

# Meeting Minutes

Village of Downers Grove - Council Meeting

Betty Cheever Council Chambers

February 04, 2025

07:00 PM

## 1. Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

## 2. Roll Call

**Council Attendance (Present):** Mayor Barnett, Commissioner Hosé, 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

Mayor Barnett notified all that the remaining meetings in February and all of the meetings in March will start at 6:00 p.m.

## 3. Minutes of Council Meetings

**MIN 2024-10510**

A. Minutes: Village Council Meeting Minutes - January 21, 2025

**MOTION:** To Adopt the Village Council Meeting Minutes of January 21, 2025, as presented.

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

**MOTIONED TO APPROVE:** Commissioner Hosé

**SECONDED BY:** Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt

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

**NAYES:** None

## 4. Public Comments

Clorinda Greco, a business owner, requested a list of the businesses that participated in the survey conducted last year. She also expressed concerns about any permanent changes to accommodate outdoor dining in the downtown area.

## 5. Consent Agenda

**BIL 2024-10629**

A. Bills Payable: No. 6825 - February 4, 2025

**COR 2024-10630** B. Claims Ordinance: No. 6589, Payroll - January 24, 2025

**RES 2025-10678** C. Resolution: Approve a Second Extension to the Agreement with True North Consultants, Inc.

**RESOLUTION 2025-11**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A SECOND EXTENSION TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE AND TRUE NORTH CONSULTANTS, INC.**

**MOT 2025-10670** D. Motion: Approve a Contract with Globe Construction, Inc. of Addison, Illinois, for the 2025 Sidewalk Replacement Program Contract B

**MOT 2025-10674** E. Motion: Approve a Contract with Murphy Construction Services, LLC of Western Springs, Illinois, for the 2025 Sidewalk Rehabilitation Project

**RES 2025-10676** F. Resolution: Approve a Second Extension to the Agreement with Rag's Electric, Inc.

**RESOLUTION 2025-12**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A SECOND EXTENSION TO THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE AND RAG'S ELECTRIC, INC.**

**RES 2025-10677** G. Resolution: Approve a Second Extension to the Agreement with National Power Rodding Corporation

**RESOLUTION 2025-13**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A SECOND EXTENSION TO THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE AND NATIONAL POWER RODDING CORPORATION**

**MOT 2025-10675** H. Motion: Approve a Three-Year Contract with Brand It On Apparel Company of Schaumburg, Illinois, for Public Works Uniforms

**RES 2025-10684** I. Resolution: Approve a First Extension to the Agreement with Hampton, Lenzini and Renwick, Inc.

**RESOLUTION 2025-14**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A FIRST EXTENSION TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE AND HAMPTON, LENZINI AND RENWICK, INC**

**MOTION:** To adopt the **Consent Agenda of the February 4, 2025 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

## 6. Active Agenda

**ORD 2025-10658** A. Ordinance: Approve an Amendment to Planned Unit Development #61 to Permit Construction of a Restaurant with Year-Round Outdoor Dining at 844 Warren Avenue

**MOTION:** To adopt ***AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT #61 TO PERMIT CONSTRUCTION OF A RESTAURANT WITH YEAR-ROUND OUTDOOR DINING AT 844 WARREN AVENUE***, as presented. **ORDINANCE 6096**

**RESULT:** Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

**MOTIONED TO APPROVE:** Commissioner José

**SECONDED BY:** Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt

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

**NAYES:** None

**ORD 2025-10666** B. Ordinance: Amending Certain Traffic Control, Parking and Speed Provisions and Pedestrian/Bike Safety Improvements (Neighborhood Traffic Study #10)

**MOTION:** To adopt ***AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN TRAFFIC CONTROL, PARKING AND SPEED PROVISIONS AND PEDESTRIAN/BIKE SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS***, as presented. **ORDINANCE 6097**

