

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

Session #021

October 25, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fleischer called the Regular Session of the Board of Trustees to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL/ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Deputy Clerk Pyznarski called the roll and the following Trustees were present:

Joseph Budzyn
Rob Dauphinais
Debbie Engler
Melissa Fedora
George Metanias
Jim Richmond

Also present were: Deputy Clerk Kathleen Pyznarski; 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; and Director of Public Works Jim Kulesa

Mayor Fleischer announced that former Mokena Police Chief Richard McFadden passed away and spoke of his career with the Village. He described Chief McFadden as a sharp-dressed and respected man and asked that he be kept in everyone's thoughts and prayers. He advised that a moment of silence will be held after the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board of Trustees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

DISCOVER MOKENA

William Martin VFW Post 725 Commander James Hogan presented an invitation to their Veteran's Day Ceremony to be held at Pioneer Cemetery on November 11, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. He advised that the guest speaker will be Brigadier General Stephen Curda. Mr. Paul Cravens provided a brief biography of Brigadier General Curda.

Deputy Clerk Pyznarski presented the Community Calendar.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

Village Administrator John Tomasoski presented four (4) items on the Consent Agenda for Board approval. These items are strictly administrative in nature.

- a. Motion to approve and authorize the use of municipal/Village resources for the Mokena Chamber of Commerce's Magic of Mokena Tree and Window Walk scheduled for Saturday, December 11, 2021, in the downtown area in the vicinity of the Wolf Road and Front Street node, and in the landscaped area along the south side of Front Street between Wolf Road and the west entrance of the Front Street Metra lot.
- b. Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-O-016, an ordinance adopting a Whistleblower Protection Policy for all employees of the Village of Mokena and to authorize the Village President and Village Clerk to execute same.
- c. Motion to approve the Plat of Vacation and Plat of Easement for the Silver Cross Subdivision, dated August 20, 2021.

Motion to accept and approve a Cross Access Agreement, between the Village of Mokena, Silver Cross Hospital, Lincoln Owens Development, and IRC Retail; and to authorize the Village President and Village Clerk to execute same.

- d. Motion to approve the minutes from the October 11, 2021 Board Meeting and Work Session.

Trustee Engler made a motion to approve Consent Agenda items 6 (a), (b), (c) and (d) as depicted in the October 21, 2021 Request for Board Action prepared by the Village Administrator. Trustee Metanias seconded.

AYES: (6) Budzyn, Dauphinais, Engler, Fedora, Metanias, Richmond
NAYS: (0)
Absent: (0)
Motion carried

APPOINTMENTS/PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Appointment of Joseph Stubbs to Part-Time Evidence/Records Clerk Position

Interim Chief of Police Brian Benton stated that a Part-Time Evidence/Records Clerk position for the police department was approved by the Board for the Fiscal Year 2022 budget. Several resumes were received after advertising the position and staff interviewed four applicants. Upon conclusion of the interview process, it was determined that Mr. Joseph Stubbs possessed the necessary qualifications and experience to fill the position.

Interim Chief Benton advised that Mr. Stubbs is a retired Commander with the Oak Lawn Police Department and has more than 32 years of experience in law enforcement. He recommended the appointment of Mr. Stubbs to the position of Part-Time Evidence/Records Clerk.

Trustee Engler made a motion to approve the appointment of Joseph Stubbs to the position of Part-Time Evidence / Records Clerk at a PO Grade Step 1 effective October 26, 2021. Trustee Metanias seconded.

AYES: (6) Budzyn, Dauphinais, Engler, Fedora, Metanias, Richmond
NAYS: (0)
Absent: (0)
Motion carried

Appointment of Charles Penders to Part-Time Community Service Officer Position

Interim Chief Benton stated that the Police Department currently employs two Community Service Officers and is authorized to employ a third as a fill-in and for additional support. He informed the Board that the police department is working toward expanding the duties of its Community Service Officers by providing them with a field training program to assist police officers with their duties.

Interim Chief Benton advised that following the interviews of several qualified applicants for the Evidence/Records Clerk position and selecting a qualified candidate for that position, it was also determined that Evidence/Records Clerk applicant, Mr. Charles Penders, would be a good fit for the vacant Community Service Officer position. He provided a brief background of Mr. Penders' career which includes customer service experience and over 30 years of experience in the education field, and further recommended Mr. Penders to the position of part-time Community Service Officer.

Mr. Penders thanked the Village Board for the opportunity.

Trustee Engler made a motion to approve the appointment of Charles Penders to the position of Part-Time Community Service Officer at a CS Grade Step 7 effective October 26, 2021. Trustee Metanias seconded.

