



Meeting Minutes

Village of Downers Grove - Council Meeting

Council Chambers

August 22, 2023

07:30 PM

1. Call to Order

Mayor Barnett called to order the Village Council meeting at 7:30 pm and 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.

2. Roll Call

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

Council Attendance (Not Present): None

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

3. Minutes of Council Meetings

MIN 2023-9908 - A. Minutes: Village Council Meeting Minutes –August 01, 2023

MOTION: To adopt the meeting minutes of the August 01, 2023, Village Council Meeting, as presented.

RESULT: Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

MOTIONED TO APPROVE: Commissioner José

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt

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

NAYES: None

4. Public Comments

Mayor Barnett offered condolences to the family of Willis Johnson, Founder of the Tivoli Theater. He said it was a privilege to have known Willis, and he spoke of how positive and sincere Mr. Johnson was.

Jim Toth spoke on behalf of the Downers Grove Historical Society. He gave details about the legacy of Mr. Willis Johnson. Mr. Toth explained that Mr. Johnson was a long-time resident of Downers Grove and together with his wife, Shirley Johnson, took over operations of and restored the Tivoli Theater; it was there that they started Classic Cinemas and transformed the theater into a community stage for children, arts, and movies. Mr. Toth stated that Willis Johnson is survived by his wife, Shirley, his five children, his brother, and 14 grandchildren. He concluded by stating there will be a celebration of life for Willis Johnson on September 2, 2023, at the Tivoli starting at 10:30 am.

Francis, a resident, spoke of reading a recent email he received that sparked him to ask what the brand and image is of Downers Grove.

The Mayor explained that brand and image is unique to every entity. The Mayor made note that the email referenced by Francis was most likely one that he sent. He continued and said that brands and images are something communities, people, and businesses put out to represent themselves and there would not be a discussion on the branding and image of Downers Grove during this meeting. It would most likely be discussed sometime in the future.

Laura Hois, a resident, said she is in favor of Video Gaming.

Mayor Barnett explained that the sixth LRP discussion of the year would occur near the end of the meeting, under the Manager's Report. He said that Video Gaming was of the 29 items listed in the LRP Report (available online) and any comments regarding LRP items should be reserved for that portion of the meeting.

5. Consent Agenda

BIL 2022-9795 — A. Bills Payable: No. 6748 – August 22, 2023

BIL 2022-9794 — B. Bills Payable: No. 6746 – August 08, 2023

COR 2022-9796 — C. Claims Ordinance: No. 6517, Payroll – July 28, 2023

MOT 2023-9997 — D. Motion: Approve an Agreement with A Lamp Concrete Contractors of Schaumburg, IL for Water Main Improvements Contract B

Summary: This motion awards a contract for the 2023 Water Main Improvements Contract B to A Lamp Concrete Contractors, of Schaumburg, IL, in the amount of \$1,048,869.95.

MOT 2023-10011— E. Motion: Approve a Contract with Aqua Designs, Inc. of Rockdale, IL for the Installation of Underground Sprinkler Systems in the Downtown Area

Summary: This motion awards a contract for the installation of underground sprinkler systems in the downtown area to Aqua Designs, Inc. of Rockdale, IL, in the amount of \$69,102.00, which includes a 10% contingency.

MOT 2023-10010— F. Motion: Approve a Contract with Core & Main of St Charles, IL for the Supply of Fire Hydrants

Summary: This motion awards a contract for the supply of fire hydrants to Core & Main LP, of St. Charles, IL, in the amount of \$99,704.50.

MOTION: To adopt the consent agenda, as presented.

RESULT: Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

MOTIONED TO APPROVE: Commissioner José

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt

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

NAYES: None

6. Mayor's Report

There was no report. Mayor Barnett reminded the audience that the public comment portions of Village Council meetings are for the public to provide information or comments to the Council; they are not intended to be debates or question/answer sessions. The Mayor said the members of the Council consider all public comments diligently and faithfully.

7. Council Member Reports

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt stated that the Grove Foundation's Annual Golf Outing is to be held on September 9th. She urged everyone to visit grovefoundation.org for more information. Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt wished District 58 students a happy first day of school on Friday, August 25th.

