



# Meeting Minutes

Village of Downers Grove - Council Meeting

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**Council Chambers**

**August 13, 2024**

**07:00 PM**

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## 1. Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Mayor Barnett welcomed everyone to the first meeting being held at the new Village Hall in the Betty Cheever Council Chambers. He explained that Mayor Cheever was not only a long tenured public servant, but also a trailblazer in Downers Grove. She was the first woman to serve as Village Commissioner and the first woman to serve as Mayor. He thanked everyone in the audience and watching at home for their participation.

## 2. Roll Call

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

**Council Attendance (Not Present):** Commissioner Hosé

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

## 3. Minutes of Council Meetings

**MIN 2024-10207** — A. Minutes: Village Council Meeting Minutes – July 16, 2024

**MOTION:** To adopt The Meeting Minutes of the July 16, 2024, Village Council Meeting, as presented.

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

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

**SECONDED BY:** Commissioner Gilmartin

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

**NAYES:** None

## 4. Public Comments

Unnamed speaker thanked the Downers Grove Fire Department, and all other departments that assisted, for the way they handled distinguishing a fire that recently happened at a church in Downers Grove.

Janet Whittingham, resident, spoke of concerns the public has with the Village Council's processes, and she also expressed concerns about the lack of parking in the downtown. She asked that when the Council makes decisions about outdoor dining, they recognize that the public wants to keep the sidewalks and parking as they are.

Clorinda Greco, business owner, urged the Council to put the breaks on making changes in the downtown area for outdoor dining. She expressed concerns with insufficient parking and congestion in the downtown area.

**5. Consent Agenda**

**BIL 2024-10239** — A. Bills Payable: No. 6816 - August 6, 2024 and No. 6818 - August 13, 2024

**COR 2024-10237** — B. Claims Ordinance: No. 6563, Payroll – July 12, 2024

**MOT 2024-10435** — C. Motion: Approve a Contract for the Streetlight Replacement Program to Rag's Electric, Inc. of Woodridge, Illinois.

**Summary:** This motion awards a contract for the Streetlight Replacement Program to Rag's Electric, Inc. of Woodridge, Illinois in the amount of \$48,464.41.

**RES 2024-10440** — D. Resolution: Authorize the Execution of a Grant of Easement to Commonwealth Edison for the Installation of Electrical Service for the Telecommunications Tower Located at 650 Curtiss Street

**Summary:** This resolution authorizes the execution of a grant of easement for the installation of electrical service for the newly constructed Telecommunications Tower located at 650 Curtiss Street.

**RESOLUTION 2024-55****A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A GRANT OF EASEMENT TO COMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANY**

**RES 2024-10444** — E. Resolution: Approve the Third Amendment to the Agreement with True North Consultants, Inc. for Environmental Related Services Related to the Civic Center Project

**Summary:** This resolution approves a third amendment to the agreement with True North Consultants, Inc. for environmental related services related to the Civic Center Project and increases the contract amount by \$10,452.00, bringing the total to \$167,665.00.

**RESOLUTION 2024-56****A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A THIRD AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE AND TRUE NORTH CONSULTANTS, INC.**

**MOT 2024-10441** — F. Motion: Adopt amendments to the Village's Snow and Ice Policy

**Summary:** Adopt changes to the Village's Snow and Ice Policy

**MOT 2024-10438** — G. Motion: Approve a Contract with Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. (CBBEL) of Rosemont, Illinois, for Professional Services Associated with the Water Storage Tank Rehabilitation & Maintenance Capital Project (WP-019)

**Summary:** This motion awards a contract to Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. (CBBEL) of Rosemont, Illinois for professional services associated with the Water Storage Tank Rehabilitation and Maintenance Capital Project (WP-019) in the not-to-exceed amount of \$84,876.00, which includes a 10% contingency.

**MOT 2024-10433** — H. Motion: Approve a Contract with R.W. Dunteman Co. of Addison, Illinois, for the 2024 Pavement Patching Project

**Summary:** This motion awards a contract for the 2024 Pavement Patching Project to R.W. Dunteman Co. of Addison, IL in the amount of \$153,875.00.

**MOT 2024-10434** — I. Motion: Approve a Contract with Holiday Sewer & Water Construction, Inc. of Wauconda, Illinois for the Florence Water Main Improvements

**Summary:** This motion awards a contract for the Florence Water Main Improvements to Holiday Sewer & Water Construction, Inc. of Wauconda, IL in the amount of \$515,000.

