

**RULES MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VILLAGE OF PARK FOREST, 350 VICTORY DRIVE, PARK FOREST, ILLINOIS
COOK AND WILL COUNTIES**

Village Hall

Boardroom 7:00 p.m.

August 14, 2023

IN ATTENDANCE: Trustee Tiffani Graham, Trustee Maya Hardy, Trustee Erin Slone, and Trustee John Moore

ABSENT: Trustee Theresa Settles, Trustee Randall White, and Mayor Joseph Woods

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Village Manager Tom Mick, Police Chief Brian Rzycki, Fire Chief Tracy Natyshok, Village Attorney Leslie Kennedy, Director of Finance Mark Pries, Director of Economic Development and Planning Sandra Zoellner, Code Enforcement Manager Jerry Martin, Downtown Manager Heather Jones, Director of Public Works Roderick Ysaguirre, Village Planner Andrew Brown, Assistant Director of Recreation, Parks & Community Health Margaret Lewis, and Mark Giesing, IT Coordinator

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Will County State's Attorney James Glasgow, approximately fifty family and friends of the Park Forest Police Department including retired Police Chiefs Bob Maeyama and Cliff Butz; Board of Fire and Police Commissioners Michelle Johnson and Mamie Rogers; Andrew Sparks Will County Habitat for Humanity; Gary Kopycinski, eNews Park Forest

Roll Call

Due to the absence of Mayor Woods, Senior Trustee Graham was named President Pro Tem and called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Manager Mick stated that the Police Department had six promotions and a new K-9 officer to be sworn in. He read each of the bios of the police officers noting their awards and accomplishments. They were sworn in and each had their star pinned on by their family member. They were congratulated and welcomed by the Trustees and Manager. The six Police Department members were: Sergeant James Kessler, Sergeant Kristopher Kush, Commander Julius Moore, Commander Paul Morache, Deputy Chief Kristopher Vallow, and Police Chief Brian Rzycki. Also sworn in was K-9 Lorde accompanied by his handler, Officer Evelyn Piszczor.

Manager Mick introduced Will County State's Attorney James Glasgow. He talked about K9s bravery, loyalty and courage in their service to police departments. The Trustees thanked Mr. Glasgow for the K9 program and his attendance at the Board Meeting. Manager Mick had asked Chief Rzycki if he would like to make any comments. Chief Rzycki thanked all in attendance, the Board, and the citizens for their support of the Police Department. He noted that the Police Department is like a large family. They are here to protect and serve the residents. He thanked them and will continue to work for the residents. Each of the Trustees added their own comments regarding the Department's commitment to the community, their professionalism and the traditions of the Police Department. Manager Mick added that the Park Forest Police

Department has a long history of training, good leadership, and passing the torch. With that, he noted retired Police Chiefs Bob Maeyama and Cliff Butz, who were in the audience. The recent village survey reported a 94% approval rating for the Police Department. He said that does not happen by accident. Manager Mick looks forward to working with Chief Rzycki and the others in their new roles.

1. A Resolution Approving an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement Related to SouthCom and E-Com Public Safety Communications Joint Emergency Telephone System

Manager Mick said this resolution is a consolidation of services of SouthCom (Park Forest, Matteson, Olympia Fields and Richton Park) and E-Com (Country Club Hills, East Hazel Crest, Flossmoor, Glenwood, Hazel Crest, Homewood, Riverdale, South Holland and Thornton). There has been a feasibility study done to explore the consolidation noting that grants would be available through the State of Illinois. An intergovernmental agreement is required to continue to pursue the consolidation. Manager Mick added that staff does not believe Park Forest would be negatively impacted but rather the services would be enhanced. The agreement has been reviewed by Park Forest legal counsel. President Pro Tem Graham asked the Board if there were any questions or comments. Trustee Slone asked how services would not be impacted with more calls. Manager Mick said there was no problems when the last consolidation occurred in 2005. With new technology, the volume of calls will not impact services to each community. When Trustee Moore asked if there is any expected staff loss, Manager Mick said none were expected and more staff would be needed. Hearing no other questions or comments, this item will be on the agenda for action at the next regular meeting.

2. Re-roof Police Station

Manager Mick said this item is out of Recreation, Parks, and Community Health Department. This project will be another phase of the reroofing of the police station building. Two sections are planned to be reroofed; the Village will continue with the same contractor, Solaris Roofing of Elburn, IL. Assistant Director Lewis said Manager Mick had covered the item and had no additional comments. Hearing no comments or questions from the Board, this item will be on the agenda for action at the next regular meeting.

