



## VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE MEETING 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	June 09, 2026 at 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 Roe, Commissioner Sarver.

#### **Council Attendance (Not Present)**

None.

#### **Non-Voting**

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

### 3. Proclamations

#### **A. Garden Week**

After reading the proclamation, Mayor Barnett presented it to Debbie Wilderman with the Garden Club of Downers Grove.

#### 4. Minutes of Council Meetings

**MIN 2025-10936** A. Minutes: Village Council Meeting Minutes - June 02, 2026

**Motion:** To Adopt **the Village Council Meeting Minutes of June 02, 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, Sarver, Davenport, Gilmartin, and Mayor Barnett.

**Nays:** None

#### 5. Public Comments

Janet Winningham, a resident, thanked the Mayor for the thought he puts into proclamations. She also shared concerns about the lack of parking in the downtown and referenced public comments made on the Next-Door platform.

#### 6. Consent Agenda

**BIL 2026-11090** B. Bills Payable: No. 6946 - June 09, 2026

**MOT 2026-11231** B. Motion: Approving a Contract with Precision Pavement Markings, Inc. for Pavement Marking Striping Maintenance

**RES 2026-11240** C. Resolution: Approving Addendum #2 to the Agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation at IL56 – State Contract Number 60P75

#### **RESOLUTION 2026-46**

**A Resolution Authorizing Execution of Addendum #2 to the Agreement Between the Village of Downers Grove and the Illinois Department of Transportation at IL56 – State Contract Number 60P75**

**RES 2026-11262** D. Resolution: Approving an Agreement with McMahon Law Offices for Prosecution Services

**RESOLUTION 2026-47**

**A Resolution Authorizing Execution of an Agreement for Prosecution Services with McMahon Law Offices**

**RES 2026-11233** E. Resolution: Approving an Agreement with Charles Taylor, TPA for Third Party Claims Administration Services

**RESOLUTION 2026-48**

**A Resolution Authorizing Execution of an Agreement Between the Village of Downers Grove and Charles Taylor, TPA**

**Motion:** To Approve **the Consent Agenda of the June 09, 2026, Village Council Meeting**, 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, Sarver, Davenport, Gilmartin, and Mayor Barnett.

**Nays:** None.

## **7. Active Agenda**

**ORD 2026-11237** A. Ordinance: Authorizing a Special Use to Permit Construction of an Accessory Structure Before the Principal Structure is Established at 417 2nd Street

**Motion:** To Adopt **An Ordinance Authorizing a Special Use to Permit Construction of an Accessory Structure Before the Principal Structure is**

**Established at 417 2nd Street** as presented. **ORDINANCE 6197**

**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, and Mayor Barnett.

**Nays:** Commissioner Gilmartin.

**Council Comments:**

Commissioner Gilmartin provided some follow-up comments to the discussion of the last meeting. He clarified that he supports the petitioner's efforts and acknowledged the site's long-term vacancy and limited redevelopment potential, but ultimately expressed concerns about the proposal. His main issue was potential impacts on the neighboring property, particularly regarding the access easement and maintenance responsibilities. He also questioned the project's consistency with the Comprehensive Plan and Future Land Use Map, noting the Village's ongoing Attainable Housing Study and the property's multifamily zoning. Due to these concerns, he stated he could not support the special use.

Commissioner Tully responded and noted that the property remains privately owned and unchanged in zoning, and future development remains possible. He highlighted that with the easement being a private matter between property owners, it is not something the special use would mandate moving forward.

Commissioner Davenport asked whether there would be a fence between the pool house property and the property containing the pool. Village Manager Fieldman confirmed that there are fencing requirements for pools and that the site plan appeared to show fencing around portions of the lot. He noted that during the Staff review, a condition was included requiring at least a section of the fence being removed to allow for a connection from the pool house to the actual pool.

Mayor Barnett clarified that any pool fencing requirements are separate from the special use request and would not be affected by whether the fence is removed. He also asked Village Attorney Enza Petrarca to confirm whether there is any

connection between the special use approval and the access agreement. Ms. Petrarca confirmed there was no such tie and that the two parties could choose to walk away from the access agreement without affecting the special use. The Mayor also confirmed that since the zoning was not being changed, any future residential use of the property would still require some form of access, which is exactly why the easement exists today.

Commissioner Davenport noted that the footprint of the building probably does not meet the current minimum single-family housing square footage requirement for zoning - meaning that in order for the pool house to be converted into a house, the footprint would need to be enlarged.

