

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT
AND THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF MORTON GROVE
RICHARD T. FLICKINGER MUNICIPAL CENTER COUNCIL CHAMBERS
JULY 9, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

- I. Village President Dan DiMaria convened the Regular Meeting of the Village Board at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Village Hall and led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. Village Clerk Eileen Harford called the roll. Present were Trustees Saba Khan, Rita Minx, Ashur Shiba, John Thill, Connie Travis, and Janine Witko.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

III.

Mayor DiMaria asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the June 25, 2024 Village Board Meeting as presented. Trustee Minx so moved, seconded by Trustee Witko. **Motion passed via voice vote with 6 ayes, 0 nays.**

SPECIAL REPORTS

IV.

NONE

PUBLIC HEARINGS

V.

NONE

PLAN COMMISSION REPORTS

VI.

NONE

RESIDENTS' COMMENTS (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

VII.

NONE

VIII.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1. Mayor DiMaria said this is the first Village Board meeting with the new Village Administrator, Charles L. (Chuck) Meyer. The only thing left to do before Mr. Meyer is "official" is to administer the Oath of Office to him, which Mayor DiMaria came to the podium to do. Mr. Meyer was accompanied by his wife, Alyssa, and their two daughters, Dorothy and Eileen. Chuck noted that Alyssa's grandparents had been 60-year residents of Morton Grove.
 - a. Following the Oath, Mayor DiMaria said that Chuck had been "thrown into the fire" with the Morton Grove Days event. He said that he knew Chuck was the right choice, especially after he'd seen Chuck helping someone who had overindulged in the Beer Garden get across Dempster street. The mayor said he found that thoughtfulness impressive.
2. Speaking of Morton Grove Days, Mayor DiMaria said the Village once again hosted this event, which saw four days of music and entertainment for the whole family. This year's festivities continued the Village's tradition of a great and safe event as it celebrated the 248th anniversary of declaring our independence from England. Mayor DiMaria thanked the entire Special Events Commission, headed by Park Board Trustee Paul Minx and Village Trustee Rita Minx. He noted that they had spent countless hours at the event, and without their leadership and dedication, this would NOT be the same event.
 - a. Mayor DiMaria also thanked the Morton Grove residents for continuing to demonstrate how special we are as a community. He said he was able to show how Morton Grove is the best Village in the world to representatives from Norway, the President of the Parliament, Masud Gharakhani, and the Ambassador to Norway, Anniken Krutnes. Both men joined the Mayor on the Fourth of July for a "meet and greet" and also to visit and mingle with our residents.
3. Mayor DiMaria noted that, on Tuesday, August 6, from 5:30 to 8:30pm, the Morton Grove Police Department will host "National Night Out." This is a free event to enhance the relationship between residents and law enforcement while fostering a greater sense of community. It gets bigger and better every year! Family-friendly activities, entertainment, and refreshments will be available. This event takes place in the parking lot of the American Legion Memorial Civic Center, 6140 Dempster.
4. Mayor DiMaria encouraged everyone to stay up-to-date on the latest Village events and news by signing up for E-News and following the Village on Facebook and Instagram.

IX.

CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Harford had no formal report this evening.

X.

STAFF REPORTSA. Village Administrator:

Mr. Meyer had no formal report this evening.

B. Corporation Counsel:

Corporation Counsel Liston had no formal report this evening.

XI.

TRUSTEES' REPORTSA. Trustee Khan:

1. Trustee Khan presented for a first reading **Ordinance 24-11, Amending Title 1, Chapter 8A, Section 2 Entitled "Village Administrator" and Title 1, Chapter 9A, Section 8 Entitled "Change Orders" to Increase the Purchasing Authority of the Village Administrator.**

a. Trustee Khan explained that in February 2022, the Corporate Authorities amended Section 1-9A-4 of the Village Code to modify the Village's competitive bidding process to allow the Village Administrator to approve Village expenditures under the amount of \$25,000 without the approval of the Village Board, in conformity with Illinois Public Act 100-338 (65ILCS 5/8-9-1) and (65 ICLS 5/4-5-11). A recent review of the Village Code has disclosed a discrepancy among Sections 1-9A-4 and Sections 1-8A-2 and 1-9A-8. This Ordinance will amend Sections 1-8A-2 and 1-9A-8 to confirm that the Village Administrator's authority to approve purchases and change orders less than \$25,000 without Board approval is consistent with Village Code, Section 1-9A-4.