**RESULT:** Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

**MOTIONED TO APPROVE:** Commissioner José

**SECONDED BY:** Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt

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

**NAYES:** None

### **Village Council Comments**

Commissioner Gilmartin noted that 15 of the 67 intersections in the study area are currently uncontrolled intersections and asked if that was a high or low number. Village Manager Dave Fieldman said that Village staff is working to make sure that every intersection in town has some sort of control on them and also shared that he would compare these numbers to those of other traffic study areas. The Commissioner then noted that the study spoke of travel speeds typically being higher on hilly roads due to the road's characteristics - he asked for clarification on this. Manager Fieldman explained that cars traveling downhill tend to move faster, sometimes exceeding speed limits. He said it is costly to take slopes out of the road system. Mayor Barnett shared that the physical nature of roads has more to do with speed than signage or anything else.

## 7. First Reading

**ORD 2025-10679** A. Ordinance: Imposing a Municipal Grocery Retailers' Occupation Tax and a Municipal Grocery Service Occupation Tax

Village Manager Dave Fieldman presented this item and reviewed its history.

### **Village Council Comments**

The Council discussed the importance of maintaining a tax to prevent the loss of \$1.3 million in revenue for the Village. Commissioner Tully emphasized that this tax existed previously, but due to changes at the State level, now had to be taken up at the municipal level. He noted that there will be no impact to consumers, and that revenue from this tax was already bundled into the budget. He also shared that neighboring communities are taking similar actions as well. Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt highlighted that the Village of Downers Grove is ranked in the bottom 1/3 of municipalities in DuPage County when it comes to property taxes. She stressed that the Village would face service cuts without the Grocery Tax revenue. Commissioners Gilmartin, Davenport, and José also supported the tax, and also expressed the need for fiscal responsibility in order to avoid service reductions, and to ensure the Village can manage its budget effectively.

Mayor Barnett agreed with his colleagues and said most municipalities count on this tax as revenue. He said the pension component alone, as shown in the budget, is expected to go up a million dollars. He stressed that this is meaningful money for the Village and that he supports this.

Manager Fieldman said staff will plan to put this on next week's Active Agenda.

### **Public Comments**

Janet Winningham, a resident, expressed her disappointment with this tax.

## **8. Attorney's Report**

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

1. An ordinance imposing a Municipal Grocery Retailers' Occupation Tax and a Municipal Grocery Service Occupation Tax.

## **9. Mayor's Report**

Mayor Barnett shared that he represented the Village at the Cisco awards ceremony last week, because the Village was awarded a Pride in Construction Award for the Civic Center. He listed the other 6 organizations that were also given this award. He said it is an honor for the Village to be recognized. He reminded all about the Civic Center Celebration/Open House on Saturday, February 8th and encouraged all to attend.

## **10. Council Member Reports**

Commissioner Davenport thanked those who attended the joint meeting of the Village Council and Library Board of Trustees on February 3, 2025.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt thanked School District 58 for the invite to their annual Legislative Breakfast. She also expressed her empathy towards EQDG and other organizations during this difficult time.

Commissioner Tully spoke about the joint meeting of the Village Council and Library Board of Trustees of February 3. He explained there will be at least 2 new members of the Village Council seated in May,

which means that there will be governance meetings of sorts. He said the Board and Commissions appointment process will be a part of those meetings and suggested that would be a good time to discuss the appointment process. He spoke of a resolution from August of 1994 that outlined the policy on Board & Commission appointments and explained that things have been changing and evolving, which is why he would like to have that conversation when the new Council is seated.

Commissioner Gilmartin said he appreciates the comments made by Commissioner Tully and shared that he too thinks the Governance Meetings are a good time to start that conversation. He reminded all that the Consolidated Election is on April 1st and that early voting begins on March 17th; he asked all to be sure to cast a vote.

## 11. Manager's Report

**REP 2025-10680**      A. Guiding DG: Comprehensive Plan and Related Projects - Streetscapes Preferred Alternative

Village Manager Fieldman explained that Tim King with the Hitchcock Design Group was present for questions and that Community Development Director Stan Popovich would be presenting this item.