**RES 2026-11254** B. Resolution: Accepting the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report of the Village of Downers Grove for the Fiscal Year January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025

**Motion:** To Adopt **A Resolution to Accept the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report of the Village of Downers Grove for the Fiscal Year January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025 as presented. RESOLUTION 2026-49**

**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.

## 8. First Reading

**MOT 2026-11232** A. Motion: Approving a Contract with Copenhaver Construction for the Linda Kunze Plaza / Main Street Train Station (S-013)

Engineering Director Scott Vasko presented using a PowerPoint. He provided the history of the project, the cost, the schedule of construction and the features of the Plaza.

**Public Comments:**

Ms. Winningham returned to the podium and expressed concern that there was 15% contingency on this project total, when the market standard is 5%.

Scott Richards, a resident, also shared his concern with the cost of the project and his dislike of the new design of the fountain, but noted that was happy that the clock was being repaired. He said he thinks the cost of the project is excessive and unnecessary.

Mike Kunze, husband of the late Linda Kunze, said he and his family are appreciative of the Village's efforts on making this plaza so special.

**Council Comments**

Commissioner Davenport addressed the 15% contingency, stating that projects of this nature are harder to predict, and that he was not surprised by a slightly higher contingency, also noting the Village typically looks at 10% contingencies. Village Manager Dave confirmed that staff works very hard not to use any of the contingency, and that it provides flexibility to keep the project moving should an unforeseen condition arise. Commissioner Davenport expressed he was pleased with the design and how it flows with the existing Train Station. He noted that the area of the station, on the north side of the tracks, would mirror this project. He shared that he is proud the plaza holds Linda Kunze's name and thought that she would love the design.

Commissioner Sarver asked if Staff was confident about the July to November timeline for completion. Mr. Vasko said the plan is to start after July 4th. He assured her that there is no doubt it will get done. He also noted that there will be 2 phases, the east half will be done first and then the west after.

Commissioner Tully asked if the dedication plaques, currently in the plaza, would be relocated within the plaza once the renovation is complete. Mr. Vasko said yes. Commissioner Tully said he too thinks Linda Kunze would be proud. He shared his agreement that the portion of the station on the north side of the tracks will tie into this.

Mayor Barnett shared that he fully supports this project. He said there is a lot of public activity in the plaza and it deserves this improvement. He spoke to the Council being frugal and thoughtful with this. He added that communities that do things right will reinvest - just like this. The Mayor shared it is an excellent project that makes sense.

Commissioner Gilmartin said he is in full support of this. He said of all the iterations of the plaza, this capture what the Council was looking for. He said he wants to be sure the clock is repaired.

At the end of the discussion, Mayor Barnett explained that the Council will be moving to the back of the chambers for a dinner style discussion about the Boards and Commissions Project. He asked for a 2-3-minute break at 7:37 pm. The meeting reconvened at 7:40 p.m.

## **9. Manager's Report**

### **REP 2026-11258** A. Report: Discussion of Boards and Commissions Project

Village Manager Dave Fieldman presented and used a whiteboard to assist with the discussion. He noted that anyone wishing to follow along could do so using the PowerPoint slide deck included in the online agenda materials. He shared that this project is a Priority Action Item, further providing a description of the project and explaining this was the fourth discussion over the last four months. The purpose of the evening's discussion was to review each potential action item organized by objective, noting that the original five objectives had been conflated into four, and to identify which actions have majority Council support for inclusion in the final report.

#### **1. Enhanced Recruitment.**

The following bulleted topics and related discussions fall under the concept of **“Increasing public awareness of Board and Commission (B/C) opportunities”**.

- *Identifying and communicating with underrepresented groups and individuals as it relates to serving on boards and commissions.*

Following the discussion below, Commissioners Sadowski-Fugitt, Gilmartin, Tully, Davenport, Sarver, and Roe agreed with this topic.

Commissioner Tully agreed, with the caveat that the predicate of work of identifying which groups are underrepresented must be done first, noting that underrepresentation can be defined by professional backgrounds, experience, age, race, and other factors and some leg work would be required in doing this.

Commissioner Sarver agreed and shared that an effort to reach out to groups in the community, that have not represented themselves, is a good first step.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt suggested starting by engaging nonprofit organizations to help recruit.

Commissioner Gilmartin said he thinks simplifying the underrepresented group is a good way to start - i.e. north side versus south side residents. Commissioner Tully agreed.

