

Meeting Minutes

Village of Downers Grove - Council Meeting

Betty Cheever Council Chambers

June 3, 2025

07:00 PM

1. Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

2. Roll Call

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

Council Attendance (Not Present): None.

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

3. Proclamations

A. Pride Month

Mayor Barnett read the proclamation and presented it to members of EQDG.

B. Garden Week

Mayor Barnett read the proclamation and presented it to members of the Downers Grove Garden Club.

4. Minutes of Council Meetings

MIN 2024-10522 A. Minutes: Village Council Meeting Minutes - May 20, 2025

MOTION: To Adopt Village Council Meeting Minutes of May 20, 2025, as presented.

RESULT: Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

MOTIONED TO APPROVE: Commissioner Tully

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt

AYES: Commissioners Tully, Sadowski-Fugitt, Gilmartin, Davenport, Sarver, Roe, and Mayor Barnett

5. Public Comments

Mary Blanchard, a resident, expressed concerns with the Council's approach to appointing the Mayor Pro Tem.

Kylie Spahn, a resident, expressed her support for the Council's vote against the selection of the Mayor Pro Tem. She encouraged resident participation at the Council meetings.

Ed Pawlik, a resident, expressed concerns with the Council's approach to appointing the Mayor Pro Tem.

Janet Winningham, a resident, spoke of concerns that there is a lack of transparency and a lack of public input.

Clorinda Greco, a business owner, expressed concerns about shared use paths, ADUs, the appointment of Mayor Pro Tem, and parking in the downtown.

Selma Moberg, resident, expressed concerns about the May 20th Council meeting and the actions of some of the Council members.

Mayor Barnett acknowledged that members of the Village Council may not always see eye to eye but reminded residents of the Council's ongoing efforts and accomplishments over the past several years on behalf of the Village

6. Consent Agenda

BIL 2024-10647 A. Bills Payable: No. 6874 - June 3, 2025

COR 2024-10648 B. Claims Ordinance: No. 6605, Payroll - May 16, 2025

MOT 2025-10782 C. Motion: Approve a Contract with Precision Pavement Markings, Inc. for Pavement Marking Striping Maintenance

MOT 2025-10790 D. Motion: Approve a Contract with MacQueen Equipment, LLC for Fire Apparatus Repair

RES 2025-10781 E. Resolution: Approve a Master License Agreement with Lumos Fiber of Illinois, LLC for Use of Village Rights-of-Way for the Installation, Operation and Maintenance of an Underground Fiber Optics Telecommunication System

RESOLUTION 2025-47

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A MASTER LICENSE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE AND LUMOS FIBER OF ILLINOIS, LLC.

MOT 2025-10801 F. Motion: Approve an Agreement with Total Fire & Safety, Inc. for the Inspection of the Village's Life Safety Systems

MOTION: To Adopt the Consent Agenda of the June 3, 2025 Village Council Meeting, as presented.

RESULT: Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

MOTIONED TO APPROVE: Commissioner Tully

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt

AYES: Commissioners Tully, Sadowski-Fugitt, Gilmartin, Davenport, Sarver, Roe, and Mayor Barnett

7. Active Agenda

MOT 2025-10783 A. Motion: Approve a Contract with Chicagoland Paving of Lake Zurich, IL for the Jefferson Avenue Reconstruction/Thornwood Intersection Improvements Project

MOTION: To Authorize a Contract for the Jefferson Avenue Reconstruction/Thornwood Intersection Improvement project to Chicagoland Paving in the amount of \$951,329.53, which includes a 10% contingency, as presented.

MOTIONED TO APPROVE: Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Gilmartin

Public Comments

Steve Carlstrom, resident on Jefferson Avenue, requested the use of concrete, instead of asphalt, on the shared use path in front of resident homes.

Mike Pergman, resident of Jefferson Avenue, concurred with Mr. Carlstrom and shared his reasons why.

Janet Winningham returned to the podium and shared that she supported the residents that did not want asphalt used in front of their homes, and recommended differing the portion in front of the four homes to another time/project.

Michael Molinoski, resident, agreed with the comments made about concrete shared use paths in front of resident homes.

