

Village of Homer Glen

**14240 W. 151st Street
Homer Glen, Illinois 60491**

March 8, 2023

**Board of Trustees
Board Meeting**

**Village Board Room
14240 W. 151st Street
Homer Glen, IL 60491**

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on March 8, 2023 by Mayor Yukich at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Board Room, 14240 W. 151st Street, Homer Glen.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**C. INVOCATION** – Invocation was given by Trustee Rose Reynders**D. ROLL CALL**

Present were Mayor Yukich, Trustees Ruben Pazmino, Dan Fialko, Beth Rodgers, Rose Reynders, and Jennifer Consolino. Also present on behalf of the Village were, Village Attorney Eric Hanson, Legislative Counsel Cary Horvath, Chief Building Official Joe Baber, Director of Public Works Brent Woods, Director of Planning & Zoning Melissa King, Finance Director & Treasurer John Sawyers, Economic Development Director Janie Patch, Village Engineer Brett Westcott, Assistant to the Village Manager Gia Cassin, Village Manager Carmen Maurella, and Village Clerk Christina Neitzke-Troike. *A quorum was established.*

Trustee La Ha absent.

E. APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

1. Trustee Fialko motioned to Table I.3, change Item F to Public Comment pertaining to action items only, create item I.14 to all other Public Comments, and move Item J.1 to G.7, second by Trustee Pazmino.

The Mayor asked the Clerk to call the Roll:

Ayes: (5) Trustees Pazmino, Reynders, Rodgers, Fialko, and Consolino

Nays: (0)

Abstained: (0)

Absent: (1) Trustee La Ha

Present: (0)

The motion carried

F. PUBLIC COMMENT – Agenda Items Only

Sharon Sweas – Ms. Sweas stated she did not see any other bids for the purposed Veterans Memorial. Ms. Sweas stated if this was the only bid received, it should go out to rebid as this project is not so urgent to the point the Board would not do its due diligence. Ms. Sweas also stated moving Public Comment to the end of the meeting forces residents to stay to the end of the meeting and seems deviant.

J. WORKSHOP**1. NPDES Presentation – HR Green**

See Power Point attached.

G. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR AND OTHER OFFICERS

- 1) Mayor's Report – No Report
- 2) Trustees

Trustee Pazmino – Trustee Pazmino reported for the Behavioral Health Committee. Trustee Pazmino stated they had two new collaborators to the Committee. The Committee discussed awareness of the new committee and talked about ways to get the message out and involving family. Trustee Pazmino stated insurance covers counseling for addiction and would like to help families be aware of this. Trustee Pazmino stated he is very proud of this committee.

Trustee Reynders- Trustee Reynders gave an update on Stonebridge Park. Jennifer Vittori has been working hard on trying to get responses on the pickle ball and Tennis courts. The existing tennis court will be resurfaced and restriped for pickleball. They did receive a price for more tennis courts for the grass area and Rose will be bringing it to the Parks Committee for approval. Trustee Reynders also stated there was a \$40,000 grant awarded by the Homer Glen Foundation. Trustee Reynders stated someone dropped the ball on the Grant and we lost the grant money. From that point, Trustee Reynders started to work on this and wanted to award someone local. Trustee Reynders stated Brett Westcott sent the memorial to every single landscaper in Homer Glen and it is not the Villages fault that the Village only received one bid back.

Trustee Fialko – Trustee Fialko gave an update on Homer Fest. Residents can see updates on Homerfest.com. Senior time and Veteran acknowledgment day will be Sunday, 1:00pm-5:30pm. Pet Fest will also be June 17, 2023.

Trustee Rodgers- The Ability Awareness Committee had met and wanted to remind the residents the committee is having an Ice Cream Social and still has spots available. The Veterans from the American Legion Post are hosting a Corn Beef and Cabbage event at Marion Village and they also have tickets still available.

Trustee Consolino – Reporting for the Public Services and Safety Committee, we met last Wednesday and discussed passed the billing for the Opticom Emergency Safety Traffic Preemption installation - which is coming before the board for action tonight. Our twelve-month review from the Will County Sheriff's Office documented that crime has increased over the past year, especially with burglaries. This information will be given to the new Community Safeguard Committee to evaluate.

There was discussion on the status of Long Run Creek with outside governmental agencies and concern about a repeat of the fire that occurred in April of 2021. All of our emergency response staff are on alert.