Mayor Barnett expressed hesitation regarding the underrepresented-group framing, noting that there are likely more than 200 groups in the Village. He stated that he would rather communicate the opportunity broadly in an attempt to radically broaden the cross-section of residents who participate.

Commissioner Gilmartin clarified and said as a marketer by profession, he was thinking of a way to do this that is most practical. He opined that it is more practical to focus on the underrepresented part of town because residents on opposing ends of town have different concerns and interests.

Commissioner Sarver was looking at this as more of the recruitment of people that are afraid to speak up, like marginalized communities. She said the groups that aren't identified in the public space should be reached out to.

Commissioner Davenport said there is a presumption that the Village is not currently doing this already. He asked if the Village is doing something like this already during the current engagement process. Manager Fieldman said no, right now recruitment efforts are limited to get people to fill out the online application, which is done primarily through social media and the Village website. He provided the example of the superhero video and shared that no deeper analysis or targeted group outreach was currently being conducted. Commissioner Davenport expressed concerns about assigning responsibility for identifying groups within the Village and maintaining awareness of newly formed groups.

Commissioner Tully clarified that it is the Council's responsibility to get residents to apply, as is the selection and appointment process.

Manager Fieldman assured the Council that the Village has an outstanding Staff team that collaborates well together. He shared that Village Social Worker Heather Lippe will play a major role in this because of all of her knowledge and connections within the community.

Commissioner Gilmartin noted that he wanted to make sure his earlier comment didn't take away from Commissioner Sarver's, noting that he agrees with her but wants to start broader.

- *Translate recruiting materials to multiple languages.*

All seven Council members agreed with this topic.

- *Partnering with the Downers Grove Public Library to inform residents.*

Commissioners Sarver, Roe, Sadowski-Fugitt, Gilmartin and Davenport agreed with this topic.

- *Announcing B/C opportunities at Village Council Meetings.*

The following Council members agreed to formalized, regular announcing of b/c opportunities at Village Council Meetings: Commissioners Sadowski-Fugitt, Tully, Roe, Sarver and Gilmartin. Mayor Barnett explained that this is already something that has been done regularly by every Mayor he has known.

- *Create a press-kit for recruiting.*

All seven Council members agreed to this topic, with Commissioner Gilmartin expanding on it. He shared that if there was a pamphlet created, it could easily be handed out at the Coffee with the Councils. He added that he thinks something creative is needed to spur engagement — maybe even a sandwich board saying “ask how you can help the Village”. The Council agreed.

Next, the following topics were discussed under the concept of **“Enhancing b/c members participation”**.

- *Publish b/c member video testimonials.*

Commissioners Tully, Sadowski-Fugitt, Sarver and Gilmartin agreed with this topic. Commissioner Tully suggested having members come in for a brief recorded session with Staff. He also suggested making it a clear expectation in orientation that b/c members should keep an eye out and recommend potential applicants to the Village Council.

- *Engage in informal conversations with residents*

Commissioners Tully, Sadowski-Fugitt, Sarver, Gilmartin and Roe agreed with this topic.

The concept of **“Encourage applicants to submit a resume”** was discussed. The Council agreed with this concept. Commissioner Gilmartin asked what the current applicant retention policy is. Manager Fieldman said that applicants remain active for a 3 year look back period and there is a check-in yearly. This has been a consistent process for the last several years.

The concept of **“Adhere to the appointment schedule of August”** was discussed. All of the Council members agreed with this concept.

The concept of **“Rosters to reflect a cross section”** was discussed and included the following topic:

- *Include one or two members with KSA’s (knowledge skilled abilities).*

Commissioners Gilmartin, Tully, Sadowski-Fugitt, Roe and Davenport agreed. Mayor Barnett noted that recruitment currently involves the consideration of KSA, geography, age and tenure in the Village. Commissioner Tully added that background experience is also already considered. Commissioner Gilmartin said that all that is currently being considered is not in the policy. The Mayor agreed.

Commissioner Gilmartin then asked about the number (21) of new applicants’ year to date in 2026. Mayor Barnett said that typically there is a push for members in July. Commissioner Gilmartin noted there was a decline in the last couple of years. He asked why the number was higher in 2022. Manager Fieldman replied sharing that was the year the Superhero recruitment video was created. Commissioner Gilmartin was asked for the total number of candidates there have been in the last 3 years. Manager Fieldman said that Staff would provide that information.

Pertinent to the “enhanced recruitment” subject matter, Manager Fieldman asked which of the Council members would be interested in a b/c job fair at Coffee with the Council (CwC). Commissioners Gilmartin, Sarver, Sadowski-Fugitt, and Davenport were interested.