Village Council Comments

Commissioner Tully shared that though he is in favor of proceeding with this because it is consistent with the Village's Active Transportation Plan, he is seeking an amendment to the item. He shared he would like to replace the asphalt with a concrete eight foot segment, in terms of the material from which it's constructed.

Manager Fieldman notified the Council that the dollar amount read by Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt, in the original motion, will increase with the amendment.

AMENDMENT: Commissioner Tully made a motion to amend the motion: TO CHANGE THE MATERIALS BEING USED FOR THE JEFFERSON AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION/THORNWOOD INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS FROM ASPHALT TO CONCRETE

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Davenport

Roll Call on the Amendment:

AYES: Commissioners Tully, Davenport, Roe, Sarver, Gilmartin, Sadowski-Fugitt, and Mayor Barnett

NAYES: None

RESULT: Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Roll Call on the Amended Motion:

RESULT: Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

AYES: Commissioners Sadowski-Fugitt, Gilmartin, Roe, Sarver, Davenport, Tully, and Mayor Barnett

RESULT: Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

AYES: Commissioners Sadowski-Fugitt, Gilmartin, Roe, Sarver, Davenport, Tully and Mayor Barnett

Summary of amendment: This amendment authorizes the contract for the Jefferson Avenue Reconstruction/Thornwood Intersection Improvement Project to Chicagoland Paving, with a change in the materials to be used from asphalt to concrete, with the final dollar amount to be determined based on the change in materials.

Commissioner Tully also expressed that he would like to add additional signage in and around the school and he asked that the Council commit to a timetable to look at regulations governing the use of e-bikes on these paths within the timeframe of this work.

Commissioner Davenport agreed with this amendment and said what is done here is setting a precedent. He also agreed with the 8 foot path, but wanted staff commentary on a 10 foot path, to which Manager Fieldman said he is concerned about the width of the right of way on the western portion and the impact on the school property for which the Village is seeking an easement. Commissioner Davenport shared that there would have been a cost to eventually update and replace the sidewalk that is already in place. He shared that there cost difference of replacing a five foot wide sidewalk with an eight foot is marginal, and there are lifecycle advantages to using concrete over asphalt,

Commissioner Sarver asked whether the Village or residents would be responsible for maintaining and clearing snow from the new shared use path. Manager Fieldman clarified that residents would be responsible for the path in front of their homes, no different than the sidewalk that was there, and the school would maintain the shared-use paths in front of school property. Commissioner Gilmartin suggested adding visual differentiation to the path in front of the school to increase cyclist awareness that they are in a different zone and should exercise

caution, to which Manager Fieldman responded that such options could be explored with input from the Council and the Director of Engineering. Commissioner Davenport recommended using a different color of concrete for the delineation. Village Attorney Enza Petrarca confirmed that staff had sufficient direction from the amended motion to proceed, and Manager Fieldman noted that tentative cost figures for concrete materials were included in the agenda materials but they were not final costs. He asked for the Council's approval to proceed working with the contractor on the project as presented in the amended motion. The Council agreed. Mayor Barnett thanked District 58 for their cooperation on this.

ORD 2025-10776 B. Ordinance: Authorizing an Extension of Special Use Ordinance No. 6050 - 902 Maple Avenue to Permit Construction of a Three-Story Multi-Family Building to November 21, 2025

MOTION: To adopt ***AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN EXTENSION OF SPECIAL USE ORDINANCE NO. 6050 FOR 902 MAPLE AVENUE TO PERMIT CONSTRUCTION OF A THREE-STORY MULTI-FAMILY BUILDING TO NOVEMBER 1, 2025***, as presented. **ORDINANCE 6123**

RESULT: Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

MOTIONED TO APPROVE: Commissioner Tully

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt

AYES: Commissioners Tully, Sadowski-Fugitt, Gilmartin, Davenport, Sarver, Roe, and Mayor Barnett

MOT 2025-10789 C. Motion: Directing Staff to Release an RFP for Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Services

MOTION: To Direct Staff to Release an RFP for Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Services, as presented.