Commissioner Tully seconded the Mayor's comments in support of Mr. Willis Johnson's family.

8. Manager's Report

Deputy Village Manager Mike Baker gave an update on the Civic Center project. He noted that the work happening on the inside of the building included mechanical and electrical systems and insulation. He said work on the main roof continues and masonry work is expected to begin within a week to ten days. Mr. Baker said that overall, the project remains on schedule and under budget. He then showed a video showing the current progress of the building.

Village Manager Dave Fieldman thanked Chris Derylo and the Communications Department for putting together the Civic Center videos.

REP 2023-10006 A. Report: Long Range Planning: Report #6 - Priority Action Items

Manager Fieldman presented the sixth Long Range Planning (LRP) session of the year and stated that the focus of this LRP meeting was Priority Action Items. He explained the LRP is developed with meetings that occur from May through September and, combined with the elements of strategic planning and financial planning, would ultimately create the Council's priorities and serve as their work plan from September of 2023 through April/May of 2025. This is the sixth meeting in the LRP process and Manager Fieldman noted that the following were the two objectives of identifying the Council's Priority Action Items (PAI) and to develop their work plan: 1) The PAI must reflect the Village Council's Priorities, and 2) The work plan should be achievable and there should be a reasonable expectation of completing the items on the schedule to be published.

Manager Fieldman outlined the multi-step process used to achieve the objectives:

<u>Processes</u>	<u>Dates of Meetings</u>
Identify Potential Priority Action Items	7/18/2023
Establish Shared Understanding of Descriptions	8/1/2023
Individual Meetings with Staff	8/2 - 8/18/2023
Review and Consider Draft Work Plan	8/22 - 9/5/2023
Finalize Priority Action Items and Work Plan	8/22/2023 & 9/5/2023

Next, Manager Fieldman explained that once the PAIs and the work plan are finalized, the Village team will focus on implementation; a key step in the implementation process is preparing the proposed FY24 Budget with the resources required to undertake the work (the Council will review the Budget in November/December). After this, Manager Fieldman explained that work on the items would commence according to the approved schedule and the draft work plan; pointing out that the work plan called for work on many of the items to start immediately (in September). Manager Fieldman said that staff would provide formal monthly updates at Village Council meetings on all the work completed over the next 18-24 months. The Council would review the PAI and the work plan in early summer 2024, making any necessary adjustments. Manager Fieldman continued by stating that within the last 45 days, the Village Council identified 30 potential PAIs. He said one of the 30 potential items, the Installation of Gateway Signs, is included in the FY 24 Budget as a Capital Project and is already underway (bringing the number of potential items down to 29). Manager Fieldman explained that the purpose of this meeting is to develop the final list of PAI that would establish the work plan. He said in order to facilitate the Council's discussion and

decision making process, staff prepared a draft list of 18 items in a work plan. He said this would serve as a starting point for Village Council considerations.

Manager Fieldman reviewed the 18 items as follows:

1. **Civic Center Project** – This should be completed Q4 of 2024; the sale of Lot 2 is still pending.
2. **Replacing the ERP System** - This continues and is expected to be completed by the end of the year.
3. **Lead Service Line Replacement Plan** – This is required by the State; it is a multi-year project expected to run until at least 2027 and possibly for many years after that – until the actual lead service lines are replaced.
4. **Update to Building Codes** – This is to be completed by the end of the year; staff to present this in September.
5. **Meadowbrook Tax Increment Financing District and Redevelopment Agreement** – This has already been started and is on schedule to be completed Q1 2024.
6. **Ogden TIF Extension** – This is to take place in the first half of 2024.

Manager Fieldman presented the next six projects and stated that they are interrelated in processes:

7. **Comprehensive Plan Update** – This is the reworking of the current plan because so much has changed since its approval in 2017.
8. **Environmental Sustainability Plan** – This is essentially Option 3b, where the Village prepares a plan using the Greenest Region Compact framework as its basis; also calling for engaging the Environmental Concerns Commission, likely a consultant, and the addition of a full-time, permanent, qualified staff member (to be reflected in the Budget).
9. **Downtown Hardscape/Landscape Plan** – This is also known as the Streetscape Plan
10. **Enhance Downtown Outdoor Dining** – This would enhance downtown dining from a physical, life safety, and appearance standpoint.
11. **Enhanced Bike and Pedestrian Plan** – This is a more detailed and more robust scope than a typical update to a Bike and Ped Plan.
12. **Fairview Area Plan Implementation** – This involves the implementation of the existing Comprehensive Plan recommendations for the Fairview area.