As this is the first reading of this Ordinance, no action will be taken this evening.

B. Trustee Minx:

1. Trustee Minx had no formal report this evening, but wanted to give a long-overdue report on the Highlights from the Fire Department's 2023 Annual Report. She said the department had a productive year planning and implementing new projects and processes. Planning for a new engine and construction projects at both fire stations took place. Department members spent over 18,000 hours training in emergency medicine and fire operations. This included training with our mutual aid partners as well as the MG Police Department and Public Works. The Fire Prevention Bureau completed over 1,000 inspections, plan reviews, and public education events.

a. Also, for the first time, the Fire Department participated in the Citizens Police and Fire Academy. The department had two nights where personnel gave a history of the department, explaining the day-in and day-out activities of being a firefighter, presented in both classroom and hands-on activities for the attendees.

XI. **TRUSTEES' REPORTS** (continued)

B. Trustee Minx: (continued)

- b. In an effort to expand the cancer prevention program, the Fire Department implemented a third-party personal protective equipment cleaning and inspection program. The department again provided auto extrication training to the paramedic class from Lutheran General Hospital. The department has been doing this since 2013.
- c. In October, the department hosted its second open house, attracting over 300 community members for a day filled with both learning and hands-on activities. This year, the department had food trucks available and partnered with Morton Grove's animal rescue organization, Wright-Way Rescue, by raising over \$1,000 through t-shirt sales and generous donations.
- d. By the end of the year, the Fire Department had been out on 2,626 EMS calls and 1,669 fire calls. She asked for a round of applause for Chief Ensign and all the members of the Morton Grove Fire Department for doing a great job of protecting the lives of the residents of the community.

C. Trustee Shiba:

Trustee Shiba announced the 2024 Sustainability Expo has been set for Saturday, September 14, from 10:00am to 1:00pm at the Morton Grove Civic Center. The Village is currently looking for exhibitors and sponsors to join this year's event. For more information, visit the Village's website.

D. Trustee Thill:

- 1. Trustee Thill presented **Resolution 24-41, Appointing a Director and Alternate Director to the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC),**
 - a. Trustee Thill said SWANCC is an intergovernmental agency serving 23 municipalities, including Morton Grove. It was established in 1988 to facilitate effective, competitive, and environmentally sound collection, transportation, transfer, processing, treatment, storage, disposal, recovery and reuse of municipal waste for its members. The Board of Directors approves the yearly budget for the Agency and sets policy for the region's long-term plan to manage the area's solid waste. Every two years, the Village appoints a Direct and Alternate Director to serve on SWANCC's Board of Directors to represent the Village's interests. This Resolution will appoint Trustee John Thill as the Village's Director and Village Administrator Charles Meyer as its Alternate Director.

Trustee Thill moved to approve Resolution 24-41, seconded by Trustee Travis.

Motion passed: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Tr. Khan	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Minx	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Shiba	<u>aye</u>
Tr. Thill	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Travis	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Witko	<u>aye</u>

XI. TRUSTEES' REPORTS (continued)

D. Trustee Thill: (continued)

Trustee Thill told Mr. Meyer, "Chuck, I will be using a lot of back up!"