Mr. Woods suggested doing a contest with our school children and the Public Works Department to let the kids pick a name for the new snowplow, which everyone felt was a great idea. The committee is also in agreement to have another safety/touch a truck vehicle event in the fall which we will coordinate with our Village event staff.

Reporting for the Community Safeguard committee, we finally had our first meeting where we were able to have a quorum! We weren't so lucky the first time. We compiled a list of tasks and are in consensus over our purpose and our mission statement:

Community Safeguard is a concept that seeks to operationalize human security, human development and state-building paradigms at the local level. The contemporary concept of community security includes both group and personal security.

Our mission statement for the Community Safeguard subcommittee is to pursue measures within the jurisdiction of the Village of Homer Glen to provide the most safe and secure environment for the residents and the businesses within our community.

- Provide essential information and resources on public safety, crime, and general risks/hazards within and surrounding the Village of Homer Glen in order to enhance community preparedness, response, and resilience to these hazards.
- Explore avenues to incorporate community participation in public safety.
- Research and implement tools to secure public safety in our community.
- Create and implement Safeguard policies. Safeguards policies are essential tools to prevent and mitigate undue harm to people and their environment in the development process.

With the amped up crime and violent crime occurring around our Village, I compiled a checklist of safety precautions that each of our residents can use to be more proactive with their personal security. If this checklist passes through the Community Safeguard committee next week, the Village will be posting this online via our website and through our social media.

We have two referendums on the April 4th, 2023 election ballot. Both public questions are advisory and non-binding.

One question is regarding the installation of License Plate Reader Cameras at the access points to our Village. The other is a question regarding the pursuit of a Feasibility Study regarding the costs of a part time police department in conjunction with our contract with the Will County Sheriff's Department. Unfortunately, there is a lot of politicking and misinformation regarding the feasibility study question. Due to this false information campaign by board members, facts regarding both public questions are available online with the Village of Homer Glen website, as well as via the Village's social media page. The same information will also be available in the upcoming Spring/Summer Village newsletter that will be mailed to all Homer Glen residents. I would like to thank someone who goes by "Sher Bear" on Facebook for asking a very simple question. She asked if the referendum for the feasibility study passes – will this result in board creating a part-time police department. The answer is NO. If the costs associated with a part time police department are found to be FEASIBLE, another referendum would go out with the associated costs. I endorse giving all information and power to our residents with this subject, as I'm certain at least a few of my board members are as well. If the costs and the feasibility associated with this are too burdensome for our community – the Board will not pursue this issue any further. Why would we???

Sadly, I'd like to point out that just a week ago, there was an armed robbery at 143rd & La Grange. Video is available online and the story is being circulated on the Patch and with local media.

After working as a civilian in local law enforcement, and with paying attention to the local crime stats in our area and within the state of Illinois, along with the lax and permissive changes that keep occurring with our criminal state statutes, I cannot occur our residents enough to be more vigilant and proactive. I and other Trustees are working to provide the tools and the means necessary to do this. I've said this numerous times. We live just over 30 miles from Chicago. Chicago's crime crisis reflects over a four-year period a 59% increase in murders, a 43% increase in shootings, 27% increase in robberies and a 270% increase in motor vehicle theft. 11 miles of Homer Glen borders Cook County. We are the ONLY village/city inside Will County that does not have its own police department. I'd like to stress how important it is for all of our residents to look at these public policy questions on the ballot, research them and use your voice to vote for how you feel about them.

Trustee La Ha - Absent

3) Village Clerk – Clerk Neitzke-Troiike gave an update on the software program. The Software is close to being ready for online use. The Village had some kinks to work out, but we are now just a few days away. Clerk Neitzke-Troiike also gave a business license update. As of March 1, 2023, the late fee will be added to the business licenses and there are 15 home businesses that have not been paid and 40 brick and mortar businesses that have not been paid. Clerk Neitzke-Troiike stated the January minutes were not approved and is not aware of why. If there are any issues regarding the minutes, Clerk Neitzke-Troiike asked for the Trustees to reach out and let her know.

4) Village Attorneys

Village Attorney Eric Hanson – No Report

Legislative Attorney Cary Horvath – No Report

5) Public Safety Officials – Lt. Taylor rebutted Trustee Consolino’s report by stating violent crime has not gone up in Homer Glen. The only crime that has increased were burglaries for businesses after hours of operation.

