

**THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE  
VILLAGE OF FOREST PARK, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
HELD ON MONDAY EVENING, APRIL 22, 2024**

Mayor Hoskins led all assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Maxham, Nero, Melin-Rogovin, Voogd and Mayor Hoskins answered the Roll Call.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

It was moved by Commissioner Maxham and seconded by Commissioner Nero that the minutes from the April 8, 2024, Regular meeting of the Council be approved.

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES:** Commissioners Maxham, Nero, Melin-Rogovin, Voogd and Mayor Hoskins

**NAYES:** None

**ABSENT:** None

The motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Elizabeth Timmons expressed her opposition to a new billboard being erected, adding that it will cause light pollution.

Ms. Kyra Tyler stated that she attended her first Neighborhood Watch meeting recently and asked for clarity on the fireworks that were detonated at the Park District on April 5<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm. Ms. Tyler expressed her concerns that the park claimed that they had no notice until it was too late, and that the village did not approve the display, nor was a permit pulled. Ms. Tyler requested that there be some kind of accountability for this violation and possibly assess a fine.

Ms. Bernadette McClain spoke in opposition of the proposed billboard because it impacts property values in the area and there is no benefit to the community. Ms. McClain wanted to know the steps in the appeal process.

Ms. Jessica Brekher spoke in opposition of the proposed billboard, adding that it is unattractive for the neighbors. Forest Park should be trying to attract quality businesses and residents, and adding a billboard will not support that effort.

Mr. Gerry Santora spoke in opposition of the proposed billboard, adding that he sent an email to the elected officials last Friday. Mr. Santora stated that there is no financial gain for Forest Park, and will degrade property values. Mr. Santora further stated that Forest Park should follow Oak Park's lead and not allow billboards at all.

Mr. Steve Rummel spoke in opposition of the proposed billboard, adding that the zoning ordinance is in place for a reason and urged the Village Council to not approve a zoning variance for this project. In addition, Mr. Rummel pointed out that Forest Park is not getting any benefit from this LED billboard and wondered why the village would allow this if they are not getting something out of it.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

None

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

The Fire Department submitted its March, 2024, report. Commissioner Maxham thanked the Chief and the department as they have had multiple fires to fight recently.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

It was moved by Commissioner Maxham and seconded by Commissioner Nero that the Resolution for the payment of bills be adopted. The bills totaled \$491,974.26.

**R-32-24  
APPROVAL OF BILLS IN  
THE AMOUNT OF  
\$491,974.26  
APPROVED**

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES:** Commissioners Maxham, Nero, Melin-Rogovin,  
Voogd and Mayor Hoskins

**NAYES:** None

**ABSENT:** None

The motion carried unanimously.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

It was moved by Commissioner Melin-Rogovin and seconded by Commissioner Voogd that the Resolution rejecting bids submitted for the Madison Street Revitalization Project be adopted.

**R-33-24  
RESOLUTION REJECTING  
BIDS FOR MADISON  
STREET REVITALIZATION  
PROJECT  
APPROVED**

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES:** Commissioners Maxham, Nero, Melin-Rogovin,  
Voogd and Mayor Hoskins

**NAYES:** None

**ABSENT:** None

The motion carried unanimously.

**R-34-24  
RESOLUTION APPROVING  
POSITIVE PAY  
AGREEMENTS WITH  
FOREST PARK BANK  
APPROVED**

It was moved by Commissioner Maxham and seconded by Commissioner Nero that the Resolution approving and authorizing execution of Corporate ACH Positive Pay Agreement and Positive Pay Service Addendum with the Forest Park National Bank & Trust Company be adopted.

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES:** Commissioners Maxham, Nero, Melin-Rogovin, Voogd and Mayor Hoskins

**NAYES:** None

**ABSENT:** None

The motion carried unanimously.

**AGREEMENTS WITH  
TELCOM INNOVATIONS  
GROUP AND MCADAM  
LANDSCAPING  
APPROVED BY MOTION**

It was moved by Commissioner Maxham and seconded by Commissioner Voogd to approve and ratify the execution of a Telephone Maintenance agreement with Telcom Innovations Group and a Landscaping Agreement with McAdam Landscaping.

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES:** Commissioners Maxham, Nero, Melin-Rogovin, Voogd and Mayor Hoskins

**NAYES:** None

**ABSENT:** None

The motion carried unanimously.

**SCHOOL DISTRICT 91  
REQUEST TO HOLD END  
OF SCHOOLYEAR BLOCK  
PARTY  
APPROVED BY MOTION**

It was moved by Commissioner Melin-Rogovin and seconded by Commissioner Voogd to approve the request from Forest Park School District 91 to hold a Block Party Celebration and close the 1300 Block of Marengo Avenue on May 31, 2024.