AYES: (6) Budzyn, Dauphinais, Engler, Fedora, Metanias, Richmond
NAYS: (0)
Absent: (0)
Motion carried

Appointment of Jillian Hersted as Chair of the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals

Mayor Fleischer stated that Mr. Doug Heathcock recently resigned his post as Chair of the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals due to relocation. He recommended the appointment of current Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals member Jillian Hersted as Chair. He described Ms. Hersted's long history and outstanding track record of service to the Village and community, including her time on

the Economic Development Commission, as Village Clerk and as Village Trustee. Due to the integral role the Planning Commission plays in the Village structure, Mayor Fleischer recommended the appointment of Jillian Hersted as Chair of Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals, effective immediately.

Trustee Engler made a motion to appoint Jillian Hersted as Chair of the Village of Mokena's Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals, effective immediately, for a term extending to June 30, 2024. Trustee Metanias seconded.

AYES: (6) Budzyn, Dauphinais, Engler, Fedora, Metanias, Richmond
NAYS: (0)
Absent: (0)
Motion carried

PUBLIC HEARINGS

N/A

OLD BUSINESS

N/A

NEW BUSINESS

N/A

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS

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

Community and Economic Development Director Ziska presented the Schedule of Development. The Business Spotlight highlighted locations to purchase Halloween candy and treats in Mokena.

Village Administrator John Tomasoski informed residents of the contact information for local units of government including the Mokena Community Park District, Mokena Community Public Library District, Lincoln-Way Community High School District 210, Mokena Fire Protection District, and Mokena School District 159. He further advised residents of current ComEd utility bill assistance programs offered to eligible customers.

TRUSTEES' COMMENTS

Trustee Dauphinais thanked and congratulated Boy Scout Troop 40 for their successful spaghetti dinner event at St. John's church.

Trustee Fedora asked residents to attend the William Martin VFW Post 725's Veterans Day Ceremony on November 11. She welcomed recently appointed Evidence/Records Clerk Joseph Stubbs and Community Service Officer Charles Penders to the Village. She wished everyone a Happy Halloween and reminded residents to drive slow and cautiously during trick-or-treating.

Trustee Budzyn congratulated Boy Scout Troop 40 for their successful spaghetti dinner event, adding that it was their 30th year hosting. He also highlighted Boy Scout Troop 40's 40-year anniversary of their program. He offered his recommendation for the troop's program and invited parents to sign their children up. Trustee Budzyn welcomed recently appointed Evidence/Records Clerk Joseph Stubbs and Community Service Officer Charles Penders to the Village. Trustee Budzyn offered his condolences to the McFadden and Siwinski families. He thanked Commander Hogan for arranging guest speaker Brigadier General Curda to speak at the William Martin VFW Post 725's Veterans Day Ceremony and urged residents to attend the event.

Trustee Metanias stated he and his grandchildren are looking forward to this year's Halloween trick-or-treating festivities. He asked residents to be cautious while driving. Trustee Metanias offered his condolences to the McFadden and Siwinski families.

Trustee Engler offered her sympathies to the McFadden and Siwinski families. She wished everyone a Happy Halloween and asked residents to be extra careful while driving.

Trustee Richmond offered his condolences to the McFadden and Siwinski families. He offered his condolences to the Walsh family on the recent passing of Bill Walsh. He highlighted his son Kyle's recent graduation from Palmer College in which he earned his PhD. He advised that his son Kyle is now a Chiropractic Physician and will be practicing at the Trolley Barn with Jake Aleck. He expressed his pride and congratulations and wished his son Kyle the best in his career.

CLERK'S COMMENTS

Deputy Clerk Pyznarski passed on the opportunity to make comments.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Fleischer expressed his condolences to the Siwinski, McFadden and Walsh families. He congratulated the Lincoln-Way Marching Band on their recent victory as Grand Champions of the 2021 State Marching Band Championships.

Mayor Fleischer discussed erratic driving in the community and stressed the importance of slowing down and driving cautiously.

Trustee Richmond asked if there is anything residents can do if they see someone driving recklessly.

Interim Chief Benton advised that the police department will increase visibility and enforcement around Halloween. He encouraged residents to call the police department and provide necessary vehicle information and direction of travel for police officers to assist with reckless drivers.

Mayor Fleischer welcomed recently appointed Evidence/Records Clerk Joseph Stubbs and Community Service Officer Charles Penders to the police department and complimented Interim Chief Benton on the department's recruitment process.

Mayor Fleischer thanked the Board for their support in the recent appointment of Jillian Hersted as Chair of the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Engler made a motion to adjourn the regular session and enter into the scheduled work session at 7:31 p.m. Trustee Metanias 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