Commissioner Tully explained in a perfect world it would be a fair with different tables for each b/c, but that is tough to organize and takes a lot of planning and work. Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt said it should be attempted at least once, and if it doesn’t work, then at least they tried. Commissioner Davenport shared he likes having topic focused CwC. Manager Fieldman noted that the upcoming CWC, on June 13, would be focused on the Attainable Housing Study.

Commissioner Tully said he wants Staff to write up what processes they think would give the best bang for the buck. Commissioner Gilmartin stated that, for him, the discussion boils down to the cost per applicant who applies through these recruitment methods.

## **2. STRENGTHEN RELATIONSHIP**

The concept of "**Establish expectations about roles and responsibilities**" was discussed. All of the Council members agreed with this concept.

The concept of "**Expectations about schedules**" was discussed. All of the Council members agreed with this concept.

The concept of "**Establish Village Council liaisons to select boards and commissions**" was discussed and included these topics:

- Attend 1 meeting per year.
- Explain how b/c's are contributing.

The Council agreed to both bullet points, but on an informal basis and included the conversation below.

Commissioner Gilmartin stated that he reviews content available from meetings on the Village website. He also noted that the accessibility of the content places the Council in a better position to avoid the need to attend contentious meetings.

Commissioner Tully said the concept of Council liaisons had been tried in the past on a formal basis but didn't last due to limited bandwidth. He suggested a more organized approach, where a Council member - not a formal liaison- would visit a b/c at the beginning of a new appointment term to welcome new members, even if before the meeting. The Council member could thank them for their service and make clear that the Council's door is open.

Commissioner Davenport said he could support a process based on the idea that it would get each b/c off to a good start. The members could also put a face to a name and they would know the option to reach out was available, if needed.

Commissioner Gilmartin said he could get behind this, but asked what the end goal is. Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt responded and said to give members someone to go to if they have questions or to run ideas past. Commissioner Gilmartin said he could get on board if it meant to meet with the b/c members in September to thank them for serving and open the lines of communication.

- *Participate in "after action" discussions.*

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt agreed to this topic.

The concept of **"VC members meet with boards and commissions at a prescribed time for introductions, thank yous and connections"** was discussed.

The following Council members agreed that this would be something that would be done when Council members have availability, but there would not be formal liaisons: Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt, Sarver, Gilmartin, Davenport and Roe.

Commissioner Davenport expressed concerns about a potential shift in the political environment in the future and the possibility of Council members attending certain board and commission meetings to advance specific viewpoints. Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt stated that it would be important for the Council to hold one another accountable. Commissioner Tully stated that this would be part of Village governance and noted that it has occurred in the past.

The concept of **"Updates to the B/C's (eNews or a targeted Newsletter or communication)"** - one newsletter to all the boards and commissions was discussed. Commissioners Gilmartin, Davenport, Tully and Mayor Barnett were in agreement with this following the discussion below.

Commissioner Gilmartin showed support for this, noting that providing context about Council actions could be helpful to each b/c. Mayor Barnett said this could strengthen the Council's relationship with the boards and commissions because it would signal to b/c members that they are considered important participants in the Council's work. Commissioner Gilmartin said that on a monthly basis, he looks at all the things the Council discussed and provides summaries to people that subscribe to his report, noting that he has received positive feedback. He said he thinks this would make the b/c members feel more connected. Commissioner Tully shared that he was in agreement if it was on a trial basis to determine the level of b/c member participation.

The concept of **"B/c's to provide an annual report to the VC"** was discussed. The following Council members were in agreement: Commissioners Gilmartin, Roe, Sadowski-Fugitt, Sarver, Tully and Davenport following the discussion below.

Commissioner Gilmartin said his thought was not just a summary of what they did, but more about the trends and issues that are hitting their domain.

Mayor Barnett said to keep in mind there is a back side to this and it has to be reflective of the whole commission.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt suggested it be the b/c chair that provides it.

Mayor Barnett said for this to happen there would be work for the board, in addition to the Staff liaison.

Commissioner Tully said this should be done verbally at a Council meeting, not in writing. It should happen when the term begins and the member, preferably the Chair, should only be at the podium for five minutes. Commissioner Davenport agreed.

The concept of **"Review and updating the b/c orientation book — handbook"** was discussed. Manager Fieldman noted that it is updated regularly by the Legal Department and that Staff liaisons perform a page-turn orientation with each new

member. Commissioners Gilmartin and Sadowski-Fugitt agreed with this concept following the discussion below.