RESULT: Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

MOTIONED TO APPROVE: Commissioner Tully

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt

AYES: Commissioners Tully, Sadowski-Fugitt, Gilmartin, Davenport, Sarver, Roe, and Mayor Barnett

Public Comments

Steve Ruffalo, a resident, thanked the Council for the clarifications on the RFP but requested that they reconsider keeping Amnesty Day and Leaf Collection as a part of the proposal. He encouraged Option 3, asking that household hazardous waste be added to it. He encouraged public education on this.

Village Council Comments

Commissioner Tully said he is happy about this and thanked the Village Council, Environmental Concerns Commission and Village staff for their work on this. He reminded all that this is just

an RFP, requesting responses, and not contract negotiations. He said decisions will be made once RFP responses are received.

Commissioner Davenport highlighted that the Council will be seeking the input of the ECC on this when the proposals are returned. He said once responses are received, changes can be made during negotiations.

Commissioner Gilmartin thanked staff for their work on this and shared that he is excited to get these proposals back.

Mayor Barnett said that the current contract expires on May 31, 2026.

Public Comments

Steve Ruffalo, a resident, thanked the Council for the clarifications on the RFP but requested that they reconsider keeping Amnesty Day and Leaf Collection as a part of the proposal. He encouraged Option 3, asking that household hazardous waste be added to it. He encouraged public education on this.

8. First Reading

RES 2025-10788 A. Resolution: Accept the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report of the Village of Downers Grove for the Fiscal Year January 1, 2024 Through December 31, 2024

Jamie Wilke, with Lauterbach and Amen, presented the Village's Annual Audit. She commended the Finance team and for being so prepared for the audit. She said it was a clean, "unmodified" audit and that Lauterback is recommending that the Village, once again, receives the Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

Public Comments

Janet Winningham congratulated the Village on the achievement, and Mayor Barnett echoed the thanks to both the auditor and staff for their excellent work.

Village Council Comments

The Council expressed their appreciation for the Village staff and their work on this. Commissioner Tully highlighted the significance of receiving a clean "unmodified" audit and credited the continued success to the diligent work of staff. Commissioners Sadowski-Fugitt and Davenport also extended their gratitude to the Finance Department and staff, with Commissioner Davenport adding that he is proud to be part of such a well-run Village. Commissioner Gilmartin thanked both the staff and the auditor, emphasizing the report's importance to the Village, especially as the Village prepares for potential financial uncertainty in the coming years. He added that having such a detailed document will help the Council to have a clearer picture as they move forward.

Mayor Barnett thanked the auditor and Village staff for a job well done.

Public Comments

Janet Winningham congratulated the Village on the achievement, and Mayor Barnett echoed the thanks to both the auditor and staff for their excellent work.

MOT 2025-10795 B. Motion: Discussion of the Evaluation and Potential Improvements at the Washington Street and BNSF Railroad Intersection

Deputy Village Manager Mike Baker provided the background on this item. Representatives from the engineering firm, Benesch, presented via PowerPoint. They provided an explanation of the study that was conducted and their recommendations.

Mr. Baker thanked Benesch for their work. He said staff wanted the report from Benesch to stand alone. He said one of the fundamental observations is that it is going to be challenging to reroute (pedestrian) commuters. He said that staff recommends the implementation of the MUTCD items and added that, with the relocation of the crosswalks, staff saw the potential for pedestrians to deviate from the pedestrian crossings - which would cause additional safety concerns. He explained the importance of emergency vehicles coming out of the Village Hall lot and the dangers of some of the suggestions. He also shared that the Transportation and Parking Commission's (TAP) recommendations are also included in the report.

Public Comments

Kylie Spahn returned to the podium and asked how often the police use the emergency entrance and if pedestrian corals/fencing is a part of the plan. She also asked if the crosswalk is moved closer to the tracks, could there be some sort of delay in place for the cars to cross the tracks.

Ed Pawlik returned to the podium and suggested a pedestrian only crossing be put in place to separate the pedestrian traffic from the car traffic.

Janet Winningham expressed her disappointment with this intersection and with the study that was conducted.

