

**CITY OF OAKBROOK TERRACE
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL AND
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2022**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Esposito called the August 23, 2022, Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of the City Council to order at 7:01 P.M.

II. ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated the following City Council members were in attendance:

Present: Barbari, Beckwith, Fitzgerald, Greco, Rada, Vlach, and Mayor Esposito
Absent: None

Also in attendance were City Administrator A. Marrero, Assistant to City Administrator A. Raffel, and City Attorney R. Ramello.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Esposito led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Alderman Beckwith would like to add to the minutes that all three public participation speakers were speaking in opposition to the Spring Road Tributary Restoration Project.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – CHANGES OR CORRECTIONS

1. Regular Meeting Minutes of August 9, 2022

Motion to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2022, Regular City Council, as amended, was made by Alderwoman Fitzgerald and seconded by Alderman Beckwith. An acclamation vote was taken.

**Ayes: Barbari, Beckwith, Greco, Fitzgerald, Rada, and Vlach
Nays: None**

Motion passed.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mrs. Barbara Witkowski discussed the issue with Dorothy Drennon Park and the surface the Park District put down. Everyone gets shocked when touching the playground equipment due to the rubber surface. Mrs. Witkowski has talked with the Park District, and the Park District sprayed it down with Downey, but once the rain came, it was washed away. Mrs. Witkowski

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feels she has exhausted efforts with the Park District but is not getting the action she is looking for. She is asking for help from the Council to assist with this issue.

Mr. Mark Wallace is the Executive Director of the Citizens to Abolish Red Light Cameras. We started the group 13 years ago in the City of Chicago. The red-light cameras have moved through municipalities, which only happened to the corruption. Mr. Wallace stated that there were five independent studies that red light cameras do not produce safety. He noted that red light cameras only have a lot of money. Mr. Wallace asked how local legislatures can allow this system that is tied to corruption and the one company tied to the red-light cameras. There are now thirteen federal convictions from Safe Speed to public officials. He stated that this municipality is one of them with the former mayor. This is not about public safety; the public should not be up for sale.

Mr. Roger Romanelli stated that this was a major night for the State of Illinois. Governor Pritzker and the Oakbrook Terrace Council have the ability to do what the people of Illinois need. Since Governor Pritzker took office in 2018, look at what has happened in Oakbrook Terrace. In 2020, State Senator Sandoval pleaded guilty to federal charges of taking thousands of dollars to fix the red-light cameras, and Governor Pritzker did nothing. A few months ago, your former Mayor pleaded guilty to taking \$88,000 in bribes from Safe Speed and told the FBI that a mafia mobster was getting cash from Safe Speed. Mr. Romanelli asked if laws matter in the Land of Lincoln anymore or if it is run by corrupt politicians that like to hammer us with fake tickets. He stated that the buck stops at Pritzker's desk and all your desks. Governor Pritzker issued an executive order to shut down the red-light cameras at Route 83 and 22nd permanently. Mr. Romanelli asked the Council to remove the cameras, and if not, should all resign. He stated that if you look at the statistics, accidents have increased by 60%. They were not installed for safety but for corruption and funds. Mr. Romanelli stated that the cameras should come down now.

VII. ACTION ITEMS/CONSENT AGENDA

1. Payment of City Bills: August 23, 2022, In the Amount Of \$154,301.10
2. Treasurers Report July 2022
3. Personnel & Payroll Report July 2022
4. Ordinance 22-24: An Ordinance Amending The Code Of Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois, Re-Designating The Building And Zoning Department As The "Community Development Department."

Motion to approve all the items contained on the Consent Agenda as presented for August 23, 2022, was made by Alderman Rada and seconded by Alderman Beckwith. Roll call was taken.

Ayes: Barbari, Beckwith, Fitzgerald, Greco, Rada, and Vlach

Nays: None

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Motion passed.

VIII. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

None

IX. RECESS TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Motion to recess to the Committee of the Whole portion of this meeting was made by Alderman Vlach and seconded by Alderman Greco. An acclamation vote was taken.

**Ayes: Barbari, Beckwith, Fitzgerald, Greco, Rada, and Vlach
Nays: None**

Motion passed.

X. MAYOR ESPOSITO

Mayor Esposito wanted to thank the residents who attended the special meeting regarding the Spring Road Tributary Restoration Project. The Mayor felt it was well attended, with open dialog and a mitigation plan to enhance the project's aesthetics. Next Thursday, Staff, Christopher B. Burke Engineering, and Semper Fi will be meeting to outline the following steps to remove the buckthorn and the subsequent phases of the plan. Then Phase 2 will be a town hall meeting to discuss marking mature trees. The Summer Concert Series this Friday is the final show. Shin Dig and the Buckingham's will be playing. Mayor felt the concerts have been received well by the residents and hope to bring them back next year. City Hall will be closed Monday, September 5th for Labor Day. Mayor Esposito explained we were to present a plaque to Mihaela Dragan for her retirement; that has been postponed to the next council meeting.

