

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR SESSION
11004 Carpenter Street, Mokena, Illinois 60448

Session #019

September 27, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Metanias called the Regular Session of the Board of Trustees to order at 6:31 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board of Trustees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL/ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Clerk Martini called the roll and the following Trustees were present:

Joseph Budzyn
Rob Dauphinais
Debbie Engler
Melissa Fedora
George Metanias (Mayor Pro Tem)
Jim Richmond

Absent: Mayor Frank A. Fleischer

Also present were: Village Clerk Melissa Martini; Village Administrator John Tomasoski; Assistant Village Administrator Kirk Zoellner; Village Attorney Carl Buck; Finance Director Barb Damron; Community and Economic Development Director Matt Ziska; Interim Chief of Police Brian Benton; Director of Public Works Jim Kulesa; and Assistant Public Works Director Dan Peloquin

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Engler made a motion to enter executive session at 6:33 p.m. to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) and the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5). Trustee Richmond seconded.

AYES: (5) Budzyn, Dauphinais, Engler, Fedora, Richmond

NAYS: (0)

Absent: (0)

Motion carried

RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION

Trustee Engler made a motion to adjourn the executive session and reconvene the regular meeting at 6:59 p.m. Trustee Richmond seconded.

AYES: (5) Budzyn, Dauphinais, Engler, Fedora, Richmond

NAYS: (0)

Absent: (0)

Motion carried

Mayor Pro Tem Metanias advised that Mayor Fleischer had personal business to attend to and that he will be conducting the meeting in his place. He further advised night's meeting began with an executive session at 6:30 p.m.

DISCOVER MOKENA

Trish Rickard presented information regarding new business Watershed Café and Books, located at 19852 S. LaGrange Road. Watershed Café and Books is a Christian bookstore, offering various drinks and snacks, occasional free events, free WiFi and a welcoming environment.

Clerk Martini presented the Community Calendar.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Timothy Bryan commented on the lack of communication and notice he received from Nicor regarding replacement of a gas feed through his yard over the summer, which has resulted in damaged landscaping on his property.

Mayor Pro Tem Metanias thanked Mr. Bryan for his comments and asked Village Administrator John Tomasoski if there is anything the Village can do to assist Mr. Bryan.

Village Administrator Tomasoski advised Mayor Pro Tem Metanias that a member of Village staff will follow up with Mr. Bryan regarding his comments.

Mr. Jim Schlegel stated he stopped into Watershed Café and Books and is happy to see a book store in Mokena. He suggested the Village offer public comments via telephone and that the Village Board work session meetings be televised.

Mayor Pro Tem Metanias thanked Mr. Schlegel for his comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

Village Administrator John Tomasoski presented two (2) items on the Consent Agenda for Board approval. These items are strictly administrative in nature.

- a. Motion to grant approval to the Mokena Community Park District to conduct their annual Halloween Hollow from Friday, October 8, 2021 through Sunday, October 10, 2021, and to authorize the use of Municipal/Village resources for event coordination.
- b. Motion to approve the minutes from the September 13, 2021 Board Meeting and Work Session.

Trustee Engler made a motion to approve Consent Agenda items 7 (a) and (b) as depicted in the September 23, 2021 Request for Board Action prepared by the Village Administrator. Trustee Richmond seconded.

Trustee Budzyn commented on the date of submission by the Mokena Park District for their Halloween Hollow event, stating it was submitted to the Village for approval three weeks prior to the event instead of the required four months. He asked Village staff to ensure timely submissions for future events in order for the Village Board to adequately review.

AYES: (5) Budzyn, Dauphinais, Engler, Fedora, Richmond

NAYS: (0)

Absent: (0)

Motion carried

APPOINTMENTS/PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Respect Life Week Proclamation

A proclamation was read by Clerk Martini proclaiming the week of October 3, 2021 as Respect Life Week in the Village of Mokena.

Mrs. Helen Sluis, on behalf of the St. Mary Council of Catholic Women, thanked Mayor Fleischer and the Village Board for the Respect Life Week Proclamation. She discussed the value of human life.