**RES 2024-10421** — J. Resolution: Approve an Extension and Amendment to a Master Treasury Agreement between the Village of Downers Grove and Fifth Third Bank

**Summary:** This resolution approves an extension and amendment to a master treasury agreement between the Village of Downers Grove and Fifth Third Bank.

**RESOLUTION 2024-57****A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN EXTENSION AND AMENDMENT TO A MASTER TREASURY AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE AND FIFTH THIRD BANK**

**MOT 2024-10415** — K. Motion: Approve a Contract with Daybreaker Inc. of Union, Illinois, for Brick Street Maintenance

**Summary:** this motion awards a contract for the Brick Street Maintenance to Daybreaker Inc. of Union, Illinois, in the amount of \$225,802.36.

**RES 2024-10432** — L. Resolution: Approve a Contract with Globe Construction, Inc. of Addison, Illinois, for Sidewalk Removal and Replacement throughout the Village

**Summary:** This resolution authorizes an amendment to the contract for sidewalk removal and replacement throughout the Village to Globe Construction, Inc. of Addison, Illinois, in the amount of \$100,000, increasing the total contract amount from \$383,992 to \$483,992.

**RESOLUTION 2024-58****A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONTRACT FOR SIDEWALK REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT THROUGHOUT THE VILLAGE TO GLOBE CONSTRUCTION, INC. OF ADDISON, ILLINOIS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100,000, INCREASING THE TOTAL CONTRACT AMOUNT FROM \$383,992 TO \$483,992.**

**MOTION:** To adopt The Consent Agenda of the August 13, 2024, as presented.

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

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

**SECONDED BY:** Commissioner Gilmartin

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

**NAYES:** None

**6. First Reading**

**RES 2024-10418** — A. Resolution: Grant Historic Landmark Designation for 4812 Northcott Avenue

Community Development Director Stan Popovich presented via PowerPoint. He shared a map of the home's location and photos of the home being recommended for the Historic Landmark Designation. He provided details about the English Country Revival style home that was built in 1499 (verify).

**Public Comments:**

Ken Lerner, resident, complimented the home, stating that he is glad it is before the Council for landmark consideration.

**Council Comments Questions**

Community Development Director Stan Popovich presented via PowerPoint. He provided details about the 1942 English Country Revival style home, and shared photos of the home and a map of its location

Commissioner Tully thanked the petitioners, Dan and Sharon, for bringing this forward. He explained that more and more residents are taking advantage of landmarking their homes and that the program has been successful. He shared that this home meets the criteria for landmarking under the Village Ordinance. The Commissioner said this would become the 32nd home that has been landmarked within the Village.

Commissioner Davenport thanked homeowners Dan and Sharon. He said this is a learning moment for all - this home will be preserved for the future and will still be in place one hundred years from now. He shared it was fun to learn about the architecture of this English County Revival home, and explained that people usually buy homes like this because they love it and this process has the great benefit of preserving the homes as is. The Commissioner thanked everyone involved with bringing this forward.

Mayor Barnett asked if this item can be placed as a rolling headline on the website to make it easy for the public to see and learn the process if they are interested.

Mr. Popovich said yes, and that newly landmarked homes are also usually featured in the Inside DG quarterly newsletter. He also confirmed this is the 32nd house to be landmarked.

**ORD 2024-10437 — B. Ordinance: Amending the Municipal Code Concerning the Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals**

Mr. Popovich presented via PowerPoint. He explained this item includes combining the Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals into one board, the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC), and also includes amending multiple Municipal Code sections and the Special Use approval standards. He explained that the combination board would provide more efficiency and effectiveness. Mr. Popovich reviewed the procedures that would come before the new Commission, stating that Village processes would not change for the following: Zoning Text Amendment, Zoning Map Amendment, PUD Development Plan (with or without a variance), PUD Site Plan, Special Use (with or without a variance). Mr. Popovich further reviewed some of the appeals processes that would have changes (the change being that rather than going to through the Zoning Board of Appeals, they would now go through the PZC) including: Zoning Compliance Determination, Certificates of Occupancy, Administrative Adjustments, Zoning Exceptions, Variations, Appeals of Administrative Decisions.

