

Village of Forest Park
Village Council Meeting March 23, 2026
Meeting minutes

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Hoskins led all assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioner Nero, Commissioner Melin-Rogovin, Commissioner Voogd, Mayor Hoskins

Absent: Commissioner Maxham

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 23, 2026 PUBLIC HEARING MEETING

Motion to approve the minutes from February 23, 2026, public hearing meeting, was made by Commissioner Melin-Rogovin, seconded by Commissioner Voogd, and approved unanimously by those present.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 9, 2026 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Motion to approve the minutes from February 23, 2026, public hearing meeting, was made by Commissioner Melin-Rogovin, seconded by Commissioner Voogd, and approved unanimously by those present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Samantha B. spoke during public comment and requested that the Village Council consider a ban or revisions to the current short-term rental (Airbnb) regulations. She cited several concerns based on experiences on the 900 block of Lathrop Avenue, including car break-ins, limited street parking availability for residents, excessive trash, loud parties, and overall impacts on neighborhood quality of life.

COMMUNICATIONS

No formal communications were before the Council.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Fire Department Report – February 2026

BILLS BY RESOLUTION

Deputy Clerk Roach read the bills by resolution for the various departments, with a total amount of \$971,544.21.

Motion to adopt the resolution on the bills was made by Commissioner Nero and seconded by Commissioner Melin-Rogovin and approved unanimously. This was recorded as **Resolution 22-26**.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Marketing presentation by the Chamber of Commerce**

Laurie K., representing the Chamber of Commerce, provided an update on the Chamber's ongoing efforts to support local businesses through public relations initiatives. She noted that the Chamber's primary goal is to increase awareness of Forest Park businesses and promote the community's walkability. She also shared that the Chamber has been collaborating with Explore Oak Park and Beyond to further enhance visibility for Forest Park. Commissioner Melin-Rogovin inquired about which strategies have been most effective. Laurie K. responded that social media has been particularly successful in attracting new visitors to local businesses. Commissioner Voogd suggested that business owners continue to provide feedback to the Chamber regarding what strategies are working well and where they are seeing measurable results.

2. **Ordinance waiving bid, ratifying and authorizing the acceptance of a quote addendum from MacQueen Equipment for the purchase of one Pierce Enforcer 100' Ascendant Ladder truck for the Fire Department.**

Motion to approve the ordinance was made by Commissioner Voogd and seconded by Commissioner Melin-Rogovin and approved unanimously. **Ordinance 08-26.**

3. **Ordinance waiving bid and authorizing the acceptance of a quote to purchase a new Ford F600 Chassis Chipper Truck.**

Motion to approve the ordinance was made by Commissioner Voogd and seconded by Commissioner Melin-Rogovin and approved unanimously. **Ordinance 09-26.**

4. **Resolution to approve and authorize the execution of a Professional Engineering Services Proposal for Phase II with CBBEL for 50/50 sidewalk replacement project.**

Motion to approve the resolution was made by Commissioner Melin-Rogovin and seconded by Commissioner Voogd and approved unanimously. **Resolution 23-26.**

5. **Resolution authorizing the approval of pay request #12 for the AMI water meter replacement project be paid to Veregy.**

Motion to approve the resolution was made by Commissioner Melin-Rogovin and seconded by Commissioner Voogd and approved unanimously. **Resolution 24-26.**

6. **Resolution authorizing the waiver of the hiring freeze for IMRF employees regarding hiring a full time chauffeur.**

Motion to approve the resolution was made by Commissioner Melin-Rogovin and seconded by Commissioner Voogd and approved unanimously. **Resolution 25-26.**

7. **Motion to direct the Board of Fire & Police to offer employment to the next 2 eligible Probationary officers and promote one eligible police lieutenant and one sergeant.**

Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Nero and seconded by Commissioner Melin-Rogovin and passed unanimously.

8. **Motion to approve flag raising request for Juneteenth and Pride month (June).**

Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Melin-Rogovin and seconded by Commissioner Voogd and passed unanimously.

9. **Motion to approve the request from Misericordia Foundation to conduct Candy Days fundraising on April 24 and 25, 2026.**

Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Nero and seconded by Commissioner Melin-Rogovin and passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Village Administrator Entler recognized the Beal family following the recent passing of Isaac Beal, a longtime Forest Park resident who was deeply involved in Neighborhood Watch and the community. She also shared that she attended the Arts Alliance 48 Hour Film Festival, noting that it exceeded all expectations and thanking the Arts Alliance for hosting such a successful event. Administrator Entler reminded residents that vehicle stickers are due and should be renewed promptly.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Nero reported that he is working with the Building Department to schedule a town hall on upcoming zoning updates. The meeting will provide residents with information on zoning changes and include an opportunity for questions and answers. He expects to have a confirmed date by the April 13 Council meeting and encouraged residents to attend and stay informed.

Commissioner Melin-Rogovin thanked Drew DePriest for his service as Chair of the Traffic and Safety Commission, noting that a new chair will be appointed soon. She also reminded residents of the District 91 Third Annual Education Summit on April 11, 2026, and shared that registration is available on the District 91 website.

Commissioner Voogd echoed praise for the Arts Alliance 48 Hour Film Festival, highlighting record participation and attendance. She thanked Dan Marcus, April Baker, and the Arts Alliance for their efforts in organizing the event. Commissioner Voogd also announced that Forest Park has been designated a 2025 Tree City USA community for the sixth consecutive year, making the Village eligible for grants to support urban forestry.. She added that she was saddened to hear of Isaac Beal's passing and noted his inspiring life of service to the community.

Mayor Hoskins announced that on May 11 at 11:00 a.m., the Village will hold a swearing-in ceremony for new police officers, along with departmental promotions. He also shared that he recently spoke with the Forest Park Boy Scouts troop as they work toward earning their Civics badge. The Mayor expressed his appreciation for the Forest Park Arts Alliance, noting that at a recent event, other communities recognized and spoke highly of the organization's work in Forest Park.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:40 p.m. by Commissioner Nero and seconded by Commissioner Melin-Rogovin.

Respectfully submitted

Village Clerk Carla Taylor