

**THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE  
VILLAGE OF FOREST PARK, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
HELD ON MONDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 10, 2003**

Mayor Calderone led all assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Gillian, Hosty, Doolin, Steinbach and Mayor Calderone answered the Roll Call.

**READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

It was moved by Commissioner Steinbach and seconded by Commissioner Hosty that the minutes from the previous Council meeting be passed without reading, as everyone has received copies thereof and found same to be correct.

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES:** Commissioners Gillian, Hosty, Doolin, Steinbach and Mayor Calderone

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

The motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Keith Brogdan from 1222 Circle Avenue in Forest Park stated that the residents of the Village have been having problems with rodent infestation lately and added that he has seen many rats exiting the J.L.G. Recycling area. Mr. Brogdan asked why recycling is being allowed to take place at this site, as the area is not zoned for this use. Mr. Brogdan stated that the rat problem is not being addressed adequately as a school is very close by, and reemphasized that the Village must now work towards a solution regarding the rodents.

Anthony Sierzega from 823 Ferdinand in Forest Park stated that his neighbor put a driveway in, and now his stairwell is located only two feet from this driveway. He stated that this situation poses a safety hazard, as many children play about the area near the new driveway. Mr. Sierzega stated that the paving brick of the driveway is an eyesore and added that a previous owner wished to place a driveway two years ago on the property and was denied permission to do so.

Steven Backman from 329 Burkhardt Court stated that Tom Poulos has planned a TIF area located at the Abel Howe property on Van Buren Street and said that a TIF would take good tax dollars away from the schools in town. Mr. Backman added that the property should be redeveloped by an ethical developer, who has his own rehabilitation funds.

Karen Webb of 1504 Elgin stated that what Mr. Brogdan said earlier during the comment section was true, and stated that it would be shocking to learn that J.L.G. did not have a permit, as the rats are located very close to Betsy Ross School.

Robert Meier of 821 Ferdinand questioned whether he should speak about the driveway issue now or wait until later on in the meeting. Mayor Calderone instructed Mr. Meier to speak to this issue at the time it is discussed during the meeting.

Richard Scaffidi from 815 Marengo thanked Mayor Calderone for notifying him to change the Council meeting date on his website.

Ed Olson from 7342 Randolph invited all to a Veterans' Memorial Service to take place at the Adams and Thomas Park at 11:00AM, November 11, 2003 with refreshments following at the VFW Hall.

### **AWARD PRESENTATION**

Mayor Calderone congratulated Detective Sergeant Dan Harder, Sergeant Michael Keating, and Detective Justin Diano on their successful investigative efforts in solving a string of burglaries that led to the subsequent identification and arrest of an individual responsible for a brutal Oak Park murder. Mayor Calderone stated that the combined efforts of the officers brought credit to the Forest Park Police Department and more importantly, closure to the murdered person's family. Mayor Calderone presented Sergeant Keating and Detective Diano with plaques honoring their endeavors. Detective Sergeant Harder was not present. Police Chief Ryan congratulated the officers on their work, stating that their efforts cleared 14 burglaries and 1 homicide, and certainly prevented many more homicides.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

None

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

The Fire Department submitted its report for October 2003.  
The Police Department submitted its report for October 2003.

### **APPROVAL OF BILLS**

It was moved by Commissioner Hosty and seconded by Commissioner Gillian that the Resolution providing for the payment of bills be adopted. The Commissioner of Accounts and Finance has reviewed the bills as applicable to each department and found the aggregate amounts to be correct and recommends payment when funds are available. The bills totaled \$349,530.94.

**R-84-03  
RESOLUTION FOR PAYMENT  
OF BILLS**

### **ROLL CALL:**

**AYES:** Commissioners Gillian, Hosty, Doolin, Steinbach and Mayor Calderone

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

The motion carried unanimously.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Gillian motioned and Commissioner Steinbach seconded to adopt the Resolution in Support of the Adoption of the "Save our Homes Ordinance" by the Cook County Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Doolin asked at what level the tax cap would be placed and Mr. Durkin stated an 8% tax is proposed for all residents in Cook County who have continuous residency. Commissioner Hosty stated that he thought this was a great way to support the capping of taxes for residents and Mayor Calderone agreed.