3. An Ordinance Authorizing the Sale of 9 Arrowhead Court, 223 Arrowhead Street, and 228 Arrowhead Street to Habitat for Humanity

Manager Mick said this item is out of Department of Economic Development and Planning Department with an expected contract with Habitat for Humanity for the Arrowhead properties. Mr. Brown detailed the three properties in Eastgate explaining that this would one step forward to bring them back on the tax rolls. Staff is requesting to sell the property to Habitat for Humanity and adopt the ordinance as has been done in the past two other properties in Eastgate. The representative of Habitat for Humanity, Mr. Sparks, would answer any questions from the Board. President Pro Tem Graham asked the Board if there were any questions or comments. Trustee Slone asked if the process would be explained. Mr. Sparks said staff construction supervisors, contractors, and volunteers work together to rehab the homes usually within a timeline of a year. Trustee Moore asked about choosing the residents and training. Mr. Sparks said anyone may apply with information and criteria available for those interested. The selection committee looks at the applications and makes their decision. Financial counselors help them get ready for their first home. When Trustee Hardy asked about the length of time they must

stay there, Mr. Sparks said there are no limits or length of time required. He added most families stay in the homes for ten years or more. President Pro Tem Graham thanked Mr. Sparks for his report. Hearing no other questions or comments from the Board, this item will be on the agenda for action at the next regular meeting.

Mayor's Comments

Suspend the Mayor's comments due to his absence

Manager's Comments

Manager Mick reported that the Veterans Commission met last Saturday and are working on the November 4 Veterans Day Program. Any interested veterans that are interested in joining the Veterans Commission may fill out an application on the Village's website. The Village of Park Forest has received the Certificate of Achievement (COA) by the government Finance Officers Association. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting. This is the Village's 27th year in receipt of this award. Manager Mick congratulated Director Pries, Assistant Director Floyd, and the Finance Department on their continued hard work. He also congratulated Director Adams and Assistant Director Lewis and a very successful Main Street Nights program. He also congratulated Chief Rzycki on the recent Unity Day event. He noted this was the largest crowd participating. It was good to see the police officers, their families, and residents enjoying the event. Tonight's meeting ends the Board's summer meeting schedule. The regular meeting schedule resumes in September with meeting dates as follows: Tuesday, September 5th, Monday, September 18th, and Tuesday, September 26th. The Saturday Rules Meeting on September 9th is open to the public.

Trustee's Comments

Trustee Slone congratulated the Recreation and Parks Department and the Police Department on a wonderful Main Street Nights season. Recyclefest was buy with various materials collected. The results from the Beautification Committee are out; sign are to be pictured up today in the lobby of Village Hall. She also congratulated all those on the Police Department on their promotions.

Trustee Hardy commended the Recreation and Parks Department for so many wonderful events they sponsored. She congratulated the Youth Commission on a successful coordination of services for Youth Day. She welcomed a new business to Park Forest, CreA's Love Butter. The Chicago Heights and Park Forest Rotary Club will have their annual Corn Roast Thursday, August 17 with food, games, and raffles. She attended the meet and great with State Representative DeLuca and State Senator Joyce. The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board will meet Tuesday, August 15. The Housing Authority will meet Thursday, August 17.

Trustee Moore reported that the meet and great was enlightening hearing the challenges in our area. Kudos to Evelyn Randle and Victor Blackful for the wonderful Main Street Nights season. Trustee Moore also reported on the next phase for the local airport which is the first green airport and the first new airport in thirty years. He also congratulated the members of the Police Department on their promotions. The Library Board will meet Thursday, August 17.

Trustee Graham said Youth Day was very successful again this year. She, too, enjoyed and appreciated the meet and greet with the elected officials. She encouraged residents to join the Commission on Human Relations by filling out an application on the Village's website. Trustee Graham thanked the Police Department for hosting Unity Day 2023.

Attorney's Comments

No report

Clerk Comments

Clerk McGann thanked the Park Forest Police Department for responding to a recent incident at her home.

Audience to Visitors

None

Adjournment

This concluded the Rules Meeting of the Board of Trustees Meeting.

There being no further business. President Pro Tem Graham called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Trustee Hardy, seconded by Trustee Moore and passed unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned unanimously with a voice vote with the following results:

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Absent: 3

President Pro Tem Graham adjourned the Rules Meeting at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila McGann
Village Clerk