2. Next, Trustee Thill introduced **Ordinance 24-12, Amending Title 1, Chapter 11, Section 4 Entitled "Fees For Specific Permits, Licenses, Certificates, and Services" of the Municipal Code of the Village of Morton Grove to Update the Fees for Small Cell Facilities.**
 - a. In June of 2020, the Village Board amended Title 1 of the Village Code to add a new Chapter 11 entitled "Fees" to provide a comprehensive fee schedule for various licenses, permits, and services authorized by the Code set forth in one location of the Code so that it could be easily referenced by the public and annually reviewed by Village staff as part of the annual budget process. A recent review of the Village's fees disclosed that fees related to small cell facilities on utility-owned structures, currently \$1,500 for the permit application fee and \$1,500 for the first year's license fee exceed the maximum application fees set by Public Act 100-0585, Section 15(e)(1), which is \$650 for the permit application for co-locating a small wireless facility on an existing utility pole or wireless support structure, and \$350 for multiple facilities after the initial \$650 fee has been paid, and an annual license fee for co-location on a Village-owned utility pole within the right-of-way of \$200 (or the actual, direct, and reasonable costs related to the usage). This Ordinance will amend Sections 1-11-4 of the Village Code to make fees related to small cell facilities in conformance with Public Act 100-0585.

As this is the first reading of this Ordinance, no action will be taken this evening.

3. Trustee Thill complimented the Public Works Department. He said he went down Dempster Street the day after the Parade and the Fireworks, and the street was so clean, you'd never know the parade even happened! He asked Mike Lukich to pass on his compliments to the Public Works staff.

E. Trustee Travis:

1. Trustee Travis gave a Community Relations report. She said, regarding the Adopt-A-Planter Summer Program, that all the planters are blooming. She gave special thanks to the program's volunteers, and reminded them to visit their planters regularly, and to let the Village know if they have any questions or concerns.
 - a. Also, the Summer Photo Contest opened on May 27 and ends on Labor Day. The theme is "Summer in Morton Grove." More information can be found on the Village's website.
 - b. Block Party Kits are available on the Village's website. They include everything you need to plan and host a successful block party.

XI. **TRUSTEES' REPORTS** (continued)

E. Trustee Travis: (continued)

2. Lastly, Trustee Travis had a Public Safety comment. She said all residents are encouraged to visit the Village's website or go to smart911.com to create a safety profile and access emergency alerts and notifications. This will help first responders in emergency situations and help keep the residents aware of any ongoing emergencies.

F. Trustee Witko:

1. Trustee Witko introduced **Ordinance 24-13, Amending Title 4, Chapter 4, Section 9 Entitled "Suspension and Revocation" and Amending Title 4, Chapter 4, Section 10 Entitled "Appeal" to Modify and Establish Regulations Relating to the Suspension or Revocation of Certificates of Occupancy of Business Operations in Morton Grove, Illinois.**
 - a. She explained that, currently, Village staff enforces Village-wide regulations regarding business compliance pursuant to Title 4, Chapter 4 of the Village Code, which establishes requirements for compliance certificates (Section 4-4-1) and the process for the suspension or revocation of compliance certificates or business licenses (Section 4-4-9). These regulations currently do not provide adequate recourse for the Village if the businesses are noncompliant with applicable regulations and are non-responsive to appropriately issued citations, fines, and the adjudication process.
 - b. Trustee Witko said, in accordance with Section 4-4-1, staff have withheld issuing Business Compliance Certificates (BCC) to numerous businesses for a variety of reasons, such as failure to pay fees or taxes, or for outstanding code violations. While most businesses comply with Village regulations and receive their BCC, some businesses continue to operate without a BCC and fail to respond to citations or administrative hearing requests. When this occurs, staff does not have a means of obtaining compliance except for levying additional fines, which has proven to be ineffective in many cases. The ability to revoke Certificates of Occupancy will help obtain compliance in extreme cases and help ensure all businesses in the Village are operating safely and within the confines of the law.
 - c. The amendments proposed by this Ordinance will:
 - Grant the Village Administrator the authority to suspend or revoke certificates and licenses. Currently this authority is granted to the Village's Adjudication Officer;
 - Expand the list of items that may be suspended or revoked to include Certificates of Occupancy, Business Compliance Certificates, and Business Licenses;
 - Extend the maximum suspension period from 30 days to 60 days;
 - Clarify the basis for suspending or revoking permits, licenses, and certificates; and
 - Modify the appeal and notification process to provide that appeals are heard by the Village Adjudication Hearing Officer.