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES:** Commissioners Maxham, Nero, Melin-Rogovin, Voogd and Mayor Hoskins

**NAYES:** None

**ABSENT:** None

The motion carried unanimously.

**FOREST PARK LIBRARY  
REQUEST TO USE PICNIC  
GROVE ON JUNE 29, 2024  
APPROVED BY MOTION**

It was moved by Commissioner Voogd and seconded by Commissioner Melin-Rogovin to approve the request from the Forest Park Public Library to use the Picnic Grove on Saturday, June 29, 2024, from noon to 5:00 p.m. to hold a Kids Outdoor Science Program Event.

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES:** Commissioners Maxham, Nero, Melin-Rogovin, Voogd and Mayor Hoskins

**NAYES:** None

**ABSENT:** None

The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Commissioner Melin-Rogovin and seconded by Commissioner Voogd to approve the Mayor's Proclamation that May 19-25, 2024, be designated as National Public Works Week in the Village of Forest Park.

**MAY 19-25, 2024,  
DESIGNATED AS  
NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS  
WEEK**

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES:** Commissioners Maxham, Nero, Melin-Rogovin, Voogd and Mayor Hoskins

**NAYES:** None

**ABSENT:** None

The motion carried unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

Administrator Entler reported the following:

- It is rare for Forest Park to reject a bid, however we only received one bid that did not fit the village's needs. We will still be looking to bid out some of the improvements separately.
- Vehicle Stickers were due on 3/31/2024. Residents still have time to purchase stickers without penalty until May 1<sup>st</sup>, when the price doubles.
- The Administrator urged drivers and pedestrians to be careful as there will be more construction and pedestrians due to the warmer weather.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS:**

Commissioner Maxham congratulated the Police Department for swearing in four new officers and promoting Brendan Reilly to Police Sergeant recently. The commissioner further commented on the successful 48-hour film festival, held by the Arts Alliance as well as the Shakespeare Birthday Celebration held at Piacere Mio. Last, Commissioner Maxham expressed her appreciation to Administrator Rachell Entler for a fabulous budget workshop held earlier this evening. The workshop was very interactive and there was a lot of open and honest discussion.

Commissioner Nero complemented Administrator Entler for running a great budget workshop meeting today, facilitating positive changes in the budgeting process. The Commissioner gave a shout-out to Robert's West Side. This refreshing, nice business has been operating without incident in a previously vacant or problematic establishment. All feedback has been positive about their operations. Last, Commissioner Nero had the opportunity to walk through Babs' Comedy Club, which is set to open soon on Madison Street.

Commissioner Melin-Rogovin reported that he joined the mayor and Commissioner Voogd to lobby for the village in Springfield, visiting Speaker Welch, Representatives Ford and Lilly, Senator Lightford as well as Proviso Township Leaders holding productive conversations. The team discussed obtaining funding from the state for infrastructure needs. The commissioner further met with Community Center Director, Karen Dylewski, and Finance Director, Tish Olmsted, to discuss a Cook County grant available to assist with services through our food pantry to help people in need. Last, the commissioner met with Administrator Entler and the Juneteenth Planning Committee.

Commissioner Voogd reported that she was thrilled to be able to travel to Springfield, holding productive meetings to discuss our aging infrastructure and the water reservoir project needs. The commissioner

expressed her hope that something good will come out of these meetings. Arbor Day is this Friday, and a tree planting ceremony will be held at Reiger Park at 3:30. There will be a celebration of our urban forest and information about the proper care and maintenance of trees. Saturday is the Community Spring Clean-up event. Registration is through the village website. The Arts Alliance 48-hour Film Festival was a huge success. The commissioner thanked Lin Beribak, Ian Pfaff and Dan Marcus for starting the fest. Last, Commissioner Voogd wished all a Happy Passover and Peace.

Mayor Hoskins reported that he attended the Illinois Municipal League's Lobby Day recently, and met with legislators on a defined set of issues for Forest Park. The mayor thanked his assistant, Megan Roach, for making the arrangements to meet with the legislators. The mayor is planning to attend the West Central Municipal Conference's Drive Down to Springfield on May 7<sup>th</sup> and encouraged the other elected officials to attend if they are available to make the trip. Mayor Hoskins also met with other mayors and local officials and is hearing a lot of good things about the National League of Cities and the U.S. Conference of Mayors. They have resources available to help find grant money for the member villages. Today, Mayor Hoskins met with the C-4 group. There were 11 mayors in attendance at the Net-Zero Park District Building in Oak Park. C-4 is in the process of surveying towns to find out about their plans for sustainable projects, adding that the schools have been getting a lot of assistance through C-4, including purchasing of electric buses.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to be addressed, Commissioner Nero moved and Commissioner Maxham seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Hoskins declared the meeting adjourned at 7:39 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Vanessa Moritz, Village Clerk