

Village Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

Date: Monday, July 13, 2009

Time: 7:30 PM

Location: Village Hall Auditorium

Minutes of the Meeting

MINUTES

VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING
Village Hall Auditorium
53 South La Grange Road
La Grange, IL 60525

Monday, July 13, 2009 - 7:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Board of Trustees of the Village of La Grange regular meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Asperger. On roll call, as read by Village Clerk Robert Milne, the following were present:

PRESENT: Trustees Holder, Langan, Livingston, Horvath, Kuchler, and Palermo

ABSENT: None

OTHERS: Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn
Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson
Village Attorney Mark Burkland
Community Development Director Patrick Benjamin
Finance Director Lou Cipparrone
Public Works Director Ryan Gillingham
Fire Chief David Fleege
Police Chief Mike Holub

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Asperger commented on the success of the recent Art and Craft Fair.

President Asperger noted that Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn would give an updated report under the Village Manager's message segment of the agenda on traffic management and pedestrian safety.

President Asperger announced the opening of several new restaurants and businesses in downtown La Grange.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

None

4. OMNIBUS AGENDA AND VOTE

A. Resolution (#R-09-12) – Identity Theft Prevention Policy

B. Award of Contract and Materials Purchase – Central Business District Paver Rehabilitation Project (Unilock Paver, \$18,444.87 and Prairie Path Pavers \$187,500)

C. Award of Contract – Parking Structure Repairs (Spectrum \$14,460)

D. Consolidated Voucher 090713 (\$1,182,132.11)

E. Minutes of the Village of La Grange Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Monday, June 22, 2009

Trustee Horvath inquired if a change in patrol patterns or if the cameras in the parking structure could be adjusted to better deter vandalism. Police Chief Holub explained that the cameras are trained on areas of pedestrian access and on public spaces, not necessarily the driving lanes. Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn responded that staff will examine further.

It was moved by Trustee Langan to approve items A, B, C, D, and E of the Omnibus Agenda, seconded by Trustee Holder. Approved by roll call vote.

Ayes: Trustees Holder, Horvath, Kuchler, Langan, Livingston, Palermo, and President Asperger

Nays: None

Absent: None

5. CURRENT BUSINESS

A. Text Amendments to Sections 5-102 and 5-105 of the Zoning Code, Permitted and Special Uses, C-1 Central Commercial District (Ordinance #O-09-18): Referred to Trustee Kuchler

Trustee Kuchler noted that the Plan Commission held a public hearing to consider the proposed amendments for permitted use and special use in the Village's C-1 Central Commercial District. Trustee Kuchler explained the positive changes in the character of the district and evolution of uses.

Trustee Kuchler added that staff's examination of the uses in the C-1 District identified certain uses that no longer serve the intent and purpose of the C-1 District and Zoning Code. Thus 14 amendments to the C-1 District permitted use list and the special use list are being recommended for approval.

Trustee Kuchler elaborated on the recommended amendments and noted staff's concurrence with the Plan Commission's findings of fact that the proposed amendments are reasonable, sensible and appropriate for the best interests of the Village and its residents.

It was moved by Trustee Kuchler to approve an Ordinance Amending Sections 5-102 and 5-105 of the La Grange Zoning Code related to Permitted Uses and Special Uses in the C-1 Central Commercial District, seconded by Trustee Langan.

Trustee Palermo expressed concerns with limitations of square footage for exercise facilities in conjunction with retail sales and Attorney Burkland noted the Plan Commission's consideration of this item.

Trustee Langan and Trustee Holder concurred that the Plan Commission's review was thoughtful and thorough.

Trustee Horvath noted his agreement to the proposed amendments and referenced the overwhelming response from residents to adopt such changes which exclude pawn shops. Trustee Horvath recommended (1) a regular and timely review of the zoning code to keep pace with ever-changing market conditions and (2) implementation of a clearer process for business use inquiries to minimize any miscommunication in the future.

Trustee Kuchler concurs with Trustees Horvath and Langan however, expressed concerns with landlords and their consideration of tenants. Trustee Kuchler also believes a more structured approval process is in order.

Trustee Palermo concurred with the need for regular review of the zoning code, but expressed concern with lost opportunities in the interim. Attorney Burkland noted that special uses versus permitted uses may have issues because of the conditions imposed on them. Community Development Director Patrick Benjamin explained that staff instructs interested businesses on process and procedures for obtaining special use and or permitted uses.

Trustee Livingston believes that attempts are made to attract new businesses to the downtown area but at times the interest of landlords is not in the best interest of the community. Trustee Livingston commended the Plan Commission on their thoughtful consideration and recommendations.

Attorney Burkland noted his desire to amend Exhibit A of the Ordinance referencing consumer lending to be replaced with personal lending.