Manager Fieldman explained if the items described above are a part of the approved work plan, staff would present how they would go about actually working on all six of the items concurrently at a future Village Council meeting (most likely in a couple of weeks). The last six items were then outlined:

13. **Review Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Practices** – This includes a review of the practices already in place and would focus on the Village as an employer.
14. **Public Safety Pension Stabilization** – This includes the consideration of the creation of a fund or policy and would move forward in conjunction with the proposed FY 24 Budget approval process. This should be wrapped up by the end of 2023.
15. **Video Gaming** – If approved as a part of the work plan, this would come before the Council in the fourth quarter of this year. It would take a couple of months to get an ordinance in place, and if approved by the Council, it would take an additional couple of months to begin moving towards implementation.
16. **Sign Ordinance Amendments** – This would be scheduled to start in Q4 of 2024.
17. **Review Public Tree Planting Practices** – This would take place in 2025.
18. **Consider Private Tree Regulation (Or Protection Ordinance)** – This would take place in 2025.

The Mayor said he wanted to try and align expectations for the meeting; stating that the goal of the Council was to leave the meeting with general agreement that the items on the list presented are the pieces to be included in the Council's work plan for the foreseeable 18-24 months. He emphasized that the goal of the evening was not to decide on any of these items - for instance, they would not be deciding on the entire Environmental Sustainability Plan at this meeting. The Mayor explained the current list had gone down from 30 to 18 items over the last five meetings and after the conversations that had happened during those meetings, there should be no surprises as to what all of the

Council members opinions are. He noted there was not enough support for the items that did not make the list and there would not be a debate at this meeting regarding the merits of them. The Mayor said that Video Gaming and Environmental Sustainability are the two things most people in the audience were present for and their input would be entertained by the Council members. He asked all to understand that the planning and decision making on would occur during future meetings. The Mayor said that this list is twice as big as the normal PAI lists have been in the past. He said the Council is trying to get work done on behalf of the residents and the Council is doing more work than has been done in recent history. The Mayor concluded by saying that it will take efforts by both the Council and the residents to be prepared, ready for meetings, and exhibit a lot of patience.

Public Comment

Laura Hois, a resident, returned to the podium and said she is in favor of Video Gaming on the Ogden Avenue and 75th Street corridors. She noted that she believes it will generate revenue for the Village, level the playing field with surrounding communities, and help small businesses.

Denise McCann, a resident, reiterated what Laura Hois stated.

Brian Bentley, a resident and owner of Brian's American Grill, said he wants Video Gaming to be allowed in Downers Grove. He spoke of the revenue stream in Westmont and stated that the Village could use revenue generated by Video Gaming on projects to save residents money on taxes. He requested the Council un-table this topic, publicly discuss the EDC data the Council requested when the item was tabled, and then make a vote.

Ilene Briner, a resident, is in favor of Video Gaming and said that people are driving through Downers Grove to get to Westmont because they have Video Gaming. She also noted that the Moose Lodge is a family-friendly establishment and has Video Gaming with no issues.

Kit Wolfenden introduced Becca, an intern with Greener Grove, to give a presentation of some research she had done regarding environmental sustainability. Ms. Wolfenden thanked the Council for putting together a work plan and said she is excited to see that environmental sustainability is on it. She expressed her hopes of Greener Grove and the Village Council partnering in these efforts.

Becca Snouffer, a junior from Downers Grove South and intern at Greener Grove, presented. She said that she did research, interviewed people in the surrounding towns, and came to share the results. She put together a PowerPoint presentation for Council (and handed out a packet of the same). She pointed out the success of the Village's Stormwater Plan that has been in progress for many years (and was a part of long range planning in the past). She showed a table that compared Downers Grove's efforts with other communities in the GRC. Ms. Snouffer highlighted quotes from interviews, spoke about sustainable practices that other municipalities have in place, their user friendly websites, and about external funding sources. Ms. Snouffer concluded by stating that she wants to see Downers Grove choose Option 3b, revamp the Sustainability Committee, hire a staff member that is a sustainability leader, and take advantage of opportunities for external funding.

