

**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  
DECEMBER 10, 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.
- II. Village Clerk Eileen Harford called the roll. Present were Trustees Saba Khan, Rita Minx, Ashur Shiba, John Thill, Connie Travis, and Janine Witko.

III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor DiMaria asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the November 26, 2024 Village Board Meeting as presented. Trustee Minx so moved, seconded by Trustee Witko. **Motion passed unanimously via voice vote.**

IV. **SPECIAL REPORTS**

1. **MABAS Humanitarian Award and Decoration For MGF District Chief Will Paces**
  - a. Patrick Hardin, Operations Branch Chief of Mutual Alarm Box System (MABAS) Illinois, was quite impressed with the turnout at this meeting. He said it was his honor to present this award to District Chief Paces this evening. Mr. Hardin said that Paces has been serving MABAS since 2007, when he assisted in efforts to help after Hurricane Katrina. Mr. Hardin said Paces started as a Rescue Specialist in 2008. He then branched out to Search Manager and was a Logistics Specialist as well. As of January 1, 2025, he will be named as a Task Force Leader, which is a privilege in MABAS Illinois.
  - b. Mr. Hardin noted that Paces has done a great job serving the Village of Morton Grove and MABAS Illinois, and pointed out that Paces has also already gone to North Carolina twice. Mr. Hardin said the group from MABAS Illinois that went to North Carolina said they had never seen such devastation. Paces was instrumental in saving people stuck in trees and from wrecked homes.
  - c. The award certifies that the Presidents of MABAS Illinois have authorized executive direction and the order to be awarded is the Humanitarian Service Medal, Hurricane Helene, State of North Carolina, for Response and Relief Efforts to Will Paces, Illinois Task Force #1, for Outstanding and Sustained Individual and Team Actions for the Period September and October, 2024 during Hurricane Helene Response and Relief Efforts.

IV. **SPECIAL REPORTS** (continued)

- d. Mayor DiMaria joined Mr. Hardin at the podium and accepted a similar award from MABAS thanking and recognizing the Village for allowing its staff to assist in times of devastation. Morton Grove's Fire Chief, Ralph Ensign also complimented Paces and the rest of the team that went to North Carolina to assist in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene.
- e. District Chief Paces added his thank-you's as well to the Village Board and the Fire Department leadership for allowing their staff to assist MABAS in these type of ventures. He said it makes an incredible difference in towns, communities, and countless peoples' lives.
- f. Mayor DiMaria thanked District Chief Paces for making the Village proud.
- g. Trustee Minx noted that she had been involved with the MABAS efforts after Hurricane Katrina. She said she was "blown away" by how well-organized the MABAS team was and by the amount of assistance the MABAS team provided. She thanked everyone who had participated in that event.

V. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

NONE

VI. **PLAN COMMISSION REPORTS**

NONE

VII. **RESIDENTS' COMMENTS (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)**

**Eric Poders, formerly from northwest Morton Grove**, appeared before the Board to say that one of the things you learn in scouting is the importance of leaving places or people better off than they were before you came. Mr. Poders was quite complimentary of incoming Police Chief Mike Weitzel. He said he had a lot of respect for the new Chief and called him "an unsung hero." He said he couldn't wait to see what Chief Weitzel will do during his tenure as Chief. Mr. Poders stated that he had "come out of retirement" to see the transition of Mike Weitzel to Chief, and said he would do the same in January, when a replacement Deputy Chief is sworn in. Mr. Poders praised the personnel both in the MG Police Department and the Morton Grove Fire Department, noting that these people risk their lives every day. He added that people don't realize how intelligent and team-oriented they are.

VIII. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

- 1. Mayor DiMaria proclaimed the month of December 2024 as "Niles Township Food Pantry Awareness Month" in the Village, and urged all residents to support the efforts of the Niles Twp. Food Pantry Foundation by making a cash donation to the Food Pantry Holiday Gift Card Drive.