**Public Comments**

Ms. Whittingham, returned to the podium, and said she had heard that staff could issue approvals/decisions on uses that are non-conforming. She asked if notices would be given to the neighbors in those cases.

Village Manager Dave Fieldman said that significant variations or deviations are required to be heard by the Board, soon to be known as the Planning and Zoning Commission, if approved by the Council. He explained that Village staff's authority would only be used for things that are considered de minimis.

Mayor Barnett asked if staff's role in the appeal process has changed.

Manager Fieldman said that all of the processes are unchanged, the authority stays exactly the same. The only thing that is really changing is that two Boards are being combined. The roles of staff and the board will stay the same.

**Council Comments/Questions**

Commissioner Davenport thanked Village staff for their work on this and the few clean up things involved with it. He said that he thinks this will be a more effective use of the time of the volunteers on the Boards, and it will be customer friendly. He shared that he sees a benefit to the board members because they will be a direct part of this process.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt shared that she thinks this is the best use of everyone's time (especially board members that have been on Village boards with so many canceled meetings). She also expressed that this is a best case scenario for all. She said she understood that this was going to go before the Plan Commission members, and asked for confirmation that there would also be conversations with the Zoning Board of Appeal members. Confirmation was given by Manager Fieldman.

Commissioner Tully said from the perspective of the public and petitioners, nothing but the appeal process is changing. He said it bears repeating that staff are still making the same decisions they were making previously. He explained that the only part of the process that is changing is who is hearing the appeals. Commissioner Tully asked about the timing of moving the members of the board over to this new board.

Manager Fieldman explained that the plan is to move quickly on this, and to incorporate it with the next Boards and Commissions appointment process in September.

Commissioner Gilmartin asked if this is the time to look at whether the level of expertise appointed to this board should be discussed and possibly changed.

Mayor Barnett expressed that he is in full support of this and he expanded on Commissioner Gilmartin's comments. He explained the process again, and reiterated that all remains the same for the public, stressing that there is value to the community with this. The Mayor said he looks forward to moving this forward.

**RES 2024-10439** — C. Resolution: Approve an Amendment to the Current Agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc. to Extend the Agreement to December 31, 2034, Purchase Additional Services, and Upgrade Current Hardware, Software and Services.

Police Chief Mike DeVries presented. He explained that the current contract with Axon Enterprise, Inc. was signed in December 2022 and included body worn cameras, in-vehicle cameras, interview room systems, tasers, virtual reality training, digital evidence management, and the licensing and software of those devices. This amendment would extend the current agreement through December 31, 2034, and also includes the additional of a new records management system, and upgrades to the newest tasers, and in-vehicle and body worn camera devices. He explained that the agreement includes an automatic refresh of all the devices through their projected end of life, throughout the term of the contract. Chief DeVries shared that since the Village's first contract with Axon, dating back to 2020, the Village's experience with Axon products (and the back end technology) has been positive. He further explained that through Axon, the Police Department can store a significant amount of digital evidence in a single ecosystem, sharing that this allows staff to track the use of force and other performance measures. He said that most recently, the Village participated in the County wide computer aided dispatch and records management system known as DuJIS (DuPage Justice Information System). Within the past four years, Axon has developed their own records management system, known as Axon Records, which is now being used successfully by 25 agencies nationwide - if approved it would make the Village the fourth agency in Illinois to utilize Axon Records. Chief DeVries shared that the Police Department staff has researched Axon Records by attending several demonstrations and site visits of the agencies currently using the software, and staff feels this is the best technology for the future of the Police Department. He explained what the benefits to the Department would be and shared that the system includes transcription software and a proprietary drafting aid that will save time drafting police reports and allow the Department to spend more time patrolling the community. The agreement also provides for continual updates of the records management system throughout the term of the contract - it will continually be operating on the most current version of Axon Records, as the software continues to be developed over the next 10 years. In summary, Chief DeVries explained that the proposed amendment consolidates costs, provides discounts due to service bundling, and guarantees expenses, and if approved, the Police Department would begin working with the Axon Team to develop and implement the new record system in the second quarter of 2025.

### **Council Comments/Questions**

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt thanked the Police Department for being ahead of the game with prioritizing these types of things. She said it is worth it to fund the Police Department with things that help them do their jobs better. The Commissioner shared her opinion that this will allow the Police Department to have more time to be out in the community.