Bob Taft, owner of Q Pub and Grill, said that he sent out an email to Council about his situation. He noted that Q Pub and Grill was the first of 13 businesses he has owned and said he understands that two years ago, the Council tabled the topic of Video Gaming because they wanted to review information from the EDC before discussing it further. Mr. Taft stated that as a business owner paying taxes, he would like to have a clear understanding of where Downers Grove is headed, asking the Council to provide a vote on video gaming.

Beth Goncher, President and CEO for Chamber 630, asked for Video Gaming to be un-tabled and advanced for a full discussion and full vote. She noted Chamber 630 supports Video Gaming and the opportunity to compete with surrounding communities.

Ryan Knezevich, a resident and employee of Brian's American Grill and Giordano's in Downers Grove, said he is a recent college graduate pursuing a career in operations and supply chain management. He noted the rising taxes in

Downers Grove and advocated for the un-tabling of Video Gaming to promote further discussions and economic sustainability.

Janet Whittingham, a resident, thanked the Mayor and Commissioner Tully for the detailed answers to the comments/questions she had posed online and via email. She said she is against Video Gaming and that it goes against the brand of downtown Downers Grove - a small homey and wholesome environment. She also noted that there are many living units coming into Downers Grove and she believes there should be more focus on fixing the current hardscapes on Maple Avenue, Fairview Avenue, and 63rd Street.

Robin Tryloff, a resident, spoke of merging together the Sign Ordinance Amendment and the Public Art Leasing Program in order to allow murals on Downers Grove buildings. She also spoke of her hopes that the Fairview Area Plan would include inclusive housing. She voiced her support for the Environmental Sustainability Plan, Downtown Landscaping, Bike and Pedestrian Plan, Review of DEI practices, and Public Tree Planting practices.

Jim Devitt, a resident, congratulated the newest Council members on winning the election earlier in the year. He noted his concerns about eliminating parking spots in the downtown area (as part of the Enhance Outdoor Dining item), his support for Video Gaming and the revenue it could bring to the Village, and his concern for the Village to address the homeless issue in Downers Grove.

Liz Chalberg, a resident, commented about the sequencing of signage and video gaming; she did not think it was a good idea to vote on the topic of Video Gaming before updating the Village Sign Ordinance. Ms. Chalberg asked the Council to consider running both projects in tandem or consider signage issues at the same time as video gaming.

Ed Briner, a resident, said he supports Video Gaming in Downers Grove and also noted that the homeless situation in Downers Grove needs to be addressed.

The Mayor stated that in early September there will be an actual plan of action for the items on the list; staff will provide the Council with information and data that will provide debate opportunities for each of the subjects. He said that none of the items on the list (the Civic Center aside) would end up getting put on hold or not done. The Mayor expanded by stating that time and resources needed to be invested into each of the items and the outcomes of the items could not be determined at this meeting. He said if the Council moved forward with the current list of 18, they would most likely start discussing it further within the next four-five weeks. The Mayor reminded all that the list is huge compared to those of years past. He said that there would be check-ins moving forward and discussions that would include staffing and budgeting. Mayor Barnett stated if the list that is agreed upon at this meeting, it is the list the Council will work on.

Commissioner Tully noted that in the 16 years he had been on the Village Council, 18 items is the most that has ever been on the PAI list (10 was the most he had seen) and he did not think it was feasible. He said that realistically, as they dig into things, a lot of work and steps have to be taken to get to where they would want to be. Commissioner Tully said he had seen past Councils get to Stage 3 of a project and things like public input or costs would impact *if and when* things moved forward. He spoke about the Historic Preservation Ordinance and the processes in getting that program to where it is today. He reiterated that not everything on the list may be seen all the way through. Commissioner Tully said he believes there will be other things/obstacles that will come up while going through this work plan that may need to be dealt with (such as something from Springfield or Mother Nature). He reiterated that there are a lot of items on the list and he wants to be realistic and open with the community. The Commissioner concluded by stating that there may be items on the list that may require adjustments in their timing/schedule.