6) Village Manager – Manager Maurella stated Spring is in full force and there are a lot of solicitors. Manager Maurella reminded residents that the Village has no soliciting stickers and if anyone needs one, they are available. Spring Cleaning is on its way and Will County and the Village of Homer Glen would like to stress the recycling guide.

H. CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Consider for Approval the Accounts Payable for the Period of February 24, 2023 through March 9, 2023 in the Amount of \$538,478.90.**
- 2. Consider for Approval Payment of the Village of Homer Glen’s January Legal Bills from Mahoney, Silverman & Cross, LLC in the Amount of \$6,197.50.**
- 3. Consider for Approval Payment of the Village of Homer Glen’s January Legal Bills from Legislative Attorney Odelson, Sterk, Murphey, Frazier & McGrath, LTD. in the Amount of \$6,336.25.**

Trustee Fialko motioned to approve the consent agenda, Trustee Reynders second.

The Mayor asked the Clerk to call the Roll:

Ayes: (5) Trustees Pazmino, Reynders, Fialko, and Consolino

Nays: (1) Trustee Rodgers

Abstained: (0)

Absent: (1) Trustee La Ha

Present: (0)

The motion carried

I. LEGISLATION AND ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Motion to Approve the Appointment of Fran Perveiler to the Environment Committee.**

Trustee Reynders motioned to approve, Trustee Pazmino second.

Trustee Pazmino stated it was a pleasure to have Ms. Perweiler at the Environment meetings and Trustee Consolino stated Ms. Perweiler is an amazing volunteer for the committee.

The Mayor asked the Clerk to call the Roll:

Ayes: (5) Trustees Pazmino, Reynders, Rodgers, Fialko, and Consolino

Nays: (0)

Abstained: (0)

Absent: (1) Trustee La Ha

Present: (0)

The motion carried

- 2. Motion to Approve the signing of an approved agreement between the Village of Homer Glen and the Lakota Group for Professional Land Planner Services to undertake a Visioning Process and Concept Development of a new Town Center not to exceed the amount of \$135,786.00, by the Village Manager, in lieu of the Village President.**

Trustee Consolino motioned to approve, Trustee Reynders second.

The Mayor asked the Clerk to call the Roll:

Ayes: (4) Trustees Pazmino, Reynders, Fialko, and Consolino

Nays: (1) Trustee Rodgers

Abstained: (0)

Absent: (1) Trustee La Ha

Present: (0)

The motion carried

- 3. Motion to Approve Ordinance No. 23-015, an Ordinance amending the Village of Homer Glen Zoning Code Section 220-1002, allowing parking for restaurants to be calculated based on square footage. [Case No. HG-2214-A].**

Tabled

- 4. Motion to Approve Ordinance No. 23-016 a request for: [1] a Special Use Permit for a Major Amendment to the Homer Glen Bell Plaza Planned Unit Development (PUD) with certain exceptions; [2] a Special Use Permit for a drive-through establishment; and [3] a Site Plan, for certain real property generally located in the C-2 Local Business District at 14402 S Bell Road, Lot 1 of the Squisito Place Subdivision and also Lot 8 of the Homer Glen Bell Plaza PUD, Homer Glen, Illinois. [HG-2226-PUD, Lot 8 of Homer Glen Bell Plaza].**

Trustee Pazmino motioned to approve Ordinance No. 23-016, Trustee Reynders second.

The Mayor asked the Clerk to call the Roll:

Ayes: (5) Trustees Pazmino, Reynders, Rodgers, Fialko, and Consolino

Nays: (0)

Abstained: (0)

Absent: (1) Trustee La Ha

Present: (0)

The motion carried

- 5. Motion to Approve Bengtson's for the 2023 Spring Parkway Tree installation program and authorize the Village Manager to execute the agreement and carry out the terms of the contract.**

Trustee Pazmino motioned to approve, Trustee Consolino second.

The Mayor asked the Clerk to call the Roll:

Ayes: (5) Trustees Pazmino, Reynders, Rodgers, Fialko, and Consolino

Nays: (0)

Abstained: (0)

Absent: (1) Trustee La Ha

Present: (0)

The motion carried

- 6. Motion to Approve a Contract with A Touch of Green for Design Build Services to Develop and Construct the Veterans Memorial in Heritage Park in the amount of \$345,798.00 and authorize the Village Manager to execute the agreement and carry out the terms of the contract.**

Trustee Reynders motioned to approve, Trustee Consolino second.