XI. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE CONSIDERATIONS

- 1. Draft Ordinance Decreasing The Number Of Class "A" Licenses By One (1), Pursuant To The Provisions Of Title 11: Business Regulations; Chapter 111: Food And Beverages; Section 111.011: Number Of Licenses, Of The Code Of Ordinances Of The City Of Oakbrook Terrace (Park TRS Operating Company dba Hilton Garden Inn Oakbrook Terrace)**

Mayor Esposito stated that the Garden Inn was sold, and the Liquor License does not transfer to the new owners. The new owners completed all the necessary paperwork and have applied for the Class "A" Liquor License, as you will see in Agenda Item 2. Park TRS Operating Company was the former property owner and has recently changed hands. Mayor Esposito asked for questions with none asked.

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The Council concurred to place this item on the following consent agenda for approval.

- 2. Draft Ordinance Increasing The Number Of Class “A” Liquor Licenses By One (1) Pursuant To The Provisions Of Title XI (Business Regulations); Chapter 111 (Food And Beverages); Subchapter *Alcoholic Liquor Control*, Section 111.012 (Number Of Licenses In Each License Classification), Of The Code Of Ordinances Of The City Of Oakbrook Terrace (Satchitanand Hotels, LLC dba: Hilton Garden Inn Oakbrook Terrace)**

Mayor Esposito said this is the same thing as item number 1. Mayor Esposito explained that we are increasing the Class “A” Liquor license by one. The new owner, Mr. Vidyut Patel, has fulfilled his application and passed background checks. If there are no questions, we will add this to the next Consent Agenda.

The Council concurred to place this item on the following removed from the consent agenda for consideration and a vote.

- 3. Draft Ordinance Decreasing The Number Of Class “A” Licenses By One (1), Pursuant To The Provisions Of Title 11: Business Regulations; Chapter 111: Food And Beverages; Section 111.011: Number Of Licenses, Of The Code Of Ordinances Of The City Of Oakbrook Terrace (Park TRS Operating Company dba: Hilton Suites Oakbrook Terrace)**

Mayor Esposito stated that both properties were sold at the same time. This draft ordinance will decrease the Class “A” Liquor License by one. Park TRS Operating Company sold the property, and the new owner will apply for a liquor license below.

The Council concurred to place this item on the following removed from the consent agenda for consideration and a vote.

- 4. Draft Ordinance Increasing The Number Of Class “A” Liquor Licenses By One (1) Pursuant To The Provisions Of Title XI (Business Regulations); Chapter 111 (Food And Beverages); Subchapter *Alcoholic Liquor Control*, Section 111.012 (Number Of Licenses In Each License Classification), Of The Code Of Ordinances Of The City Of Oakbrook Terrace (OB Terrace Hospitality, LLC dba: Hilton Suites Oakbrook Terrace)**

Mayor Esposito stated that the new owner of the Hilton Suites, Mr. Radheshyam Thakkar and Vishal Thakkar, have successfully passed the required background check. If there are no questions from the Council, we will move this item to the next Consent Agenda.

The Council concurred to place this item on the following removed from the consent agenda for consideration and a vote.

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XII. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Alderman Beckwith said the concert was good and the biggest crowd we have had. Alderman Beckwith also stated that the Town Hall meeting was very positive, and that the Mayor's plan was a nice compromise between the original plan and what the residents wanted to see. Alderman Beckwith stated that it makes sense to contact a landscape architect to assess the erosion project. Alderman Greco loved the participation, showed how a community could work together, and the residents were excited to participate. Alderman Greco wanted to repeat the plan that the buckthorn would only be removed and tag all the trees, followed by another Town Hall meeting. Alderman Barbari said he feels he might have the City's next business plan: the addition of electrical charging stations. Alderman Barbari asked City Administrator Marrero if we charge for Transfer Stamps. City Administrator Marrero said the City does not charge for them. Alderman Barbari asked if we could look into charging for Transfer Stamps with the sale of a property. Alderwoman Fitzgerald stated she was impressed with the community involvement and the excellent ideas added to the plan at the Town Hall meeting.

XIII. CITY ATTORNEY RAMELLO

None.

XIV. CITY CLERK SHADLEY

None

XV. CITY ADMINISTRATOR MARRERO

None.

XVI. RECONVENE THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Motion to reconvene to the City Council meeting was made by Alderman Vlach and seconded by Alderman Barbari. An acclamation vote was taken.

Ayes: Barbari, Beckwith, Fitzgerald, Greco, Rada, and Vlach

Nays: None

Motion passed.

XVII. OLD BUSINESS

None

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ADJOURN

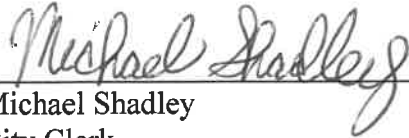
Motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Beckwith and seconded by Alderman Rada at 7:27 pm.

Acclamation vote made with all Ayes.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Raffel, Recording Secretary

Attested:



Michael Shadley
City Clerk

