

Minutes of the Regular Village Board Meeting Held September 24, 2024

The Village of Mt. Morris Board of Trustees met in Regular Session at 7:00 PM on September 24, 2024. The Village President called the meeting to order and directed the Clerk to call the roll. Upon the roll being called, Trustees Rojas, Kolling, Hopkins, Higley, Fay, and McConnell voted "Aye." The president declared said motion carried.

Village Treasurer Absent. Press Present. Village Attorney Present.

VISITORS: Dave & Mary Jane Warkins, Kris Wachs, Jeff Warren, Ryan Fletcher, Salley Wessels, Chad Stauffer, Jeff Bold, Chief Cicchetti, Catherine Higley, Josh Nelson, Denise Cheek, Joyce Long, Paula Diehl, Justin Coltrain, Joe Short, Christos Papadopoulos, Jennifer Alvarez, Chris Corcoran.

MINUTES: Trustee Fay moved, and Trustee McConnell seconded the motion to accept the September 10, 2024, Minutes as presented. Upon the roll being called, all Trustees present voted "Aye." The president declared said motion carried.

EXECUTIVE MINUTES: Trustee Rojas moved, and Trustee Kolling seconded the motion to accept the September 10, 2024, Executive Minutes as presented. Upon the roll being called, all Trustees present voted "Aye." The president declared said motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: No Report

CURRENT BILLS: Trustee McConnell moved, and Trustee Rojas seconded the motion to accept the current bills as presented. Upon roll being called, all the Trustees present voted "Aye." The President declared said motion carried.

PETITION & COMMUNICATION: Jeff Warren and Josh Nelson from Wesley 1895 came before the Board to update the board on the progress of 1895. Financing has been approved, and they are now waiting on contractors. Jeff and Josh said they would stick around after the meeting to share their design ideas.

Joyce Long with Evangelical Free Church asked the Village to participate in the Trunk or Treat Touch a Truck event they are hosting along with Let Freedom Ring's Fall Festival on Sunday, October 13 from 1 PM- 4 PM on the campus.

Attorney Lesage reminded the public that per statute Petition & Communication is open for public comment, the rules adopted and codified by the Village are, that the person addressing the Board needs to state their name, the topic of their public concern, comments are limited to 5 minutes, Board members are not required to answer questions from the public.

Chris Corcoran addressed the Board regarding Sunset, asking when it would be done, and what was being done with "Sharky's Building" where the fire was. Trustee McConnell and Trustee Higley answered that the Sunset project was postponed until 2025 due to funding issues, and infrastructure would be updated during the project.

President Labash addressed the issue of the burned building and reminded Chris Corcoran and the public that the two properties involved are private property. Sharky's owner has filed for a demolition permit, but no timeline for progress has been established.

Justin Coltrain came before the Board to follow up regarding a FOIA request he submitted Justin also had a complaint regarding the Village's clean-up of the property located at 1 N. Wesley following the fire. Justin advised he has hired an attorney. Attorney Lesage advised the Board not to respond due to Justin Coltrain retaining legal counsel.

Jennifer Alvarez from Surfinternet came before the Board that Surfinternet is ready to move into the pre-design phase she will follow up with Trustee McConnell and Trustee Kolling.

ADMINISTRATION: Trustee Kolling moved, and Trustee Rojas seconded the motion to enter a closed session at the end of the regular session for the purpose of discussing the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the Village, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired pursuant to section 2(c)(5) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act. Upon roll being called, all the Trustees present voted “Aye.” The President declared said motion carried.

Trustee Rojas moved, and Trustee McConnell seconded the motion to set the Halloween hours for October 31, 2024, from 5 PM – 8 PM. Upon roll being called, all the Trustees present voted “Aye.” The President declared said motion carried.

STREET DEPT: Catherine Higley with the Let Freedom Ring Committee addressed the Board requesting street closure on Wesley from Front to Main Streets for the hours of Noon – 4 PM for the Family Fall Festival. The festival will host vendors/crafters and have a Touch a Truck event.

Trustee Higley moved, and Trustee Rojas seconded the motion to approve the road closure, use of the bandshell, and campus for the Family Fall Festival on Sunday, October 13, from 12 -4 PM. Upon roll being called, all the Trustees present voted “Aye.” The President declared said motion carried.

Trustee Higley updated The Board that he was pursuing a Grant through the Chicago Regain Trees Initiative Committee. Trustee Higley will update The Board as it progresses.

Trustee Higley updates that the Street Department has replaced an estimated 800 feet of sidewalk.

WATER/SEWER: Trustee McConnell moved, and Trustee Kolling seconded the motion to enter into Executive Session at the end of the Regular Session for the purpose of discussing pending or threatened litigation pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11). Upon roll being called, all the Trustees present voted “Aye.” The President declared said motion carried.

POLICE DEPT: Trustee Kolling updated The Board that the camera installation in the squads will be on Thursday.

FINANCE: Trustee Rojas briefly discussed the IML Conference in Chicago. President Labash encouraged all Trustees to attend the IML Conference.

PARK & RECREATION: Trustee Hopkins reports that he and Treasurer Sasscer met with the Hitchcock design group regarding the Zickuhr Park Grant. The meeting was to approve the design and cost ratio. There will still be some time to change designs if needed. The time for contractors to submit bids will start in January 2025.

ORDINANCE: Attorney Lesage updated that per the TIF Redevelopment Agreement with Wesley 1895, the fee for building permits is waived.

PUBLIC PROPERTY: Trustee Fay reports that the door at the entry to the voting area has been upgraded. Trustee Fay also reports that the issues of flooding in that area have been addressed with the addition of the downspouts on the south side of the building. Trustee Fay is moving towards a key card entry system for employees and is working to re-key the main doors to the building.

END REGULAR SESSION: Trustee Rojas moved, and Trustee Hopkins seconded the motion to end the regular session at 7:51 PM. Upon roll being called all Trustees present voted “Aye.” President declared said motion carried.

RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION: Trustee Rojas moved, and Trustee McConnell seconded the motion to reconvene the regular session at 8:27 PM. Upon roll being called all Trustees present voted “Aye.” President declared said motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: Jeff Warren and Josh Nelson were available to the Trustees and Public to share their design ideas and answer any questions.

NEW BUSINESS: No Report

There being no further business to come before this Board. Trustee Kolling moved, and Trustee McConnell seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM. Upon roll being called all Trustees present voted "Aye." President declared said motion carried.

The next regular Village Board Meeting will be held on October 8, 2024, at 7:00 PM in the Village Board Room.

Brooke Duffy, Village Clerk

Phil Labash, Village President