



Village of Downers Grove

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 19, 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. EMS Week.

Mayor Barnett read the proclamation and presented it to Deputy Fire Chiefs Pekelder and McGivney.

B. Public Works Week.

Mayor Barnett read the proclamation and presented it to Public Works Engineering Director Scott Vasko.

C. Building Safety Month.

Mayor Barnett read the proclamation and presented it to Community Development Director Stan Popovich.

D. National Bike Month.

Mayor Barnett read the proclamation and presented it to Robert Davis, a member of the Downers Grove Bike Club.

Minutes of Council Meetings

MIN 2025-10934 A. Minutes: Village Council Meeting Minutes - May 05, 2026.

MIN 2026-11248 B. Minutes: Executive Session Meeting Minutes of May 5, 2026 - For Approval Only

Motion: To **Adopt the Village Council Meeting Minutes of May 05, 2026, as presented, and the Executive Session Meeting Minutes of May 05, 2026, for approval only.**

Result: Motion carried unanimously by roll call 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

Dr. Jody Harap, a resident and licensed clinical psychologist, spoke in support of a Pride Month proclamation. She thanked Mayor Barnett for his leadership and the Council for their work.

Molly, a resident, spoke in support of a Pride Month proclamation. She thanked Mayor Barnett for his commitment to proclaiming June as Pride Month and the Council as whole for supporting equality and inclusion to create a welcoming community.

Robin Tryloff, a resident, expressed support for the Village's continued acknowledgment of Pride Month and for showing dignity and inclusion.

Jacob Rekart, a resident, expressed concerns about possible code violation issues in the Bristol Club Apartment complex. He requested a compliance audit of the property.

Laura Kamdelski, a resident, concurred with the first three commenters in support of a Pride Month proclamation. She expressed the importance of it, in light of current and historical discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community.

Julie, a resident, spoke about the intersection of Highland and 35th Street and requested that the Village and County work together to make the intersection safer for everyone.

Isaac Kelsey, a 12-year-old Downers Grove resident and student, expressed excitement for Pride Month celebrations and thanked Mayor Barnett and the Village Council for recognizing Pride Month.

Abby Blought, a Downers Grove resident, shared her support of the Pride Month proclamation and noted that inclusion and fairness were among the reasons she returned to the Downers Grove area.

Eileen Briner, a resident, expressed opposition to the Pride Month proclamation. She requested the Village only issue proclamations for broadly supported purposes or eliminate month-long proclamations entirely.

Julie Breen, cited facts provided by the Illinois High School Association on the number of transgender student athletes participating in the IHSA.

An unnamed Downers Grove resident and student shared that as a child, she has never felt uncomfortable by the way someone identifies or expresses themselves. She further expressed that hearing stories from members of the LGBTQ community is inspiring and helpful to the youth population.

Consent Agenda

COR 2026-11121 A. Claims Ordinance: No. 6655, Payroll - May 01, 2026.

BIL 2026-11085 B. Bills Payable: No. 6942 - May 19, 2026.

MOT 2026-11241 C. Motion: Approving an Agreement with Air One, Inc. for the Purchase of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatuses (SCBA).

RES 2026-11239 D. Resolution: Approving an Agreement with Total Parking Solutions, Inc. for Parking Terminal Upgrades.

RESOLUTION 2026-38

A Resolution Authorizing Execution of an Agreement Between the Village of Downers Grove and Total Parking Solutions, Inc.

RES 2026-11196 E. Resolution: Approving an Amendment to the Agreement with Minuteman Security & Life Safety for the Purchase and Installation of Five Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) Cameras.

RESOLUTION 2026-39

A Resolution Authorizing Execution of an Amendment to the Agreement Between the Village of Downers Grove and Minuteman Security Technologies, Inc.

MOT 2026-11246 F. Motion: Approving the Disposal of Audio Recordings of Previously Approved Executive Session Meeting Minutes.

MOT 2026-11227 G. Motion: Approving a Three-Year Contract with National Power Rodding Corporation for Storm Sewer Maintenance Services.

RES 2026-11249 H. Resolution: Authorizing an Agreement with Stryker Sales, LLC for the Purchase of a LifePak 35 Cardiac Monitor.

RESOLUTION 2026-40

A Resolution Authorizing Execution of an Agreement Between the Village of Downers Grove and Stryker Sales, LLC

Motion: To **Approve the Consent Agenda of the May 19, 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.

Active Agenda

RES 2026-11249 A. Resolution: In Support of Municipal Housing Authority and in Opposition to the Illinois BUILD Proposal.