The Mayor asked the Clerk to call the Roll:

Ayes: (4) Trustees Pazmino, Reynders, Fialko, and Consolino

Nays: (1) Trustee Rodgers

Abstained: (0)

Absent: (1) Trustee La Ha

Present: (0)

The motion carried

- 7. Motion to Approve a Quote from RIEKE Interiors, for the Events and Recreation Department office improvement, to install their own ADA compliant public counter and work station for the amount of \$7,645.00 and authorize the Village Manager to execute the contract and carry out the terms.**

Trustee Fialko motioned to approve, Trustee Reynders second.

The Mayor asked the Clerk to call the Roll:

Ayes: (5) Trustees Pazmino, Reynders, Rodgers, Fialko, and Consolino

Nays: (0)

Abstained: (0)

Absent: (1) Trustee La Ha

Present: (0)

The motion carried

- 8. Motion to Approve a Contract with HR Green to Provide Engineering Services for the Design of Parking Lot Expansions within Heritage Park in the amount of \$128,395.00 and authorize the Village Manager to execute the contract and implement the agreement.**

Trustee Pazmino motioned to approve, Trustee Reynders second.

The Mayor asked the Clerk to call the Roll:

Ayes: (5) Trustees Pazmino, Reynders, Rodgers, Fialko, and Consolino

Nays: (0)

Abstained: (0)

Absent: (1) Trustee La Ha

Present: (0)

The motion carried

- 9. Motion to Approve a two-year Lease Agreement with Peterson Properties for the Village's EMA and Park Storage at 15757 Annico Dr. Units #3 and #4, in Homer Glen IL, with the understanding that the Village will pay \$2,725.00/month from June 1, 2023 through May 31, 2024, and \$2,835.00/month from June 1, 2024 through May 31, 2025 and to authorize the Village Manager to sign the leases on behalf of the Village and implement the leases.**

Trustee Fialko motioned to approve, Trustee Consolino second.

The Mayor asked the Clerk to call the Roll:

Ayes: (5) Trustees Pazmino, Reynders, Rodgers, Fialko, and Consolino

Nays: (0)

Abstained: (0)

Absent: (1) Trustee La Ha

Present: (0)

The motion carried

- 10. Motion to Approve the 2023 Homer Glen Parks Service Renewal Agreement with TruGreen Commercial in the Amount of \$6,699.00 and authorizing the Village Manager to enter into the agreement and implement the agreement.**

Trustee Pazmino motioned to approve, Trustee Reynders second.

The Mayor asked the Clerk to call the Roll:

Ayes: (5) Trustees Pazmino, Reynders, Rodgers, Fialko, and Consolino

Nays: (0)

Abstained: (0)

Absent: (1) Trustee La Ha

Present: (0)

The motion carried

- 11. Motion to Approve the Opticom Emergency Safety Traffic Preemption Installation in the Amount of \$21,699.50 which is a portion of the original invoice amount of \$86,798.00.**

Trustee Pazmino motioned to approve, Trustee Consolino second.

The Mayor asked the Clerk to call the Roll:

Ayes: (5) Trustees Pazmino, Reynders, Rodgers, Fialko, and Consolino

Nays: (0)

Abstained: (0)

Absent: (1) Trustee La Ha

Present: (0)

The motion carried

- 12. Motion to Approve the Proposed Discretionary General Fund Reserve Transfers on April 30, 2023 – Per Standard Operating Procedure No. 2.**

Trustee Pazmino motioned to approve, Trustee Fialko second.

The Mayor asked the Clerk to call the Roll:

Ayes: (5) Trustees Pazmino, Reynders, Rodgers, Fialko, and Consolino

Nays: (0)

Abstained: (0)

Absent: (1) Trustee La Ha

Present: (0)

The motion carried

- 13. Motion to establish Ordinance No. 23-017 in order to amend section 5-3(B) of the Village of Homer Glen Code of Ordinances regarding the Order of Business or Agenda for the transaction of business at regular Village Board Meetings conducted within the Village of Homer Glen, Will County, Illinois.**

Trustee Fialko motioned to approve, Trustee Reynders second.

Amended

Trustee Fialko motioned to approve, Trustee Consolino second.

