

**THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
VILLAGE OF FOREST PARK, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
HELD ON MONDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 23, 2004**

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 PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was moved by Commissioner Doolin and seconded by Commissioner Hosty that the minutes from the previous Council meeting of January 26, 2004 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

Steve Backman of 325 Burkhardt Court explained that this is the time during the meeting that any member of the public has the opportunity to say anything he or she likes.

Karen Webb of 1504 Elgin stated that there is a village vehicle not being used that is housed on public works property and added that the village could save money by selling it.

Keith Brogdan of 1222 Circle commented on budget issues including expressing sorrow for long time village employees who were laid off; suggested the Ark could have sold for more money; stated that the Altenheim should have been purchased with a purpose in mind; and stated that many village picnics were held and no money was made on the events. Mr. Brogdan stated that it has become difficult for him to sell his properties in town since the financial crisis has been publicized and added that the only Council plan to deal with the deficit was to cut people. Mr. Brogdan stated that it is hard to see the village "dismantled" and added that Mr. Webb liked being employed by the Village, and now he's gone. Mr. Brogdan stated that the only time for the public to voice criticism is during a public meeting, when all five Council members are together. Mr. Brogdan stated that nobody wanted to be associated with the budget deficit and added that the problem cannot be fixed unless one admits it exists.

Mayor Calderone stated that public comment was moved to the beginning of the meeting so that those wishing to make comments could do so early in the meeting, and they wouldn't have to wait around for the whole meeting to comment. Mayor Calderone stated that commenting members of the public could speak out about an issue on the agenda before it is discussed and voted upon by Council members. Mayor Calderone stated that it is his experience that some communities offer public comment at the beginning of their meetings, and some do so at their end.

Katherine Moran of 900 Hannah stated that the layoffs signify a desperate situation, and reminisced that one person did all the administrative roles in the past. Ms. Moran suggested that at least one position should be reduced on the administrative side, and asked if other items could be cut, for example, consultants. Upon questioning, Ms. Moran stated that one person in the past performed the roles of village manager, clerk, finance director, and community development director. Ms. Moran stated that it isn't fair to have so many administrative personnel at a time when the "little guy" is being laid off.

Mayor Calderone stated that when the previous clerk (Marlene Quandt) worked for the village, there was a financial person (first Donna Bruenning, followed by Ron Pfeiffer.) Mayor Calderone assigned the village administrator to investigate the final salary of Ms. Bruenning in order to ascertain if her salary was more or less than the finance director's current salary. Mayor Calderone assured Ms. Moran that the village is getting more duties for less money currently and stated that it is not true that four people are now taking the place of one employee.

Commissioner Hosty stated that the current community development director replaced Tom Murphy, and before Mr. Murphy, Mr. Masso performed the duties. Ms. Moran asked if the village is paying less for the current community development director than it paid for Mr. Masso. Mayor Calderone directed Mr. O'Shea to check the ending salary of Donna Bruenning and Ed Masso.

Marty Tellalian of 7335 Jackson asked the Council to share detailed information about current vs. past administrative personnel, to prove that the costs are no more currently. Mayor Calderone stated that he did not know if the salary comparison would be equal. Commissioner Gillian stated that there is one new position in the village, and that is the village administrator role, and added that the current administrative costs would therefore be higher.

Mayor Calderone stated that it is an inaccuracy to report that four people are currently doing the job of one person. Mayor Calderone added that the village has one person in a position that did not exist prior to 1995. He stated that a dual position was created in 1995 in the Administrator/Clerk role, and that the first person to assume this role, Jim Thomas, was hired for less money than the retiring clerk at that time. The administrator/clerk position was then later split as it was learned that the duties assumed by both roles could not be performed together. Mayor Calderone noted the long hours that current members of the administrative staff work and added that now these administrator workers ensure that all village funds are reimbursed appropriately, workers compensation claim filing procedures are overseen, and health/dental insurance renewals are rigorously researched, along with other duties.

