

**THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
VILLAGE OF FOREST PARK, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
HELD ON MONDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 9, 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 August 26, 2024, Regular meeting of the Council be approved.

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYES: None

ABSTAIN: Commissioner Melin-Rogovin

The motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Dan Riley requested the village install a jersey wall at the end of the 1100 block of Marengo at the alley to deter traffic from traveling the wrong way on the block.

COMMUNICATIONS:

None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

None

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 \$448,637.94.

**R-78-24
APPROVAL OF BILLS IN
THE AMOUNT OF
\$448,637.94
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:

Ms. Linda Schuler, CEO, gave a presentation to the board, outlining the services available through Housing Forward. Since COVID, the nightly shelter at St. John Lutheran has been closed. COVID prompted the conversion to a hotel-based model at the Wright Inn Hotel on Oak Park Avenue. There is still a need for emergency services and help for families. Housing Forward is currently leasing apartments for families in need of housing on a permanent and temporary basis. Ms. Schuler advised that services can also be accessed through emailing outreachteam@housingforward.org or through the Suburban Cook County Call Center at (877) 426-6515. In addition, Police and Fire staff can reach out for emergency help/shelter for those they encounter on shift. Last, Ms. Schuler spoke about the headquarters, located at 1851 S. 9th Avenue, in Maywood, where they provide drop-in services, including showers, laundry, and daily lunch. Housing Forward is always looking for volunteers to help their mission.

**HOUSING FORWARD
PRESENTATION**

It was moved by Commissioner Maxham and seconded by Commissioner Nero that the Ordinance waiving bid and authorizing the acceptance of a quote for the purchase of training equipment for the Village of Forest Park Fire Department be adopted.

**O-26-24
ORDINANCE APPROVING
PURCHASE OF FIRE
DEPARTMENT TRAINING
EQUIPMENT
APPROVED**

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried unanimously.

**O-27-24
ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING
PURCHASE OF FORESTRY
COMBO XT56 TRUCK
APPROVED**

It was moved by Commissioner Voogd and seconded by Commissioner Melin-Rogovin that the Ordinance waiving bid and authorizing the acceptance of a quote for the purchase of a 2024 XT56 Freightliner Pro Forestry Combo Truck be adopted. It was discussed that this purchase will replace two very old vehicles, updating our fleet, providing cost savings over purchasing two vehicles.

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried unanimously.

**O-28-24
ORDINANCE AMENDING
NUMBER OF LIQUOR
LICENSES RE: BABS
COMEDY CLUB
APPROVED**

It was moved by Commissioner Maxham and seconded by Commissioner Melin-Rogovin that the Ordinance amending Section 3-3-6, entitled "License Fee and Number," of Chapter 3, entitled "Liquor Control," of Title 3, entitled "Business and License Regulations" of the village code of ordinances of the Village of Forest Park, Cook County, Illinois be adopted.

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried unanimously.

**R-79-24
RESOLUTION RATIFYING
ORGANIZED RETAIL
THEFT GRANT WITH
ILLINOIS ATTORNEY
GENERAL
APPROVED**

It was moved by Commissioner Maxham and seconded by Commissioner Nero that the Resolution approving and ratifying the execution of a Grant Agreement by and between the Office of the Attorney General, State of Illinois, and the Village of Forest Park for a FY2025 Organized Retail Theft Crime Grant be adopted.

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried unanimously.

**O-29-24
ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING
DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS
PROPERTY
APPROVED**

It was moved by Commissioner Voogd and seconded by Commissioner Melin-Rogovin that the Ordinance authorizing the sale or disposition of Surplus Property of the Village of Forest Park be adopted.

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 Maxham and seconded by Commissioner Nero to direct the Forest Park Board of Fire and Police Commissioners to appoint one candidate from its current Fire Lieutenant eligibility list and one candidate from its Probationary Firefighter eligibility list to fill vacancies in the Fire Department.

