

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

**GURNEE VILLAGE HALL
JULY 10, 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; Erica Wells, Assistant Finance / HR Director; Ellen Dean, Economic Development Director; Nick Leach, Village Engineer; John Kavanagh, Fire Chief; David Douglass, Deputy Fire Chief; Brian Smith, Police Chief; Jeremy Gaughan, Deputy Police Chief.

Roll Call

PRESENT: 5- Garner, O'Brien, Thorstenson, Woodside, Ross

ABSENT: 1- Balmes

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Hood led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**A. APPROVAL OF
CONSENT AGENDA**

It was moved by Trustee O'Brien, seconded by Trustee Thorstenson to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Roll call,

AYE: 5- Garner, O'Brien, Thorstenson, Woodside, Ross

NAY: 0- None

ABSENT: 1- Balmes

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 June 26, 2023 meeting.
2. Approval of Ord. 2023 - 39 authorizing the execution of a School Resource Officer Service Agreement and Reciprocal Reporting Agreement with Woodland School District #50
3. Approval of Ord. 2023 - 40 authorizing the execution of a School Resource Officer Service Agreement and Reciprocal Reporting Agreement with Gurnee Grade School District #56.
4. Approval of Ord. 2023 - 41 authorizing the execution of a School Resource Officer Service Agreement and Reciprocal Reporting Agreement with Warren Township High School District #121
5. Approval of Fire Department request to purchase a 2023 Chevrolet Silverado from the low bidder Raymond Chevrolet at a cost of \$48,866.70 (Fire Department Unit #1355).
6. Approval of granting a Class 9 Liquor License and waiving the fee for the Warren Newport Public Library for its Library After Dark fundraising event on October 7, 2023.
7. Approval of Payroll for period ending June 30, 2023 in the amount of \$1,007,015.62.
8. Approval of Bills for the period ending July 10, 2023 in the amount of \$1,520,753.35.

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

Roll call,

AYE: 5- Garner, O'Brien, Thorstenson, Woodside, Ross

NAY: 0- None
ABSENT: 1- Balmes
Motion Carried.

C. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. Administration of Oath of Office for the promotion of Firefighter/Paramedic Scott Rans to Fire Lieutenant.

Fire Chief Kavanagh introduced Firefighter/Paramedic Rans to the Board and briefly spoke about his tenure with the Gurnee Fire Department.

Mayor Hood administered the Oath of Office.

Lieutenant Rans introduced his family and thanked everyone in attendance.

2. Presentation of Gurnee Police Officer of the Year Award to Officer Phil Lewy and Police Civilian of the Year Award to Community Service Officer Hector Borrero.

Deputy Police Chief Gaughan spoke briefly about the achievements of each recipient and then presented each their award.

Officer Lewy and Community Service Officer Borrero both introduced their families in attendance and thanked all that came out to the meeting in support.

3. Acceptance of Lori Hubbartt's resignation from the Civil Service Commission.

4. Approval of Mayor's Hood recommendation to appoint Erika Weiman to the Civil Service Commission.

It was moved by Trustee Thorstenson, seconded by Trustee Garner to approve of Mayor's Hood recommendation to appoint Erika Weiman to the Civil Service Commission.

Roll call,

AYE: 5- Garner, O'Brien, Thorstenson, Woodside, Ross

NAY: 0 -

ABSENT: 1- Balmes

Motion Carried.

D. REPORTS

None.

E. OLD BUSINESS

None.

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of Ord. 2023 – 42 removing two Class 1 Liquor Licenses by amending Section 6-56 of Article II of Chapter 6 of the Gurnee Municipal Code entitled "Alcoholic Beverages".

Administrator Muetz said following annual renewal, staff works to reconcile the number of licenses active with the number allowed via the Municipal Code. As this relates to Liquor Licenses, the Municipal Code needs to be amended to reduce the number of Class 1 licenses by two as Soriee and Tonya's Savvy events are no longer selling alcohol. With is amendment, 29 Class 1 Licenses are allowed by Code and currently active within the Village.

It was moved by Trustee Thorstenson, seconded by Trustee Ross to approve of Ord. 2023 – 42 removing two Class 1 Liquor Licenses by amending Section 6-56 of Article II of Chapter 6 of the Gurnee Municipal Code entitled "Alcoholic Beverages".

Roll call,

AYE: 5- Garner, O'Brien, Thorstenson, Woodside, Ross
NAY: 0- None
ABSENT: 1- Balmes
Motion Carried.

2. Approval of Ord. 2023 – 43 adding one Class 1 Liquor License by amending Section 6-56 of Article II of Chapter 6 of the Gurnee Municipal Code entitled "Alcoholic Beverages" (Taco Pros – 6681 Grand Avenue Unit A-1).

Administrator Muetz said Taco Pros recently opened in the former Dickey's BBQ space on Grand Avenue. The business has applied for a Class 1 liquor license. The Police Department has reviewed and found nothing to preclude issuing the license.