Mayor Calderone suggested that another meeting be scheduled to share this type of information with the public, to correct any misinformation. Mayor Calderone stated that the past layoffs will save the village \$550,000 over a year's time, and added that the financial trouble is still not over, as the looming village deficit is large.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Park District of Forest Park is requesting use of Circle Avenue Bridge for its 2nd Annual Downhill Derby, set for Saturday, May 22, 2004 from 8:00AM until 2:00PM. The Park suggested that its representative meet with the police and public works departments in order to finalize plans for the event. There were no objections from Council members. Mayor Calderone directed the clerk to notify the Park District of location approval.

**APPROVED: USE OF CIRCLE
BRIDGE FOR PARK DISTRICT'S
DOWNHILL DERBY MAY 22, 2004**

Hephzibah Children's Association requested permission to solicit donations along the St. Patrick Day parade route, March 6, 2004, from 12:30PM until 2:00PM in conjunction with its 14th Annual Shamrock & Roll Tag Day event. There were no objections from Council members.

**APPROVED: HEPHZIBAH
CHILDREN'S ASSOCIATION
REQUEST TO TAG ALONG
PARADE ROUTE ON MARCH 6TH**

Misericordia Heart of Mercy requested permission to solicit donations in street intersections and in front of heavy pedestrian walkways on April 30 and May 1, 2004, during its Annual Misericordia/Fannie May Candy Days. There were no objections from Council members.

**APPROVED: MISERICORDIA HEART
OF MERCY REQUEST TO TAG
APRIL 30 AND MAY 1, 2004**

McAdam Landscaping requested police assistance during its Grand Opening and 25th Anniversary Celebration on June 8, 2004 consisting of helping pedestrians cross Des Plaines Avenue, assisting the shuttle bus, and physical security on site. McAdam Landscaping will pay for all services utilized. There were no objections from Council members.

**APPROVED: POLICE ASSISTANCE
ASSOCIATED WITH MCADAM
LANDSCAPING'S GRAND OPENING
CELEBRATION ON JUNE 8, 2004**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

The Community Center submitted its report for January 2004.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

It was moved by Commissioner Gillian and seconded by Commissioner Hosty 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 \$286,504.24. Commissioner Steinbach asked how many more deconversion grants need to be paid out and Ms. Hill stated one. Commissioner Doolin asked if that last payout could be delayed. Commissioner Gillian stated that the payout could be delayed, but added that property taxes have begun to come in.

**R-12-04
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 authorizing execution of a License Agreement by and between Image Media Advertising, Inc. and the Village of Forest Park. Mayor Calderone stated that throughout the life of the contract (15 years), the Village will receive \$158,000. Commissioner Steinbach asked if Image Media Advertising Inc. is requesting authority within the resolution to access the Village parking lot. Mr. Durkin stated that he doesn't foresee workers treading on Village property. Mr. O'Shea stated that the Village is indemnified under the business agreement, and therefore any damage done to Village property would be the responsibility of Image Media Advertising, Inc.

**R-13-04
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING
EXECUTION OF A LICENSE
AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN
IMAGE MEDIA ADVERTISING, INC.
AND THE VILLAGE**

AYES: Commissioners Gillian, Hosty, Doolin, Steinbach and Mayor Calderone
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Doolin asked all members of the Council if they were in favor of exploring a land swap concept. Commissioner Doolin stated that in his conversations with Commissioner Peraica of the Cook County Board, Commissioner Peraica said he is willing to introduce this concept to the County Board. There were no objections from Council members. Mayor Calderone reiterated that it was a great idea. Commissioner Doolin asked if there was general consensus for him to obtain information from key people, like the village administrator, the community development director, and legal counsel in order to move the idea forward. Mayor Calderone stated that protocol needs to be followed, legal counsel should become involved to determine the process, and the Cook County Board may want to deal with the Village directly. Commissioner Doolin volunteered to start the process. Mr. Durkin asked if the County wanted a letter from the Village expressing its interest in exploring this concept. Commissioner Doolin stated that the letter of interest should be addressed to the entire County Board for its review and eventual referral to the proper committee. Mayor Calderone stated that the letter

