could also meet the petitioner halfway.

Commissioner Davenport also agreed that special use would need to apply to both. He said he thought maybe they should look at rezoning to ORM. He also expressed concern with granting this as a B3 special use and setting precedence.

Manager Fieldman said most or all of the B3 regulations were appropriate here and the PUD allowed tailoring to certain properties without setting precedent.

Mayor Pro-Tem José said he was comforted that they were only talking about potentially modifying the PUD as opposed to zoning. He stated in the area were various uses such as export, office space, and hotels; a warehouse would look out of place. He said unlike his colleagues, he was not ready to give up on the retail component for the warehouse use and he would put it on the limited industrial use as well. Mayor Pro-Tem José also stated that no matter what, the special use needed to be in place.

Commissioner Gilmartin said he would like to see the retail component, barring an understanding of who else might be looking at this property without it. He stated he believed the special use was important. Commissioner Gilmartin expressed his desire to see the site develop, but said it was important to keep long term views in mind.

Commissioner Tully said he ultimately preferred the retail component, but he thought the special use and the PUD combination gave them enough ability to collaborate on future solutions.

Public Comment

Scott Richards, 1130 Warren Ave, expressed concern with the truck traffic in this area and how it would impact the families that lived in the area. He expressed concerned that this was voted on and approved.

Mayor Pro-Tem José said that the answer is that they do not know yet. The current discussion was only about the change to the PUD, which was affecting the sale of the property.

Mr. Richards also wanted to understand why it was voted on to move this forward without knowing all the details.

Mayor Pro-Tem José said that when looking at underlying zoning, they were looking at what the petitioner was requesting, the market, the zoning of other properties in the surrounding, among other things. After that, would be a discussion on special use. Once special use was in place, then Council would raise questions about traffic impacts and stormwater, etc.

Village Council Comments/Questions

Commissioner Tully said that Mr. Richards did not miss anything because the Council was not voting on anything in terms of a proposal. The Commissioner said the requested change was in the use, to warehouse. The change was discussed, but the change would not be automatic.

ORD 2023-9947 — D. Ordinance: Authorizing the Village of Downers Grove, DuPage County, Illinois to Borrow Funds from the Public Water Supply Loan Program at the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA)

Village Manager Dave Fieldman presented this item, explaining that was a low interest loan program that the Village had been using since about 2015. He said it allowed the Village to borrow money at below market interest rates and invest in improvements to the water system, particularly water main replacements.

Village Council Comments/Questions

Commissioners Tully and Mayor Pro-Tem José thanked the staff for saving the Village money.

MOT 2023-9879 — E. Motion: Approve an Agreement with A Lamp Concrete Contractors, Inc. of Schaumburg, Illinois for the Sherwood Avenue & Chicago Avenue Drainage Improvements

Assistant Public Works Director Scott Vasko presented this item via PowerPoint. He reviewed a map of the area of improvement and stated that A Lamp Concrete Contractors, Inc. was the lowest bidder for the project at \$1,188,431. Mr. Vasko said the work was scheduled to occur between June and September of 2023.

Village Council Comments/Questions

Commissioner Gilmartin asked what the advantage was in using V-shaped gutters.

Mr. Vasko said V-shaped gutters would convey the stormwater better than what was currently there, protecting the roads.

8. Manager's Report

REP 2023-9949 — A. Report: Economic Development Corporation Quarterly Report

Bryan Gay, President and CEO of the Downers Grove Economic Development Corporation (DGEDC), presented. He played a video that outlined the annual Key Performance Indicator Report. Mr. Gay stated that in 2023, there had been a total of five projects, totaling \$7.4 million and 127 thousand square feet were consumed between retail and office space. He said that compared to last year's total of eleven projects, the Village was already ahead of the game. Mr. Gay said that in March of 2023 unemployment rates were at 2.6%, down 1% since December 2022. He said that Downers Grove had a low vacancy rate, further stating, however, that there was not a lot of opportunity in terms of large spaces in land for redevelopment in town. Mr. Gay said that the economy, in general, was very strong within Downers Grove.

Next, Mr. Gay reminded all that in January he had announced the DGEDC was named a Community Navigator with the State of Illinois to help promote and encourage businesses to apply for the Back to Business Grant; the deadline to apply for the grant was scheduled to end on May 10, so he encouraged

businesses to apply by midnight on May 10th by going to [Illinois.gov/b2b](https://www.illinois.gov/b2b). He said since March 2023, the DGEDC had met with over 300 businesses within the Village, most of which had been restaurants and hotels.

Village Council Comments/Questions

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt asked about the occupancy rate shown in the video that was at 90%.

Mr. Gay stated that across the board, from industrial vacancies to office occupancies, the Village was doing well and was well below the east-west corridor's averages. He said the industrial vacancy rate was a little lower than some of the neighboring communities.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt said that she was glad to see a good increase in the hotel category since 2021, but asked for an idea of how the Village was doing in comparison to pre-pandemic levels (2019 timeframe).

