



Village of Downers Grove

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## Village Council – Minutes

*Table 1 - Detailed information on this Village Council meeting.*

Meeting Location	Civic Center – Betty Cheever Council Chambers
Meeting Address	850 Curtiss St., Downers Grove, IL 60515
Meeting Date	May 05, 2026 at 07:00 PM

### Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

### Roll Call

#### Council Attendance (Present)

Mayor Barnett, Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt, Commissioner Gilmartin, Commissioner Tully, Commissioner Davenport, Commissioner Roe, Commissioner Sarver.

#### Council Attendance (Not Present)

None.

#### Non-Voting

Village Manager Dave Fieldman, Village Attorney Enza Petrarca, and Village Clerk Rosa Berardi.

## Proclamations

### A. Police Week.

Mayor Barnett read the proclamation and presented the Police Week proclamation to Chief of Police Michael Devries, Deputy Chiefs James McGreal and Rob McMahan, and other members of the Police Department. The Mayor spoke of the officers that have lost their lives in the line of duty, including Downers Grove's own Officer Richard Barth in 1974.

### B. Mental Health Awareness Month.

Mayor Barnett read the Mental Health Awareness Month proclamation and presented it to Grit2 Board Chair Meghan Jacobson and a Teen Advisory Board member.

### C. Historic Preservation Month.

Mayor Barnett read the Historic Preservation Month proclamation and presented the proclamation to Marty Aks, Board President, and Liz Challberg, Board Director, with the Downers Grove Historical Society.

### D. Small Business Week.

Mayor Barnett read the Small Business Week proclamation.

## Minutes of Council Meetings

**MIN 2025-10931** A. Minutes: Village Council Meeting Minutes - April 21, 2026.

**Motion:** To **Adopt the Village Council Meeting Minutes of April 21, 2026**, as presented.

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

**Motion to Approve:** Commissioner Tully.

**Seconded By:** Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt.

**Ayes:** Commissioners Tully, Sadowski-Fugitt, Roe, Davenport, Sarver, Gilmartin, and

Mayor Barnett.

**Nays:** None.

## Public Comments

Eileen Briner, a resident, requested that the Village not issue a Pride Month proclamation this year and moving forward. She asked that the Mayor and Council remain neutral on the issue, also suggesting the adoption of a policy to limit proclamations to non-ideological, broadly supported purposes, or to discontinue month-long proclamations entirely.

Laura Hois, a resident, concurred with Ms. Briner's comments. She expressed concerns about the nation's culture change and requested the Village Council remain neutral and not support Pride movements.

Marion Pritzker, a resident, expressed support and endorsed all said by the previous commenters.

Rich Brennen, a resident, said he was grateful for the work of the Village Council.

Gloria Walsh-Rock, a resident, expressed support for the Village's continued celebration of Pride Month. She noted that there are many kinds of people in Downers Grove and the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals should be taken as seriously as everyone else's.

Marge Mark, a resident and transgender parent, expressed her gratitude, for the Village's proclamation in honor of Pride Month and requested the Council continue with the proclamation for years to come.

Scott Richards, a resident, gay man and veteran, said he is insulted and appalled by the comments that were made against Pride Month.

Ed Briner, a resident, supported the comments made against proclaiming June as Pride Month. He requested the Mayor and Council proclaim November 2026, and all Novembers moving forward, as National Veterans and Military Families Month.

## Consent Agenda

**COR 2026-11120** A. Claims Ordinance: No. 6653, Payroll - April 17, 2026.

**BIL 2026-11085** B. Bills Payable: No. 6938 - May 05, 2026.

**MOT 2026-11199** C. Motion: Approve a Contract with Performance Construction & Engineering for the 39th Street Reconstruction, Shared Use Path, and Water Main Improvements Project (ST-068 & WA-028)

**MOT 2026-11199** D. Motion: Approve the Purchase of a Ford F600 Utility Truck from Morrow Brothers Ford

**Motion:** To **Approve the Consent Agenda of the May 05, 2026, Village Council Meeting**, as presented.

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

**Motion to Approve:** Commissioner Tully.

**Seconded By:** Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt.

**Ayes:** Commissioners Tully, Sadowski-Fugitt, Roe, Sarver, Davenport, Gilmartin, and Mayor Barnett.

**Nays:** None.

## Manager's Report

**REP 2026-11245** A. Report: Discussion of Boards and Commissions Project

Village Manager Dave Fieldman announced that S&P Global Ratings reaffirmed the Village's AAA Bond rating. He read a statement made by S&P Global Ratings about the Village's strengths that contributed to the rating. Manager Fieldman shared that the Village has been AAA rated since 2013.