XI. TRUSTEES' REPORTS (continued)

F. Trustee Witko: (continued)

Trustee Witko said, as this is a first reading of this Ordinance, no action will be taken this evening.

XII. OTHER BUSINESS

NONE

XIII. WARRANTS

Trustee Khan presented the Warrant Register for July 9, 2024 in the amount of \$433,557.11. She moved to approve the Warrants as presented, seconded by Trustee Minx.

Motion passed: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Tr. Khan	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Minx	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Shiba	<u>aye</u>
Tr. Thill	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Travis	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Witko	<u>aye</u>

XIV. RESIDENTS' COMMENTS

1. **Rudy Vilk** expressed concern with the way the Village handles auctioning off its obsolete vehicles. Only one vehicle had its mileage listed. He also objected to the fact that the Mayor had not called him by name to come forward for Residents Comments at the last meeting. Mr. Vilk had a number of other unintelligible complaints.
2. Trustee Thill pointed out that this portion of the meeting was to allow any resident an opportunity to address the Board for the good of the community. Mr. Vilk, for the last seven years, has done nothing but make false and outlandish accusations against the Board and the Village staff. He claims that the Board members do not want to speak with him after the meeting. This is true, and the reason is, because when they do speak with him, he distorts what they say. He claims the answers he gets are not the "true" answers—not the answers he wants. He will not accept the truth. He says that we do not read his letters. Trustee Thill said, "I'd like to read a few of the statements he's made in his last letter: 'Any visitor to the Village, which is a public place, should not see the blinds of the windows of the Village employees, unless they are facing a sunny side, regardless of who is sitting there, because it raises a lot of questions. The employee is not at work and the lights in the office are on, portraying the presence of the employee at work. Is the employee in there sleeping? Is the employee playing on the computer? Is the employee doing something illegal? The employee is trying to hide their absence from work. And it's almost impossible to check what's going on with Mr. Czerwinski's office?'" Trustee Thill told Mr. Vilk, "That's not your business."

XIV.

RESIDENTS' COMMENTS (continued)

- a. Trustee Thill continued reading statements from Mr. Vilks's most recent letter. He read, "The mayor is the chairman of the meeting, but he has no right to give his opinion. I think that the members of the Board of Trustees will soon realize what a mistake they made, as any lies from the administration, they will be responsible for. The mayor refuses to sign his answers when he gives them to me." Trustee Thill said to Mr. Vilks, "You have no right to ask for that."
- b. Trustee Thill said Mr. Vilks comes to Village Hall and disrupts Village staff whenever he wants. Trustee Thill said, personally, he thinks Mr. Vilks should be banned from Village Hall during business hours. He said Mr. Vilks writes, "They think everyone is stupid." Trustee Thill said, "We don't think *everyone* is stupid."

XV.

ADJOURNMENT

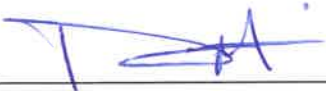
Trustee Minx moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Witko. **Motion passed unanimously via voice vote.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

PASSED this 23rd day of July, 2024.

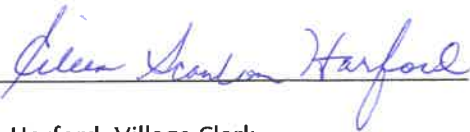
Trustee Khan	<u> Aye </u>
Trustee Minx	<u> Aye </u>
Trustee Shiba	<u> Aye </u>
Trustee Thill	<u> Aye </u>
Trustee Travis	<u> Aye </u>
Trustee Witko	<u> Aye </u>

APPROVED by me this 23rd day of July, 2024.



Daniel P. DiMaria, Village President
Board of Trustees, Morton Grove, Illinois

APPROVED and FILED in my office this 24th day of July, 2024.



Eileen Harford, Village Clerk
Village of Morton Grove, Cook County, Illinois

Minutes by Teresa Cousar