VIII. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT** (continued)

- a. Mayor DiMaria noted that the Niles Township Food Pantry initially started out in the basement of the Township building at 5255 Lincoln Avenue in Skokie, with a shelf containing some canned goods, "just in case" someone was in need. It then grew to the back room of the Township's building with one full-time employee. In 2009, Niles Township re-established the Food Pantry in their annex building at 8341 Lockwood (the former site of a daycare facility).
  - b. In 2023, the Food Pantry served more than 70,200 individuals and 3,300 separate households (more than 8% of total households in Niles Township). Many families rely on the Pantry on a regular basis. In 2023, the Pantry distributed nearly 1.4 million pounds of food where about half of all households in their coverage area use food stamps.
  - c. Mayor DiMaria stated there continues to be a profound demand for emergency food due to multiple factors, and the demand to operate food banks like the Niles Township Food Pantry is more critical than ever. The Pantry continues to provide meaningful volunteer service and in-pantry shopping to those who are food insecure.
  - d. The Pantry is collecting monetary donations this year to purchase holiday gift cards so children from families in need can enjoy the upcoming holidays; in 2023, 1,000 children were able to receive a gift because of this drive. The Food Pantry is run and supported by Niles Township Government. Food and other services provided to Food Pantry clients are paid for out of the Niles Township Food Pantry Foundation, a 501(c)3 charitable corporation.
  - e. Mayor DiMaria urged all residents to support the efforts of the Niles Township Food Pantry by making a monetary donation to the Food Pantry's holiday drive and by donating whenever possible toiletry items and non-perishable food good.
  - f. Mayor DiMaria then presented the proclamation to Niles Township Trustee Peggy Tolleson and to Lisa Hanely, one of the Niles Township Food Pantry Foundation Board Members. Ms. Tolleson thanked Mayor DiMaria and the Village Board, expressing her appreciation that the proclamation is shining a light of food insecurity that still exists in our community. She also encouraged monetary donations to the Pantry to be sent to 5255 Lincoln Avenue, Skokie, 60077. Ms. Hanley said she was truly honored to accept the proclamation designating the month of December as Niles Township Food Pantry Awareness Month. She said the proclamation highlights the importance of community, compassion, and values that are at the heart of everything done in Niles Township. She said food insecurity affects too many individuals and families, and it is crucial that we work toward a solution that would ensure everyone has access to the nutrition they need to thrive.
2. Mayor DiMaria reminded the assemblage that, in 2025, Village Board Meetings will continue to be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month. Meetings begin at 6:00pm, with the first hour reserved for closed Executive Session meetings. The public portion of the meetings will continue to start at 7:00pm.

The 2025 meeting schedule is as follows:

VIII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT (continued)

- |    |             |           |                         |
|----|-------------|-----------|-------------------------|
| a. | January 14  | May 13    | September 9             |
|    | January 28  | May 27    | September 23            |
|    | February 11 | June 10   | October 14              |
|    | February 25 | June 24   | October 28              |
|    | March 11    | July 8    | November 12*            |
|    | March 25    | July 22   | November 25             |
|    | April 8     | August 12 | December 9              |
|    | April 22    | August 26 | December 23 (cancelled) |
- b. Mayor DiMaria said the first meeting in November will be held on Wednesday, November 12, to allow for the observance of Veterans Day on November 11 when Village offices will be closed.
3. Next, Mayor DiMaria called Mike Weitzel to the podium. He said, "It is with great pleasure that I get to appoint Mike Weitzel as the Village's Police Chief tonight. In his 24 years with the Village, he has shown an incredible aptitude for law enforcement and dedication to our residents. This next step in his career continues his journey as a dedicated public servant, having previously served as a Specialist in the United States Army Reserve, followed by 24 years as a sworn member of the Morton Grove Police Department. We are lucky to have Chief Weitzel continue the improvements started by Chief Simo for this great department." The mayor also thanked all the police personnel of the Village. He then asked for a motion and a second to appoint Mike Weitzel as Police Chief. Trustee Minx so moved, seconded by Trustee Witko. **Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.** Mayor DiMaria then swore in Michael J. Weitzel as Police Chief of the Village of Morton Grove.
- a. The new Police Chief thanked everyone for showing up. He said he had intended to be brief, but since his kids were here as a "captive audience," he was going to take advantage of the. Mike thanked his children and said he was lucky to have them. He pointed out his mother, in attendance this evening, and said that she had come to this country, a refugee of World War II, at 13 years old. She had spent five years in a relocation camp, and through her, he gained an appreciation of and a true love for this country.
- b. Mike related how, as a young patrol officer, he met a local businessman who had that same love and passion for the Village of Morton Grove. It was Dan DiMaria, who is now the mayor. Mike said, after a while, Dan's passion and love for Morton Grove sort of "rubbed off" on him because now he, too, realizes that Morton Grove truly is special.
- c. Mike thanked the Village Board of Trustees, and other Police Chiefs who are here tonight. He also thanked members of the Fire & Police Commission and commented that Chairman Mike Simkins has hired every single police officer currently serving the Village. Chief Weitzel said Mr. Simkins had hired him 25 year ago, adding that "25 years is a long time to be doing this," and thanked Mr. Simkins again.
- d. The chief thanked all the community organizations and religious institutions in town, and in particular, the Morton Grove Days Commission, and said he and the MGPD would continue building up these relationships.

