

City of Oakbrook Terrace

*City Hall
17W275 Butterfield Rd.
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181
www.oakbrookterrace.net*



City Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 28, 2023
7:00 PM

City Council Board Room

Oakbrook Terrace City Council

Mayor Paul Esposito

City Clerk Michael Shadley

Ward 1

Alderman Charlie Barbari

Alderman Joseph Beckwith

Ward 2

Alderman Frank Vlach

Alderman Dennis Greco

Ward 3

Alderman Bob Rada

Alderwoman Mary Fitzgerald

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Esposito called the March 28, 2023, 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 in attendance:

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

Also in attendance: City Administrator J. Ritz, Assistant to the 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

None

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – CHANGES OR CORRECTIONS

1. Regular Meeting Minutes of March 14, 2023

Motion to approve the regular City Council minutes of March 14, 2023, was made by Alderman Vlach and seconded by Alderman Beckwith.

**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: March 14, 2023, In the Amount of \$152,003.71
2. Treasurer's Report: February 2023
3. Personnel & Payroll: February 2023

Motion to move Action Item/Consent Agenda item Payment of City Bills: March 14, 2023, In the Amount of \$152,003.71, 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.

Motion to approve Action Item/Consent Agenda item Treasurer’s Report: February 2023 and Action Item/Consent Agenda item Personnel & Payroll: February 2023, contained on the Consent Agenda as presented for March 28, 2023, was made by Alderwoman Fitzgerald and seconded by Alderman Greco. 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

Mayor Esposito stated Action Item/Consent Agenda item Payment of City Bills: March 14, 2023, In the Amount of \$152,003.71 was removed. Mayor Esposito asked for a motion to discuss.

Motion to discuss Items Removed From The Consent Agenda was made by Alderman Rada and seconded by Alderman Greco.

Mayor Esposito stated that the Action Item/Consent Agenda item Payment of City Bills: March 14, 2023, In the Amount of \$152,003.71, was a typo and should be Payment of City Bills: March 28, 2023, In the Amount of \$152,003.71. Mayor Esposito asked if the item needed to be discussed any further. Mayor Esposito asked for a motion to approve.

Motion to approve Payment of City Bills: March 28, 2023: In the Amount of \$152,003.71, contained on the Items Removed From The Consent Agenda, as amended, was made by Alderman Barbari and seconded by Alderwoman Fitzgerald. Roll call was taken.

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

Motion passed.

RECESS TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Motion to recess to the Committee of the Whole portion of the meeting was made by Alderman Rada and seconded by Alderman Beckwith. Roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion passed.

IX. MAYOR ESPOSITO

1. Mayor Esposito received a letter from Planning and Zoning Chairman Steve Caslin addressed to the Mayor and City Council members effective immediately that he was submitting his formal resignation as the Planning and Zoning Board Chairman. Mayor Esposito further read that Chairman Caslin is unable to continue his role as chairman due to his medical situation. Chairman Caslin wanted to thank former Mayor Ragucci for the appointment of the position, the board members who have been with him for seven years, and Ms. Addy Lozano for her hard work and always going the extra mile. Mayor Esposito stated he wishes Chairman Caslin the best, said it is tough news, and that he will be missed.

2. The Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Kite Fly event will start at noon on Saturday, April 1st, at Stella May Swartz School. Mayor Esposito stated that we have 80 residents registered for the event and hopes to have 100 by the end of the week.
3. Mayor Esposito thanked the Oakbrook Terrace Lions Club for hosting last Saturday's 32nd Annual Someone Special event. Mayor Esposito stated that the event was well attended and asked Mr. Bob Shanahan to confirm how many volunteers they had. Mr. Shanahan said that 33 volunteers assisted with the event along with Canine Comfort Dog Pickles. Mayor Esposito stated he was touched and enjoyed seeing the kids enjoy the event. Mayor Esposito said this event is special to Oakbrook Terrace due to former Mayor Kallas and hopes the City will continue to support the event regularly.
4. Mayor Esposito informed City Council that the Employee Appreciation dinner has been set for Friday, May 5th, starting at 6:00 pm at Ditka's. Invitations will be sent out shortly, so please mark your calendar.
5. Mayor Esposito informed the City Council that on Saturday evening, the AT&T store, located at 17W639 Roosevelt Road, was robbed by two unknown, armed offenders. The offenders obtained 49 cell phones and Apple watches. Mayor Esposito explained that detectives are continuing their investigation and surveillance. Vehicle plates were traced back to a stolen vehicle located in Hillside.
6. Mayor Esposito commented on the DuPage County elections scheduled for April 4th and will be held in the Council Chambers.

X. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE CONSIDERATIONS

None

XI. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Alderwoman Fitzgerald is keeping the Aqua flag waving but did not want to persevere on it tonight. She stated that City Administrator Ritz called to inform her that Mr. Daniel Lynch of Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd would attend the April 11th City Council meeting to review his finding and to bring questions along with the Berkshire community.

Alderwoman Fitzgerald asked if communication with the City Council could be bettered when events like the armed robbery so that they can inform their community. She stated that internal communication is important and keeps them involved.

Alderman Barbari echoed the same sentiments with Alderwoman Fitzgerald regarding communication of events with the Oakbrook Terrace Police Department.

Alderman Greco expressed his gratitude to Chairman Caslin for all his time in the City. He stated that Chairman Caslin was a former alderman at one point and accomplished a lot throughout his career. Alderman Greco said he worked with Chairman Caslin on several issues and did not always see eye to eye, but both always had the City's best interest in mind.

Alderman Beckwith thanked everyone for the kind words regarding Chairman Caslin. He stated that working together is in the City's best interest, whether you agree or not.

Alderman Beckwith agrees with Alderwoman Fitzgerald and Alderman Barbari that communication with events like the armed robbery is essential. He stated that often with social media, the wrong information is put out there, and accurate information helps them combat the misinformation.

Alderman Beckwith discussed the success of Someone Special, would like to see the event happen every year, and that the City contributes a donation to the event. Alderman Beckwith asked if there could be a dedicated line item to the event and to add it to the Tourism Fund.

Alderman Beckwith asked if Finance Director Hoffman had the budget updates to send to Council. Alderman Beckwith wanted to make sure the additional \$5,000 for the Someone Special is added as one of the updates.

Alderman Beckwith stated he appreciated Staff looking into the Aqua issue and felt there was a lot of misinformation and scare tactics with large numbers going around. He believes that having the actual numbers helps make the best-educated decisions. Alderman Beckwith stated that this could help economic development and future planning for the City of Oakbrook Terrace.

Alderman Vlach wished everyone a Happy Easter.

Alderman Rada commented that the DuPage County Convention & Visitors Bureau (DCVB) is advertising a byline that DuPage County is safely tucked away, just left of Cook County. He also discussed the new Symphony Travel App, which can tell when individuals visit DuPage County, their location, where they spend their money, and any functions they attend. He explained that there was an NCAA Synchronized Swimming Championship over the weekend. With this app, it could take a ping every half hour and determine where everyone was before or after the championship. With Geofencing, to know whether tourists are at restaurants, shopping, or staying at a hotel. Alderman Rada stated that the DCVB is finding the current economic situation is positively impacting travel and expect 63% of people to travel within the next six (6) months. Alderman Rada touched on the B2B Grant Program and how Community Director Headley is on top of that and getting information out to businesses, restaurants, and hotels. He commented on the funding with DuPage County and how Chair Deborah Conroy is involved. Alderman Rada stated that the City of Oakbrook Terrace gives twice as much funding to DCVB as DuPage County and that DuPage County should be embarrassed about that. He said DuPage County needs to remember how they benefit from the DCVB by taxes on restaurants, retail, and gas. Alderman Rada stated that the DCVB hopes to be fully funded by DuPage County with \$1,000,000, which was positively received by the new council since they see the benefits of tourism.

Alderman Rada stated that a few hotels declined the money for the ARPA funds, so there is a considerable amount of money left to grab. The DCVB hopes to use the funds towards sponsorship fees to entice larger groups to book events within DuPage County.

Alderman Rada stated he is bothered by our financial reports and said they are poor and just a spreadsheet that does not tell us squat. He stated that in the past, Council received reports that analyzed the finances. Alderman Rada wanted to know why those reports stopped coming. He said he did reach out to Finance Director Hoffman and was told that he is busy and will give them to the Council quarterly. Alderman Rada stated that if Finance Director Hoffman is a salaried employee, not on the clock, he must complete the reports. Alderman Rada stated he wants to see these types of reports because we are all not accounting wizards. Alderman Rada said he would like to see trends on how the City is doing financially, which would be a big help.

Alderman Rada stated he was significantly dismayed by the lack of items on the agenda for the last two City Council meetings. He commented that it is four weeks and wants to know what everyone is doing.

