

City of Oakbrook Terrace

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



City Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 23, 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 23, 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; Interim Finance Director S. Griffin; Public Services Director C. Ward; 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 January 9, 2024

Motion to approve the January 9, 2024, minutes of the Regular City Council and Committee of the Whole, as presented, was made by Alderman Beckwith and seconded by Alderman Vlach.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Bloomington resident David Meimers spoke to the City Council regarding his prior employment with the City of Oakbrook Terrace and the conflict of interests within City Hall. He further explained his reasons behind certain employees who violate the City's Code of Ethics, how human resource policies are enforced inconsistently, and with issues of insubordination.

Oakbrook Terrace resident Richard Freund asked for clarification on why certain requested agenda items were not placed on a previous agenda, why certain city council members are excluded from discussions, and how there are violations of the Opens Meeting Act taking place.

Oakbrook Terrace resident Bruce Almeroth provided an update on the Someone Special event. Mr. Almeroth stated the Oakbrook Terrace Lions Club received notification from Drury Lane that the date had to be moved to May 18, 2024, and that further details will be provided when they become available.

Oakbrook Terrace resident Frank Tomaselli described his reasons for living in Oakbrook Terrace to the City Council. He stated that no one he knows has had anything to complain about because they love living in the city except for the person who mailed out the postcard, which was displayed.

Oakbrook Terrace resident Frank Siciliano spoke to the City Council regarding nepotism and how he feels it is not prevalent or an issue in the City of Oakbrook Terrace.

Oakbrook Terrace resident Jodie Esposito refuted some of the claims made against her by the former Finance Coordinator. She noted her love for the City of Oakbrook Terrace, the residents, neighbors, and the small-town values of the city. She also commented on her work ethic, her enjoyment of her job, and some of the frustrations she has encountered.

VII. ACTION ITEMS/CONSENT AGENDA

1. Payment of City Bills: January 23, 2024, In the Amount Of \$558,061.38
2. Treasurer’s Report: December 2023
3. Personnel & Payroll Report: December 2023
4. Ordinance 24–05: An 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.
5. Resolution 24–02: A Resolution Approving And Authorizing The Payment Of Estimate Of Payment Number One For The 2023 Curb Replacement Project By The City Of Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois.

Motion to approve the Action Items/Consent Agenda of January 23, 2024, Regular City Council and Committee of the Whole, was made by Alderman Rada and seconded by Alderman Vlach. Roll call was taken.

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

Motioned 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 Alderwoman Fitzgerald 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 informed City Council of the January 16th fire at Drury Lane that started in the mechanical room. Mayor Esposito thanked Oakbrook Terrace Fire Chief John Turkovich and his team for quickly extinguishing the fire and fortunately no one was injured.
2. Mayor Esposito introduced and welcomed Susan Griffin to the City of Oakbrook Terrace as the new Interim Finance Director.
3. Mayor Esposito addressed some of the comments made at the January 9, 2024, meeting regarding purchases and procurement practices and specifically the purchases of city vehicles and overspending. He stated that the City Council has been following the same approval process dating back to 2013, which the prior administration implemented. Mayor Esposito explained that the city purchases its vehicles through a consortium that bases their prices on supply and demand, and for additional costs such as snowplows, and police sirens and lights that are no longer provided by the manufacturer. Mayor Esposito also stated that the City took a conservative purchasing approach during the pandemic years and did not purchase any city vehicles for two years. Mayor Esposito noted that the City Council passed the 2023/2024 budget that included the purchase of eleven vehicles in the amount of \$510,876, and that the city is underbudget for these purchases.
4. Mayor Esposito addressed the issue of nepotism within City Hall. He stated in his tenure as mayor, he has adhered to Ordinance 30.29 and intends to going forward. Mayor Esposito stated he would continue to devote his time to the city he loves. He hoped that personal agendas could be put aside so the city could continue to move forward and in a positive direction.

XI. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE CONSIDERATIONS

1. **Draft Ordinance Establishing An Amnesty Program To Encourage Payment Of Past Due Civil Penalties And Late Fees For Automated Traffic Law Enforcement System Violations:**

Mayor Esposito asked the City Council to review the draft ordinance regarding the collection of past civil penalties and late fees for automated traffic law enforcement violations. He stated the new agreement would allow A.R.M. & Associates to offer a one-time amnesty to all motor vehicle violators who have failed to pay their original penalty. The amnesty program will commence on March 1, 2024, and cease on May 1, 2024.

Alderman Fitzgerald asked what the potential might be for receiving past fees with a shortened amnesty program. Alderman Barbari, Alderman Greco, and Alderman Rada are all in favor of the agreement and the program. Alderman Beckwith asked if A.R.M. would send the notices and who would absorb the cost.

Draft Ordinance was moved to the subsequent Consent Agenda.

2. **Draft Ordinance Amending The Provisions of Chapter 34 Entitled “Finance” of Title III Entitled “Administration” Of The Code Of Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois, Regarding The Satisfaction Of Municipal Debts:**

Mayor Esposito asked City Council to review the draft ordinance prepared by the City Attorney to allow the city to deny a business license, permit, or zoning relief until any unpaid fines are reconciled.

