

**CITY OF OAKBROOK TERRACE  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL AND  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2022**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Esposito called the November 22, 2022, Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of the City Council to order at 7:00 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 Interim City Administrator A. Raffel, Community Development Director M. Headley, 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**

None

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – CHANGES OR CORRECTIONS**

1. Regular Meeting Minutes of November 8, 2022

**Motion to approve the regular City Council minutes of November 8, 2022, as amended, was made by Alderman Greco and seconded by Alderman Rada.**

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

**Motion passed.**

**VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

**VII. ACTION ITEMS/CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Payment of City Bills: November 22, 2022, in the amount of \$160,826.49
2. Treasurer's report October 2022
3. Personnel & payroll report October 2022
4. Approval of road salt purchase with the Illinois Department of Central Management Services Joint Purchasing Program For 400 tons of rock salt at \$80.49 per ton (\$32,196.00) for the 2022-2023 winter season
5. Resolution 22-15: A Resolution Designating the City Council meeting schedule for the City of Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois
6. Resolution 22-16: A Resolution Designating Freedom of Information Act Officers for the City of Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois

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7. Ordinance 22-34: An Ordinance Granting Variations from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Oakbrook Terrace for 1S522 Stillwell Road (Marc Schellhorn and Tracy Schellhorn) located in the City of Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois

**Motion to approve all the items contained on the Consent Agenda as presented for November 22, 2022, was made by Alderman Beckwith and seconded by Alderman Vlach. Roll call was taken.**

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

**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 the meeting was made by Alderwoman Fitzgerald and seconded by Alderman Barbari. An acclamation vote was taken:**

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

**Motion passed.**

**X. MAYOR ESPOSITO**

Mayor Esposito thanked all the Veterans and residents that attended the Veteran's Day ceremony held this year at the Villa Park VFW Post 2801. He stated the event was well attended by representatives of the Village of Villa Park and the VFW. Mayor Esposito gave special thanks to our staff and Public Works for setting up. He also gave a special thanks to the Oakbrook Terrace Fire District and Oakbrook Police Department for making the event a success. Mayor Esposito commented that the goal each year is to build attendance and have community involvement in honoring our Veterans.

Mayor Esposito reminded those in attendance that City Hall will be closed on Thursday, November 24<sup>th</sup> and Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup> in observance of Thanksgiving.

Mayor Esposito also reminded everyone that the Tree Lighting Ceremony and Children's Christmas Party will be at Stella May Swartz School on Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

Mayor Esposito advised that the Lions Club is taking orders for their annual Christmas tree sale. He explained that the cost of a tree is \$45.00 or \$50.00 if a metal stake is needed. Tree's will be delivered the Friday or Saturday after Thanksgiving.

Lastly, Mayor Esposito congratulated and welcomed to the city two (2) new police officers, David Gucciardo and Michelle Cipriani. The mayor explained that the officers would be joining the Oakbrook Police Department as lateral transfers and thanked the Police Commission for their efforts during the hiring process.

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**XI. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE CONSIDERATIONS**

1. Draft Ordinance amending the Code Of Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois, regarding exterior surface and protective treatments.

Alderman Beckwith asked Mayor Esposito to table the draft Ordinance amending the Code of Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois, regarding exterior surface and protective treatment.

**Motion to table the draft Ordinance amending the Code of Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois, regarding exterior surface and protective treatment was made by Alderman Beckwith and seconded by Alderman Rada.**

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

**Motion passed.**

2. Approval of change to Order #2 for Semper Fi Landscaping Inc. for the Spring Road Tributary Restoration Project in the amount of \$117,459.00

Mayor Esposito asked the City Council to review the change order prepared by Jedd Anderson from Christopher B. Burke Inc. (CBBL) regarding the additional cost required to remove and trim trees by hand for the Spring Road Tributary Restoration project. The mayor asked Robert Velasquez from Semper Fi to explain the cost associated with the change order to the City Council.

Mr. Velasquez explained that the additional \$88,000 is for manually removing and trimming of trees within the project, and not a mechanical removal approach. Velasquez stated the trimming and removal would be completed by rope and saddle along with a bucket truck instead of mechanical removal with bigger pieces of equipment like an excavator with a cutter head. He also stated that the bigger equipment is invasive.

