

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

**GURNEE VILLAGE HALL
OCTOBER 4, 2021**

Call to Order

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

Other Officials in Attendance

Patrick Muetz, Village Administrator; Jack Linehan, Assistant Village Administrator; Bryan Winter; Brian Gosnell, Finance Director; Brian Smith, Police Chief; Jeremy Gaughan, Police Commander; David Douglass, Battalion Chief

Roll Call

PRESENT: 6- Thorstenson, Woodside, Ross, Garner, O'Brien, Balmes
ABSENT: 0- None

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: 6- Thorstenson, Woodside, Ross, Garner, O'Brien, Balmes

NAY: 0- None

ABSENT: 0- None

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 September 20, 2021 meeting.
2. Approval of Payroll for period ending September 24, 2021 in the amount of \$890,048.48.
3. Approval of one-time merit payments in recognition of foregone wage increases due to the COVID-19 pandemic for the period of May 1, 2020 – April 30, 2021 in the amount of \$493,327.71.
4. Approval of Bills for the period ending October 4, 2021 in the amount of \$929,786.78.

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

Roll call,

AYE: 6- Thorstenson, Woodside, Ross, Garner, O'Brien, Balmes

NAY: 0- None

ABSENT: 0- None

Motion Carried.

C. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. Approval of a Proclamation designating October 3 - 9, 2021 as "Fire Prevention Week" in the Village of Gurnee.

Mayor Hood summarized the proclamation and the importance of fire safety in Gurnee.

It was moved by Trustee Ross, seconded by Trustee Garner to approve of a Proclamation designating October 3 - 9, 2021 as "Fire Prevention Week" in the Village of Gurnee.

Voice Vote: ALL AYE: Motion Carried.

2. Approval of a Proclamation designating October 2021 as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" in the Village of Gurnee.

Mayor Hood summarized the proclamation and listed some of the agencies in Lake County that work to prevent domestic violence and assist victims of it.

It was moved by Trustee Woodside, seconded by Trustee Thorstenson

to approve of a Proclamation designating October 2021 as “Domestic Violence Awareness Month” in the Village of Gurnee.
Mayor Hood read into record.

Voice Vote: ALL AYE: Motion Carried.

D. REPORTS

None.

E. OLD BUSINESS

None.

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of Ord. 2021 - 66 accepting the replat of Lot A, Greystone Commercial (Cooper’s Hawk out lot).

Administrator Muetz said his replat creates two lots on the former Lowe’s property. One lot will be for CLC’s Advanced Technology Center and the other will be for Cooper’s Hawk. All of the required improvements are already in place and the request conforms to all of the Village’s ordinances/regulations. The request was before the Planning & Zoning Board on September 29th and received a unanimous favorable recommendation.

It was moved by Trustee Woodside, seconded by Trustee O’Brien to approve of Ord. 2021 - 66 accepting the replat of Lot A, Greystone Commercial (Cooper’s Hawk out lot).

Roll call,

AYE: 6- Thorstenson, Woodside, Ross, Garner, O’Brien, Balmes

NAY: 0- None

ABSENT: 0- None

Motion Carried.

2. Approval of Ord. 2021 - 67 adopting an amendment to the Pension Funding Policy for the Village of Gurnee.

Administrator Muetz said Police and Fire Pension funds across the State of Illinois are being consolidated as a result of state legislation. The consolidation requires the Funds to maintain some cash assets locally to cover pension payments and other bills. Historically the Village has made its pension contribution to these funds once a year in December. Maintaining this one-time annual payment will result in the pension funds having to constantly transfer in and out of the pooled investment fund. To alleviate this burden, staff is proposing to change our annual contribution to a monthly payment. This will smooth out the pension expense throughout the year and have minimal impact on finance staff. The Village’s Pension Funding Policy has been amended to make this change.

Mayor Hood said the Fire Department will transfer its fund in October. He continued to state Police Pension funds have filed a lawsuit that has resulted in a delay of transferring funds.

Trustee Balmes asked about control and for confirmation that the state cannot raid the funds and use them.

Finance Director Gosnell said the separate Police and Fire boards have been developed at the State level. They will be in charge of decision-making related to investing. He also stated the legislation prohibits the State from using the funds.

Mayor Hood said the investment portion is what is being consolidated and now handled at the State level.

It was moved by Trustee Garner, seconded by Trustee Thorstenson to approve of Ord. 2021 - 67 adopting an amendment to the Pension Funding Policy for the Village of Gurnee.

Roll call,

AYE: 6- Thorstenson, Woodside, Ross, Garner, O’Brien, Balmes

NAY: 0- None

ABSENT: 0- None

Motion Carried.

G. PUBLIC COMMENT

**Karen Finkle
416 Magnolia Ave.
Gurnee, IL**

Mrs. Finkle read a prepared statement concerning homeless individuals and panhandlers. She stated she is concerned about them in the area east of Route 41, as well as in other areas of the community. She shared some potential actions that can be taken to help address the issue including signage, offering resources or the creation of an ad hoc committee to explore solutions.

Mayor Hood thanked Mrs. Finkle for her comments. He stated the Village is in the process of installing signs around the community and has engaged PADS to interview panhandlers to see if they need assistance. They all stated they do not. He stated the Police Department regularly checks with panhandlers to see if they need help. Mayor Hood continued to state they have the right to stand on the sidewalk, but it is illegal for them to step onto the street. He concluded by stating the Village wants to assist in getting them the help they need but they cannot harass residents.

**Randy Zmudka
5132 Beechwood Av
Gurnee, IL**

Mr. Zmudka expressed concerns about the noise from the Maxx Force ride at Six Flags. He stated the sound disturbs the peace in the Pembroke neighborhood and believes a sound engineer should look into it further. He referenced information from the Village's website and asked if improvements related to a sound barrier had been completed. He then stated that in the past the noise would conclude at 10pm, however lately it has been going later. Mr. Zmudka stated closing the ride at 10pm going forward would be helpful.

Mayor Hood thanked Mr. Zmudka for his comments. He stated that Six Flags installed a sound barrier in 2020 at its own cost. Mayor Hood stated Six Flags has followed through with what it said it would do and that additional conversations may be appropriate in the future.

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 7:19 p.m.

**Andrew Harris,
Village Clerk**