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	October 20, 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 (remote), Commissioner Gilmartin, Commissioner Tully (remote), 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.

A. Motion: Allowing for Electronic Participation for the October 20, 2026 Village Council Meeting

Motion: To **Allow for Commissioners Sadowski-Fugitt and Tully to Participate Electronically for the October 20, 2026 Village Council Meeting.**

Result: Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Gilmartin

Seconded By: Commissioner Davenport

Ayes: Commissioners Gilmartin, Davenport, Roe, Sarver and Mayor Barnett

Nays: None

3. Proclamations

A. American Pharmacists Month

Mayor Barnett read the proclamation and presented it to students from the Midwestern University College of Pharmacy in Downers Grove. Student President Shin, of the local chapter of the American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists, thanked Mayor Barnett and the Council for the recognition.

4. Minutes of Council Meetings

MIN 2025-10949 A. Minutes: Village Council Meeting Minutes - October 13, 2026

Motion: To **Adopt the Village Council Meeting Minutes of October 13, 2026, as presented.**
Result: Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote
Motion to Approve: Commissioner Gilmartin
Seconded By: Commissioner Davenport
Ayes: Commissioners Gilmartin, Davenport, Roe, Sarver, Tully, Sadowski-Fugitt and Mayor Barnett
Nays: None

5. Public Comments

Tim, a resident, commended the services provided by the Village, including those offered by the police department. He notified the Council of a recent magazine article regarding a Downers Grove police officer that was reportedly a part of a task force that assisted Homeland Security Investigations during an anti-ICE demonstration.

6. Consent Agenda

COR 2026-11132 A. Claims Ordinance: No. 6677, Payroll October 02, 2026

BIL 2026-11103 B. Bills Payable: No. 6972 - October 20, 2026

RES 2026-11425 C. Resolution: Approving Employee Benefits Renewal Contracts and Plan Amendments for Fiscal Year 2027

RESOLUTION 2026-68

A Resolution Approving Employee Benefits Renewal Contracts and Plan Amendments for Fiscal Year 2027

RES 2026-11424 D. Resolution: Approving a Claims Administration Agreement with Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Illinois

RESOLUTION 2026-69

A Resolution Approving a Claims Administration Agreement with Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Illinois

RES 2026-11431 E. Resolution: Approving an Employee Benefits Renewal Contract and Plan Amendments with Delta Dental for Fiscal Year 2027

RESOLUTION 2026-70

A Resolution Approving an Employee Benefits Renewal Contract and Plan Amendments with Delta Dental for Fiscal Year 2027

RES 2026-11427 F. Resolution: Approving Employee Benefits Renewal Contracts and Plan Amendments with HealthJoy for Fiscal Year 2027

RESOLUTION 2026-71

A Resolution Approving Employee Benefits Renewal Contracts and Plan Amendments with HealthJoy for Fiscal Year 2027

RES 2026-11426 G. Resolution: Approving a Renewal Agreement with Humana for Medicare Advantage Insurance for Retirees over 65

RESOLUTION 2026-72

A Resolution Approving a Renewal Agreement with Humana for Medicare Advantage Insurance for Retirees over 65

RES 2026-11432 H. Resolution: Approving a Renewal Agreement with Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Illinois for Stop Loss Insurance Coverage

RESOLUTION 2026-73

A Resolution Approving a Renewal Agreement with Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Illinois for Stop Loss Insurance Coverage

RES 2026-11428 I. Resolution: Approving a Contract with Engineering Enterprises, Inc. (EEI) for Consulting Services

RESOLUTION 2026-74

A Resolution Approving a Contract with Engineering Enterprises, Inc. (EEI) for Consulting Services

Motion: To **Adopt the Consent Agenda of the October 20, 2026 Village Council Meeting, as presented.**
Result: Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote
Motion to Approve: Commissioner Gilmartin
Seconded By: Commissioner Davenport
Ayes: Commissioners Gilmartin, Davenport, Roe, Sarver, Tully, Sadowski-Fugitt and Mayor Barnett
Nays: None

7. First Reading

ORD 2026-11423 A. Ordinance: Amending Chapter 14 Making Certain Traffic Control, Parking and Speed Provisions and Pedestrian/Bike Safety Improvements

Village Manager Dave Fieldman introduced Acting Director of Engineering Stephanie Graves to present Neighborhood Traffic Study No. 12. Ms. Graves stated that the purpose of the study was to analyze existing transportation operations regarding roadway traffic volume and speeds, intersection traffic control, and pedestrian and bike safety.

Ms. Graves provided the boundaries of the study area and the discussed key recommendations that included, but were not limited to: the addition of stop sign controls at 69 intersections currently under yield sign control or no intersection control, high-visibility piano-key style crosswalks recommended at 13 intersections, curb extensions proposed at Fairmount Avenue/Oxford Street and Fairmount Avenue/72nd Street, new speed limit signs and yellow borders added to existing speed limit signs, designating certain streets as bike routes, and adding traffic calming measures. Ms. Graves reported that the Transportation and Parking Commission recently recommended approval for these improvements.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt expressed appreciation for the proposed addition of stop signs.