Due to community reaction for mechanical removal, Semper Fi based their quote on using manual labor as they have been doing in the past. Mr. Velasquez also stated that the community wanted to preserve some of the smaller native trees that would be destroyed if heavier machinery was utilized. Mayor Esposito inquired about the difference between the change order before the City Council for consideration and the original bid. Mr. Velasquez stated that the initial bid was based on using the mechanical removal of trees and vegetation along the creek. It was further explained that mechanical work would take two to three days to complete the project versus three to four weeks using manual removal.

Mayor Esposito commented that residents tagged 30 or 40 trees to be saved right now, so that does not leave many trees to be trimmed or taken down. The mayor then asked, by using manual labor how the change order cost would increase so drastically? Mr. Velasquez provided an example of the walnut trees and how much time they would need to trim it up and save versus cutting it down. Velasquez also explained that once one of the bigger trees is cut down the canopy is then dragged along the path and existing foliage along path will get crushed.

Mayor Esposito asked Mr. Velasquez if there was any type of hybrid or alternative approach, which could be used to bring the cost down. The mayor also asked what work could be completed with the change of weather coming? Velasquez replied, they are able to prune trees throughout the winter and even if the ground is frozen, they are able to complete some tasks without disrupting other plants.

Alderman Fitzgerald then asked about the trees that have ribbons on them, and if it was agreed by the community and administration to be saved. Mayor Esposito explained that the community had asked for

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those trees to be saved, but when DuPage County certifies the project, those trees may be denied and then taken down at an additional cost. Alderwoman Fitzgerald asked if the City Council could have a running tab each time the project comes before the City Council, so they have full knowledge of the costs associated with the project.

Mayor Esposito explained that the original project budget was \$903,000 with an original bid of \$383,888 and a grant of \$234,000. This left the city out-of-pocket expenses at \$149,888. The mayor also explained that the two additional change orders doubled the out-of-pocket costs. Alderwoman Fitzgerald asked if another cost would occur due to planting additional trees and shrubs, which Mayor Esposito responded by saying that planting new trees and shrubs would change order number three.

Alderman Barbari stated that the cost of cutting the trees is going up, but Semper Fi is cutting fewer trees this time, which does not seem to make sense. Mr. Velasquez explained that it is due to the approach they are taking to remove the trees this time. Alderwoman Fitzgerald asked if there was a commitment to the community not to use mechanical removal, which Mayor Esposito replied the commitment was for the removal of the buckthorn by hand, so native and non-native trees would not be disrupted.

Alderman Greco then asked if there was another way to remove the slated trees with a hybrid approach so that the job is done more effectively and for costs to be decreased in some way? Mr. Velasquez explained that both styles of removal are vastly different, with one clearing most of the land while the other is a gentle approach. Mayor Esposito then asked Mr. Velasquez if he was in contact with DuPage County regarding the inspection, which Velasquez replied “no.”

Alderman Beckwith pointed out that the approval of the change order was listed in New Business and wanted to know if this was not passed, would any additional costs like rental fees come into a factor of the change order? Velasquez replied “no.” Alderman Beckwith also requested clarification on the cottonwood trees and if they will be removed, which Velasquez stated there might be one slated to be removed, but the others were to be trimmed up. Alderman Beckwith also mentioned credits that should be on the account and wanted to know when we would see them. Mr. Velasquez stated that if there were any credits, they would be on the last change order and invoice.

Alderman Rada then asked about the mechanical removal and whether it rips the tree from the ground and Velasquez stated that some will be while some trees, like an elm tree, is cut at the base of the tree with a cutter disc. Alderman Rada asked if the mechanical removal might upset the residents again which Velasquez replied “it could.” Velasquez advised that mechanical removal is very intimidating and drags the full-size tree through the existing landscaping. Alderman Rada then asked if we went with the mechanical removal, would the change order include additional ground cover to replace what was damaged which Velasquez stated “yes.”

Alderwoman Fitzgerald expressed that Mr. Velasquez has been very knowledgeable with the boots on the ground and understanding the big picture, but still, the City Council must be fiscally responsible with solid numbers. She also stated that the trade-offs regarding the real cost are going to move the City Council toward the decision. Mayor Esposito said he agreed with Alderwoman Fitzgerald’s comments. Mayor Esposito stated that bringing in large equipment would be a bit alarming. The mayor expressed and understood that residents have marked thirty to forty trees and Semper Fi still has to cut down diseased trees by hand to preserve trees around them, but additional equipment will still be necessary.