Mayor Esposito clarified that the analysis that Finance Director Hoffman gave at the City Council meetings, Alderman Rada told him they are wonderful. Mayor Esposito stated that the report provided by the previous City Administrator was a one-page report of revenue versus expenses. Alderman Rada said Finance Director Hoffman's reports do not tell us anything. Mayor Esposito showed Alderman Rada the past report in question, and Alderman Rada claims it is more information on those reports than the City Council is receiving now. Alderman Rada stated he wanted to see an analysis of the spreadsheet. Mayor Esposito stated that Finance Director Hoffman's reports are lengthy and lead up to budget time. Mayor Esposito said we can provide Finance Director Hoffman some guidance on what the City Council is looking for, either monthly or quarterly. Alderman Rada stated spreadsheets are fine but want to see the trends for the season and what we look to look out for next month. Alderman Rada said he felt he was being set up and did not appreciate it, and all he is looking for is a simple analysis of our budget and financial situation, not the raw number. Alderwoman Fitzgerald interjected and stated that what

Alderman Rada is alluding to is, for instance, when she looks at the spreadsheet, all she sees are numbers that vary month by month. She exampled the revenue from the Red Light Cameras. Alderwoman Fitzgerald explained that a graph format would be suitable for a few indicators with significant fluctuations in revenue and explaining or providing analysis. Mayor Esposito stated that Finance Director Hoffman puts much time into his monthly reports that show where the City is financial, along with the monthly and yearly comparison. Mayor Esposito noted that this is a lot of work on his behalf compiling the data. Alderman Rada said it's a spreadsheet. Mayor Esposito stated that Finance Director Hoffman may need clear directions regarding what the City Council wants to see in the reports. Alderman Rada said that if Finance Director Hoffman has to input the data manually, we need to look at our computer account system and data processing. Mayor Esposito explained that the City uses Springbrook and will talk with Finance Director Hoffman about a quarterly report. Alderman Beckwith stated that maybe the questioning is due to a few months passing, and we have not seen the requested information. Alderman Beckwith said that City Administrator Ritz might inform the Council when they should receive a financial report. Alderman Beckwith also stated that Springbrook could generate a few of those reports and print them out but may need the module to have the capabilities to build a report. Alderman Beckwith stated that seeing a statement like that monthly would be great. Mayor Esposito said he would check to see if we can produce these reports with our software. Alderman Beckwith stated that calling Springbrook to have a custom report built to capture the data would take staff some man-hours in programming, but there is no reason they cannot. Alderman Beckwith also stated that the City should go paperless so staff does not have to enter the data manually; it is already there.

Alderman Rada touched up on the Aqua issue and was grateful the City looked into it and spent the money on the report. He stated that he was told the hook-up for water was too far away for years, and the study shows it is doable. Alderman Rada said that it clarifies the situation and lets us know what needs to be done.

XII. CITY ATTORNEY RAMELLO

None

XIII. CITY CLERK SHADLEY

None

XIV. CITY ADMINISTRATOR RITZ

City Administrator Ritz gave an update on the Northern Illinois University (NIU) Strategic plan. We are still in the initial phases and will be moving forward with gathering information from residents, businesses, staff, and City Council. He stated that we are on track based on NIU's provided timeline. City Administrator Ritz noted that we will hold stakeholder interviews, focus groups, and community opinion surveys in June. He stated that staff would have surveys ready at the Easter Egg Hunt to gather necessary information.

City Administrator Ritz stated we would add the Aqua study to the April 11th City Council Agenda and invite Dan Lynch from Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd to discuss findings and answer any questions.

City Administrator Ritz stated that Public Services Director Ward worked with ComEd to receive a \$64,000 grant to upgrade our lighting system throughout the City, saving us 55% of our kilowatt usage.

City Administrator Ritz thanked Oakbrook Terrace Lions Bob Shanahan and Bruce Almeroth for putting together the Someone Special event and said it was an honor to be a small part of it. He stated that the occasion made many families happy and was a fantastic event for them to attend. City Administrator Ritz said he looks forward to helping with the event next year.

RECONVENE THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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

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

Motion passed.

XV. OLD BUSINESS

None

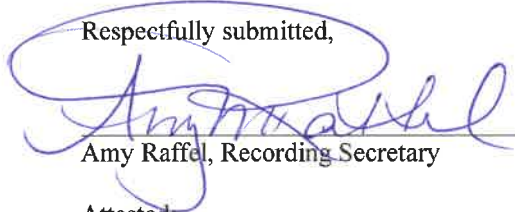
ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Greco and seconded by Alderwoman Fitzgerald at 7:37 pm.

Acclamation vote made with all Ayes.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Raffel, Recording Secretary

Attested.



Michael Shadley
City Clerk