Mr. Popovich reviewed the Streetscape Plan, including the history of the work completed, and explained that at this meeting Village staff is looking for clear direction from the Council.

Concept drawings of Downtown Streetscape Areas 1, 2, and 5 were reviewed by Mr. Popovich.

### Village Council Comments

Mayor Barnett reminded all that Mr. Popovich shared concept drawings - drawings of what could be. He asked for the Council's input.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt expressed support for the mid-block crossings, gateway signs, and flexible amenity areas - particularly the one near Pierce Tavern. She requested that lighting be dark sky compliant and that public art remain adaptable for future changes. She raised concerns about maintenance costs for features like masonry walls and questioned the diagonal crosswalk in Area 5 at Warren and Prospect, citing issues with the Washington Street crossing raising her concern. Additionally, she sought assurances about sightlines near the library parking lot, off of Washington, in Area 2. Manager Fieldman responded that line-of-sight will be considered with all of the designs and he shared that a range of construction and maintenance costs would be prepared by Hitchcock once the plans are compiled. He also explained that staff was in the process of engaging a traffic engineer to review the Washington Street crossing and those results would be reported back to the Council in the coming months. He received confirmation from the Council to exclude the additional diagonal crosswalk at Warren and Prospect for now.

Commissioner José also shared concerns about the diagonal crosswalk, though less than his concerns with the one at the Washington crossing. He expressed worry about the parking loss in Area 1, on the east side of Main Street. Mr. Popovich clarified where parking would be lost and said the cost of changing the flexible amenity area outside of Pierce Tavern should be minimal if changes were desired in the future; he added that costs would be higher if it needed to be converted into green space. Manager Fieldman suggested using movable concrete elements, like cement pots, to add greenery and for flexibility. Commissioners José and Glover supported the plan overall. Commissioner Glover suggested

the flexible amenity spaces at Curtiss and Main could be replicated in other areas. Mr. Popovich confirmed that similar designs could be implemented elsewhere with minor adjustments. Manager Fieldman concluded by noting that there were four proposed flexible amenity areas in the downtown and invited the Council to provide feedback on adjusting the number.

Commissioner Gilmartin asked where the flexible spaces are. To which Mr. Popovich shared the four locations. The first one is on Forest, the second is on the southeast corner of Burlington and Main, the third is on Curtiss and Washington, and the fourth on the east side of Main and Maple.

Commissioner Glover asked about any changes near Friendship Park. Manager Fieldman said that for now, there are no changes to that area, but changes would be proposed during next week's discussion. Commissioner Glover spoke of the crosswalk in Area 1, and asked if there was consideration to add a crosswalk at Rogers, since this would be a gateway to the Fairview corridor. Mr. Popovich said they would look into it and report back as to why there was not one placed at that location.

Manager Fieldman said for now, the crosswalk at Warren and Prospect would be left out and the team would look into putting in a crosswalk at Rogers and Main. Mayor Barnett spoke of Rogers Street and how the area could be difficult to maneuver through.

Commissioner Gilmartin asked for clarification of the difference between public and private outdoor areas. Manager Fieldman said this refers to who owns the land, with public areas being owned by the Village while private areas are owned by the establishments.

Commissioner Gilmartin expressed strong support for the plan, emphasizing its potential to improve safety and create a destination feel for Downers Grove. He highlighted that the addition of public spaces would encourage pedestrians to spend more time downtown, benefiting local businesses. Commissioner Davenport also endorsed the plan, though he expressed concerns about the diagonal crosswalk, agreeing to revisit it later. He noted that 17 parking spaces would be lost permanently, but that the loss was less significant than the spaces lost seasonally for outdoor dining. Commissioner Davenport suggested using wayfinding signs to encourage parking in different areas, and he believed the cost of the proposed changes would be offset by the reduced cost of maintaining the current situation. He shared he was excited about the flexible amenity spaces and agreed with moving forward with those that have been proposed for now, with potential adjustments in the future. Commissioner Davenport added that this would give Downers Grove a distinctive look that would be hard to measure with cost, but added that he is confident that there should not be any budgeting issues if the plan is rolled out over time.

