

City of Oakbrook Terrace

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



City Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 9, 2024
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 January 9, 2024, 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, Finance Director M. Hoffman, Police Chief C. Calvello, Deputy Chief D. Clark, and City Attorney M. Holmes.

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 December 12, 2023:

Motion to approve the December 12, 2023, Regular City Council and Committee of the Whole, as presented, was made by Alderman Vlach and seconded by Alderman Beckwith. Roll call was taken.

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

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Oakbrook Terrace Resident Bruce Almeroth stated the water tower looks beautiful and thanked the City Council for their countless contributions into the final decision-making process. Mr. Almeroth announced that the Oakbrook Terrace Lions Club will be hosting their Someone Special event on February 17, 2024, at Drury Lane and the featured play will be SpongeBob.

Oakbrook Terrace resident Annette Freund spoke to the City Council regarding approved budgeted purchase prices that have not complied with proper procurement procedures and ordinances. Ms. Freund expressed dissatisfaction with the failed ordinance regarding extended city services to homeowners' associations. Ms. Freund also commented on the nepotism within City Hall, the conflict of interest it is causing, and the city's reputation and requested that City Council take action.

Bloomington Resident David Meimers spoke to the City Council regarding his prior employment with the City and the issues of nepotism and conflicts of interest within City Hall. Mr. Meimers discussed his Freedom of Information request, the resignation of the Finance Director, and violations of the City's Code of Conduct.

VII. ACTION ITEMS/CONSENT AGENDA

1. Payment of City Bills: January 9, 2024, In the Amount Of \$511,234.89
2. Resolution No. 24-01: A Resolution Approving And Authorizing The Payment Of Estimate Of Payment Number One For The 500,000 Gallon Spheroidal Water Tank Exterior Overcoat Project By The City Of Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois.
3. Ordinance No. 24-01: An Ordinance Amending The Provisions Of The Subchapter Entitled "Long-Term Stay Hotel-Motel Room Tax" Of Chapter 35 Entitled "Taxes" of Title III Entitled "Administration" Of The Code Of Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois.

Motion to approve the Action Items/Consent Agenda of January 9, 2024, Regular City Council and Committee of the Whole, 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.

VIII. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

1. Ordinance No. 24-02: An Ordinance Amending The Code Of Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois, Regarding Exterior Surface Protective Treatments:

Motion to discuss Items Removed from The Consent Agenda Ordinance No. 24-02: An Ordinance Amending The Code Of Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois, Regarding Exterior Surface Protective Treatment, was made by Alderman Greco and seconded by Alderman Beckwith. Roll call vote was taken.

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

Alderman Rada thanked Mayor Esposito for his request to review the proposed ordinance and the option to discuss it before the vote.

Motion to approve Items Removed from The Consent Agenda Ordinance No. 24-02: An Ordinance Amending The Code Of Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois, Regarding Exterior Surface Protective Treatment, was made by Alderman Greco and seconded by Alderman Beckwith. Roll call vote was taken.

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

X. MAYOR ESPOSITO

1. Mayor Esposito thanked city staff and the alderman for their teamwork and contribution to ensure the Christmas Eve luminaries were a success. He stated he received positive feedback despite the weather conditions.
2. Mayor Esposito informed City Council and the audience of the upcoming 33rd Annual Someone Special event being hosted by the Oakbrook Terrace Lions Club on Saturday, February 17, 2024, at Drury Lane.

XI. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE CONSIDERATIONS

1. **Draft Ordinance Approving A Rider Extending The Term Of Agreement For Library Services Between The City Of Oakbrook Terrace And The Villa Park Public Library Dated December 17, 1987:**

Mayor Esposito asked the City Council to review the draft ordinance regarding the agreement with the Villa Park Library for library services and the cost of the library cards.

Alderman Fitzgerald asked whether the city could bear the total cost of the library cards for the residents. Mayor Esposito stated that this topic can be discussed during the budget process. No further questions or comments from City Council.

This Ordinance will be placed on the subsequent Action Items/Consent Agenda for approval.

2. **2023 MFT Curb Replacement Project 1st And Final Pav Request:**

Mayor Esposito asked the City Council to refer to the interdepartmental memo prepared by Public Services Director Ward regarding the 2023 MFT Curb Replacement Project. Mayor Esposito stated that Davis Concrete is seeking payment for the completion of the Curb Replacement Project. Mayor Esposito noted the excellent job they did with completing this project.

Alderman Greco shared the same sentiment regarding the job well done by Davis Concrete.

This Ordinance will be placed on the subsequent Action Items/Consent Agenda for approval.

3. **Draft Ordinance Amending Title XI Entitled "Business Regulations" Of The Code Of Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois, Regulating Unscheduled Intercity Buses And The Discharge of Passengers:**

Mayor Esposito asked the City Council to review the draft ordinance prepared by City Attorney Ramello. He stated that surrounding cities and municipalities are passing similar ordinances regulating unscheduled intercity buses and the discharge of passengers. Mayor Esposito explained that the ordinance provides a smooth transition for new arrivals to make their way down to the City of Chicago. City Attorney Holmes further explained that these groups are being dropped off at train stations at all hours of the day with limited resources. Police Chief Calvello provided information regarding their role with enforcement of the ordinance.