The Mayor commented that Commissioner Tully was correct. He spoke of sprint capacity and that if a disaster were to happen, things may need to get booted. He said that some items may take months of discussions, with the entirety of Council, staff, and residents. The Mayor asked everyone to keep in mind that Downers Grove has a high degree of value on public input and that equates to a slow process.

Commissioner José said he agrees with the Mayor in terms of achievability and what to expect. He stated that when discussing the Civic Center for the final time before taking a vote, there was a resident that said he had no idea of the project – this was after it had been discussed for 15 years. The Commissioner noted that moving forward, some things may be a first read and then voted on, all in an attempt to get things done. Commissioner José said that things may not go through processes as they did previously, and the Council may make decisions sooner than they have in the past. He said he would like to see the 18 items paired down by taking the last four items off the list. Commissioner José stated that he thought the Public Tree Planting Practices and Private Tree Regulations could be folded into the Environmental Sustainability Plan.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt said though 18 items is a lot, the Village is finally increasing staff counts (that were reduced in the past) and she thought the items would be manageable. She spoke about potential funding sources, i.e., Video Gaming could provide revenue to pay for things like a consultant, private tree regulations could be a funding source for some environmental projects. Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt noted that it is worthwhile to move forward with this list. She added that she hoped to see things implemented such as Inclusive Housing in the Fairview Area Plan and potentially leasing art spaces in town, even if that means possibly partnering with other local organizations moving forward. She reiterated that she thinks it is important to note that Downers Grove is in a place of building instead of removing staff, also mentioning that taxes are always going to be an issue in Illinois. Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt pointed out that the Village needs to come to a place to do things different from the past and that things may not be done in the time frame set. She pointed out that most of the items on the list are related to the Comprehensive Plan in some way, and she is unsure how the Comp Plan can be updated without bringing up those items. The Commissioner said she is in favor of keeping all the items on the list and believes they are all worth bringing up. She noted her belief that many of the items are interrelated and that it is up to the Village Council and staff to find a responsible way to get things done that is responsive to the community.

The Mayor clarified that the items grouped on the list are directly related to the Comprehensive Plan and in the past the Comprehensive Plan updates alone took a couple of years. He expanded by stating in order to manage expectations, there may be some items on the list that get pushed through much faster than normal. The Mayor said that going from 29 items to 18 items was based on the amount of support those items got from the Council and it was not because of capacity. He explained that some of the 29 items were dropped because there were not enough Council members that wanted to move those items forward, such as a favorite of his, leasing art space.

Commissioner Glover said he agrees with his colleagues that it is a long list, but he believes some of the items cannot be taken off the list - and that six of them are linked. He spoke of the brand of the downtown being its beauty and development. Commissioner Glover said he wants to continue to bring vibrancy to the downtown and support establishments with the Enhanced Outdoor Dining Plan, in conjunction with the Hardscape Plan. He noted that he brought up the Fairview Avenue Plan last year, and many Councils before had as well. Commissioner Glover stated he is in favor of Video Gaming and believes it puts Downers Grove businesses on a level playing field with surrounding area businesses. He said he believes the list needs to be narrowed down, possibly removing the last three to four items.

Commissioner Davenport explained this is his first time through a long range planning process and he is ready to do the work. He believes that his time on the Council will exceed more than the two years of this plan. Commissioner Davenport noted that he wants all the items to remain on the list.