Village Council Comments

Commissioner Davenport expressed disagreement with the notion that the current reconfiguration is more safe than it was before. He stressed that pedestrians will do what they want to do. He thanked the staff for their expertise and suggested somehow delaying southbound vehicular traffic to give pedestrians time to cross safely. He agreed with staff recommendations. Commissioner Gilmartin inquired about crash data, noting that all incidents at the intersection of Burlington and Washington occurred before the current changes, and raised concerns about crosswalk safety. He questioned the safety implications of removing the angled walkway, and supported the idea of implementing pedestrian-first signaling or delay mechanisms for cars. Commissioner Sarver asked for clarification on the nature of recent

accidents. The consultant confirmed these accidents involved cars and one involved a bicyclist. Commissioner Gilmartin also explored relocating signage and stop bars, with the consultant affirming TAP's recommendation for a stop sign at the Police Department egress. Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt raised concerns that pedestrians will continue to cross diagonally regardless of signage, and suggested temporary fencing or barricades to help guide pedestrian behavior and improve vehicle sightlines. She shared her opinion that over time a majority of pedestrians would use the intended path. Manager Fieldman agreed to consult with staff and the consultant on the feasibility of these suggestions.

Commissioner Roe, noting he was a commuter of 15 years, supported staff's recommendations and opined that even with fencing or corralling, pedestrians often follow their own paths. He expressed concerns that moving the crosswalk closer to the tracks could create a new issue of cars getting stuck on the tracks. He agreed that timing controls of vehicular traffic could be more effective than controlling commuters. Commissioner Tully thanked everyone for their input and echoed Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt's view that while some pedestrians may disregard guidance, most will follow the correct path over time. He also supported the idea of delaying southbound traffic during peak hours. Commissioner Sarver agreed that the focus should remain on pedestrian safety by controlling vehicle behavior, acknowledging that fencing may not change pedestrian habits and could even encourage riskier actions.

Commissioner Davenport suggested that installing some form of signal control at the intersection could also offer benefits for emergency vehicle access. Commissioner Gilmartin pointed to the crosswalk at Grant and Main as a successful example of all directions being controlled. Mayor Barnett agreed with the general discussion but raised concerns about fencing placement and asked about the process for implementing a vehicle delay or signal. Manager Fieldman noted the complexity of the situation, especially since pedestrians should not be crossing when the train gates are down, and said he would consult with Benesch and staff on alternative solutions. Mayor Barnett emphasized that the core issue is vehicle timing, with other measures being secondary, and warned that changing vehicle timing could significantly increase delays. Commissioner Gilmartin added that the poor line of sight at the intersection also needs to be addressed.

ORD 2025-10777 C. Ordinance: Adopting Certain Provisions of the 2023 National Electric Code Standards Concerning Electrical Vehicle Power Transfer Systems and Energy Management Systems

Community Development Director Stan Popovich presented this item via PowerPoint. He explained that the Village currently follows the 2020 National Electrical Code standards and the amendments from 2023 National Electric Code have to do with electric vehicles (EV).

Village Council Comments

Commissioner Davenport said he thinks this is the smart way to do this. He asked for verification that there were no other sections of the code that needed to be amended. Mr. Popovich confirmed that staff reviewed them all.

Commissioner Gilmartin asked how these will be brought into our code.

Mr. Popovich said the Village's Municipal Code will point to them. Commissioner Gilmartin asked about future updates. Mr. Popovich said the National Electrical Codes are updated every 3 years.

ORD 2025-10799 D. Ordinance: Amending Certain Parking Regulations

MOT 2025-10798 E. Motion: Approve an Agreement with Municipal Collections of America for the Collection of Unpaid Parking Tickets

RES 2025-10796 F. Resolution: Approve an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Illinois Office of the Comptroller Regarding Access to the Comptroller's Local Debt Recovery Program

Village Manager Fieldman presented Items D, E and F together. He explained that the Village would like to take these actions due to chronic parking violators. He said this is really to help residents.

Village Council Comments

Commissioner Sarver asked about the steps to take action.

Attorney Petrarca explained the tickets would go to collections first and then the State.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt asked that before matters get to the level of towing or additional fees, that the Village make an attempt to work with people to find resources or to put them on a payment plan.