Motion: To Approve **A Resolution of the Village of Downers Grove in Support of Municipal Housing Authority and in Opposition of the BUILD Proposal**, as presented. **RESOLUTION 2026-41**

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.

Council Comments

Commissioner Gilmartin said he had heard from many residents on this. This is about local control and he supports passing and sending this resolution to the State. He said he received some criticism from some people about the bills still being in committee and that this was premature since they have not been passed. He disagreed, noting that though the bills remain in committee, they are supported by the Governor's Office, and this is the time to be heard. He said Downers Grove is currently a Home Rule community that can make zoning decisions and if passed, this will take the authority away from our community. As this bill stands, it requires the Village to bear the cost without any say. The Commissioner said that he is in favor of affordable housing but believes there is a way to support this at the local level.

Commissioner Davenport said that Commissioner Gilmartin shared most of what he wanted to share, but added that if the State was interested in moving this forward, then it could do more to support the municipalities. He said there is much in the bills that the Council has already discussed and will be taking action on - the Council supports keeping the actions local. He thanked Commissioner Gilmartin for bringing this resolution forward, as he believes what the bill is proposing is nonsensical and an overstep by the State.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt said she will support this resolution because the State's bills will have deep infrastructure impacts and she is unsure that this will address affordability issues. She noted that it is important for the Council to confer and collaborate with State legislators and after personally speaking with a couple legislators herself, she thinks that the Council could have done a better job voicing their concerns before bringing this forward. She stressed that these conversations should be had before making big declarations moving forward.

Commissioner Tully thanked Commissioner Gilmartin for bringing this resolution forward and shared that nearly every municipality is united, regardless of party affiliation, on retaining local control and opposing unfunded mandates. He emphasized the importance of timing and that advocacy bodies have been actively engaged on this issue. This is about keeping control at the municipal level. He said if Springfield wants to do anything they should be assisting with funding. He stressed it as an erosion of Home Rule authority. Commissioner Tully shared he supports this resolution and if needed he would support additional resolutions.

Commissioner Sarver said she supports this resolution and added that the State is imposing the same tactics they do not want imposed on them (the State) by the Federal government.

Commissioner Roe shared he also supports the resolution. He commended the State for stepping up to try and address the problems but thinks they took a big swing and a miss. He shared his disagreement with the one size fits all zoning needs of the communities in Illinois. He provided specifics about the proposed zoning and shared that he wants the bills to go back to Committee at the State level and be reworked.

Commissioner Gilmartin followed up on Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt's comments, noting that he spent time reaching out to legislators and either heard back very little, or not at all.

Mayor Barnett said he is in favor of the resolution and that this type of challenge from Springfield occurs every legislative session. He added that every municipal advocacy body has been actively engaged on this issue and that every legislator in Illinois is aware of their stance.

First Reading

MOT 2026-11229 A. Motion: Approving an Agreement with Gerardi Sewer & Water Co. for the 2026 Water Main Improvements – Contract B (WA-028B).

Director of Engineering Scott Vasko presented using a PowerPoint. He provided the history of this item, provided the schedule of the work, and the areas that will be included.

Council Comments

Commissioner Davenport asked whether lead water line replacements extend from the water main all the way into the house. Mr. Vasko confirmed that replacements are complete service replacements from the main all the way into the house.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt asked whether the portion of the project on Highland, which crosses near St. Joseph's school, could be prioritized to be completed before the school season. Mr. Vasko confirmed that work would begin in July with a focus on completing that segment before the school season.

ORD 2026-11236 B. Ordinance: Approving a Special Use for 5145 Washington Street to Permit a Dental Office on the First Floor of an Existing Building.

Community Development Director Stan Popovich presented using a PowerPoint. He provided the background explaining that this is to reestablish a dental office on the first floor of this building. The Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval of the petition.

Public Comment

Mary, resident of the north side of town, asked if there are any concerns about parking and if there is anything the residents should be aware of. Mr. Popovich said the parking has not been changed. It has been a dentist's office for years and there haven't been issues with parking or traffic in the past.

Ms. Briner returned to the podium and asked why staff is asking for more green space to be added to this property. Mr. Popovich said that staff asked for expanded green space because this property is downtown. Ms. Briner said the additional green space seems like an unreasonable demand on the petitioner since it will take space from the parking at the property.

Mayor Barnett said there are many documents online that can be reviewed that support this type of request.

Council Comments

Commissioner Tully shared that this property has been a dentist office for decades - it just has not been used over the past year. He said the reason the Council is considering this is because the special use that was requested previously has expired for more than 6 months. He recited the Municipal Code and noted that the special use is required to dedicate the right-of-way that is on this property to that street (the Village).