Manager Fieldman then presented on the Boards and Commissions Project using a PowerPoint. He provided the background on the project and shared that after this discussion, Staff will be able to package up what the Boards & Commissions (B&C) enhancements will be moving forward. He shared the Village's current recruitment

efforts and proposed expanded recruitment efforts. He also spoke about potential actions that may be taken to strengthen relationships between the Council and Boards & Commissions.

### **Village Council Comments**

Commissioner Sarver said there has been research that has shown that only a certain demographic is reached through social media. She wants to make sure that the Village reaches out to as many people as possible and pointed out that the methods used two years ago may not work today.

Mayor Barnett stressed that social media is only a piece of the push to the public - there are electronic newsletters, mailed newsletters, the Village website, etc.

Commissioner Davenport expressed support for encouraging existing board and commission members to recruit others and expressed some hesitation about establishing liaisons to all boards and commissions given the number of boards relative to council members. He expressed interest in exploring the option of an annual retreat to accomplish many of the relationship-strengthening goals the Council has been discussing but understands that OMA may interfere with it. Lastly, the Commissioner shared this thought that providing the B&C members with a binder that has the information they need is a good idea.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt thinks reaching out to organizations in town is a good idea. She would like to have a member or two of the B&C at the Coffee with the Councils in the future depending on whatever topic is discussed at that event. She would like to meet with the B&C quarterly to give the Council an update with any community input or would consider even having a Village newsletter about what is happening with Boards & Commissions.

Mayor Barnett said looking across the Village's Boards & Commissions list, having a retreat would last 2 days.

Commissioner Tully said that the Communication Department's efforts in pushing the recruitment of Boards & Commissions has been good, but more is needed. He suggested having video testimonials of current B&C members. He said these could be prerecorded and could explain what each of the B&C do. He stated that he believed they would be beneficial to have available and accessible as needed. The Commissioner shared that he thinks having B&C members at the Coffee with the Councils is a great idea. He wants to adhere to the B&C appointment schedule and thinks the board members of organizations within the Village should look to their members and suggest joining Village Boards & Commissions. He said when the Village wants a cross section, or people with certain strengths, it should be noted properly. He also requested it be mandatory that all members submit a full CV and shared he is torn with establishing Council liaisons because there are 15 Boards & Commissions and there are only 7 council members. He thinks there will be an opportunity for a member of the Council to attend the Boards & Commissions after the August appointment process, when new board members are in place. He would like to know more about the monthly newsletter idea, because that would be a lot of work and he wants to know the return on investment before proceeding. He opined that some element of a Boards & Commissions retreat should be considered.

Mayor Barnett said from a cross-section standpoint, there usually aren't enough candidates. With regard to the newsletter, he asked if the normal updating that is done - i.e. like the PAI for the Council - could be the highlights submitted by each Boards & Commission. He said the Village hasn't reached out to organizations in town for members, except for the Historic Preservation Organization. He requested that Staff run a list of vacancies and get them out to Village organizations. He said there is a process to the Boards & Commissions August appointments and it started last month. He asked Manager Fieldman to circulate the process of B&C appointments to the Council.