The Mayor asked the Clerk to call the Roll:

Ayes: (4) Trustees Pazmino, Reynders, Fialko, and Consolino

Nays: (1) Trustee Rodgers

Abstained: (0)

Absent: (1) Trustee La Ha

Present: (0)

The motion carried

F.2. PUBLIC COMMENT – On Any Other Items

Steve Balich – Mr. Balich alleged there are laws being broke and he wants everyone to pay close attention to what he is saying. Mr. Balich alleged this started when he filed a challenge against the Integrity slate for a candidate spelling his name wrong eight out of ten times on the petition. He stated the Integrity slate decided to retaliate against his son, Mike Bonomo's son, Mr. Balich and Brent Porfilio. Mr. Balich stated he doesn't like anyone picking on their kids. Mr. Balich stated he is getting phone calls from residents that people are going to their doors stating the Township is going to build section 8 and apartments. Mr. Balich also stated the Mayor had gone to a business to take signs down. Mr. Balich also stated he received a phone call from Homer Glen asking questions about the elections. Mr. Balich stated he asked attorney Horvath and Mr. Horvath stated it was illegal. Mr. Balich asked Attorney Hanson what he was going to do about it and stated it is illegal for the Village of Homer Glen to conduct a survey on the election.

Jay Roti – Mr. Roti stated the reason he is the vice chair of the HTRO and can't remember he has gone to a meeting in 2 years where it has ever been talked about at the dais where section 8 was talked about. He has been asked if the HTRO is pushing section 8 housing. Mr. Roti stated a candidate running for Mayor and a candidate for Trustee went on the radio stated the HTRO is pushing section 8 housing. Mr. Roti stated the only thing he could find was Mayor Yukich stating how the Village needs more diverse housing stock. Trustee Fialko asked Manager Maurella to make a copy of the letter in which Mr. Roti was referencing and put it out on the desk for people to see. Trustee Reynders asked for Mr. Roti to clarify which candidate for Mayor he was referencing. Mr. Roti stated it was Christina Neitzke-Troiike.

K. OLD BUSINESS

Trustee Consolino stated the following:

Apparently, Lt. Taylor either misheard or misinterpreted my comments earlier. This is why I like to document everything. Let me reread those comments for the record and Lt. Taylor can also review the video of the meeting. "the Will County Sheriff's Office documented that crime has increased over the past year, especially with burglaries." And "With the amped up crime and violent crime occurring around our Village, I compiled a checklist of safety precautions that each of our residents can use to be more proactive with their personal security."

Political Signs:

I wasn't in attendance at the last Village Board meeting, but I watched it on video. It appeared to me that Attorney Cary Horvath did a thorough job in explaining to mayor George Yukich that it was illegal for him to take down campaign signs. It's a blatant violation of the US Constitution's first amendment right for "freedom of speech." Yet, here we are as usual, George doing what George wants to do. I was given information about witness statements this week that I want to make this very public so people understand how disgusting our politics – as if they didn't know already. Forget the vile internet trolls. The mayor of Homer Glen has been going into a very large local business of Homer Glen bullying and screaming at its employees to coerce them into removing the signs that are not illegally placed near the business. He didn't do this once. And he didn't do it twice. He's done it about three or four times. Including screaming at elderly clerks. George Yukich doesn't care about our community. He's on a mission to elect his protégé Christina Neitzke-Troiike. God forbid the opposition put up their signs in his Village, and now apparently clapping during meetings. These people have no shame.

Trustee Fialko thanked Manager Maurella for working on grants and all of his hard work.

L. NEW BUSINESS –

Trustee Fialko asked Manager Maurella if we are staying ahead of the mosquito process. Manager Maurella stated we are ahead of the mosquito process.

Village Board took a 5-minute break at 8:41pm prior to entering Executive Session.

M. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Did Not Enter Executive Session

N. 1. Executive Session Minutes

O. ACTION, IF ANY BASED UPON EXECUTIVE SESSION (Executive Session Minutes)

P. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Fialko motioned to adjourn, second by Trustee Reynders.

Voice Vote:

Ayes: (5) Trustees Reynders, Pazmino, Consolino, Rodgers, and Fialko

Nays: (0)

Abstained: (0)

Absent: (1) La Ha

The Mayor did not vote.

The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.



Christina Neitzke-Pfoike, Village Clerk

Approved at the Board of Trustees Meeting dated May 10, 2023