

Village of Forest Park
Village Council Meeting January 26, 2026
Meeting minutes

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Hoskins led all assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Deputy Clerk Roach conducted roll call. Present were: Commissioner Maxham, Commissioner Nero, Commissioner Melin-Rogovin, Commissioner Voogd, and Mayor Hoskins.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 12, 2026 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Motion to approve the meeting minutes was made by Commissioner Maxham and seconded by Commissioner Melin-Rogovin. The motion passed, with one abstention by Commissioner Nero, who was absent from the January 12 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

COMMUNICATIONS

No formal communications were presented.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

1. Police Department – November-December 2025

Commissioner Melin-Rogovin commended the Police Department's annual report, noting the impressive depth and breadth of their enforcement activities. She encouraged residents to review the report to better understand the full scope of services provided by the Police Department, highlighting their professionalism and outstanding service to the community.

BILLS BY RESOLUTION

Deputy Clerk Roach read the bills by resolution, detailing expenditures across various departments totaling \$1,965,679.49.

Motion to adopt the resolution of bills was made by Commissioner Maxham and seconded by Commissioner Nero. The motion passed unanimously. This was recorded as **Resolution 4-26.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Ordinance amending Section 8-1-1, entitled "Building Codes Adoption," of the Municipal Code

Commissioner Voogd raised concerns regarding specific sections recommended for removal from the code, particularly those related to sprinkler systems and carbon monoxide detector requirements. Commissioner Voogd questioned why these locally added sections were being struck from the code.

Director Glinke explained that the carbon monoxide requirements are already mandated by Illinois State law, making the local provision redundant. Regarding sprinkler retrofit

requirements, he stated that the previously adopted language was problematic because it was based on cyclical market values that were arbitrary and difficult to apply. He explained that retrofitting single-family homes with sprinklers could cost homeowners approximately \$40,000, creating an economic burden. Glinke emphasized that in single-family residences, interconnected smoke detectors for early notification are the focus for life safety rather than sprinklers, which primarily protect property.

Village Attorney Nick Peppers recommended either amending the motion or approving it as presented with the understanding that the council could revisit specific provisions later.

Motion to amend the ordinance to retain the local sprinkler provisions was made by Commissioner Voogd and seconded by Commissioner Melin-Rogovin. The motion to amend failed 2-3 with Commissioner Maxham, Commissioner Nero, and Mayor Hoskins voting no.

The main motion to approve the ordinance amending Section 8-1-1 as presented was made by Commissioner Melin-Rogovin and seconded by Commissioner Nero. The motion passed unanimously. This was recorded as **Ordinance 3-26**.

Mayor Hoskins emphasized the importance of maintaining decorum during meetings, reminding commissioners to allow one another to finish speaking when recognized and noting that commissioners are not required to comment on every subject. During the building codes discussion, the Mayor paused the deliberations to reiterate these expectations.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Proclamation Honoring the Retirement of Karen Dylewski, Director of the Howard Mohr Community Center

Village Administrator Entler read a proclamation honoring Karen Dylewski's 25 years of distinguished service to the Village of Forest Park, including nearly 20 years as Director of the Howard Mohr Community Center. The proclamation recognized her leadership in providing essential services to seniors, strengthening the lives of children and families, operating critical safety net programs, and fostering civic engagement.

Commissioner Maxham praised Dylewski's direct approach to solving problems without getting tied up in bureaucracy or politics, noting her selflessness and dedication to helping people in difficult situations without seeking recognition.

Commissioner Nero described Dylewski as a model of humility and wished her health and happiness in retirement.

Commissioner Melin-Rogovin highlighted Dylewski as the model of true community service, noting her creative, loving, and positive energy in finding ways to help people that improved their lives substantially. She acknowledged how Dylewski helped generations of families in the community and set an example for community center employees.

Commissioner Voogd described Dylewski as a "force" and "ball of light and energy" who was proud of her community center "kids" and supportive of colleagues and everyone in the community, touching many lives in Forest Park and beyond.

Mayor Hoskins acknowledged Dylewski's hard work, long hours, and personal connection to his family, having watched all four of his children at the community center and even hiring his daughter as a counselor. He congratulated her on her "promotion to full-time grandparent."

3. Ordinance approving and authorizing the execution of an Advertiser Sales Contract with Clear Channel Outdoor, LLC for Public Service Announcements on Digital Billboards

Motion to approve the ordinance was made by Commissioner Maxham and seconded by Commissioner Melin-Rogovin. The motion passed unanimously. This was recorded as **Ordinance 4-26**.

4. Resolution authorizing the Contract Award for the 2025 Lead Service Replacement Project – Stage 3 to Five Star Energy Services, LLC

Motion to approve the resolution was made by Commissioner Melin-Rogovin and seconded by Commissioner Voogd. The motion passed unanimously. This was recorded as **Resolution 5-26**.

5. Resolution approving Pay Request #3 (Final) for the 2025 Green Alley Improvements Project from J. Nardulli Construction Company

Motion to approve the resolution was made by Commissioner Melin-Rogovin and seconded by Commissioner Voogd. The motion passed unanimously. This was recorded as **Resolution 6-26**.

