

**SATURDAY RULES MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FREEDOM HALL, 410 LAKEWOOD BLVD, PARK FOREST, ILLINOIS
COOK AND WILL COUNTIES ILLINOIS
February 4, 2023**

PRESENT: Mayor Jonathan Vanderbilt; Trustee Tiffani Graham, Joseph Woods, Maya Hardy, Theresa Settles

ABSENT: Trustee Candyce Herron, Erin Slone

STAFF PRESENT: Village Manager Tom Mick

Mayor Vanderbilt called the meeting to order at 10:00 am

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS:

A visitor commented on the non-partisan candidate forum event. He talked about the discussion regarding how there aren't enough businesses in Park Forest and questioned the assessed value of homes in the Village. He asked how the Mayor and Board how do they feel about bringing an assessor in to assess the properties and possibly increase the value to generate more revenue for the Village. Discussion ensued with the Mayor and Trustees offering insights on what the Village has done to engage the Cook County Assessor's Office on issues of property valuation. Another resident talked about the water bill and how high it is. Trustee Settles stated that the Water Department is conscious about high usage in water bills and will send out notices to residents if their water bill is unusually high.

A resident asked if there's a plan on cutting the property taxes. They also stated that they felt like Park Forest is getting left behind regarding grocery stores. Mayor Vanderbilt stated that the Village is looking to give out incentive package like Matteson did to bring a grocery store to Park Forest and that it is going to take all of the Village's tax dollars to do it. He also stated that the Board had agreed to not raise property taxes for the next 3 to 5 years. However, that does not mean that other taxing bodies will not. Mayor Vanderbilt then stated that businesses are coming in to Park Forest and that Downtown Park Forest have over a 90% occupancy rate.

A resident asked if the Village will bring back the neighborhood meetings. She also mentioned some crimes that have happened close to her home within the past year and expressed concerns about residents not being updated about those crimes. Mayor Vanderbilt stated that the neighborhood meetings are coming back. The police department does give updates on crime once the case is closed. They update their social media and the website. The police are being active in increasing the awareness of crimes being solved.

Adjournment: Mayor Vanderbilt adjourned the meeting at 11:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Karla Dixon