## VIII.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT** (continued)

- e. Chief Weitzel gave kudos to the Morton Grove Fire Department and high praise to the Public Works Department. He singled out Village Administrator Chuck Meyer and Assistant Administrator Zoe Heidorn, and noted that, although neither of them has been in their current role for very long, they are strong capable leaders who help make it a pleasure to work for Morton Grove.
  - f. Chief Weitzel acknowledged a number of commissions, who help the Village thrive, as well as Chief Simo, Brian Fennelly, Dennis Johnson, and other peers and friends who were present tonight, and told them all if he forgot to mention someone, they can yell at him later. He said, the three most important things to help things continue to run smoothly are Teamwork, Communication, and Thoroughness, and said he'll continue to keep focused on them.
4. Mayor DiMaria invited Firefighter Erik Miller and Fire Chief Ralph Ensign to join him at the podium. Firefighter Miller said, "For those of you who don't know, this is Chief Ensign's last Board Meeting; he's retiring at the beginning of January." He then read a statement of appreciation from the Firefighters Association. The statement congratulated Chief Ensign on his retirement and said the Fire Department is better because of his stewardship and leadership. The statement noted that Chief Ensign had many accomplishments in the three years he was with Morton Grove, including the purchase of two new fire engines and a new ambulance; working with the Building Department for the renovation of Station #5, and developing with fire department personnel and Village staff a Fire Station Open House and a Citizens Academy. Chief Ensign also implemented a Succession Plan, and acted as an Advisor during Collective Bargaining sessions. The Firefighters thanked Chief Ensign for his nearly 50 years in public service and wished him well in his retirement.
    - a. Mayor DiMaria also thanked Chief Ensign for his service to this community and the Chicagoland area, noting that 48 years of public service is quite a long time. The mayor said that the Chief has been with Morton Grove since 2021, and prior to him joining and leading the MGF, he served as an on-call firefighter/paramedic for the Winnetka Fire Department, worked from the position of Firefight to Battalion Chief in Highland Park, and then served the Village of Glenview, first as Deputy Chief, then as Fire Chief. Mayor DiMaria said Chief Ensign has left his mark on the MG community with projects such as the Citizens Police and Fire Academy, the acquisition of new self-contained breathing apparatus for employees' safety, and improved the overall safety for first responders. He has encouraged and facilitated growth of staff members within the Department and kept our community safe. On behalf of the elected officials, Mayor DiMaria said, "Thank you, Chief Ensign."
    - b. Chief Ensign then introduced his wife, Diana, and thanked her for her support over the last 48 years. He commented that he's never worked anywhere that had a friendlier, more open Village Board than Morton Grove. He thanked Ralph Czerwinski and Tom Friel for their support and mentorship, calling it invaluable. He thanked Mike Simkins and all his Deputy Chiefs, then singled out Mary Jo LeBeau, Executive Assistant of the MGF for all her assistance and guidance. Chief Ensign said the Fire Department's working relationship with the Police Department was great, and said the reputation and culture of the MGF is second to none.