Commissioner Tully said there is a lot to like about the plan, but he has a problem with permanent flexible amenities. He said he wants to look at the flexibility of seasonality, because making them permanent is limiting the spaces to 4. He disagreed that the loss of 17 permanent parking spaces is better than those that are lost seasonally. He said he wants more "flexible" flexible amenity spaces. He agreed that the Village should better leverage existing parking elsewhere by adding wayfinding signage and delineation, but emphasized that he did not agree with eliminating 17 spaces permanently. Commissioner Tully stressed that parking needs to be utilized in other areas if this plan causes a reduction of 17 parking spaces. Overall he shared that this would be a terrific improvement to the downtown and he thinks it will make people linger in the downtown area.

Commissioner Hosé, spoke of the 2019 Parking Study, that took place before COVID. He shared it spoke of better wayfinding and he agrees it is time to implement this. Manager Fieldman said he is taking the Council's direction to add wayfinding signage as a component of this plan. Commissioner Davenport said

in addition to wayfinding, he wants parking signage that outlines the amount of time specific parking spots can be used. He thinks this process will be more involved than just adding directional signage. Manager Fieldman said this will take a lot of work and the wayfinding signage is just a small component to this. He said programmatic changes are a bigger discussion that will happen later.

Commissioner Gilmartin said when it comes to the number of parking spaces lost, this is on the smaller end of a reduction in parking than what was reviewed initially. He thinks this is much more conservative than what could have been lost.

Mayor Barnett said, with regard to parking, he does not disagree with adding the signage, but he thinks that the expectations people have, i.e. to be to pull up in front of their place of choice, is not feasible. He said with regard to Washington, east along Warren, he wants to lean into the idea of connecting Rogers over to Fairview. He said this would mean more opportunities for bump outs and seat walls, more than just lighting. Manager Fieldman noted that is a good segway into Mr. Popovich's next presentation which covers the connection into the Fairview area. Before concluding the discussion, the Mayor added that when talking about the costs involved with implementing the plan, the Council needed to consider the value of the changes to be implemented.

Manager Fieldman reviewed the Council's discussion and noted that staff would be looking into wayfinding resources, leaving out the diagonal crosswalk discussed for now, and highlighting the lighting. He said his take away is that the Council is good with the plan.

Mr. Popovich then reviewed the Connection Streetscape, Area 6, from downtown to Fairview.

Mayor Barnett asked for the Council to weigh in on this.

Commissioner Glover pointed out that, as stated by Commissioner Davenport, it may be best to see where people walk and then add the crosswalks later. He spoke about wanting to continue the connection on Rogers Street. Commissioner Hosé said he also wants to extend this down to Rogers Street, but noted the last couple of blocks in the downtown area can get congested. Mr. Popovich asked if the Council wanted to keep the Warren connection and add Rogers. Commissioner Hosé said he thinks both should be improved because they are both downtown and very visible. Mayor Barnett asked about any concerns about difference in environment, pointing out there that the pedestrian lighting and wayfinding signs would be added to a single family home neighborhood.

Commissioner Davenport said if this is being looked at as a pedestrian area, he thinks that the Active Transportation Plan should be considered here. He made the following suggestions: stopping the hardscape improvements at Prospect, adding improvements west of Rogers - but not to the scale east of Rogers, and waiting to use heat maps to give some guidance. Mr. Popovich referenced the map of the area and explained what the proposed improvements in the area would entail.