Mayor Esposito asked for further questions, which none were raised.

**XII. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS**

Alderman Rada thanked Public Services Director Ward for adding appropriately sized stop signs throughout Berkshire and additional stop signs in the courtyard.

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Alderman Rada discussed the items concerning the DCVB, which included the Hotel Relief program, referrals, tradeshow, conferences, and Tour Director guide. He informed the City Council that the DuPage Hotel Relief Program through ARPA funds totaled \$112 per room or \$1.2 million in federal grant funds and the amounts each hotel in Oakbrook Terrace received.

Alderman Rada discussed the current Hotel Tax Income, the Chicago Economic Development Group, State Legislature that require Air B&Bs to pay hotel tax, and deficiencies in Safety Act Bill.

Alderman Vlach commented on the lights at Fik Point and thanked Public Services Director Ward and his staff for their hard work, and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving from him and his wife.

Alderman Beckwith congratulated the Lions Club for selling nearly one hundred trees and was looking for updates regarding signs on MacArthur Drive.

Alderman Greco wanted to know if the city was notified about the Nicor project that is taking place within the city boundaries, and Mayor Esposito stated it was communicated on the City's Facebook page.

Alderman Barbari wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Alderwoman Fitzgerald agreed with Mayor Esposito regarding the VFW post and the celebration.

Alderwoman Fitzgerald wanted to send a thank you to the Willowbrook High School Choir for their outstanding performance.

**XIII. CITY ATTORNEY RAMELLO**

Happy Thanksgiving

**XIV. CITY CLERK SHADLEY**

Happy Thanksgiving

**XV. INTERIM CITY ADMINISTRATOR RAFFEL**

Happy Thanksgiving

**XVI. RECONVENE THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**Motion to reconvene the City Council meeting was made by Alderman Rada and seconded by Alderman Beckwith. An acclamation vote was taken.**

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

**Nays: None**

**Absent: None**

**Motion passed.**

**XVII. OLD BUSINESS**

None

**XVIII. RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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Motion was made to recess to Executive Closed Session pursuant to section 2 (c) (1) discussion of the Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal Of Employees of the Public Body was made by Alderwoman Fitzgerald seconded by Alderman Beckwith.

An acclamation vote was taken:

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

**Nays: None**

**Absent: None**

Motion passed.

**XIX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

1. Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Employees of the Public Body.

**XX. RECONVENE THE REGULAR MEETING**

Motion to reconvene the Regular Meeting was made by Alderman Greco and seconded by Alderman Barbari.

An acclamation vote was taken:

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

**Nays: None**

**Absent: None**

Motion passed.

**XXI. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Ordinance 22-35: An Ordinance appointing a City Administrator and to approve and authorize the Execution of the City Administrator's Employment Agreement for the City Of Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois

Motion to approve Ordinance 22-35: an Ordinance appointing a City Administrator and to approve and authorize the Execution of the City Administrator's Employment agreement for the City of Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois, as presented was made by Alderman Beckwith and seconded by Alderman Greco. Roll call was taken:

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

**Nays: None**

**Absent: None**

Motion passed.

2. Approval of change Order #2 to Semper Fi Landscaping Inc. for the Spring Road Tributary Restoration Project in the Amount Of \$117,459.00

Motion to table Approval of Change Order #2 to Semper Fi Landscaping Inc., for the Spring Road Tributary Restoration Project in the Amount of \$117,459.00 as presented was made by Alderman Greco and seconded by Alderman Rada. Roll Call was taken:

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

**Motion passed.**


**ADJOURN**

**Motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Rada and seconded by Alderman Beckwith at 8:19 pm.**

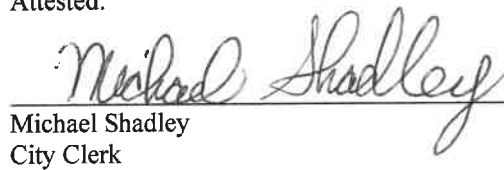
**Acclamation vote made with all Ayes.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Amy Raffel, Recording Secretary

Attested:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Shadley  
City Clerk