Commissioner Gilmartin suggested the format be revisited.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt noted that a re-look would be necessary after the priorities from this process are decided.

Commissioner Davenport spoke of the large binder he received when coming to the Council.

The concept of **“Hosting a retreat for all the b/c”** was discussed. Commissioners Gilmartin and Tully agreed with this concept following the discussion below.

Commissioner Davenport said this feels like this should be part of a Phase 2 approach.

Commissioners Sarver and Roe thought it would be too difficult to make happen. Mayor Barnett concurred and noted that there are a lot of people that would need to be included. Commissioner Tully spoke of it happening once before, sharing it was a great experience, but it was very difficult to pull off - which is why it was only done once.

The concept of **“Inviting b/c members to CwC”** was discussed and the Council agreed to connect this to the “Job Fair at the CwC” concept.

### **3. INCREASE USE AND REFER MORE ITEMS**

The concept of **“Continue with current work”** was discussed and agreed upon by the Council and included the following topics:

- *Petitions*
- *VC Referrals*

Manager Fieldman explained that the Council already has a practice of referring items to boards and commissions and this practice will continue.

- *“Formal review of duties”*

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt thought that a formal review had been completed before. Manager Fieldman said it had only been done when reinvigorating and reinstating the Human Service Commission. Village Attorney Enza Petrarca noted that almost all b/c duties are codified and that any changes would require ordinance amendments. Manager Fieldman said it would be a review of the Village Municipal Code. Commissioner Gilmartin asked if the ordinances would preclude the Council from adding duties. Ms. Petrarca said there is already a catch all in the ordinance that calls for that. The Council agreed with this topic.

- *VC to refer additional items*

The following Council members agreed to this topic: Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt, Davenport, Sarver, Tully, Roe, and Gilmartin.

#### **4. FORMAL ROLE IN LRP**

The concept of **“Village Council to continue to refer action items to boards and commissions”** was discussed. The Council agreed with this concept.

The concept of **“Formal input on Trends and Issues”** was discussed, including the following topics:

- *Report to the Village Council*
- *Produced Prior to the Start of LRP Meetings*

Commissioners Gilmartin, Tully, Sadowski-Fugitt, Roe, Sarver and Davenport were in agreement with all of them following the discussion below.

Manager Feldman pointed out that boards and commissions are tasked with providing formal input on trends and issues (Long Range Planning). Commissioners

Sadowski-Fugitt and Sarver thought this should be focused on the trends they have been seeing and not on the issues. Commissioner Tully gave the example of the TAP Committee receiving many requests for traffic calming devices.

Commissioner Davenport noted that Staff liaisons to boards and commissions do a good job of sharing trends at their Staff LRP meetings - so this is already happening.

The Mayor explained that there is a lot of Staff work that goes into the trends and issues list that comes before the Council during Long Range Planning. Manager Fieldman concurred and explained that the Staff Directors have an LRP meeting, and those that are b/c liaisons provide input on the trends and issues they are seeing on their b/c, so this is already happening, it just is not formalized.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt noted that she wants to make sure that the b/c members are aware that Staff liaisons are doing this and that their feedback is reaching the Village Council.

Manager Fieldman noted that the concept of ***“Serve as an Antenna”***, under the **Increase Use and Refer More Items** objective, connects the b/c and the Village Council by providing “formal Input on trends” as discussed, and includes the formal role that the boards and commissions have in the LRP.

Lastly, the concept of **“Meeting Schedule”** was discussed by the Council including the following topics:

- *Minimum of 2 meetings per year*
- *1 meeting for Long Range Planning (Trends and Issues Report)*
- *1 meeting for Annual Report*
- *Likely Quarterly for most b/c’s.*

The Council was in agreement with the meeting schedule to include at least the 2 meetings per year. They requested that the expectations be reflected in the handbook, with distinctions made for statutory boards that may not meet regularly.

## 10. Council Member Reports

Commissioner Tully shared as liaison to Downtown Management Corporation, that parking was mentioned many times during their board meeting, as were requests for a traffic study.

## 11. Mayor's Report

Mayor Barnett did not have a Mayor's Report.

## 12. Adjournment

Mayor Barnett asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**MOTION:** To **Adjourn the June 9, 2026 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, Roe, Sarver, Davenport, Gilmartin and Mayor Barnett.

**NAYES:** None.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosa Berardi

Village Clerk