VIII.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT** (continued)

Mayor DiMaria advised the assemblage that there would be a short break before the meeting resumed, so if they had attended for Mike or for Ralph, this would be the best time to leave.

5. Next, Mayor DiMaria asked for a motion to concur with the following Administrative Appointments, effective January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025:

Village Administrator / Building Commissioner	Charles Meyer
Corporation Counsel	Teresa Hoffman Liston
Finance Director/Treasurer	Hanna Sullivan
Fire Chief	Ralph Ensign
Chief of Police	Michael Weitzel
Director of Public Works	Michael Lukich
Assistant Village Administrator	Zoe Heidorn
Village Prosecutor	Wayne Addis
Adjudication Hearing Officer	Daniel Didech

Trustee Thill moved to concur with all of the administrative appointments as presented, seconded by Trustee Travis. **Motion passed unanimously via voice vote.**

6. Mayor DiMaria noted the following people serving on Village Boards or Commissions as Chairperson. Their appointments are effective January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025.

Hope Hornstein, Chairperson	Advisory Commission on Aging
John Pietron, Chairperson	Appearance Commission
Theresa Polyak, Chairperson	Community Relations Commission
Mark Fernandez, Chairperson	Economic Development Commission
Georgianne Brunner, Chairperson	Environment & Natural Resources Commission
Michael Simkins, Chairperson	Fire and Police Commission
Chris Kintner, Chairperson	Plan Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals
Paul Minx, Chairperson	Special Events Commission
Keith White, Chairperson	Traffic Safety Commission

7. Mayor DiMaria provided the following meeting schedule for 2024 Village Boards and Commissions

	TIME	DATES	LOCATION	STAFF LIAISON
Advisory Commission on Aging	1:00pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month	Civic Center	Zoe Heidorn
Appearance Commission	7:00pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month	Council Chambers	Brandon Nolin
Community Relations Commission	6:30pm	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday of January, March, May, July, September, November	Scanlon Conference Room	Terry Liston

VIII.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT** (continued)

Economic Development Commission	7:00pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday of February, April, June, August, October, and December	Scanlon Conference Room	Brandon Nolin
Environment & Natural Resources Commission	6:00pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Monday of February, April, June, August, October, December	Scanlon Conference Room	Terry Liston
Fire and Police Commission	1:00pm	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month	Fire Station #4	Mike Weitzel Ralph Ensign
Fire Pension Board		Quarterly (varies)	Fire Station #4	Hanna Sullivan
Plan Commission	7:00pm	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month	Council Chambers	Brandon Nolin
Police Pension Board		Quarterly (varies)	Police Station	Hanna Sullivan
Special Events Commission	6:00pm	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday of February, April, June, August, October, and December	Public Works 7840 Nagle	Zoe Heidorn
Traffic Safety Commission	7:00pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month	Council Chambers	Chris Tomich
Zoning Board of Appeals	7:00 pm	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month	Council Chambers	Brandon Nolin

Mayor DiMaria said this schedule will be posted on the Village’s website.

8. Mayor DiMaria said that the Village Board Liaison Assignments will stay the same.
9. Mayor DiMaria announced that, starting tomorrow, the Village’s train station contractor will be working in Lehigh Avenue to install a water service line for the new train station building. One lane of traffic will be open, with flaggers controlling traffic movements to allow for north and south traffic. Commuters should allow a few extra minutes to get to the train station if needing to pass through the intersection of Lehigh Avenue and Chestnut Street.
10. 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.
11. Mayor DiMaria wished everyone a Merry Christmas and happy holidays from he and his family, adding that he hopes everyone’s holidays will be safe and healthy.

IX.

**CLERK’S REPORT**

Clerk Harford said that indoor fitness walking has begun at the Park District’s Prairie View Center. It is available Monday through Friday, between 8 and 9am, and there is no charge for this. If anyone has questions, they can call the Village Hall or the Prairie View Center.

X.

