

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GURNEE VILLAGE BOARD GURNEE VILLAGE HALL JUNE 15, 2026	
Call to Order	Mayor Hood called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
Other Officials in Attendance	David Ziegler, Acting Village Administrator/Community Development Director; Austin Pollack, Assistant to the Village Administrator; Bryan Winter, Village Attorney; Christine Palmieri, Director of Human Resources; Ellen Dean, Economic Development Director; Nick Leach, Village Engineer; Ryan Nelson, Information Systems Director; John Kavanagh, Fire Chief; Jason Kalinowski, Deputy Police Chief.
Roll Call	PRESENT: 4- Garner, Ross, Thorstenson, Ware ABSENT: 2- O’Brien, Woodside
Pledge of Allegiance	Mayor Hood led the Pledge of Allegiance.
<u>A. PUBLIC COMMENT</u>	None.
<u>B. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA</u>	It was moved by Trustee Garner, seconded by Trustee Ross to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. <u>Roll call,</u> AYE: 4- Garner, Ross, Thorstenson, Ware NAY: 0- None ABSENT: 2- O’Brien, Woodside Motion Carried.
<u>C. CONSENT AGENDA / OMNIBUS VOTE</u>	The Acting Village Administrator read the consent agenda for an omnibus vote as follows. 1. Approval of minutes from the June 1, 2026 meeting. 2. Approval of fireworks permit for Six Flags Great America – June 20th through August 9th (50 nightly shows) – proximate displays to be launched from Hometown Square perimeter. 3. Approval of Payroll for the period ending May 29, 2026 in the amount of \$1,218,947.97. 4. Approval of Bills for the period ending June 15, 2026 in the amount of \$3,450,039.77. It was moved by Trustee Garner, seconded by Trustee Thorstenson to approve the Consent Agenda for an omnibus vote as read. <u>Roll call,</u> AYE: 4- Garner, Ross, Thorstenson, Ware NAY: 0- None ABSENT: 2- O’Brien, Woodside Motion Carried.

D. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. Approval of a Proclamation designating Friday, June 19, 2026 as Juneteenth Day.

Mayor Hood summarized the Proclamation.

It was moved by Trustee Ware, seconded by Trustee Ross to approve of a Proclamation designating Friday, June 19, 2026 as Juneteenth Day.

Voice Vote: ALL AYE: Motion Carried.

E. REPORTS

None.

F. OLD BUSINESS

None.

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of Ord. 2026 – 47 amending the Village of Gurnee Personnel Policy Manual.

Human Resources Director Palmieri explained that every year, staff reviews and makes required updates to the personnel manual based on new laws at the state and federal levels. The last update was made in May 2025. Since that time, staff has been working with the labor attorney, Clark Baird Smith, to track modification and additions to the manual. There are several changes in this update related to Employment Practices, Citizenship and Work Eligibility, Verification of Employment Information, Employee Right to Confidentiality, Whistleblower Reporting Policy, Political Activity, Personal Use of Village Property and Equipment, Compliance with Rules and Regulations, Progressive Discipline Policy, Progressive Discipline Appeals Procedure, Holidays and Personal Time, Unpaid Absences, Leave Policies and Anti-Harassment Policy.

It was moved by Trustee Thorstenson, seconded by Trustee Ross to approve of Ord. 2026 – 47 amending the Village of Gurnee Personnel Policy Manual.

Roll call,
AYE: 4- Garner, Ross, Thorstenson, Ware
NAY: 0- None
ABSENT: 2- O'Brien, Woodside
Motion Carried.

2. Approval of Ord. 2026 – 48 authoring the execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Village of Gurnee and Warren Township High School District 121 for the demolition of certain structures at 4579 and 4621 McClure Avenue in the Village of Gurnee.

Acting Administrator Ziegler explained that the Village has been working cooperatively with Warren Township High School to review school-owned structures that are in the floodplain. Funding for the demolition and restoration of the sites are included in the FY 26/27 Approved Budget. In addition, as part of the agreement, the Village will retain the compensatory storage credits from the removal. This will assist with the fuel island relocation project at Public Works. The High School approved the Intergovernmental Agreement at its May 26th Board Meeting. Acting Administrator Ziegler explained that the Village has used compensatory storage credits in the past, including the former Dairy Queen building. These credits were used as a part of an economic incentive for the Trio Gas Station on Grand Avenue.

Trustee Ross asked if there is still a house between these two. Acting Administrator Ziegler said yes, it is still there.

Trustee Ross asked if people still live in it. Acting Administrator Ziegler said yes.

Trustee Ware asked about the three-unit structure in the area. Acting Administrator Ziegler said it has never flooded and is on the list to obtain, however, it isn't high on the list.

It was moved by Trustee Garner, seconded by Trustee Thorstenson to approve of Ord. 2026 – 48 authoring the execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Village of Gurnee and Warren Township High School District 121 for the demolition of certain structures at 4579 and 4621 McClure Avenue in the Village of Gurnee.

Roll call,
AYE: 4- Garner, Ross, Thorstenson, Ware
NAY: 0- None
ABSENT: 2- O'Brien, Woodside
Motion Carried.

3. Approval of Ord. 2026 – 49 authoring the execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Village of Gurnee and the County of Lake for the improvements to Washington Street (County Highway 22) and Illinois Route 21 (Milwaukee Avenue) intersection improvement including sidewalk, bike path, median sign and street lighting.

Acting Administrator Ziegler explained that the Lake County Department of Transportation is working to improve traffic flow and safety at the intersection of Washington Street and Route 21. The improvement will include roadway widening and subsequent modifications to the multi-use path, sidewalk, crosswalks, street lighting and landscaping. The County will widen Washington Street to provide dual left-turn lanes for both eastbound and westbound traffic, extend the southbound right-turn lane on IL 21 to improve traffic flow and upgrade traffic signals and lighting at the intersection. The Village owns and maintains sidewalk, bike path, signage and certain streetlights within the project limits. As part of the project, these Village owned assets will be impacted. Cost related to sidewalk, bike path and median construction will be assessed to the Village at 100% of the cost. Cost related to lighting improvements will be shared between the County and Village 50/50. The project was quickly expedited through Lake County's process, with the Village recently becoming aware of it. Following negotiations, County and Village staff have agreed to a payment of 33% of the Village's expense this fiscal year, with the remaining 66% due the following fiscal year.

It was moved by Trustee Ross, seconded by Trustee Garner to approve of Ord. 2026 – 49 authoring the execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Village of Gurnee and the County of Lake for the improvements to Washington Street (County Highway 22) and Illinois Route 21 (Milwaukee Avenue) intersection improvement including sidewalk, bike path, median sign and street lighting.

Roll call,
AYE: 4- Garner, Ross, Thorstenson, Ware
NAY: 0- None
ABSENT: 2- O'Brien, Woodside
Motion Carried.

H. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

Closing Comments

None.

Adjournment

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

Voice Vote: ALL AYE: Motion Carried.

Mayor Hood adjourned the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

**Andrew Harris,
Village Clerk**