Commissioner Tully thanked the Chief and said he remembered discussing the DuJIS contract in 2016. He said since 2016, it has always been important to keep things current with the Police Department, especially when it comes to records. He applauded the Department for bringing this forward and said he plans to support this.

Commissioner Davenport asked if other municipalities have left DuJIS.

Chief DeVries said currently one, and as of right now, Downers Grove is one of two other agencies that will be leaving DuJIS.

Commissioner Davenport opined that the integration of this with other systems makes a lot of sense. He said that we are leading the way with this and for good reason. He is proud that the Village is setting an example.

Commissioner Gilmartin asked if the Village loses any data aggregation access by moving away from DuJIS and if there is any risk involved.

Chief Devries said through DuJIS, the Police Department was able to share Police Reports with other agencies and our Department was able to see other agencies reports. Through Axon they have built in the capability to share And view reports of other agencies that are also in the Axon record system. He explained that until more agencies move over to Axon, the PD will have to request reports the old fashioned way. The Chief shared that the capabilities of this technology, coupled with the fact that it is cohesive and under one single pane of glass, provides the Village with so many other advantages and time savings. He explained that staff thinks the Department will have more analytical capability by being able to customize their reports, digitizing paper documents, and they will have the ability to pull the data needed because staff will have control over what the report looks like.

Commissioner Gilmartin asked for verification that it is a cloud based system, so there is no worry about housing servers.

Chief Devries said yes, except for two physical services that actually house the interview room camera systems - they are extremely small. He said all of the body worn camera videos and in-car camera videos (every time an officer activates their emergency lights) are all funneled through the cloud, organized and are there for staff to view. He shared that there have not been many technological issues, especially given the amount of data that is involved. The Chief said everything will be logged into the cloud, including any digital photographs that a citizen uploads (they would go to evidence.com).

Commissioner Gilmartin said it is good to be innovative, but being one of the first users of the system comes with a little risk that may involve working out kinks - but on the flip side, the Village can help to shape this system. He said he is in support of this.

Mayor Barnett asked if there are any protections for the Village in terms of evolving law.

Village Attorney Enza Petrarca said that there are.

Mayor Barnett shared that when he thinks about how many changes there have been in the world from 2016 to 2024, it worries him what could happen in the future.

Manager Fieldman thanked Chief Devries and the Legal Department for being very involved in this process.

## **7. Attorney's Report**

Pursuant to Section 2.5 of the Downers Grove Municipal Code, Village Attorney Enza Petrarca presented the following for Village Council consideration:

1. An ordinance amending the Municipal Code concerning the Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals.

## **8. Mayor's Report**

Mayor Barnett said that due to some exciting family travel, he was unable to attend the last couple of meetings. He thanked his colleagues for covering him during his travels, and he also thanked Deputy Village Manager, Mike Baker and Attorney Petrarca, and the rest of the staff that worked on the new Civic Center and the move. He noted that there will be an official opening and ribbon cutting ceremony later in the year.

## **9. Council Member Reports**

Commissioner Davenport said he is excited to be in the new space. He complimented staff for going about the business of the Village while getting moved into the new Civic Center.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt spoke of the annual Grove Foundation Golf Outing and dinner on Saturday, Sept 7th, 2024 at the Belmont Golf Course. She recommended all go to [thegrovefoundation.org](http://thegrovefoundation.org) for more information. She also wished all of the students in District #58 the best of luck with the school year and asked that all be extra careful as students start walking to school.

Commissioner Tully thanked all that were involved and helped make the new Civic Center a reality. He also thanked the community for making it happen. He provided some history about the old Village Hall and Police Station, and said he is glad the Police Department finally has a building that is fit for the outstanding department that it is.

Commissioner Gilmartin also thanked all that were involved with the new Civic Center, and said he looks forward to the official opening that Mayor Barnett spoke of.

## 10. Manager's Report

### INF 2024-10436 — A. Information: Long Range Planning: Priority Action Items

Mayor Barnett explained that in the past, this portion of the meeting would normally be moved to a different room (the Committee Room) to allow the Council to sit in a more relaxed setting to have a better conversation. He said this will happen with future meetings, but instead of moving to a different room, the Council will move to the back of the Council Chambers. He explained that this is expected to happen at next week's meeting, but for this week, the Council will remain seated at the dais.