Commissioner Gilmartin asked for clarification on the standards for the placement of "piano-key" crosswalks. Manager Fieldman explained that there were no specific guidelines, and the Village uses the recommendations in the Village's Active Transportation Plan and the judgement of the Village's traffic engineers and its consultant. Ms. Graves later added that bike route designations would happen with future road stripping. She noted that there were no physical changes proposed at this time.

Commissioner Davenport shared that he appreciated staff's work and highlighted that the traffic report reflected a downward trend in crash data. He opined that the addition of stop signs may have helped reduce crashes. He noted his appreciation for the incremental approach, especially for the roadway known as "Old Main Street". He reminded the public that Main Street is a county road and any proposed changes for that roadway should be directed to DuPage County.

Mayor Barnett asked if there were any other neighborhoods that still needed to be studied. Manager Fieldman advised that almost all of the Village had been studied. Mayor Barnett suggested that a recap of previous studies might be beneficial for newer council members. He also suggested that if a considerable amount of time had passed since the last study had been performed around schools, a new study should be considered.

ORD 2026-11430 B. Ordinance: Approving the Execution of a First Amendment to the Redevelopment Agreement with 1250 Ogden, LLC

Manager Fieldman presented a request for a one-year extension to the redevelopment agreement for the property at 1250 Ogden Avenue. He noted the Council previously approved the original redevelopment agreement, with a completion deadline of the end of 2026. He reported that the petitioner was currently constructing the project but was experiencing delays in obtaining IDOT permits. The requested extension would reset the completion deadline to the end of 2027, with the project expected to be completed well in advance of that date.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt expressed her continued support.

Commissioner Gilmartin also expressed his continued support and noted that this type of delay was fairly routine.

Mayor Barnett concurred that such delays can be expected.

8. 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 amending Chapter 14 making certain traffic control, parking and speed provisions and pedestrian/bike safety improvements.

2. An ordinance approving the execution of a first amendment to the redevelopment agreement with 1250 Ogden, LLC.

9. Manager's Report

REP 2026-11437 A. Report: Private Tree Ordinance Discussion

Manager Fieldman introduced Environmental Sustainability Coordinator Jason Michnick, who presented a PowerPoint for the proposed framework of private tree regulations.

Based on previous Council feedback, Mr. Michnick advised that the proposed private tree regulations would only apply to new detached and attached single-family developments, through the implementation of a new landscaping standard. He discussed key requirements, such as the need for a certified arborist to submit a tree survey and preservation plan to the Village during the permitting process. The development's landscaping plan would require 5 shade trees on the site at the completion of construction. He cited several tree count examples, such as the preservation of an existing tree on the property counting towards 2 of the 5 required, and the preservation of a to-be-defined "Heritage Tree" would count for

all 5 trees. A "Fee-in-Lieu of" proposal would allow for required trees to be planted off-site. He also discussed a construction mitigation component, in which trees remaining on the property, and trees shared by neighboring properties, would need to be identified and addressed in the submitted preservation plan.

VILLAGE COUNCIL COMMENTS

Commissioner Sarver advised that this was a great effort by Village staff, and noted that she has been supportive of the ideas proposed for a long time. However, she expressed concern over whether this could be reasonably implemented. She pointed out that larger developments are not held to any tree standards, and she looked forward to seeing the outcome of this important conversation.

Commissioner Davenport advised he remained supportive of this idea. He suggested that these recommendations also be applied to multi-family developments, but he did not support an overly burdensome approach. He suggested that civil engineers or the Village Forester could take on the work of the proposed certified arborist. He noted that defining "heritage trees" would be an integral part of the discussion, along with determining the number of trees needed to meaningfully expand the Village's tree canopy. He supported the "Fee-in-Lieu-of" provision, and explained that it was important to recognize justifiable reasons to remove a tree. He felt that homeowners should have the choice to remove a tree. He expressed concern that these regulations may be difficult to enforce from a practical perspective.

Commissioner Roe commented that he loved the concept of the staff's plan and felt that most of what was presented would be easy to administer. He felt that it aligned with the goal of increasing the shade canopy without negatively affecting development. He supported the cost shifting idea, as it could have a positive impact on the Village's tree canopy. He looked forward to the next steps.

Commissioner Gilmartin asked for clarification on what defined a "shade tree" and requested more information on the plan review fee. Mr. Michnick provided examples of tree species and Manager Fieldman replied that the plan review fee would be consistent with the Village's approach to building permit fees. Manager

Fieldman did not believe this would change the current fees by much. However, he noted that fees would be increased if Village Staff needed to be involved in the tree preservation plan rather than a certified arborist.