Alderman Beckwith provided additional comments and clarification regarding the ordinance. Alderman Greco asked further questions regarding police enforcement. Alderman Rada talked about the humanity aspect of the situation.

This Ordinance will be voted on at the Reconvene of the City Council.

4. Discussion of Third-Party Human Resource Assessment:

Mayor Esposito stated that Alderwoman Fitzgerald had requested further discussion regarding hiring an outside consultant to assist with organizational management to evaluate city operations. Alderwoman Fitzgerald explained that with the rate of employee turnover, she feels that bringing in a consultant who can review the organization's management, culture, climate, job descriptions, and human resource policies may be beneficial at this time.

Alderman Barbari agreed. Alderman Greco addressed the high turnover due to the passing of an early retirement incentive program. Alderman Rada stated this is a good time for an outside consultant to assist the new employees. Alderman Beckwith noted that there have been some serious allegations, and it is City Council's duty to look into them to ensure the consistency and image of the City. Alderman Vlach stated there was no need for a review. Alderman Greco stated he felt Northern Illinois University did an excellent job with our Strategic Plan and if they could assist with this issue, he was okay with that. Mayor Esposito stated that City Administrator Ritz would contact a few companies to assist with a review.

5. Draft Ordinance To Authorize The Execution Of An Employee Leasing Agreement With Govtempusa, A Division Of MGT Of America Consulting, LLC, For A Temporary Finance Director Consultant For The City Of Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois:

Mayor Esposito asked the City Council to review the draft ordinance that would assist in bringing in an Interim Finance Director due to the position becoming vacant. He explained we are in a critical place and this person coming in will be able to facilitate City financing and budgets.

Alderwoman Fitzgerald asked for clarification on the contract hourly rate, scheduled hours, and contract duration. Alderman Beckwith asked, with two finance positions open, how can this person work only 25 hours and accomplish 80 hours of work and asked the status of the Finance Coordinator position.

This Ordinance will be voted on at the Reconvene of The City Council.

XII. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Alderwoman Fitzgerald expressed her frustration that the agenda item she requested to be placed on the agenda for this meeting was not. She read an email detailing the conversations regarding the requested agenda item and why it would not be placed on the agenda. She expressed her disappointment regarding the handling of the request and the missed opportunity to resolve the issue of nepotism. She asked for clarification on how a requested item is placed on the agenda. Further discussion ensued, and it was decided to move the discussion to an Executive Session.

Alderman Beckwith thanked Special Events Coordinator Raffel, City Administrator Ritz, and City Council for the time and effort put into the luminaries and could not be prouder of this event. Alderman Beckwith stated that there are many issues the City Council is facing, but they are united, and further explained that they may not always agree but they have the same vision for the City of Oakbrook Terrace.

Alderman Vlach said Merry Christmas and that we finally got the snow we did not get for the holiday season.

Alderman Rada wished Finance Director Hoffman well in his new role. He also stated that he agrees with Alderman Beckwith regarding discussions and meetings and that good things can come from them. Alderman Rada talked about the increase in tourism within DuPage County, changes within Hilton Suites, the sale of the Staybridge Hotel, and the gaming convention taking place in February.

XIII. CITY ATTORNEY HOLMES

City Attorney Holmes wished everyone a Happy New Year.

XIV. CITY CLERK SHADLEY

None

XV. CITY ADMINISTRATOR RITZ

City Administrator Ritz wished everyone a Happy New Year. City Administrator Ritz gave an update on the Strategic Plan. He also commended Public Services for their hard work and job well done during the recent winter storms. City Administrator Ritz provided statistics from the police department and stated they are doing an excellent job.

XVI. RECONVENE THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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

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

Motion passed.

XVII. OLD BUSINESS

None

XVIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Ordinance No. 24-03: An Ordinance Amending Title XI Entitled “Business Regulations” Of The Code Of Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois, Regulating Unscheduled Intercity Buses And The Discharge of Passengers:

Motion to approve Ordinance No. 24-03: An Ordinance Amending Title XI Entitled “Business Regulations” Of The Code Of Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois, Regulating Unscheduled Intercity Buses And The Discharge of Passengers was made by Alderman Rada and seconded by Alderwoman Fitzgerald. Roll call vote was taken.

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

Motion passed.

2. Ordinance No. 24-04: An Ordinance To Authorize The Execution Of An Employee Leasing Agreement With Govtempusa, A Division Of MGT Of America Consulting, LLC, For A Temporary Finance Consultant For The City Of Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois:

Motion to approve Ordinance No. 24-04: An Ordinance To Authorize The Execution Of An Employee Leasing Agreement With Govtempusa, A Division Of MGT Of America Consulting, LLC, For A Temporary Finance Consultant For The City Of Oakbrook

Terrace, Illinois, was made by Alderman Barbari and seconded by Alderman Beckwith. Roll call vote was taken.

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

Motion passed.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Greco and seconded by Alderman Rada at 8:17 p.m.

Acclamation vote made with all Ayes.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Raffel, Recording Secretary

Attested:



Michael Shadley
City Clerk