Manager Fieldman explained that the Council would have moved to the back of the room, but there was not enough time to test it out - to be safe, the move to the back of the Chambers will start next week.

Manager Fieldman then explained that the process to update the 2025 Long Range Plan is underway, and this is the third meeting in the process. He shared that the focus of this meeting would be the work plan that the Village Council has established, also known as the Priority Action Items. He shared a chart via PowerPoint, outlining the Priority Action Items (PAI). He reviewed the four projects that have been completed, the four projects that are active and on schedule, and the two projects that are marked yellow. The two projects marked yellow include: the Civic Center Project - in the yellow until the construction is wrapped up at the end of the year (side note: the property between the new Civic Center and the fleet garages - known as Lot #2 - will eventually be sold off to a developer for an apartment development and is also yellow due to scheduling), and the Meadowbrook TIF & RDA - Village staff is actively working with the owners through several details of the Redevelopment Agreement and the Zoning Application. He said all of the information he reviewed is posted on the Village website.

Manager Fieldman then spoke about the Council's work plan for the balance of 2024 and through May of 2025, and went through all of the items listed. He provided details about projects that are actively being worked on by the Council and staff through May of 2025, including:

- Civic Center Project
- Update to the Comprehensive Plan
- Environmental Sustainability Plan
- Downtown Streetscape Plan
- Fairview Focus Area Streetscape Plan
- Enhanced Outdoor Dining Plan
- Enhanced Bike and Pedestrian Plan
- Lead Service Line Replacement Plan
- Fairview Focus Area - Implementing the recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan and rezoning the area.
- Video Gaming - An advisory referendum is on the November ballot and in the event that video gaming remains permitted, pursuant to an ordinance recently passed by the Council, Village staff will be implementing the licensing program that goes along with that.

Manager Fieldman noted that this is a very robust work plan, with many projects that require Village staff members to be relied on to take the lead. In addition, the Village has enlisted the help of five consultant groups to work on the Guiding DG plans. Manager Fieldman explained that there are three Priority Action Items on the schedule, with a commencement date in the fourth quarter of 2024, including: 1.) Sign Ordinance Regulations; and 2.) Public Tree Planting Policies; and 3.) Private Tree Regulations. Manager Fieldman noted that the Guiding DG outcomes (the plans) will help inform policy direction on the three projects mentioned. Additionally, he explained that all three

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projects would require extensive work by staff and the Council - which would become difficult to undertake effectively while working on the Guiding DG Plans and the other projects. He said that staff recommends that work continue on the projects currently being worked on, and the three projects mentioned not be pursued at this time, but instead be revisited at a later time as a part of the Long Range Plan.

Commissioner Tully shared that when originally discussing the PAI list, there were 18 items - which was a very ambitious list, more items than anyone recalled in the last 20 years. He said that at the time, Village staff was willing to roll up their sleeves to try and get them done, even knowing that the list was robust. He said part of that was because we did not have data points, and now we have them. At the time, staff expressed concern with completing the projects within the time frame discussed. The Commissioner shared that to him, the one proposal that was extremely innovative was rolling the sub plans into the Comprehensive Plan update. He said he is not surprised this conversation is happening, and even with the 3 items being differed, it is still an extensive list. He thinks this is a not entirely an unexpected ask and it has been justified. Commissioner Tully expressed that if something is worth doing, it should be done right, and he does not want to push doing them now. He said he still wants to do them, but maybe not in the timeframe initially discussed. He opined that the community needs to be taken along with them - especially with the comments made by the community at this meeting. Commissioner Tully said while he is disappointed everything cannot be done now, he knows that the items are not being denied, just differed.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt said she echoed many of Commissioner Tully's thoughts. She explained she is in agreement with differing the items, but with dates in mind – she would like commitment to revisiting the items in Q1 of 2025. She also suggested that she would like some early conversations to happen at future Coffee with the Council events – further suggesting that adding themes to the events would attract more resident participation.

Mayor Barnett said he agrees largely, but he does not want to wait until next year to talk about the list again, and instead would like to revisit it in December – adding that by December there will be more information about video gaming. The Mayor said in December there will be 4 ½ months before the next election, and if the discussion was delayed until Q1 (that could mean the end of Q1), at which time there would only be few weeks before the Council change.