**MOTION TO DIRECT MAYOR
CALDERONE, ON BEHALF OF
THE VILLAGE COUNCIL, TO DRAFT
A LETTER TO THE COOK COUNTY
BOARD, EXPRESSING AN INTEREST
IN SWAPPING VILLAGE-OWNED
LAND FOR FOREST PRESERVE
LAND**

of interest should be drafted by himself, on behalf of the Village Council.

Commissioner Steinbach motioned and Commissioner Hosty seconded to direct Mayor Calderone, on behalf of the Village Council, to draft a letter to the Cook County Board, expressing an interest in swapping village-owned land for forest preserve land.

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Calderone announced the Absolutely Incredible Kid Day, March 20, 2004 Proclamation and stated that the sponsor, Camp Fire USA, is to be commended for its valuable programs offered to young people within the Village and throughout the U.S.

**MARCH 20, 2004
ABSOLUTELY INCREDIBLE KID DAY
PROCLAMATION**

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. O'Shea stated that property tax payments have begun to enter the village coffers from the County.

Mr. O'Shea announced an economic development discussion scheduled to appear on the agenda of the next Council meeting on March 8, 2004. Mr. O'Shea urged Council members to contact Ms. Hill regarding specific topics and issues to include in her discussion.

Commissioner Steinbach asked how much money in property taxes will come into the village by the end of March. Mr. O'Shea stated that he will contact Commissioner Steinbach with the exact figure tomorrow.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Hosty stated that Bed, Bath, and Beyond has begun demolition of its construction site on Harlem and added that Ultra Food Store in the Mall has replaced its facade and gutted the interior of the space. Commissioner Hosty stated that AJWright has signed on in the Mall corridor and added that new parking facilities are planned.

Commissioner Hosty stated that the neighborhood meeting concerning rats that was held on February 11th was successful, as the Department of Health and Safety received much feedback from residents re: rat issues. Commissioner Hosty asked Commissioner Doolin about the hiring status of the water department superintendent, and asked about the timeline and long-term plan associated with the hiring process. Commissioner Doolin stated that we met with North Riverside and got ourselves covered in the interim and that he and Commissioner Steinbach have some plans between them about the public works department. Commissioner Doolin stated that Commissioner Hosty should forward any residents' questions about the hiring timetable to Commissioner Doolin.

Commissioner Steinbach reminded the residents that a teen activity night is planned for Friday, February 27, from 6-8PM and all 5th and 8th graders are welcome. Commissioner Steinbach stated

that the event is sponsored by the Recreation Board and added that the last teen night had 40 participants.

Commissioner Steinbach stated that the dog park is muddy and she has directed Mr. Heider to investigate a way to make the surface less messy.

Commissioner Hosty motioned and Commissioner Steinbach seconded to move into closed session to set a price for the sale or lease of property owned by the public body.

**MOTION TO MOVE INTO CLOSED
SESSION: 8:07PM**

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Doolin motioned and Commissioner Steinbach seconded to close executive session.

**MOTION TO CLOSE EXECUTIVE
SESSION: 8:36PM**

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Gillian motioned and Commissioner Steinbach seconded to reopen regular session.

**MOTION TO REOPEN REGULAR
SESSION: 8:40PM**

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Steinbach motioned and Commissioner Hosty seconded to pass the Ordinance authorizing the sale of surplus real estate (Altenheim, portion of building C).

**O-7-04
ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE
OF SURPLUS REAL ESTATE (ALTENHEIM,
PORTION OF BUILDING C)**

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Mayor Calderone declared the meeting adjourned at 8:45PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan M. White
Village Clerk