Commissioner Gilmartin asked for clarification about the spread of a root system for neighboring trees with a diameter breast height (DBH) greater than 6 inches. Mr. Michnick explained that those recommendations were pulled from the Village of Glen Ellyn model. He also advised that in general, there is about one foot of roots for each inch of trunk DBH. Commissioner Gilmartin advised that addressing how to approach the neighboring tree issue requires a great deal of attention. He also supported the idea of the "Fee-in-Lieu of" provision, but asserted that the fee should be directed toward a dedicated fund to improve the canopy in the areas of the Village with a thinner canopy. He was hesitant to support the idea to utilize a civil engineer in place of a certified arborist for this assignment. He expressed concern that this would be difficult to manage and enforce with so many moving parts. He said this process does not seem as simple as he had hoped, and shared that he knew of many neighboring communities that have had trouble managing their ordinances as well.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt felt that this was a straightforward start, and she appreciated Commissioner Gilmartin's thoughts on property line trees. She also felt that civil engineers would likely not be the best fit for this project. She appreciated the staff's rationale for the 5-tree requirement on the landscaping plan, and she supported the "Fee-in-Lieu of" proposal. She was looking forward to future adaptations to the plan.

Commissioner Tully commended staff for their work on this discussion. He noted that this was not an ordinance but a framework that required some adjustments. He supported the involvement of an arborist. He said the framework was practical, even if there were many moving parts. He expressed confidence that Village staff could work out the final details. He asserted that it was a balanced approach with measurable results.

Mayor Barnett stated that he was not convinced there was a major tree canopy problem that needed to be solved by the Village. He stated that any review of the Village shows nothing but a steady increase in trees. Mayor Barnett felt that if this were to proceed, with regard to the landscaping plan, the burden to retain an arborist should remain on the applicant and not on Village staff. The Mayor felt that this plan could possibly result in some tree preservation, but he felt there were likely better ways to get more trees planted than this approach. He advised that with the roughly 40 new home permits that are issued each year, with a few exceptions, most property owners see the value in preserving trees. Mayor Barnett recognized staff's work on this topic, but shared that he is unsure this is a good idea for the Village.

Commissioner Davenport said there was an excellent tree canopy already established in the Village. He understood the desire to implement tree protections, but opined that it would not be realistic to expect that those protections would prevent all tree removals. He stressed the importance of protecting mature trees during the construction process. He spoke to preventing negative outcomes and asked about other municipalities having unintended consequences. Manager Fieldman advised that every municipality faces challenges balancing incentives and regulations.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ken Lerner, a resident, shared his appreciation for this discussion. He supported the overall goal of increasing the tree canopy, and he felt that clear-cutting was a concern for new home developments.

Tim Colston, a resident, asked the Council about potential exemptions for residents that remove trees for the installation of solar panels on their property.

Manager Fieldman summarized that there appeared to be enough Council support for additional work on the framework of the private tree regulations. He advised that staff would draft an ordinance and it would be presented as a part of the zoning ordinance update to the Planning and Zoning Commission. After the Planning and Zoning Commission review, it will be returned to the Council at a later

date for further review. Manager Fieldman thanked the following Village staff members for their involvement in researching private tree regulations: Environmental Sustainability Coordinator Jason Michnick, Village Forester Greg Soltwisch, and Assistant Village Attorney Brandan Rissman.

REP 2026-11435 B. Report: Priority Action Item Update

Manager Fieldman reported on the status of the 18 Priority Action Items. He advised that 6 were complete, 11 were underway, and 1 will commence in the first quarter of 2027. He reported progress on private tree regulations, the zoning ordinance update, the Linda Kunze Plaza construction, and the Public Art Program. He reported that the installation of the above-ground shade structures for the flexible amenity areas may not be fully completed by the end of the year.

VILLAGE COUNCIL COMMENTS

Commissioner Davenport spoke of the Village's efforts to validate the current inventory of Lead Service Water Lines. He asked residents who were previously asked to check their service lines to report back to the Village. Staff confirmed that the survey instructions were still available on the Village's website.

10. Council Member Reports

Commissioner Davenport reminded the public about the Grove Express 5K on Thanksgiving Day.

Commissioner Roe reminded the public about the annual Halloween Window Painting, held in partnership with the Downers Grove Rotary Club, that was scheduled for Saturday, October 24th at 9:00 am. He also mentioned the annual Living Cemetery, presented by the Downers Grove Historical Society, on Saturday, October 24th at 10 am. He also announced the annual Kids' Halloween Costume Contest and Parade at Fishel Park on Sunday, October 25th at 12 pm.

11. Mayor's Report

There was no Mayor's report.

12. Adjournment

Mayor Barnett asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: To **Adjourn the October 20, 2026, Village Council Meeting**
Result: Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote
Motion to Approve: Commissioner Gilmartin
Seconded By: Commissioner Davenport
Ayes: Commissioners Gilmartin, Davenport, Roe, Sarver, Tully, Sadowski-Fugitt and Mayor Barnett
Nays: None

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosa Berardi
Village Clerk