Commissioner Davenport said he agrees with Mayor Barnett that the discussion should happen before the Council change in Q2. He said when he first joined the Council, there were a few months of working the through the LRP process. He echoed what Commissioner Tully said, in terms of this not coming as a surprise, other than it took as long as it did for staff to request the Council's reconsideration of the list. He spoke of Commissioner José's comments that the Village was at risk of doing things "not in the right way" if the list was too robust. Commissioner Davenport commended Village staff for bringing this to the Council, and he applauded the Council for aiming high, but his recollection of past conversations was that if they got through 15 items on the list, it would be an accomplishment. He said there is an item that he would like to see move forward, but that he is here for the greater good.

Commissioner Tully shared that 15 items on list would still be a record.

Commissioner Gilmartin shared that he has a different view on this. He said if staff is asking for some relief after the work they have put in over the past year, it is upon the Council to listen. However, he shared that he does not see the list as one with too many things to do, and he would like to see this type of list as the new standard. The Commissioner opined that to do work at the speed needed to keep up, there should be additional staffing measures. He noted that staff has had a difficult time even trying to manage consultants - which means the staff is at their work capacity and there should be adjustments made to overall staffing. He said if the Village is committed to doing this type of work, then it is going to require an investment in staffing. Commissioner Gilmartin opined that of the three items being deferred, he is unsure if there would be enough support from the Council (if the discussion is delayed until Q2 and a new Council is in place).

Commissioner Davenport said that would more likely be the case if there were four Council members up for election, but that is not the case, there are three.

Commissioner Tully said the list should not be about a number of items, and also added that some of the projects on the list will not need to be on the list every 5 years. He said there do not have to have 18-20 items on the Priority Action Item list every year to have an effective two-year period. He stressed that many of the items on the list are really big items, and though they may only take one line, they take a lot of work – some of which it may be appropriate

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to have extra staff and consultants for, but it may not be necessary to have them all the time. The Commissioner said this is just his observation.

Commissioner Gilmartin spoke of the Civic Center being a large project that is now almost complete. He said the number of items on the list is indicative of the Council's desire to do a lot of things, big things, and he would like to see more of that – sharing that the Comprehensive plan is indicative of the Village doing big things.

Commissioner Davenport spoke to many of the items on the list being items that are carried over from the previous Council's list. He also spoke of the heavy weight of some of the items that only take one line, such as the ERP project, which actually took approximately 3 years to complete.

Commissioner Gilmartin shared that the Lead Service Line Replacement project was handed to the Village and there was not an option to take it on.

Mayor Barnett spoke about when the Council added the Civic Center to the list - the Council understood that it was going to be a very large project, consuming most of the Village's resources and staff time. However, as that project moved along, the Council thought maybe they could add more items to the list. He then spoke about the Lead Service Line Replacement project, stating that for the public, lead service line replacements are not a choice. However, video gaming is a choice, and it took a lot of discussion to put it on a ballot. He shared that the Meadowbrook and Ogden TIFs are musts. He noted that there is a mix of high burden, low burden, and mandatory items on the list, and that the next list will be decided on next fall. The Mayor said that ultimately all of the Council members are in agreement that they are willing to aim high and do as much as they can for their constituents.

Commissioner Davenport compared putting the PAI list together as a task that is similar to picking electives for school. He said there are not as many electives on this list as the Council would like.

Commissioner Gilmartin shared that Village staff has never come to the Council with this type of request, further stating that this means they have reached their capacity.

Mayor Barnett and Commissioner Tully said that it has happened before with a PAI list, just not with this Council. In the past there may have been things that have come up unexpectedly that needed attention and took precedence over items on the list (and threw the whole schedule off).

Manager Fieldman shared that this is the first time Village staff has actually asked the Council to take projects off the list due to staff capacity - in the past, however, staff has asked that no more items are added to the list.

Commissioner Gilmartin said that with this list, the breaking point has been demonstrated. He said in terms of looking at bandwidth, this provides the Council with some data.

Commissioner Davenport shared that the Civic Center project took high demands of staff, and those demands are different than those of lead service line replacements. He expressed that he thinks each of the items on the list need to be looked at, and there should not be as much of a focus on how many items are on the list, further explaining that when looking at the list of projects, they all require different skills and amounts of time to accomplish.