It was moved by Trustee O'Brien, seconded by Trustee Woodside to approve of Ord. 2023 – 43 adding one Class 1 Liquor License by amending Section 6-56 of Article II of Chapter 6 of the Gurnee Municipal Code entitled "Alcoholic Beverages" (Taco Pros – 6681 Grand Avenue Unit A-1).

Roll call,

AYE: 5- Garner, O'Brien, Thorstenson, Woodside, Ross
NAY: 0- None
ABSENT: 1- Balmes
Motion Carried.

3. Approval of Ord. 2023 – 44 adding one Class 16 Liquor License by amending Section 6-56 of Article II of Chapter 6 of the Gurnee Municipal Code entitled "Alcoholic Beverages" (BP Gas Station & Convenience – 350 N. Hunt Club Road).

Administrator Muetz said on March 20, 2023 the Village Board approved an amendment to the Municipal Code creating a Class 16 liquor license available to gas stations that include a convenience store and commercial kitchen with a building size of at least 4,000 square feet. Sales are limited to beer and wine only between the hours of 9:00am and 9:00pm. Walk in coolers are limited to 275 square feet, while shelf display (i.e.: glass door cooler sales) is limited to no more than four cooler doors not exceeding 14 continual lineal feet. The BP at Washington Street and Hunt Club Road meets the requirements related to building size, commercial kitchen, etc. and has applied for a Class 16 license. The Police Department has reviewed and found nothing to preclude issuance. If approved by the Village Board, a license will not be issued until staff has reviewed the sales area and electronic identification-scanning technology to make sure it complies with the Municipal Code.

Trustee Thorstenson asked if any concerned residents contacted the Village about the application.

Administrator Muetz stated one email was received forty minutes before the Board meeting started from Barbara & Art Stevens expressing concerns about alcohol sales at gas stations. Muetz stated no other concerns were received.

Trustee Garner stated he is uncomfortable with opening up alcohol sales to additional businesses. He stated he believes this will change the community. He stated past practice has created a community that is safe and he is concerned this may impact that.

Mayor Hood stated alcohol has been made readily available and he has a hard time distinguishing between a business like this and another that can currently sell alcohol. He stated he has heard nothing from the Police Department that would change his mind.

Trustee Ross questioned how alcohol and donuts go together and questioned how the business came to the decision to request alcohol sales at the location.

Amin Khalid, manager BP – 350 N. Hunt Club, stated the Dunkin Donuts is in a separate section of the building which is separated by a door. He stated alcohol sales will assist with revenue to help offset taxes paid.

Dixit Patel, owner BP – 350 N. Hunt Club, stated he operates six gas stations. Five of the six have alcohol sales. He stated his building will be adding a Wing Zone in the middle between the gas station and Dunkin in the near future. Mr. Khalid clarified that they have had no issue with alcohol sales at any of the other locations.

Trustee O'Brien asked for clarification on the number stations they operate that allow alcohol sales. Trustee O'Brien then asked for clarification on the building size requirement.

Administrator Muetz stated it's based on the entire building.

It was moved by Trustee Woodside, seconded by Trustee Thorstenson to approve of Ord. 2023 – 44 adding one Class 16 Liquor License by amending Section 6-56 of Article II of Chapter 6 of the Gurnee Municipal Code entitled "Alcoholic Beverages" (BP Gas Station & Convenience – 350 N. Hunt Club Road).

Roll call,

AYE: 4- O'Brien, Thorstenson, Woodside, Hood

NAY: 2- Garner, Ross

ABSENT: 1- Balmes

Motion Carried.

G. PUBLIC COMMENT

**Art Stevens
5740 Regency Court
Gurnee, IL**

Mr. Stevens stated in March three Trustees voted against creating a Class 16 liquor license. He stated he believes opening up alcohol sales to other businesses in Gurnee will be a nightmare for the community. He stated it was noted only one email regarding the application was sent in. He continued to state he believes that is because information is not available on a general basis. He stated meeting the requirements to apply for a license is not relevant. Mr. Stevens stated what has happened is what some were concerned about in March. He believes more requests will come forward and that will change the Village. Mr. Stevens concluded by stating it appears anyone that applies for a liquor license in the Village of Gurnee will receive one.

**Shelly Palmer
6304 Doral Drive
Gurnee, IL**

Ms. Palmer stated she understands the decision to expand liquor licenses to gas stations was difficult. She then referenced an Illinois Liquor Commission guidebook and the Commission's mission statement. She cited language in the Gurnee Municipal Code that states a license shall not be issued if it would be detrimental to the surrounding area. Ms. Palmer the again referenced an Illinois Liquor Commission guidebook and recommended separation requirements between alcohol sales and other uses. She concluded by stating the Village should follow State guidance.

Closing Comments

None.

Adjournment

It was moved by Trustee O'Brien, seconded by Trustee Thorstenson to adjourn the meeting.

Voice Vote: ALL AYE: Motion Carried.

Mayor Hood adjourned the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

**Andrew Harris,
Village Clerk**