Commissioner Gilmartin questioned what the trend has been with applications over the years - because of the Mayor's comment about census being low. He asked

about outreach over the years as well and spoke of the idea of strengthening the Village Council and Boards & Commissions relationship. The Commissioner asked if the yearly reports to the Council will be a part of this project - Manager Fieldman said yes. He said he would like to know how many people have been recruited historically, and noted that he wants to be sure that residents understand that the process to apply is simply that - applying - and does not involve running for office. He thinks the word "advisory" should be added to the titles of the Boards & Commissions because maybe it would give them a more open feel. He asked that the application form itself be looked at and revised, and he agreed with Commissioner Tully's recommendation of requesting a CV, but he did not think it should be required. Commissioner Gilmartin asked if there are other ways that people can apply to Boards & Commissions instead of just applying online - Manager Fieldman said that they can apply by contacting Staff, but ultimately their information does eventually end up on the application form. He shared he likes the idea of member testimonials and thinks the Council should continue to speak about B&C recruitment and that the members of the boards should focus on it as well. He said with regard to the newsletter, he thinks it can be done easily and will make his suggestions to Staff offline. He also shared he needed clarity on the "after-action" discussion. Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt clarified by sharing that it means having conversations about where each B&C is coming from when they vote against recommendations - this is so the Council can get a better idea of where they are coming from. Commissioner Gilmartin said he agreed with Commissioner Tully's suggestion regarding the retreat. He asked for Commissioner Tully to provide a description of what happened at the past Village retreat. He asked about OMA with regard to the retreat. Manager Fieldman said it was published as an open meeting.

Commissioner Tully responded and shared that the retreat was on a Saturday, it took much planning, and there was an agenda. He asked staff to look up the agenda and provided some detail about what the activities of the day included.

Commissioner Roe shared that he agrees with what was said, but that he had concerns about Council liaisons and retreats being too much work.

Commissioner Davenport said he thinks the people serving on Village Boards & Commissions are the best people to recruit members as a part of their service. He said most businesses have annual meetings where everyone is brought together and he thinks spending time with the Boards & Commissions would strengthen their relationship. He said he wants the Council to consider that they may put into place policies and procedures that may outlast their time on the Council. He would like the quarterly report to be set up in a way to reuse information. He agreed with having members of the Boards & Commissions at Coffee with the Council meetings and video snippets of member testimonials.

Commissioner Gilmartin said the timing of the Boards & Commissions annual reports should be line up with the Council being seated after an election.

Mayor Barnett asked how having B&C members attending the Coffee with the Council would work. Commissioner Tully provided an example of advertising one with the TAP Commission as "Coffee with the Council and the Transportation and Parking Commission".

Commissioner Davenport agreed with the suggestion.

Mayor Barnett explained his thoughts that Coffee with the Council should be a non-formal event, he said this may turn into something more than Coffee with the Council and may require a more formal meeting setting. He wants to talk more about it before moving forward. Commissioner Roe said to him it was more about having members present as a tool to expand recruitment.

### **Public Comment**

Marty Aks, with the Historical Society, said that the newsletters on Fridays show open positions with the Village and asked if the Council would consider adding the recruitment to Boards & Commissions to the newsletter as well.

Liz Challberg with the Historical Society suggested adding a link to apply to Village Boards & Commissions to the Village's home page.

Ms. Walsh-Rock returned to the podium and suggested that the Village work with the library to get a cross section of the community.

Mayor Barnett asked Manager Fieldman if he had enough information. Manager Fieldman said a review of the package of ideas will be brought back to the Council in June.

Commissioner Gilmartin said that the idea to work with the library on getting a cross section of the community is great idea. He asked that Staff look into it.

Manager Fieldman praised Finance Director Robin Lahey and her team on the work they have done that led to the Village maintaining its AAA bond rating.

## **Council Member Reports**

Commissioner Sarver spoke about her time speaking at Downers Grove South the week prior. She enjoyed it and would like to do it again.