Mr. Gay said that the Village was on par or actually doing slightly better than in 2019. He further stated that the last quarter of 2022 was the strongest quarter since well before pandemic times, with the best year ever falling in the early 2000s.

Commissioner Gilmartin said that he felt Mr. Gay was selling himself short on being a Community Navigator consultant. He said he had seen firsthand how the DGEDC team had been extremely effective in their outreach. The Commissioner said that the organization was a great help not only to Downers Grove businesses, but to their neighbors as well – DuPage County and beyond.

Mr. Gay said that from an economic standpoint, the DGEDC covers all of Downers Grove. Through the Navigator Program, they cover the entire County of DuPage, further explaining that they hosted two county wide webinars.

Commissioner Tully asked how Mr. Gay thought we would be doing, compared to our neighbors, moving forward in the Class A Office Space category.

Mr. Gay stated that currently, Downers Grove was doing better than most of its neighbors. He said this was due to the building owners/real-estate owners being ahead of the game with Class A office space rentals. He said in Downers Grove Class A office spaces had weathered the storm and stayed Class A, where some of the Class A office spaces in the neighboring communities had sunk to Class B and even Class C. He thought we would continue to do well, but it was something that he would keep an eye on.

REP 2023-9950 — B. Report: Downtown Management Corporation Quarterly Report

Erin Venezia, Executive Director of the Downtown Management Corporation (DMC), presented. Ms. Venezia explained that Downtown Downers Grove, Special Service Area #11 was home to approximately 280 businesses. She said the first floor occupancy rate was at approximately 98% and seven new businesses had been welcomed thus far in 2023. She gave a list of businesses that would soon be coming to Main Street. She spoke about Dash Downers Grove, an apartment community, opening at 926 Maple Ave. She said during the first quarter of 2023 Downtown Downers Grove gift card sales were at over \$9k, the number of visitors was at 332,000 (up 3.6% from 2022). Ms. Venezia explained that the Fine Arts Festival would take place on September 9th and 10th, with the highest number of applicants ever, since she had been with the DMC. She spoke of the Ice Festival that took place in February, where there was a record breaking 66 ice sculptures. Ms. Venezia also spoke of the Candy Cash Rewards program, Spring Break Downtown Downers Grove, the Warhol Poster Contest and the Wine Walk. She stated that Friday Night Live was scheduled to start on May 26th running through September 1st, in conjunction with the Downers Grove Moose Cruise Nights. Ms. Venezia said that the Moose Lodge was partnering with a different not-for profit organization each week and they were asking for a suggested donation of \$10 a car. She also stated that the DMC partnered with Grit2 and Navigate Adolescence to spread the word about Mental Health Awareness Month to the downtown businesses. Ms. Venezia stated that the YMCA Downtown Market was to begin on May 13th and the Downers Grove Park District's Summer Concert Series was scheduled to start on May 23rd. Ms. Venezia encouraged all to participate in the Loyal to Local Program beginning on June 5th, with weekly drawings for two \$50 downtown gift cards.

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 authorizing a special use for 2539 Ogden Avenue to permit a personal vehicle repair and maintenance business.
2. An ordinance amending Chapter 14 of the Downers Grove Municipal Code.
3. An ordinance approving an amendment to Planned Unit Development #57 to add limited industrial use and warehouse as allowed special uses at 3300 Finley Road.
4. An ordinance authorizing the Village of Downers Grove, DuPage County, Illinois to borrow funds from the Public Water Supply Loan Program at the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA.)

10. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

11. Mayor's Report

A. Materials to be Placed on File - Marriott Hotel Services, LLC - Class H-1 Liquor License

Mayor Pro-Tem José explained that this application would be placed on file in the Village Clerk's office for two weeks and was subject to public comment prior to its issuance. He explained that barring any objection, once the two-week waiting period had passed, a Class "H-1" Liquor License would be issued. The application was placed on file Tuesday, May 9, 2023

12. Council Member Reports

Commission Tully reminded all that Hopes Front Door was holding its annual Hands of Hope Luncheon on May 16th from 1:30pm to 2pm at the Seven Bridges Golf Club. Next, the Commissioner recognized Village Manager Dave Fieldman on receiving an honor from the Illinois Association of School Administration for his contributions to the success of School District 58. Commissioner Tully read a quote from Dr. Russell "In addition to his role at the Village, he (Dave) is also a tremendous partner to the students, staff, and families of District 58". Commissioner Tully congratulated Dave on the well-deserved recognition. Lastly, Commissioner Tully reminded all that Grove Fest was 24 days away.