Alderman Beckwith asked if the ordinance encapsulates both businesses and residential, the kind of application to be used, and the concern of the turn-around time, which was explained by the City Attorney.

Draft Ordinance was moved to the subsequent Consent Agenda.

3. **2023 Storm Sewer Replacement Project Pay Request #2:**

Mayor Esposito asked the City Council to review the interdepartmental memo prepared by Public Services Director Ward regarding the 2023 Storm Sewer Replacement Project Pay Request #2. Mayor Esposito stated that Performance Construction and Engineering, LLC, did an excellent job and is pleased with the final product.

Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LTD Engineer Dan Lynch addressed the error in sod estimation and noted a credit on the account to accommodate the error.

Alderwoman Fitzgerald asked if other bidders on the project had also estimated the equivalent quantity of sod for this project. Alderman Beckwith stated he had positive experiences with Performance Construction crews and appreciated the correction of errors and the warranty of the sod. Alderman Rada asked for clarification regarding the different types of drive material used, which was explained by Public Services Director Ward. Alderman Greco was pleased with the decision to add the trapezoidal aprons.

2023 Storm Sewer Replacement Project Pay Request #2 was moved to the subsequent Consent Agenda.

4. **Streambank Stabilization Change Order #4:**

Mayor Esposito asked the City Council to refer to the interdepartmental memo prepared by Public Services Director Ward regarding the submitted change order to accommodate the increase in the proposed mitigation plan, maintenance work, and monitoring.

Public Works Director Ward provided a detailed update regarding the additional costs due to increased planting around the streambank.

Alderman Rada asked what the cost of the entire project was and if we went over budget. Alderman Beckwith wondered if there will be any additional change orders once the maintenance program starts, which was explained by Director Ward.

Streambank Stabilization Change Order #4 was moved to the subsequent Consent Agenda.

XII. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Alderswoman Fitzgerald stated she has reflected on some of the prior meeting comments and hopes we can get back to some type of normalcy with further meeting discussions. Alderswoman Fitzgerald also expressed to start having regular meetings again with the mayor as she feels it is imperative to stay informed about city business.

Alderman Barbari welcomed Interim Director Griffin to Oakbrook Terrace.

Alderman Greco thanked the Public Services staff for their time and hard work during the last few weeks and gave kudos for a job well done. He also welcomed Interim Director Griffin to the team. Alderman Greco thanked everyone who attended the meeting and to those who spoke out. Alderman Greco clarified that he always has the City of Oakbrook Terrace's best interests at heart and will continue to serve the city that way.

Alderman Beckwith welcomed Interim Director Griffin to the team. He asked if the City Council could receive an updated budget calendar and traffic counts on MacArthur Drive.

Alderman Rada provided an update on the latest hotel and event information from the DuPage Convention and Visitors Bureau (DCVB). He outlined some new ideas presented at the last DCVB meeting that helps the hotels and provided the latest hotel booking statistics with the Frosty Faustings gaming convention. Alderman Rada then conveyed some perspectives on the migrant issues taking place.

Alderman Vlach complimented Public Services Director Ward and his crew for the great work in clearing the streets of snow and ice over the past weeks.

XIII. CITY ATTORNEY HOLMES

None

XIV. CITY CLERK SHADLEY

City Clerk Shadley welcomed Interim Director Griffin to the city.

XV. CITY ADMINISTRATOR RITZ

City Administrator Ritz provided an update on the Northern Illinois University Strategic and Comprehensive Plan. He stated that the Planning and Zoning Focus Group is scheduled to meet on Monday, January 29th where the concentration will be on creating a vision statement and to discuss what changes they want to see for the city in the next five (5) years. City Administrator Ritz stated that he is still gathering information regarding the human resources and morale assessment study and should have more details soon. He welcomed Interim Director Griffin to the city and is looking forward to working with her. Administrator Ritz welcomed the new Terrace Cantina restaurant to the city. He then thanked Public Services Director Ward and his crew for their work during the recent snowstorms and provided a 2023 statistical report for the police department and recognized the department for their excellent services they perform to the city.

XVI. RECONVENE THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

XVII. RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to recess to Executive Session to discuss the Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, Or Dismissal of Employees Of The Public Body was made by Alderwoman Fitzgerald and seconded by Alderman Barbari. Roll call vote was taken.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

XVIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, Or Dismissal Of Employees Of The Public Body.

XIX. RECONVENE THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Motion to reconvene to 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.

XX. OLD BUSINESS

None

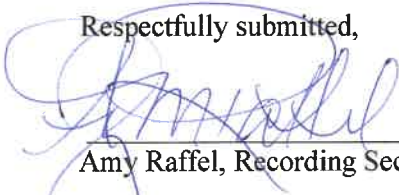
ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Rada and seconded by Alderman Beckwith at 8:55 p.m.

Acclamation vote was made with all Ayes.

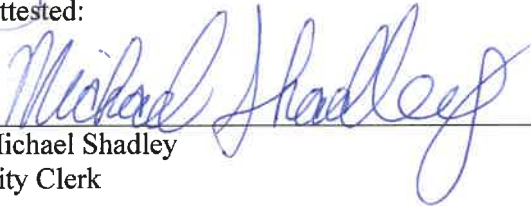
Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Raffel, Recording Secretary

Attested:



Michael Shadley
City Clerk