**BOARD OF FIRE AND
POLICE COMMISSIONERS
DIRECTED TO HIRE ONE
FIRE LIEUTENANT AND
ONE PROBATIONARY
FIREFIGHTER
APPROVED BY MOTION**

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 Nero and seconded by Commissioner Maxham to appoint Jordan Kuehn to the Forest Park Planning and Zoning Commissioner (term to expire 4/30/2028).

**MR. JORDAN KUEHN
APPOINTED TO PLANNING
AND ZONING COMMISSION
APPROVED BY MOTION**

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 Maxham and seconded by Commissioner Nero to approve the execution of an agreement with Teatre Zinzanni Chicago, associated with events organized by the Community Center.

**COMMUNITY CENTER
AGREEMENT WITH
TEATRE ZINZANNI
APPROVED BY MOTION**

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 request from Kiwanis Club of Forest Park to conduct their annual Peanut Days fundraiser and to solicit donations throughout the village on September 13-15, 2024.

**KIWANIS CLUB
FUNDRAISING REQUEST
APPROVED BY MOTION**

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 Voogd and seconded by Commissioner Melin-Rogovin to approve the requests from Hephzibah and the Forest Park Chamber of Commerce to display banners promoting their upcoming events.

**HEPHZIBAH AND
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BANNER REQUESTS
APPROVED BY MOTION**

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 was not in attendance, due to professional development scheduling.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS:

Commissioner Maxham commented on the sad week in Forest Park, due to the tragic murders that happened on Labor Day on the CTA train in Forest Park. The commissioner went on to say that all of the commissioners discussed a way to honor the Police Department for the fine work they did in response to this tragedy, which was refreshing since these types of discussions have not happened in a long time. Commissioner Maxham further talked about the unacceptable and condescending treatment of the village staff. The commissioner suggested that a way to honor the staff right now would be to address the zoning code rewrite ordinance that was sent out a while ago and to adopt the salary ordinance and to agree to pay these employees what they deserve. Last, the commissioner thanked staff and offered to speak to anyone who would like to discuss any of this with her.

Commissioner Nero recognized the Forest Park first responders and admired their performance due to training and preparation in response to the tragic event on the blue line last week. The commissioner expressed his pride in the staff and elected officials who rallied that week and acted professionally and were sensitive to the situation. Further, Commissioner Nero reported about all of the positive developments happening in Forest Park, namely, the U-Haul development, the Townhomes at Beloit and Harvard and the Aldi store, which is scheduled to open by November 1st. In addition, the Washington Townhomes are under way and a butcher shop is scheduled to open soon on Madison Street. There are

many other changes coming to Forest Park, including the potential for a 60-unit apartment building, facelifts at the property at Circle and Harlem and Shanahan's and Charlie's restaurants are for sale.

Commissioner Melin-Rogovin expressed her gratitude to the Forest Park first responders who worked on the tragedy last week. She stated that she's never been more saddened and so proud at the same time. The efforts highlighted the staff's teamwork, training, expertise and professionalism. In addition, the commissioner participated in the Fall Fest at the Park District and provided safe streets information and trick or treat safety information to residents. Last, the commissioner thanked the Housing Forward organization for their presentation tonight.

Commissioner Voogd reported that the next community cleanup event is scheduled for Saturday, September 21. Registration is recommended. The commissioner thanked Twisted Cookie for providing treats for the participants. The commissioner further echoed the sentiments of other commissioners regarding the tragedy last week and thanked the Village Administrator, the First Responders and the Mayor for their hard work and involvement. The staff was complimented for their collaboration with the CTA the Chicago Police Department and for their grace, empathy and professionalism in dealing with the situation..

Mayor Hoskins reported that former Marine and a victim in last week's shooting, Simeon Bihesi, is being buried in Forest Park tomorrow. The visitation will be at Zimmerman Harnett Funeral Home and the burial will be at Concordia Cemetery at 7900 Madison Street. The mayor further recognized Police Staff, including Deputy Chief Chris Chin, Detective Lieutenant Dan Pater and Detective Sergeant Adam Stasinopoulos for leading the investigation, fielding the media and collaborating with Village Administrator Entler.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Mayor Hoskins declared the meeting adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Vanessa Belmonte
Village Clerk