**R-85-03**  
**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE ADOPTION OF THE "SAVE OUR HOMES ORDINANCE" BY THE COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES:** Commissioners Gillian, Hosty, Doolin, Steinbach and Mayor Calderone

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hosty motioned and Commissioner Gillian seconded the Resolution Authorizing the Execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the County of Cook for the Provision of Environmental Health Inspectional Services. Commissioner Steinbach asked if repeated inspections are charged an additional fee, and Miss Hill stated that if County inspectors are called back to reinspect a premises, a higher fee is charged to the business owner.

**R-86-03**  
**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH COOK COUNTY FOR THE PROVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH INSPECTIONAL SERVICES**

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES:** Commissioners Gillian, Hosty, Doolin, and Steinbach and Mayor Calderone

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Doolin motioned and Commissioner Steinbach seconded to revoke a driveway permit associated with 821 Ferdinand. Commissioner Doolin stated that this situation was brought to his attention by a neighboring resident and a curb cut at this site was also involved. Commissioner Doolin

**MOTION TO REVOKE DRIVEWAY PERMIT ASSOCIATED WITH 821 FERDINAND: DEFEATED**

explained that the parcel involves a nonconforming, single family dwelling, with no available alley parking and added that a certain amount of emphasis was placed on past practice in terms of issuing the driveway permit. Commissioner Doolin stated that Chris Thornton in the Code Department stated that both the Departments of Streets and Public Property should approve the permit, but Director Kutak approved the permit based on sewer or water issues only, and was confused about what he was signing for. Commissioner Doolin stated that there are four concerns he has with the driveway: this street was recently reconstructed, and the issue should have been discussed within that project; safety of children's play in the area around the driveway; the driveway doesn't fit in with the rest of the neighborhood; and the owner has no intention of paving the driveway, rather he will park the car on the paver bricks. Commissioner Hosty stated that during the last four years at four different times a driveway issue was brought to the Commissioner level, and two driveways were granted and two were not. Commissioner Hosty stated that he did not understand why the process broke down at this time, and added that the horse is already out of the barn, as the curb cut is done. Commissioner Gillian stated that there is a bigger issue here, a zoning issue that states that one cannot park a car in the front yard. He recommended that we allow the permit and allow the homeowner to risk pouring the driveway with full knowledge that the homeowner must petition in front of the ZBA to be granted a variance for parking in the front yard. If the homeowner poured the driveway, and subsequently was denied a variance via the ZBA and Council, he would be forced to remove the driveway. Commissioner Steinbach agreed with Commissioner Gillian re: the necessity to petition in front of the ZBA for a variance, but recommended that no further work be done at this time, until the decision is made. Mayor Calderone stated that a handful of houses are set back like this in town, like a property on 900 Hannah, and many have a curb cut and a driveway. Mayor Calderone explained that if the Council does not revoke the permit, the homeowner can go ahead and pour the driveway while the process goes before the ZBA and if the variance is not granted, the driveway would have to be torn out. Commissioner Steinbach asked if it is written in an ordinance that the homeowner, without ZBA approval, would have to tear out the driveway and Mr. Durkin stated that since the permit was granted,

the Village cannot mandate that he remove the driveway, but since the parkway belongs to the Village, it could restore the parkway without an agreement with the homeowner.

