

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE GURNEE VILLAGE BOARD**

**GURNEE VILLAGE HALL
FEBRUARY 6, 2023**

Call to Order

Mayor Hood called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Other Officials in Attendance

Patrick Muetz, Village Administrator; Austin Pollack, Assistant to the Village Administrator; Bryan Winter, Village Attorney; David Ziegler, Community Development Director; Heather Galan, Public Works Director; Jodi Luka, Management Analyst.

Roll Call

PRESENT: 4- Garner, Balmes, Thorstenson, Ross

ABSENT: 2- O'Brien, Woodside

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Hood led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**A. APPROVAL OF
CONSENT AGENDA**

It was moved by Trustee Balmes, seconded by Trustee Garner to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Roll call,

AYE: 4- Garner, Balmes, Thorstenson, Ross

NAY: 0- None

ABSENT: 2- O'Brien, Woodside

Motion Carried.

**B. CONSENT
AGENDA /
OMNIBUS VOTE**

The Village Administrator read the consent agenda for an omnibus vote as follows:

1. Approval of minutes from the January 23, 2023 and January 30, 2023 meetings.
2. Approval of Ord. 2023 – 09 approving the plat of easement which grants a water main easement to the Village of Gurnee on Gurnee Park District property at 4374 Old Grand Avenue – Viking Park.
3. Approval of Public Works Department's request to waive the formal bidding requirement and award the Public Works Main Building Generator Hookup and Manual Transfer Switch project to Kelso-Burnett at a cost of \$23,360.00.
4. Approval of issuing a Raffle License and waiving the fee and bond requirement for the Gurnee District 56 Band Boosters.
5. Approval of issuing a Raffle License to the Gurnee American Legion Post #771.
6. Approval of Payroll for period ending January 27, 2023 in the amount of \$936,910.25.
7. Approval of Bills for the period ending February 6, 2023 in the amount of \$408,487.74.

It was moved by Trustee Ross, seconded by Trustee Garner to approve the Consent Agenda for an omnibus vote as read.

Roll call,

AYE: 4- Garner, Balmes, Thorstenson, Ross

NAY: 0- None

ABSENT: 2- O'Brien, Woodside

Motion Carried.

C. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. Approval of a Proclamation designating February 2023 as Black History Month in the Village of Gurnee.

Mayor Hood summarized the Proclamation.

It was moved by Trustee Balmes, seconded by Trustee Ross to approve a Proclamation designating February 2023 as Black History Month in the Village of Gurnee.

Voice Vote: ALL AYE: Motion Carried.

2. Approval of a Proclamation designating February 5 – 11, 2023 as Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda (FBLA-PBL) Week in the Village of Gurnee.

Warren High School FBLA members Yash Sharma and Jahnvi Kolli introduced themselves and briefly spoke about the FBLA program.

Mayor Hood summarized the Proclamation.

It was moved by Trustee Balmes, seconded by Trustee Ross to approve a Proclamation designating February 5 – 11, 2023 as Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda (FBLA-PBL) Week in the Village of Gurnee.

Voice Vote: ALL AYE: Motion Carried.

3. Approval of a Proclamation designating February 11, 2023 as 211 Day in the Village of Gurnee.

211 Representative Quinton Snodgrass introduced himself to the Board and spoke about the 211 program's success.

Mayor Hood summarized the Proclamation.

It was moved by Trustee Garner, seconded by Trustee Thorstenson to approve a Proclamation designating February 11, 2023 as 211 Day in the Village of Gurnee.

Voice Vote: ALL AYE: Motion Carried.

D. REPORTS

1. Presentation by Warren Newport Public Library Executive Director Ryan Livergood: WNPL update.

Ryan Livergood, Executive Director of the Warren Newport Public Library (WNPL), shared updates with the Village Board regarding the district. Director Livergood started out by discussing the excellent working relationship between all the taxing bodies in Gurnee. He stated this is not the norm and the community should be very proud. By working together, the entities are able to coordinate efforts and provide better service to the community. He stated the library district serves all of Warren and Newport Townships and covers 58 square miles.

He next discussed the services the library provides beyond the physical building, this includes Digital Library of Illinois, Kanopy, Pressreader, Hoopla and the Bookmobile to name a few. Director Livergood then discussed the challenges of providing access of digital material, which is expensive. He also discussed the staffing challenges WNPL has faced over the past few years, including changes in his leadership team. He stated the library continues outreach to targeted groups and is proud to start hosting events such as Spanish Heritage Month and Black History Month programs.

Director Livergood spoke about the importance of library space, highlighting the Quiet Reading Room, The Flex and study rooms. He stated on April 15th WNPL is having a party to celebrate its 50th anniversary. The recognition will also feature events throughout the year.