6. Resolution authorizing the approval of Pay Request #10 for the AMI Water Meters Replacement Project to Veregy Central, LLC

Motion to approve the resolution was made by Commissioner Melin-Rogovin and seconded by Commissioner Voogd. The motion passed unanimously. This was recorded as **Resolution 7-26**.

7. Resolution approving Pay Request #1 for the 2025 Sidewalk Improvements Project to Robert R. Andreas and Sons, Inc.

Motion to approve the resolution was made by Commissioner Melin-Rogovin and seconded by Commissioner Voogd. The motion passed unanimously. This was recorded as **Resolution 8-26**.

8. Resolution authorizing the approval of Pay Request #2 for the 2025 Lead Service Replacement – Stage 2 Project to Five Star Energy Services, Inc.

Motion to approve the resolution was made by Commissioner Melin-Rogovin and seconded by Commissioner Voogd. The motion passed unanimously. This was recorded as **Resolution 9-26**.

9. Resolution authorizing the approval of Pay Request #3 for the 2025 Lead Service Replacement – Stage 2 Project to Five Star Energy Services, Inc.

Motion to approve the resolution was made by Commissioner Melin Rogovin and seconded by Commissioner Voogd. The motion passed unanimously. This was recorded as **Resolution 10-26**.

10. Approval: Request for Participation in the Vehicle Sticker Registration donation request for CY2026 – Forest Park Food Pantry

Commissioner Melin-Rogovin expressed strong support for this initiative.

Motion to approve the request was made by Commissioner Maxham and seconded by Commissioner Nero. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Approval: Use of Public Way: Living Word Christian Center, O'Sullivan's Public House and Forest Park Arts Alliance

Commissioner Maxham asked about potential issues with Living Word Christian Center's event, referencing problems from the previous year regarding the submission of maps and street closures.

Village Administrator Entler confirmed they had requested the organization to start the process earlier this year since the event wouldn't take place until fall, giving them ample time to secure necessary permissions if they planned to request closure of Des Plaines Avenue, which would require IDOT approval.

Motion to approve the use of public way was made by Commissioner Voogd and seconded by Commissioner Melin-Rogovin. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Approval: Community Center Senior Trip Agreement- Fireside Theater

Motion to approve the trip agreement was made by Commissioner Maxham and seconded by Commissioner Nero. The motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Village Administrator Entler shared additional thoughts about Karen Dylewski's retirement, noting her personal impact on the administrator's life, particularly during the administrator's cancer journey.

The administrator reported on the weekend snowstorm, thanking Public Works for being on the streets around the clock and continuing clean-up efforts.

Administrator Entler provided progress on the water meter replacement project, noting that the new system now provides alerts for high water usage. This feature already proved valuable as they were able to contact three residents that morning about potential frozen and burst pipes. The administrator explained that residents will eventually have access to a customer portal where they can set their own alerts. The administrator thanked the council for approving the water meter project and reminded residents to take precautions to prevent pipes from freezing during cold weather.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Maxham reported on two significant Fire Department responses: a major fire on January 12th and an in-field delivery of a baby. Commissioner Maxham thanked Chief Hankus for keeping her updated and expressed appreciation to the department for their hard work despite being overworked.

Commissioner Nero addressed the zoning code update, noting that the comprehensive report from December seemed to address many concerns, but there appeared to be lingering issues from some commissioners. He stated that no further questions or comments had been submitted to the department since then and suggested either submitting specific recommendations with supporting rationale or sending the matter back to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a joint meeting with public input to move forward with necessary development to generate property tax revenue.

Commissioner Melin-Rogovin responded to Commissioner Nero, suggesting they have a direct conversation rather than interpreting her body language. She reported on the Traffic and Safety Commission meeting, highlighting concerns about driver safety, particularly regarding pedestrians and speed during winter conditions. She announced a public meeting scheduled for February 18th at 7 PM at Village Hall where residents could learn about the commission's strategic plan and process for addressing street safety concerns. Commissioner Melin-Rogovin also mentioned her participation in the District 91 Citizens Advisory Council and the PTO Day of Service on MLK Day where 200 volunteers packed 35,000 meals.

Commissioner Voogd responded to Commissioner Nero, stating that her questions and suggestions had been sent months earlier and remained unanswered, emphasizing that the delay in zoning code updates was due to lack of response. She thanked Public Works for their efforts

during the snowstorm and expressed appreciation for everyone working in difficult weather conditions, including first responders.

Mayor Hoskins announced the West Central Municipal Conference legislative breakfast scheduled for February 7th, encouraging commissioners to attend this networking opportunity with regional government officials.

The Mayor reported on his meeting with Cook County Board President Tony Preckwinkle, where he discussed the high number of emergency calls to the 711 Des Plaines Blue Line terminal. As a result, Forest Park was invited to participate in the public safety task force focused on transit safety. The Mayor, Village Administrator, Police Chief, and Fire Chief met with representatives from the Cook County Sheriff's Office to discuss safety concerns, communication systems, and recommendations, including a suggestion for CTA to station an ambulance overnight at the terminal to relieve pressure on the Forest Park Fire Department.

Mayor Hoskins also mentioned attending a presentation by Illinois' Chief Homelessness Officer, noting the connection between homelessness and lack of affordable housing, particularly in transit-oriented developments.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:10 pm was made by Commissioner Nero and seconded by Commissioner Maxham. The motion passed unanimously.