**STAFF REPORTS**A. Village Administrator:

1. Mr. Meyer reminded the assemblage that the second Board meeting of December would be on Christmas Eve; therefore, it has been cancelled.
2. Mr. Meyer announced the 2025 Holiday Schedule (the days on which Village Hall and Public Works are closed):

New Year's Day	Wednesday, January 1
Memorial Day	Monday, May 26
Independence Day	Friday, July 4
Labor Day	Monday, September 1
Veterans Day	Tuesday, November 11
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 27
Friday after Thanksgiving	Friday, November 28
Christmas Day	Thursday, December 25

Mr. Meyer said he had several Ordinances to report on this evening:

3. **Ordinance 24-23, An Ordinance Approving and Authorizing the Modification of an Economic Incentive and Tax Increment Allocation Financing Development Agreement By and Between the Village of Morton Grove, Illinois and P&P Properties, LLC in Regard to Certain Real Property Located in the Lehigh/Ferris Tax Increment Financing Redevelopment Area and the Expenditure of Funds from the Lehigh/Ferris Tax Increment Financing District Funds.**

This is the second reading of the Ordinance.

- a. The modification of the Economic Incentive and Tax Increment Allocation Financing Development Agreement between the Village and P&P Properties will support a ten-unit townhome and a duplex development within the Lehigh/Ferris TIF District.
- b. Mr. Meyer explained that, in July of 2022, the Village Board adopted Ordinance 22-15, approving and authorizing the execution of an economic incentive and tax increment allocation financing development agreement between the Village and P&P Properties, LLC for the redevelopment of property commonly known as 8721, 8733, and 8735 Narragansett Avenue and 8720 through 8726 Ferris Avenue in Morton Grove. The Agreement requires the Developer to develop and construct a ten-unit townhome development and two-unit duplex development on the property in order to receive certain economic incentives as set forth in the Agreement.
- c. The developer has failed to meet certain timeline obligations of the Agreement and is currently in default thereof, but continues to make good faith progress toward completion of the development. Due to the ongoing cooperation of the developer, Village staff is seeking the Board's authorization to reinstate the Agreement and authorize the following modifications and extension of time to the deadlines contained therein:

X. **STAFF REPORTS** (continued)

A. Village Administrator: (continued)

- c.1 • The principal balance and all accrued interest shall be immediately due to the Village on the 2-year, 8-month anniversary of the Closing Date (May 22, 2025) unless all Certificates of Occupancy have been issued for the 10 townhouse units and the 2 duplex units.
- c.2 • The Village shall forgive the principal and interest owed on the note if the Developer has constructed and obtained Certificates of Occupancy for all 10 townhome units on the Townhome Property and has constructed and obtained Certificates of Occupancy for the 2 duplex units on the Duplex Property on or before the 2-year 8-month anniversary of the Closing Date (May 22, 2025).
- c.3 • The \$250,000 in TIF Assistance eligible to be paid to the Developer shall be reduced by an amount determined by the Village Administrator to reimburse the Village for incurred expenses of staff time and to reimburse for the loss of property taxes associated with the extended timeline, as deemed reasonable and appropriate by the Village Administrator.
- c.4 • Under no circumstances will the Village be obligated to provide any TIF Assistance to the Developer for any Eligible Expenses after May 1, 2025, or pursuant to any request for reimbursement, including proof of payment, and paid receipts for Eligible Expenses shall be submitted to the Village no later than March 1, 2025.

Mr. Meyer said this is the second reading of this Ordinance. Mayor DiMaria asked for a motion and second regarding this Ordinance.

Trustee Minx moved to adopt Ordinance 24-23, seconded by Trustee Thill.

**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>

4. **Ordinance 24-24, Authorizing the Transfer of Funds From the Lehigh Avenue/Ferris Avenue Tax Increment Financing District to the Lincoln-Lehigh Tax Increment Financing District Within the Village of Morton Grove, Cook County, Illinois.**

- a. Mr. Meyer explained that provisions in the Tax Increment Redevelopment Act allow the Village to transfer funds from one TIF District to a contiguous TIF District. This Ordinance will authorize the transfer of \$1,750,000 from the Lehigh/Ferris TIF to the Lincoln/Lehigh TIF.