Commissioner Gilmartin addressed a few things. First he spoke of the social impact bicycling has had throughout history, from promoting health and environmental sustainability, to empowering women and marginalized communities, bicycles have played an important role in fostering change. Bicycles provide an ecofriendly alternative to motorized transport and provide both physical and mental health benefits; regular bicycling reduces the risk of heart disease by 50%. The Commissioner said that making the choice to bike, and not drive, helped with the mitigation of climate change and created greener urban and suburban spaces. Commissioner Gilmartin listed many other important facts about bicycling.

Next, Commissioner Gilmartin spoke of Mental Health Awareness Month and how mental health and mental illness was a complex public health issue that required attention, not unlike that given to the epidemic, as it affected a significant portion of the population. The Commissioner thanked the Mayor for the proclamation and his colleagues for expressing the need for more focus on mental health. He then spoke about how prevalent mental health issues were among the youth and military personnel. He cited several studies and shared the following:

- Half of all mental health issues begin at the age of 14, most cases going undetected;

- Nearly one in 5 young people, ages 13-18, in the US experiences a mental health disorder in a given year;
- The prevalence of anxiety (since pre-pandemic times) has increased 17-18% respectively;
- A lack of early intervention and treatment could lead to severe consequences, including an increase in the risk of substance abuse, academic challenges and self-harm;
- The second leading cause of death among individuals age 10-34 is suicide;
- The rate of suicide amount LGBTQ teens is four times, and attempts 12 times, that of the demographics of the general population.

Commissioner Gilmartin then spoke specifically about the unique mental health challenges that young military personnel faced. Their stressors include deployment, exposure to traumatic events, and the physical demands of training. He cited studies that indicated the following:

- One in four active duty service members have experienced a mental health disorder;
- The suicide rate among active duty military personnel has increased by 25% from 2019-2020, reaching a record high – double that of the general population.

Commissioner Gilmartin spoke about the importance of many groups, such as NAMI and Grit2 that offer support, education, and advocacy for individuals and families affected by mental health conditions. He said he was encouraged by his colleagues and the Mayor's statements of support, further stating that the Village took a big step in the right direction by hiring a full-time social worker. He said that Village Social Worker Heather Lippe, direct phone #630-434-6894, was an invaluable resource to the members of the community. The Commissioner also mentioned that DuPage County launched 2-1-1, a 24 hour/365 days a year, confidential information and referral service that provided a central access point to local health and human services. For people in crisis, 9-8-8 is a confidential, national suicide prevention hotline, that people could call or text to speak with trained professionals.

Commissioner Gilmartin also stated that it was National Nurses Week and nurses needed to be recognized and saluted for the incredible work they did; they are the backbone of the healthcare system. He said that nurses and midwives formed the largest segment of health care professions and their skills not only saved lives, but also contributed to the prevention of diseases, and the promotion of overall wellness. The Commissioner said that nurses are patient advocates, educators, and crucial members of interdisciplinary healthcare teams; they are selfless individuals that dedicate their lives to healing, comforting, and improving the lives of others.

Commissioner stated that Downers Grove South Senior Eugene Johnson, passed away on May 8th. He asked for all to keep his family, friends, teachers and coaches in their thoughts and prayers.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt stated that she worked for the American Hospital Association, in the Clinical Affairs and Workforce division. She echoed all of Commissioner Gilmartin's sentiments about National Nurses Week, further stating that nurses are critical in patient care and well-being. She said that we needed to care for our care givers, as the rate of suicide among nurses was double that of the regular population. The Commissioner stated that it was also National Hospital Week. She thanked Good Samaritan Hospital for being such a critical part of the community. She also mentioned that there was a new People Matter, Words Matter poster geared towards clinicians and hospitals - to reduce the stigma around mental health struggles for children and adolescents. Anyone interested could reach out to Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt directly. She also stated that EQDG is partnering with the Downers Grove Public Library to bring the Legacy Wall to the library in June 2023, coinciding with Pride Month. Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt gave details about the Legacy Pride Wall, stating that it would showcase the biographies of famous individuals from the LGBTQIA + Community that had contributed to the society globally.

Council Minutes

Village of Downers Grove

May 9, 2023

She said that EQDG was fundraising in the month of May to bring the Legacy Wall to the western suburbs. Those wishing to donate could do so by visiting EQDG.org and legacyprojectchicago.org/legacy-wall for additional information on the Legacy Wall.

13. Adjournment

Mayor Pro-Tem José asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION: *To adjourn the May 9, 2023 Village Council meeting.*

RESULT: *Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.*

MOTIONED TO APPROVE: *Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt*

SECONDED BY: *Commissioner Gilmartin*

AYES: *Commissioners Sadowski-Fugitt, Gilmartin, Davenport, Tully, Glover, Mayor Pro-Tem José*

NAYES: *None*

Mayor Pro-Tem José declared the motion carried by voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 9:38pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosa Berardi
Village Clerk