Approved as revised by roll call vote.

Ayes: Trustees Holder, Horvath, Kuchler, Langan, Livingston, and Palermo

Nays: None

Absent: None

B. Special Event – Park District of La Grange / Public Display of Fireworks at Community Family Fest: Referred to Trustee Palermo

Trustee Palermo explained that the Park District of La Grange has requested approval for a fireworks display to be conducted at their Community Family Fest event to be held at Gordon Park on Friday, July 31, 2009. Trustee Palermo noted that both the Police Chief and Fire Chief have reviewed the request for fireworks and have submitted their comments and recommendations.

Trustee Palermo verbalized the special conditions to be adhered to by the Park District along with their request to sell beer and wine at the special event from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Trustee Palermo noted the precautions to ensure only persons of legal age would be served.

Trustee Palermo moved to approve the public display of fireworks for the Park District of La Grange's Community Family Fest on July 31, 2009 with the noted conditions, seconded by Trustee Langan.

Trustee Horvath inquired if it is the Village's practice to charge back costs incurred for additional staff and Manager Pilipiszyn responded affirmatively.

Approved by roll call vote.

Ayes: Trustees Holder, Horvath, Kuchler, Langan, Livingston, and Palermo

Nays: None

Absent: None

C. Ordinance (#O-09-19) – Second Distribution of Surplus TIF Funds: Referred to Trustee Holder

Trustee Holder explained the process by which TIF surplus funds have been distributed to local taxing bodies. Trustee Holder added that in April 2009, the Village Board approved a TIF surplus distribution in the amount of \$1,750,000 and further analysis of TIF funds has determined that no further expenditures are anticipated and an additional TIF surplus amount of \$2.0 million are available for distribution.

Trustee Holder stated that after approval, these funds would be sent to Cook County which will then distribute them to the appropriate taxing agencies based on their pro rata share of the total tax rate. Trustee Holder itemized the amounts

to be allocated to the taxing agencies in approximately 30 to 60 days. Trustee Holder added that a final distribution would occur in 2010.

Trustee Holder moved to approve the ordinance declaring a second TIF surplus and distribution in an amount of \$2.0 million, seconded by Trustee Horvath.

Approved by roll call vote.

Ayes: Trustees Holder, Horvath, Kuchler, Langan, Livingston, and Palermo

Nays: None

Absent: None

6. MANAGER'S REPORT

Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn gave a status report on the short and long term strategies the Village has implemented to date and is planning to undertake to calm traffic and enhance pedestrian safety within all IDOT corridors through La Grange.

Mr. Pilipiszyn noted that the Village has re-aligned the curb cuts and sidewalks on 47th Street and that pedestrian-oriented pavement markings have been added and refreshed within the corridor as well. Staff also met with the Village's traffic consultant to affirm the recommended set of solutions, with a particular emphasis on the proposed implementation of the enhanced pedestrian crossing design as compared to a traffic control device. A technical memorandum which explains why a flashing yellow light rather than a traffic control device achieves the best balance between pedestrian safety and traffic flow was requested from the consultant, which could subsequently be shared with the entire community.

The Village's traffic consultant was also tasked to prepare project-specific agreements for professional services to assist the Village in accomplishing its desired safety objectives. Because time is of the essence, the consultant was authorized to proceed in advance of Village Board approval.

Mr. Pilipiszyn advised that the Illinois Department of Transportation has provided conceptual approval of the enhanced pedestrian crossing design but is requiring plans and permit approval before work can begin.

Mr. Pilipiszyn added that pedestrian signal upgrade projects are also underway as is the street resurfacing project in the Central Business District.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING MATTERS NOT ON AGENDA

Mr. Knudsen who resides at 640 S. La Grange Road does not believe that lowering the speed limit on La Grange Road would be beneficial. Mr. Knudsen referenced federal government reports which indicate that lowering speed limits increases the amount of vehicular accidents.

Melody Holt, who resides on the 300 block of Sixth Avenue expressed concerns with the La Grange Business Association's involvement in the pawn shop matter and the Village should maintain a diversified business district.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

9 TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Trustee Kuchler commended the Community Development Department for their informative memorandum regarding code violations. Trustee Kuchler also appreciated updates regarding pedestrian safety.

Trustee Holder inquired if the traffic consultant's evaluation could encompass the entire Village for review and Manager Pilipiszyn noted the focus at this time is on the Village's arterial streets.

Trustee Palermo noted inconsistencies regarding pavement markings throughout the Village and suggested an inventory.

10. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:55 p.m. it moved by Trustee Langan to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Kuchler. Motion carried by voice vote.

Approved: 08/10/09