Appointment of Timothy Bershers to Wastewater Treatment Plant Mechanic Position

Director of Public Works Jim Kulesa stated that the Utilities Department currently has an opening for Wastewater Plant Mechanic position as a result of the retirement of Dan Manns in spring of 2021. Fifty-five (55) applicants submitted resumes and Village staff conducted initial phone interviews with fifteen (15) candidates. Village staff further conducted second-round interviews in person with eight (8) of the candidates. Final interviews were conducted with the three (3) candidates.

Director of Public Works Kulesa advised that based on the results of these interviews, as well as work experience and references, it was determined that Mr. Timothy Bershers was best suited to fill the Wastewater Plant Mechanic position for the Village of Mokena.

He further recommended the appointment of Tim Bershers to the position of Wastewater Plant Mechanic in the Public Works Department.

Trustee Engler made a motion to approve the appointment of Tim Bershers to the position of Wastewater Treatment Plant Mechanic in the Public Works Department at the starting step for that position in the First Amendment to the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Village of Mokena and the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 150, Public Employees Division, July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2020, executed March 22, 2021, with an effective date of October 4, 2021. Trustee Richmond seconded.

AYES: (5) Budzyn, Dauphinais, Engler, Fedora, Richmond

NAYS: (0)

Absent: (0)

Motion carried

PUBLIC HEARINGS

N/A

OLD BUSINESS

N/A

NEW BUSINESS

Land Acquisition – Vacant Parcel (Parkway Lane/Meadowview Drive)

Director of Public Works Jim Kulesa advised the Board that a vacant parcel has been identified for sale at auction that sits adjacent to the wastewater treatment on the north side of Hickory Creek on Parkway Lane and Meadowview Drive. He recommended purchase of the property based on proximity to the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the northern buffer it will provide for those residents in the northerly adjacent subdivision.

Trustee Engler made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2021-R-008, providing for the purchase of vacant land located at Parkway Lane and Meadowview Drive in Mokena, Illinois identified by Parcel Identification Number 19-09-06-405-003-000 in the amount of \$791 to the authorize the Village President and Village Clerk to execute the contract for said purchase. Trustee Richmond seconded.

AYES: (5) Budzyn, Dauphinais, Engler, Fedora, Richmond

NAYS: (0)

Absent: (0)

Motion carried

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS

Village Administrator John Tomasoski requested Director of Economic and Community Development Matt Ziska present the Schedule of Development.

Director of Economic and Community Development Ziska presented the Schedule of Development. The Business Spotlight highlighted coffee shops in Mokena.

Village Administrator John Tomasoski highlighted the upcoming retirement of Police Officer Dennis Boardman after 35+ years of public service with the Mokena Police Department.

TRUSTEES' COMMENTS

Trustee Richmond passed on the opportunity to make comments.

Trustee Dauphinais offered his appreciation towards the family, volunteers, and organizations who attended and organized the Our Fallen Hero 5k run/walk event honoring PFC Aaron Toppen on September 25.

Trustee Fedora wished Officer Dennis Boardman a happy retirement. She mentioned the challenges of organizing an event during the COVID-19 pandemic and congratulated the Our Fallen Hero organization for their successful 5k run/walk event on September 25.

Trustee Budzyn welcomed new business Watershed Café and Books to Mokena. He welcomed new Wastewater Plant Mechanic Tim Bershers to the Village of Mokena. He

thanked Officer Dennis Boardman for his commitment and years of service with the Mokena Police Department and wished him the best in his retirement.

Trustee Engler welcomed Watershed Café and Books to Mokena. She congratulated Officer Dennis Boardman on his well-deserved retirement and thanked him for his service.

CLERK'S COMMENTS

Clerk Martini passed on the opportunity to make comments.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Metanias thanked Officer Dennis Boardman for his service and commitment to the Village and wished him the best in his retirement.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Engler made a motion to adjourn the regular session and enter into the scheduled work session at 7:33 p.m. Trustee Richmond seconded.

AYES: (6) Budzyn, Dauphinais, Engler, Fedora, Metanias, Richmond

NAYS: (0)

Absent: (0)

Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,


Frank A. Fleischer, Village President

ATTEST:


Melissa Martini, Village Clerk