Commissioner Davenport proposed that the green space be added to the southeast corner, instead of the northeast corner, of the parking lot to prevent additional damage to the residential fence - he pointed out the corner of the residential fence is on the property line and requested that green space be placed there. Manager Fieldman said that Staff supports adding green space in the area suggested.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt requested that native plantings be used in the green space to spruce it up and to maintain it.

Manager Fieldman said Staff supports both of the suggestions made by the Commissioners.

ORD 2026-11235 C. Ordinance: Approving a Special Use for 1341 Butterfield Road

Mr. Popovich presented using a PowerPoint. He provided details about the proposed car wash and parking lot. He shared that the Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval of the petition. He explained the petitioner was present to address any questions or concerns.

Council Comments

Commissioner Tully asked the petitioner to speak further as to why strict compliance with the provisions would result in practical difficulties or particular hardship for the subject property owner, also noting that the lot configuration is somewhat non-standard.

The petitioner addressed the Council and explained that the car wash's equipment package includes high-powered blowers at the back end of the tunnel that effectively remove water, making a second drying lane unnecessary. Regarding the setback variation, the petitioner explained that the lot has three street frontages, creating a 25-foot green belt buffer requirement on all sides, which significantly constrains the site. The petitioner sought to minimize the variance request and maximize green space buffers as much as possible given existing site conditions to make it easier for the cars cueing to access the entrance to the wash.

Commissioner Gilmartin confirmed that the setback variation is measured from the property line and noted that the angled green space provides an additional buffer. He asked whether the two-drying-lane requirement relates to safety or traffic flow. Mr. Popovich confirmed it is a traffic flow requirement related to prior car wash operations that included hand drying.

Commissioner Davenport expressed general support for the petition, noting that the property represents an improvement in green space over the existing conditions and that the lot's square configuration creates inherent constraints. He asked if the car wash building could be made shorter. The petitioner explained that the 120-foot tunnel length is the minimum needed for effective washing in northern climates, where salt removal requires additional tunnel length.

Mayor Barnett raised the question of whether an operational restriction prohibiting hand drying could be included as a condition of the special use, noting that the purpose of the two-drying-lane requirement should be addressed by root cause. The petitioner agreed with including such a restriction, with the understanding that an amendment could be pursued in the future if operations change. The

petitioner's attorney noted that requiring two drying areas would reduce stacking capacity, which was a concern raised before the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Attorney's Report

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

1. An ordinance authorizing a special use for 5145 Washington Street to permit a dental office on the first floor of an existing building.
2. An ordinance authorizing a special use for 1341 Butterfield Road to permit the construction and operation of a car wash with variations.

Manager's Report

REP 2026-11250 A. Report: Priority Action Item Update

Village Manager Fieldman presented the monthly Priority Action Item update, also known as the Council's work plan. Of the 18 projects included, 14 are ongoing, one has been completed, and one additional project will start at the start of the third quarter. Manager Fieldman reported no change in status indicators for all projects, with nearly all showing green. He noted that the closeout of the Ogden TIF continues to carry a yellow indicator due to a self-imposed schedule to complete it within the year.

Manager Fieldman highlighted that the Attainable Housing Study was underway and ongoing with information and a survey available on the Village website. He encouraged residents to go online and complete the survey. The project is expected to proceed back to the Planning and Zoning Commission and ultimately back to the Village Council around August 18th. He spoke about the Private Tree Regulations, sharing that Staff has begun gathering relevant ordinances, with a Council discussion expected to begin in the summer. Lastly, he spoke about the Public Art Program, sharing that there was a successful public visioning session at the Coffee with the Council that was held a few weeks prior. He noted that Sculpture

Milwaukee, engaged to assist with the project, heard directly from residents about their viewpoints on public art for the downtown.

Council Member Reports

Commissioner Sarver shared that she had no formal updates but expressed pride in the community based on the evening's proceedings. She noted that her motivation for running for Council included ensuring that Downers Grove remains a welcoming community for members of the LGBTQ+ community and all residents. She thanked Mayor Barnett for his commitment to declaring June as Pride Month.