Commissioner Gilmartin stated he believes a plan can be put together to do all 18 of these items and he noted he is interested in all of them. He said that not all of the items on the list require as much work as other items and some are already in progress, i.e. Civic Center, ERP and DEI measures. He said he believes that some things, like the Tree Planting Ordinance, would not be heavy lifting items, He noted that some of the items in the middle of the list would be heavy lifting items and he would like to see them through. Commissioner Gilmartin reiterated that he does not believe everything on the list holds the same weight and some items are already well underway. He also said he does not have interest in taking on Video Gaming, and despite his lack of support last year, it was to learn more. He stated he spent time looking at data, speaking to residents, and trying to understand the issue. Commissioner Gilmartin said

he believes the tabling of the item was used as intended, for Council members to have time to do some research. He noted he does not believe Video Gaming is a PAI and believes that it can be brought up as a new business item to be voted on. Commissioner Gilmartin continued by stating that he would like to see the revitalization, or the introduction of, a Community Grants Program; comparing it to the Social Services program the Village used to have with the current referral model and the addition of a Social Worker. He explained that he believes the Community Grants Program can be different than the past program. Commissioner Gilmartin explained that he thought this meeting was to discuss if there are any items they want to be added to the PAI list and the Community Grants Program is one he would like to add.

The Mayor explained that handling capacity does mean just adding new Village staff members. He noted the “capacity” he is speaking of is the time it takes to get the Village Council and residents cued up on topics. The Mayor spoke about past situations, as recent as six months ago, that have taken much longer than expected to discuss because residents were upset. He said he was trying to manage the expectations of both the Council and the community, because there is a lot of work ahead of the Council. He explained that another example, when speaking about capacity, is when the Council has split opinions on items – it affects the public - and the Council suddenly receives dozens of emails because people are confused. Mayor Barnett summed things up by stating that when he thinks of capacity, it is far less about having enough staff members to put reports together, and it is more about whether or not the Council has enough capacity to do the work while taking shots from the public.

Commissioner Tully explained that he is not questioning the political will or work ethic of anyone, and he is convinced that every Council member would work very hard for all 18 items on the list. He also said he believes this Council would be as bold and innovative as past Councils were. Commissioner Tully spoke about how it took 20 years to build the brand of downtown Downers Grove. He spoke of things that have made Downers Grove a leader in DuPage County, such as the Stormwater Utility and the commuter bus system. The Commissioner said he has no doubt the Council will be fully committed to trying to get all 18 items done, but he, like Mayor Barnett, is trying to manage expectations. He mentioned that he heard a member of the public comment that they wanted something to be voted on next month. He stated that there are processes in place that take a bit more time than that. Commissioner Tully said that even if the Village hires new resources, it takes time to on-board new hires. He said he just wants everyone to be prepared that there may be twists and turns and unexpected challenges. The Commissioner concluded by quoting Mayor Barnett “we are going to move at the speed of you”.

Commissioner José said there had been a lot of talk about capacity and he thanked his colleagues for their comments. He said another way to look at capacity is “scope” and what the right size of government is. He continued by stating that he believes previous Councils did the right thing when it came to staffing – it was right size Village government. The Village brought back things like a social worker, while maintaining its headcount and not increasing property taxes for operations. The Commissioner stated it is about determining the right scope for the community. He also spoke about the costs associated with some of the things on the list, i.e. lead service water lines, public safety stabilization, the Comp Plan to Fairview, that will affect the bottom line of the Village; some items on the list will require the hiring of a consultant and will cost even more. Commissioner José noted there is a lot to think about, not just the political will to work hard, but the political will to go to the residents to tell them that their property bills will be increasing and their water bill is going up. He said even when considering possible revenue sources, like video gaming, he does not think the numbers mentioned are correct unless the Video Gaming is in same types of parlors as mentioned in Westmont. Commissioner José concluded by stating there is a lot to think about in terms of the work the Council needs to do, the work the public needs to do alongside the Council, and the price tags of each of the items on the list.

Commissioner Davenport reminded the Council that a lot of what is on the list is to spur economic development in Downers Grove. He said that this is a Long Range Plan and it is intended to accomplish things that make Downers Grove an even more desirable place to live, work, and open a business; he would not be interested in some of the things on the list if it were not for those things. Commissioner Davenport said that a few hits may be taken up front financially, but it will be worth it in the end. He concluded by stating that he understands that the timeline may need to be adjusted and he hopes once the items are completed, the property values in Downers Grove will increase.