Mayor Barnett agreed and said there are things that Village staff works on with repetition that are not included on this list.

Commissioner Davenport agreed and noted that staff is working on the PAI items, in addition to taking care of the Village's day to day functions.

Commissioner Gilmartin said that staff knows what it takes to get their day to day work completed.

Manager Fieldman explained that the Village has grown the efficiency on the staff side immensely – staff is learning and growing, getting better at handling multiple projects. They are making the best use of technology and have also become more innovative by having such a heavy workload. He stressed that this it is not only about Village staff, but it is also about being sure to take the public along with the projects. Manager Fieldman concurred that it makes sense

to revisit the list in December, because starting next week, the Council and staff will embark on a multi-month journey in the heavy lifting of Guiding DG – and almost every Council agenda item from now through December will have policy discussions at the Council level. He said it is unknown if the conversations will be quick or lengthy. Manager Fieldman shared he was confident that by December, it would become clear where things were at the Community level and in terms of policy making.

Mayor Barnett spoke to the length of the list, stating that the work that has been completed to date, has been completed because everyone has contributed and then moved on. He said the Village tries to make progress and he hopes the public sees this. He shared his hope that the public sees that the Council is effective at moving on – even when they may disagree on things. The Mayor made note that there are Councils all over the country that cannot get out of their own way, and the work does not get done. He said though he and Commissioner Gilmartin do not see things the same way on this, he guarantees that they are both working hard and moving forward.

Commissioner Gilmartin thanked the Mayor for his comments and added that the Council gets out of the way because of the staff – Village staff hear the Council, they interpret what has been said, and they move the items forward. He said because of this, he gives staff credit as well.

Mayor Barnett said he thinks Village staff has some direction from the Council on this request and he opened the conversation up to the public.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Greco returned to the podium and suggested tabling the idea of making the sidewalks in the downtown wider. She spoke about her concern that kids are being surveyed at the Guiding DG pop-up events, further stating that the kids are being lured to the pop-ups with candy. She said she hopes that they are not included in the overall resulting numbers.

Manager Fieldman shared that the Council will hear from the consultant, All Together, next week (regarding community engagement), and the ages of those surveyed will be considered when they provide their report.

Ken Lerner, resident, expressed concern about the tree items on the list being deferred, because through the Guiding DG process, he has heard that the community finds the Village's tree cover to be important. He thinks the tree items should be placed on the Environmental Concerns Commission because there are people on the Board that would be willing to go the extra mile to assess the issues.

Ms. Whittingham returned to the podium and spoke of how she was told by the consultants at the Farmer's Market pop-ups that the opinions of the children were being included. She requested the Council remove outdoor dining from the PAI list to free up time and money. She said she thinks of her taxes going up when hearing the Commissioner's comment that big things should be happening all the time, adding that the results of all of the time and money spent on the Comprehensive Plan, and related plans, have not been shown yet. Ms. Whittingham said she will continue watching and suggested that the Council moves at a pace that benefits the community.

Selma Mohberg, resident, expressed concerns that children are being involved in the Guiding DG plans. She thanked Commissioner Davenport for taking the time to speak with her at the pop-up at the High School, and also expressed concerns about the resident exercises that had a seven-minute time limit at the pop-ups.

Manager Fieldman said that Village staff will check back in with the Council on the Long Range Plan in December.

Mayor Barnett shared that the update to the Comprehensive Plan that is being worked on, is of the Plan that was put together in 2011. He spoke about Village services being at a high level and improved. He spoke of awards the Village has received for its first responders and finances. He said operating tax increases have gone up less than the cost of inflation - reminding all that the Village's property taxes have not been increased over the past 2 years. The Mayor explained that the opinions of 6 year olds to 60 year olds are all being considered with this, and he spoke of one of the most popular things adults requested at the pop-ups was a Ferris Wheel. The Mayor said more input is being taken with this Comprehensive Plan update than has been taken ever before.

Council Minutes

Village of Downers Grove

August 13, 2024

**11. Adjournment**

Mayor Barnett asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**MOTION:** *To adjourn the August 13, 2024 Village Council Meeting.*

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

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

**SECONDED BY:** *Commissioner Gilmartin,*

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

**NAYES:** *None*

Mayor Barnett declared the motion carried by voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosa Berardi  
Village Clerk