X. **STAFF REPORTS** (continued)

A. Village Administrator: (continued)

b. The funds will be used to further redevelopment projects within the Lincoln/Lehigh TIF District.

This is the second reading of this Ordinance. Mayor DiMaria asked for a motion and second in regards to this Ordinance.

Trustee Khan moved to adopt Ordinance 24-24, 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>

5. **Ordinance 24-20, Terminating the Designation of the Ferris Avenue/Lehigh Avenue Redevelopment Project Area.**

- a. This Ordinance will formally terminate the Ferris Avenue/Lehigh Avenue TIF District effective December 31, 2024.
- b. Mr. Meyer said that, in January of 2000, the Village established the Ferris Avenue/Lehigh Avenue Tax Increment Financing District via Ordinances 00-01, 00-02, 00-03, and approved a Redevelopment Project and Plan and increment financing for the TIF District.
- c. On October 25, 2021, pursuant to Ordinance 21-08, the Village amended the Redevelopment Project and Plan to remove certain parcels from the Redevelopment Project Area. On November 14, 2022, pursuant to Ordinance 22-19, the Village amended Ordinance 00-01 to extend the estimated date of completion of the Plan and Project to December 31, 2024. This Ordinance will formally terminate TIF incremental financing for the TIF District effective December 31, 2024, and enable the other taxing bodies in the TIF District to extend their levies and receive the incremental taxes produced by the TIF.
- d. Mr. Meyer said the TIF District will be maintained for the limited purpose of completing and paying for approved redevelopment project, receiving incremental property tax revenues for tax year 2023 and prior tax years, and to settle claims and lawsuits affecting the Project Area.

This is the second reading of this Ordinance.

Trustee Shiba moved, seconded by Trustee Witko, to adopt Ordinance 24-20.

Trustee Thill commented on this Ordinance, saying he was very surprised to still be here at the conclusion of this TIF.

Mayor DiMaria called for the vote.

X. **STAFF REPORTS** (continued)

A. Village Administrator: (continued)

**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>

e. Mayor DiMaria said it seemed like a lifetime ago that this TIF was enacted. He said the Village Board at the time took a lot of “heat” from people complaining about the Village “giving” developers’ money, but said, “When you stand strong for something you believe in and you know it’s going to be good, it works out.” Mayor DiMaria agreed that this is one of the State’s most successful TIF districts. And, because of this TIF, the school districts will receive over \$1m per year moving forward. Mayor DiMaria said he was a little sad to see this TIF being retired.

6. **Ordinance 24-25, Exempting Certain Morton Grove Employers From The Cook County Paid Leave Ordinance.**

- a. This Ordinance exercises the Village’s Home Rule Authority to exempt the Morton Grove Park District, school districts, and other employers located within the Village from the requirements of the Cook County Paid Leave Ordinance.
- b. In 2023, Cook County passed the “Cook County Paid Leave Ordinance,” which is inconsistent with the Illinois Paid Leave for All Workers Act. The Village has been notified by impacted schools and the Morton Grove Park District that complying with the County’s Ordinance will negatively impact their governmental operations and affairs, especially their ability to provide efficient services to young residents, and will place an undue burden on their ability to provide uninterrupted services to their constituents.
- c. The Illinois Constitution, in Article VII, Section 6c, provides that “if a home rule county ordinance conflicts with an ordinance of a municipality, the municipal ordinance shall prevail within its jurisdiction.”
- d. It is the Village’s intent, by adopting this Ordinance, to exercise its home rule authority to opt out of the requirement of the Cook County Paid Leave Ordinance so that its requirement shall not be imposed on the Morton Grove Park District, school districts located in the Village, and other village employees.

This is the second reading of this Ordinance. Mayor DiMaria called for a motion and second on this Ordinance.

Trustee Minx moved, seconded by Trustee Travis, to adopt Ordinance 24-25.