Director Livergood discussed the library's upcoming Strategic Plan

update and reviewed the process and opportunities for the public to participate. He concluded his presentation by sharing information related to the library joining Cooperative Computer Services (CCS). CCS consists of 29 libraries including Lake Villa, Grayslake, Lake Forest, Round Lake and Zion-Benton. Being a part of CCS gives WNPL members access to other libraries collections and significantly reduces the wait time for material that is not part of the library's current catalog.

Director Livergood concluded by thanking the Village Board for allowing him to share information about WNPL and all the wonderful services it provides.

E. OLD BUSINESS

None.

F. NEW BUSINESS

None.

G. PUBLIC COMMENT

**Cindy Higman
6268 Doral Dr.
Gurnee, IL**

Ms. Higman stated amending the Municipal Code to allow a liquor license for a Casey's shows the Village cares more about them than it does its residents. She urged the Village Board not to turn its back on the residents.

**Suzanne Erdmann
346 Hickory Haven
Gurnee, IL**

Ms. Erdmann stated she is worried about traffic that will be generated and the negative impacts a Casey's will have on Woodland school students, residents in the area, Bickford and Sunrise assisted living facilities and the thousands of families that belong to St. Paul Church. She stated the intersection is already dangerous and the development would create crime, pollution and noise.

**Shelley Palmer
6304 Doral Dr.
Gurnee, IL**

Ms. Palmer referenced CDC information related to alcohol density studies. She questioned whether the revenue from the development would offset the negative results. She urged the Village Board to continue to protect the residents.

**Susan Dillberg
6320 Doral Dr.
Gurnee, IL**

Ms. Dillberg stated she does not support a change to the Municipal Code. She stated while she understands the Village Board has the right to make a change, it should not do so to court businesses.

**Virginia Seego
6331 Doral Dr.
Gurnee, IL**

Ms. Seego expressed concerns about potential crime and questioned Police Department staffing during overnight hours and if the police facility was accessible. She then expressed concerns about the impact the development would have on nearby kids, nursing homes and memory care facilities.

**Art Stevens
5740 Regency Ct.
Gurnee, IL**

Mr. Stevens stated that as of October 2022 he has taken an interest in Village Board and Planning & Zoning Board meetings. He stated he anticipates discussions such as the one taking place will increase in the future as in-fill development continues. He continued to state that he believes the Village has the equation backwards; the Village should not be working to make itself attractive to business, but rather businesses should be working to make themselves attractive to the Village. He stated Casey's is a convenience store, not a gas station as a majority of its revenue is from packaged food and beverage sales. Mr. Stevens continued to state processes to get residents more involved need to be improved. He stated staff and elected officials let anyone develop in Gurnee and are not critical enough. He concluded by reiterating the equation is backwards.

Mayor Hood responded that Mr. Stevens' statement that the Village allows anyone in is an overstatement. Mayor Hood stated staff enforces ordinances accordingly and while he appreciates a fresh set of eyes on processes, he is not going to allow overstatements to go unchecked.

Mr. Stevens stated the Planning & Zoning Board grants too many exceptions.

**Adrienne Doherty
901 Clark Dr.**

Ms. Doherty referenced Mr. Owens public comments from the January 30th meeting. She stated more alcohol in a community is bad and that

Gurnee, IL

fact-based data should be the Village's Boards number one consideration when weighing items such as this. She stated the Village should not sell itself for revenue and should consider the bigger picture before making a decision.

**Keith Owens
6464 Doral Dr.
Gurnee, IL**

Mr. Owens stated Gurnee's growth has been based on Gurnee Mills, Six Flags and Great Wolf Lodge. He stated revenues are not as stable as other communities due to not having a property tax. He stated the Village is in good shape now, but needs to look to the future. Mr. Owens continued to state the Community of Opportunity does not need any more gas stations as there are plenty right outside Gurnee. He stated it is a business decision whether Casey's locates in Gurnee or not. By provided additional liquor licenses, the Village would be creating alcohol density issues. He continued to state decisions should not be based on bad economics. Mr. Owens stated he is concerned about impulse buying and that making something worse is not a solution to a problem. He next addressed each Trustee individually referencing online bios as well as statements made at prior meetings. He stated St. Paul Church is also against the proposal. He concluded by urging the Trustees to balance the information they have with who they are as a person.

**Caroline Marker
920 Vose Dr.
Gurnee, IL**

Ms. Marker thanked the Village Board for listening to the residents. She stated she visited a Casey's and urged the Village Board to do the same. She stated she was disturbed by the amount of signage in the windows advertising alcohol and tobacco. She stated it is a bad visual for children to see.

Closing Comments

None.

Adjournment

It was moved by Trustee Balmes, seconded by Trustee Garner to adjourn the meeting.

Voice Vote: ALL AYE: Motion Carried.

Mayor Hood adjourned the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

**Andrew Harris,
Village Clerk**