Commissioner Gilmartin spoke about the BUILD Plan HB5626 (Building Up Illinois Developments). He shared his concern about this bill and spoke about how this will affect the Village, including single family home owners. He described the bill's provisions, noting that under HB5626, a developer could build up to eight units, by right, on virtually all single-family residential lots in Downers Grove without a public hearing, planning and zoning review, special use permit, or Council vote. He explained it would explicitly eliminate home rule protections and stressed that though he understands that housing affordability is a problem, he wants to work on the issues at the local level and explained the current steps the Village has taken on the issue of affordable housing. Commissioner Gilmartin further expressed his disappointment in how this Bill could affect the Village's density and infrastructure - sharing the result could be a 450% increase in density on a typical residential block without dedicated infrastructure funding. He noted that both the Illinois Municipal League (IML) and the Metropolitan Mayor's Caucus (MMC) share concerns about this bill. He spoke to possibly adding a new business item to the next Village Council meeting agenda to put forth a resolution against it. He said that Village

Staff has been proactive by joining forces with other DuPage County communities, the IML and MMC in formally opposing the legislation. The House floor deadline is May 22 and Commissioner Gilmartin encouraged residents to contact their State Representatives before then to voice their opinions and to vote no to Bill HB5626.

Commissioner Tully thanked Commissioner Gilmartin for his comments because the Bill would strip the Village of formal control. He said he is in support of putting forth a resolution in opposition of this. He then spoke about the proclamations that were read and spoke of the downtown Shop and Sip Wine Walk event of May 7, the Hope and Bloom luncheon (Hope's Front Door) on May 12, the NAMI DuPage annual Growing Hope Shine a Light Gala on May 1, and about the importance of historic preservation. Lastly, Commissioner Tully took a moment to emphasize the importance of the Village once again received a AAA Bond Rating, noting that the rating saves the Village money on bonds issued and allows those savings to be used on important Village projects.

Commissioner Davenport shared his support for putting forth a resolution opposing the Bill. He spoke about attending a District 99 workshop and made mention of all of the events happening at the High Schools during this time of the year. He gave a shout out to several District 99 students who were recognized for their participation at the recent ISBE State Leadership Program conference. He shared that the district's emphasis on attendance and their cell phone policy has been successful. The Commissioner shared that he spoke with board and staff members after the meeting and they asked that the Council discuss incorporating digital signs into the Village.

Commissioner Roe thanked Commissioner Gilmartin for his comments and also showed his support for the resolution against the Bill. He commended Robin Lahey and her team for their work to earn the Village the AAA bond rating. He reminded everyone that the Americans and the Holocaust exhibit will be at the library through May 19.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt expressed her support of a resolution against the Bill as well, stating that it would not advance the Village's efforts to promote affordable housing. She spoke about the Country in the Park event. She expressed her disappointment about the comments made against Pride Month and shared that there is no comparison between the LGBTQ+ community and the veteran community -noting there are many ways the public and the Village can show support to veterans. The Commissioner also shared data about suicide among the LGBTQ+ youth community and stressed the importance of the Village having a Pride Month proclamation to show its support. She wished all mothers a Happy Mother's Day.

## **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Barnett called out Commissioner Gilmartin, Tully and Sadowski-Fugitt's comments. He thanked Ms. Lahey and the Finance team for their work, noting the Village's long-standing commitment to financial stewardship, including rotating auditors, receiving the Government Officers Finance Association awards for reporting, and maintaining the AAA bond rating through decades of dedicated work. He agreed with Commissioner Gilmartin's statement and shared that he hopes all the communities that are in opposition to HB5626 are heard in Springfield. With regard to proclamations, Mayor Barnett stressed that proclamations are a Mayoral privilege and shared that he receives nearly twice as many requests as the number ultimately issued, selecting topics that he believes deserve recognition and attention. He added that the proclamations are written by him personally and are not issued lightly. Mayor Barnett encouraged all to take the time to read them.

## **Adjournment**

Mayor Barnett asked for a motion to convene into executive session.

**Motion: To convene into closed session pursuant to Section 2(C)(3) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, to consider the selection of a person to fill a public**

**office as defined in the Act, including a vacancy in a public office, when the public body is given power to appoint under law or ordinance, or the discipline, performance or removal of the occupant of a public office, when the public body is given power to remove the occupant under law or ordinance. Result:** Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

**Motion to Approve:** Commissioner Tully.

**Seconded By:** Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt.

**Ayes:** Commissioners Tully, Sadowski-Fugitt, Roe, Sarver, Davenport, Gilmartin, Mayor Barnett.

**Nays:** None.

The meeting convened into executive session at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosa Berardi  
Village Clerk