Manager Fieldman said yes, the Village already does this under the current Code. He said first and foremost, the Village looks for compliance, and will connect those people in need to the Village Social Worker or with the proper resources. He explained that this is just for people that are intentionally uncompliant.

Commissioner Davenport asked if there will be signage posted about this. Attorney Petrarca said violators would receive several letters and the ticket will also state it. Commissioner Gilmartin asked if the fees for collections are paid by the violator. Attorney Petrarca said yes [those fees would be added to the ticket amount.

Public Comments

Laura Temple said she really hopes this does not affect vulnerable people, i.e. people that are living in their cars that cannot afford to pay these fines. She agreed with going after people that are excessive violators that are intentionally uncompliant.

Mary Blanchard returned to the podium and agreed with Laura.

9. Manager's Report

Manager Fieldman thanked the Village staff members that assisted with the RFP for Solid Waste Collection Disposal Services and the Finance team for their work on the successful audit.

10. 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 adopting certain provisions of the 2023 National Electric Code Standards concerning electrical vehicle power transfer systems and energy management systems.
2. An ordinance amending certain parking regulations.

11. Mayor's Report

There was no Mayor's Report.

12. Council Member Reports

Commissioner Sarver said she hoped all checked out the window art for Pride month. She also shared that there will be a big festivity on June 7th at Fishel Park.

Commissioner Gllmartin noted that it is National Gun Safety Week and spoke about gun safety and guns being sold by municipalities that end up in the public's hands and are used for crimes. He said the ATF put out a report and he spoke with Chief Devries and Village Staff and the Village has decided not to sell Village guns to the public. He thanked the Mayor for the Pride Month proclamation and wished all a happy Pride Month.

Commissioner Tully asked that a governance meeting be held soon, now that the new Council was seated, to help with the interactions of the Council. He said he thinks it will be valuable to the Village Council and the community. He spoke of the May 20th Village Council meeting and comments that were made. He shared the numbers of meetings each of the Council members had missed over the past two years, highlighting that he only missed 6 meetings.

Commissioner Davenport spoke of the Rotary Grove Fest in a couple of weeks and also about the Pride Parade on June 7th. He also wanted to clarify that containers cannot be used as Accessory Dwelling Units.

Commissioner Roe reiterated that the Pride Fest will be held on June 7th.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt shared information about the annual Grove Foundation Golf Outing on September 6th at the Belmont Golf Club. She thanked the Mayor for the Pride Month proclamation and provided a history on the Stonewall riots and how things have evolved for the LGBTQ+ community. She thanked all that participated in the window paintings downtown. She spoke about funding for EQDG and encouraged all to be inclusive.

She then provided a recap of the last Village Council/Library Ad Hoc committee meeting. She explained that an expert, John Chrastka, spoke. She said the committee's takeaway was that they found that whether an appointed or elected library board, both react in similar ways and deal with things similarly. She spoke about the next meeting on June 5th and shared that another expert, Joe Filapek, will be speaking.

Commissioner Tully agreed with Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt and encouraged all to watch the meeting. He said he was fascinated about appointed boards being advisory when it comes to taxing and elected boards tax themselves. He shared a question about what it would cost for the library to become a district library, and spoke of the purview of the committee. He shared how Downers Grove is unique in that it is the only municipality that has a library as a component part, that actually has a levy authority, as opposed to an advisory authority, where there would be a recommendation and then the village Council would decide on it. Commissioner Tully noted that the scope of the Ad Hoc Committee was to research the benefits of an elected board versus an appointed board. Researching anything further than that would be beyond the purview of the Committee and would be mentioned in their final report for the Council to take further action on.

13. Adjournment

Mayor Barnett asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION: To Adjourn the June 3, 2025 Village Council Meeting.

RESULT: Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

MOTIONED TO APPROVE: Commissioner Tully

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt

AYES: Commissioners Tully, Sadowski-Fugitt, Gilmartin, Davenport, Sarver, Roe, and Mayor Barnett

The meeting adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosa Berardi
Village Clerk