Commissioner Hosty stated that the curb cut will be a safety hazard in the future cold, snowy weather, and asked what the Village should do now to rectify that situation, as the case would probably not be heard before the ZBA and then the Council for two months. The homeowner, Mr. Meier, was invited to speak and apologized for causing this problem. Mr. Meier stated that when he bought the home in 1999, Tom Murphy gave verbal permission to ribbon strip the driveway, but stated that a curb cut/driveway would kill a big elm located at the end of the projected driveway. Mr. Meier continued that with recent street construction, the tree died, and since there is no garage option associated with the property, and no overnight parking privileges, Mr. Thornton of the Code Department was consulted, and a letter of approval was obtained for creation of a driveway. The permit was then granted, and a local contractor hired. Mr. Meier explained the difficulty his wife and daughter had, walking from a parking lot about two blocks from the home, in inclement weather. Mr. Meier added that the home in question has a large parking slab in front of it and that the owners have no intention of parking in the front yard. Additionally, Mr. Meier stated that the cars would be parked behind bushes and therefore, would not be an eyesore. Mr. Meier said that since Ferdinand is one way going southbound, one has the whole yard to view traffic before maneuvering in and out of the driveway so safety is not compromised. Mr. Meier stated that the neighbor's steps are much farther away from the driveway than two feet and asked that the Council consider the safety of a family walking in the dark many blocks to home. Mr. Meier estimated that the home's value would decrease about \$10,000 should there be no onsite parking. Commissioner Doolin stated that Mr. Meier's plea was passionate, but disingenuous, as the house in question currently is for sale, but the owner does not live there. Mr. Meier stated that even if he is not living in the house now, the buyers want to park on the property. Discussion ensued regarding the scheduling of the next ZBA meeting to determine if this petitioner could place his case on the agenda. Mayor Calderone stated that the Council should determine if the owner wishes to petition to the ZBA for a parking variance. Mr. Meier said that he would prefer to honor the permit. Mayor Calderone stated that the Council could honor the permit, but the homeowner can't drive across the parkway. Mr. Meier stated that he would definitely petition and hopefully win because of hardship. Commissioner Steinbach asked if the contractor has posted the appropriate surety bond and Miss Hill stated that he had.

Commissioner Doolin again motioned to revoke the driveway permit associated with 821 Ferdinand and Commissioner Steinbach seconded.

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES:** Commissioners Doolin and Steinbach

**NAYS:** Commissioners Gillian, Hosty and Mayor Calderone

**ABSENT:** None

The motion did not carry.

Mayor Calderone stated that the owner can put a driveway in, but he can't park there and urged the owner to speak with Miss Hill regarding completing a zoning variance application form.

The Clerk read the Mayor's Proclamation re: Homelessness Awareness Month, November 2003 into the record. The Proclamation recognizes the support the community has provided to those who are homeless through the volunteer efforts of 800 people and over 40 Faith Communities.

**PROCLAMATION RE:  
HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS  
MONTH: NOVEMBER, 2003**

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

None

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Commissioner Gillian acknowledged and congratulated Rich Vitton on researching the lives of 395 Civil War veterans who are buried in Forest Home Cemetery and the subsequent ceremony, honoring of the dead with a marker.

Commissioner Doolin stated that leaves continue to fall, and the public works employees are pushing them to the ends of the blocks and then picking them up. Commissioner Doolin thanked the many public works employees who were out in the rain on November 4, removing leaves from covered sewers. Commissioner Doolin stated that the Madison Street Bridge and lighting project is completed and thanked Commissioner Hosty for reporting a buckling portion of road, south of Roosevelt on Des Plaines, that was repaired by IDOT.

Commissioner Steinbach stated that the Recreation Board will host a meeting to discuss activities for youth aged 10-16 years on November 19, 2003 at 7:00PM in Village Hall. Commissioner Steinbach stated that a Dog Park ribbon cutting ceremony will take place on November 22, 2003 at 10:00AM.

Mayor Calderone stated that there is a rat problem south of Roosevelt Road and that he will be holding a neighborhood meeting at Betsy Ross School as soon as Erlean Collins, the Cook County Commissioner can determine an available date. Mayor Calderone added that an entomologist will attend the meeting to discuss rodent habits and breeding. Mayor Calderone said that McCloud pest control will be there as well, and that McCloud has already stepped up baiting efforts on the south side of town.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to be addressed, Commissioner Hosty motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Doolin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Calderone declared the meeting adjourned at 8:25PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan M. White  
**Village Clerk**