Commissioner Gilmartin said he was happy to see the public show up at the meeting and expressed support for Mayor Barnett's continued issuance of the Pride Month proclamation. He noted that these proclamations exist because LGBTQ+ Americans have historically faced discrimination, and receiving recognition from local governments is one of the ways a community says "not here." He stated that the suggestion that Mayor Barnett is choosing the LGBTQ+ community over veterans is a false dichotomy and a wedge tactic. He noted that Downers Grove honors veterans through the Veterans Memorial at Fishel Park, through proclamations, and through partnerships with the American Legion and other organizations. He stated that the First Amendment protects the right of speakers to come to the podium and that he will defend that right, but that it does not shield speakers from being seen clearly for who they are. He said as a welcoming Village, the Village does not narrow who they welcome. He thanked the Mayor for standing by the Pride proclamation in June.

Commissioner Tully expressed support for the Pride Month proclamation and noted that the first Pride Month Proclamation was issued in 2022 and has been issued each year since. He stated that Mayor Barnett's prerogative to issue proclamations is absolute and called the opposition to the proclamation disingenuous political theater. He also reminded residents that Memorial Day is approaching and that American Legion Post 80 will hold its annual parade on Memorial Day. He noted that Rotary Grove Fest is 37 days away and wished all

residents a safe and reflective Memorial Day. He did not have an updated Downtown Management report but related that the Downtown Shop, Sip and Stroll was sold out and a huge success.

Commissioner Davenport congratulated all North and South High graduates. He reported on a recent District 99 workshop focused on belonging and expressed pride in being part of a community that celebrates belonging. He thanked Mayor Barnett personally for the Pride Month proclamation and thanked residents who attended the meeting. He said Pride Month is going to happen whether the Village has a proclamation or not. He thanked the residents that showed up to this meeting and for speaking - especially the students. He then reminded everyone that love will always win.

Commissioner Roe reminded residents that over one thousand homes have not yet responded to the Lead Service Line Replacement Project, and encouraged responses to avoid unnecessary street work. He noted that the library is conducting an art project with self-portraits as part of the America 250 anniversary celebration and invited residents to participate. He concluded by stating equal rights for others does not mean fewer rights for you.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt stated she had no update as the Council liaison to the Downers Grove Park District but noted that the Park District will be honoring outgoing Executive Director Bill McAdam at its Thursday meeting. She commented on the scientific evidence presented during public comment regarding LGBTQ+ individuals, noting that research in this area has historically been underfunded and that both biological sex and gender are now understood to exist on a spectrum. She affirmed that leaders in Downers Grove value and will work to uphold the rights of all residents.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Barnett stated that he was not expecting the volume of public comment on the Pride Month proclamation and had not prepared remarks, but wished to make

clear that his proclamations are intended to set a tone and create an environment consistent with his values. He said he cannot make anyone be nice, but he can say what he thinks is right. He said he thinks it is necessary to make sure the people in Downers Grove all enjoy the same respects, rights and privileges.

RES 2026-11251 A. Resolution: Reappointing Members to Village Boards and Commissions

Motion: To Approve **A Resolution of the Village of Downers Grove Reappointing Members to Village Boards and Commissions**, as presented.

RESOLUTION 2026-42

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.

Village Clerk Rosa Berardi read aloud the following reappointment:

Reappoint Barnali Khuntia to a four-year term expiring August 31, 2030

RES 2026-11252 B. Resolution: Appointing Members to Village Boards and Commissions

Motion: To Approve **A Resolution of the Village of Downers Grove Appointing Members to Village Boards and Commissions**, as presented.

RESOLUTION 2026-43

Result: Motion carried 6-1 by roll call vote.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Tully.

Seconded By: Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt.

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

Nays: Mayor Barnett

Village Clerk Rosa Berardi read aloud the following appointments:

Appoint Jessica Nastal to a three-year term expiring August 31,2029

Appoint Meghan Riley to a three-year term expiring August 31, 2029

Council Comments

Commissioner Tully remarked that he appreciates the service and continued service of the members selected.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt echoed the same sentiments as well as thanking all the applicants.

Mayor Barnett stated that he has worked to ensure that Village boards and commissions reflect the full diversity of the community. He expressed concern that the Library Board, as appointed, may not sufficiently reflect all segments of the community, and that he had asked his colleagues to consider additional interviews. He stated that his colleagues were satisfied with the two appointees included on this resolution and that he would be voting no, having spoken to both appointees in advance to inform them of his position.

Mayor Barnett ended the meeting by sharing that his father had recently passed away and acknowledged all the care and support he received from the Council and community. He shared that his father was known to have said that he wished people would be more kind to one another. The Mayor noted that building a community that is there for its residents is the reason he and his colleagues serve.

Adjournment

Mayor Barnett asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: To **Adjourn the May 19, 2026 Village Council Meeting.**

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.

The meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosa Berardi
Village Clerk