Commissioner Gilmartin asked if the shared path ended at Prospect. Mr. Popovich confirmed. Commissioner Gilmartin asked if the reason people stay on Rogers could be related to grading. He asked if the shared path could be turned down Prospect. Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt suggested a wayfinding sign to direct people to take Prospect to Warren. Mr. Popovich responded to Commissioner Davenport's comment and noted that during the next week's discussion, a bike friendly downtown will be shown and he explained the options that can be explored. Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt said she is happy with this.

Mayor Barnett suggested that the Fairview Train station pocket park be replicated elsewhere, as he wants more obvious communal spaces. He added that he wants the space on the north side of the tracks to be more pedestrian friendly. Manager Fieldman received confirmation from the Council to focus on making the north side of the tracks more pedestrian friendly. He said Village staff would be working with the property owner in that area on creating curb cuts to maximize green space. He explained that during the last meeting in February, or the first meeting in March, there will be discussions on the train station plazas.

Commissioner Gilmartin asked if the outer rim of the flexible spaces could be made concrete on the outside and paver or green space on the inside. Mr. King responded and said this was looked into but was not favorable from a Public Works perspective; he said more research could be done on this.

Commissioner Davenport asked the Mayor for clarification when referring to the north side of the tracks, asking if this was going east on Burlington to Fairview. Mayor Barnett confirmed and Commissioner Davenport agreed with this suggestion. He noted that this should mimic the downtown and he puts this high on his list.

Manager Fieldman said staff will take this as direction and work on the effectiveness of the pocket parks and work on the north side of the tracks as well.

Mr. Popovich then moved onto presenting the Streetscape Design Elements.

Commissioner Davenport asked his colleagues if there was anything they did not like with regard to the design elements presented. Mayor Barnett said he wants an eye to be kept on future maintenance costs, and spoke of certain materials needing more maintenance than others. Manager Fieldman shared that though the downtown streetscape design elements will be new, they will look like they have been in place for a long time, all while being resistant to weather.

Commissioner Gilmartin agreed, but pointed out that this is a multi-year project, sharing that he wants things to be consistent and timeless, while having the same theme/style in all the areas. He said he thinks the ideas seem great and innovative, which is the Downers Grove brand. Commissioner Davenport agreed this is something that will be implemented over time and should be timeless. Manager Fieldman agreed that the goal is timeless design. Commissioner Gilmartin asked that Wi-Fi accessibility is considered and said it is important to have those elements baked into whatever is designed. Commissioner Tully agreed with flexibility, sustainability and durability. Manager Fieldman concluded the discussion, stating that Village staff has received great direction from the Council on this.

Mr. Popovich then reviewed the 2025 Capital Projects.

Commissioner Davenport said that he appreciates things being in the area of the Parking Deck and the Economic Development Corporation. He said it will be a great improvement and it will give people a good first impression. The Council concurred.

Mr. Popovich then wrapped up the presentation with a schedule of the next steps and he thanked the Council for all of their input.

Mayor Barnett welcomed public comment.

### **Public Comments**

Janet Winningham returned to the podium and thanked Commissioner Tully for his comments. She expressed concerns about the elimination of parking permanently and requested that the improvements that were completed at the Washington crosswalk be given careful consideration.

Clorinda Greco returned to the podium and expressed concerns with the permanent removal of parking spots in the downtown area.

Tim Postmus, a resident and business owner, complimented the Council and staff for their work in the Village and thanked Manager Fieldman and Mr. Popovich for their call to him that morning. He shared that he owns the strip mall located at 5105 Fairview and expressed concerns about restricting access to his property as reflected in some of the proposed changes in Fairview Streetscape Area #8.

Sam Vlahos, a resident and restaurant owner, said he likes what was presented and expressed his support of permanent outdoor dining spaces.

Paul Tobias, owner of Tobias Music located on Fairview Avenue, said he likes the plans for the Fairview area but requested there be a short term plan in place to spruce up the area for things like managing weeds and painting the trash cans.

## **12. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** To **Adjourn the February 4, 2025, Village Council Meeting.**

**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

The meeting adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosa Berardi  
Village Clerk