Commissioner José said Commissioner Tully used to say “there is no such thing as an economic development easy button”. He said some items take a lot of time and investment and sometimes they do not work out. Commissioner José said he believes the Council needs to be cognizant of the money that will be spent.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt said that the six items lumped together on the list are the ones that will require consultants. She said the others do not need consultants at this time, and if they do in the future, they can be tabled. She noted that the items everyone is in agreement on do require consultants. Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt stated that if there are costs that were not expected with some items in the future, those items can be discussed further at that time. She concluded by stating that she wanted everyone to be thoughtful about the items that would require the hiring of staff or consultants, as those items appeared to be the six clumped together in the middle of the list.

Commissioner José said he would be surprised if a consultant would not be involved in both TIF items and an outside attorney (as a consultant) when it came to the Sign Ordinance –these items are not part of the six clumped in the middle of the list.

The Mayor summarized that he heard Commissioner Gilmartin speak about a couple of items he wished were included on the list and Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt may have mentioned one as well. He said he also heard varying degrees of optimism about hitting 18 items in two years and a variety of questions about community expectation; he did not, however, hear a lot of interest in doing things materially different from what was on the list. He said the purpose of the night was for staff to have direction on the list, so that they can start working on the Council’s work plan. The Mayor asked the Council members to add comments they may have.

Commissioner Tully noted for the record, that he wanted to add Community Grants but could not in good conscience do it at this point. He said that it would need to be picked up at a later point in time.

Commissioner Gilmartin said he wanted Community Grants added to this list and wanted to know if his colleagues agreed.

Manager Fieldman stated that Mayor Barnett summarized the meeting just as he would have. He added that what will be done with this plan is different than those prior. This plan will include monthly reporting, more engagement with the Council on a regular basis, and multiple opportunities to adjust the plan as things move along. He said if this moves forward, as they get into the FY24 budget, there will be resources proposed by staff to Council that will be necessary to implement some things. Manager Fieldman said that at that time there will be an opportunity to adjust the plan, as well as during monthly reports. He said there would be a formal review of the plan in a little less than a year. Manager Fieldman noted that traditionally adjustments have been made, some small and some major, He said as the Council gets into the plan, they will learn a lot quickly and find out what will be wrong. This may involve intensity levels and the lengths of time the projects were expected to take – some may take longer and others may move quicker than expected. He said Village staff hears the Council and Manager Fieldman’s takeaway is to move ahead with this plan, adjusting it as they go along. He added that the Council can add things or take them off, if everyone as a team feels it is necessary. Manager Fieldman summarized that what he is hearing is that the list of the 18 items proposed will be the Priority Action Item List included in the work plan – this will be the end to the Long Range Plan. He concluded by reiterating that Village staff and the Council will continuously be discussing resources and priorities all year long, making adjustments as needed.

Commissioner Tully asked if three meetings a month will be sufficient.

Manager Fieldman said they will have a better handle in a couple weeks, when staff proposes how to move forward with this; at that time staff will have a handle on if a different structure of meetings is needed.

The Mayor said that Commissioner Gilmartin was asking for feedback from each Village Council member about adding the Community Grants Program. The Mayor said he does not want to add it to the list at this time.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt said no to the Community Grants Program right now. She said she wanted to get to the root causes of the reasons why there are non-profits, before funding non-profit organizations.

Commissioner José said he is a no, and he is not going to repeat what has already been said.

Commissioner Glover said that he thinks it would be a great program, but other things are more important at this time.

Commissioner Davenport said the list has been narrowed down to 18, even though he was in favor of all 29 items. He said choices need to be made and he hopes to revisit the Community Grants Program in the future. He said it is unfortunate that things needed to be looked at with a two-year horizon in mind.

Commissioner Glover noted that bars and restaurants support a lot of non-profits.

The Mayor explained that discussions will continue in future meetings and encouraged the public to stay engaged and participate in future meetings.

Manager Fieldman ended the report.

9. Adjournment

Mayor Barnett asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. into Executive Session.

***MOTION:** Motion to convene into closed session pursuant to section 2(c)(2) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act to consider collective negotiating matters between the Village and its employees or their representatives and pursuant to section 2(c)(11) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act to consider litigation which is probable or imminent.*

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

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

***SECONDED BY:** Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt*

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

***NAYES:** None*

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosa Berardi
Village Clerk