**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>

- X. **STAFF REPORTS** (continued)
- A. Village Administrator: (continued)
7. **Ordinance 24-30, Authorizing the Village of Morton Grove to Sell Property Commonly Known as 6210 Dempster Street, Morton Grove, Illinois.**
- a. Mr. Meyer said this Ordinance will authorize the Village to sell property commonly known as 6210 Dempster Street, Morton Grove, Illinois to Fifth Third Bank, National Association, as part of an agreement to acquire 6201 Dempster Street, Morton Grove, Illinois.
- b. He explained that, since approximately 1980, the Village Hall and Police Department have been located at 6101 Capulina Avenue. Portions of the building were built in 1895 as an elementary school, and the facilities are now functionally obsolete, energy inefficient, inaccessible, and grossly inadequate to meet the needs of a modern village hall and police department.
- c. Fifth Third Bank, National Association, owns and operates a retail banking facility at 6201 Dempster Street, which consists of 1.67 acres improved with a 26,000 square foot two-story building and drive-through facility. The existing building at 6201 Dempster is larger than what is currently needed by the bank. The Village has determined that this property could be improved and converted to a new Police Department and Village Hall campus in a cost-effective manner, and proposed to purchase the property from the bank. The bank indicated it would be willing to sell the 6201 Dempster property to the Village, if it could purchase the 6210 Dempster property and develop it as a 2,800 square foot retail banking and drive-through facility. The property known as 6210 Dempster is a 0.51 acre parcel of vacant land currently owned by the Morton Grove Park District and was formerly the site of the MB Bank drive-through bank facility.
- d. On December 12, 2022, pursuant to Resolution 22-47 and Ordinance 22-26, the Village and the Park District agreed to exchange a 0.67 acre parcel of Village-owned vacant land located immediately north of the Morton Grove American Legion Civic Center building and the Park District-owned 6210 Dempster Street property, contingent on the Village and the Bank entering into agreements for the purchase of the 6210 Dempster property by the bank and the purchase of the 6201 Dempster property by the Village. Pursuant to Ordinance 23-08, adopted in August 2023, the Village Board approved a real estate purchase and sale agreement for the Village to sell and the bank to purchase the 6210 Dempster property for \$700,000.00 The agreement was subsequently terminated during its inspection contingency periods.
- e. The bank and the Village have renegotiated a new agreement subject to the approval of the Village Board. The terms of the renegotiated agreement include:
- A. Purchase price: \$700,00.00 (*no change*)
  - B. Earnest money in the amount of \$25,000 to be held by Chicago Title Insurance Company
  - C. A 30-day “due diligence” contingency
  - D. The granting of easements for the 6210 property for vehicular access to Dempster Street
  - E. The execution of a shared parking agreement, giving the bank the use of 10 parking spaces at the Civic Center during banking hours, and the Village the use of 10 parking spaces at 6210 Dempster during non-banking hours

X. **STAFF REPORTS** (continued)

A. Village Administrator: (continued)

- F. The removal of four specified trees from the Village-owned property at 6140 Dempster, and the Harrer Park property at the bank’s expense and with compensation provided to the Village and the Park District for the replacement of the trees (*no change*)
- G. The Village will, at its expense, secure IDOT and MWRD permits to provide water, storm sewer, and sanitary sewer connections to the property
- H. The Village will, at its cost, install a new sanitary sewer that currently provides service to the Morton Grove Park District property and the existing sewer at 6210 Dempster Street shall be abandoned.
- I. Closing to occur simultaneously with the Village’s purchase of 6201 Dempster Street, on or about December 16, 2024.

f. Mr. Meyer cautioned that there is still some negotiating happening with this agreement, so there will possibly be some slight changes in the final version. This Ordinance will authorize the execution of this agreement and will authorize the Village Administrator to negotiate and execute easements, a parking sharing agreement, and other related documents required by the Agreement. The Village will receive \$700,000, less closing costs and prorations which will be applied to the purchase price for the Village’s purchase of 6201 Dempster.

g. Mr. Meyer said this is a first reading of this Ordinance, but since the closing is scheduled for December 11, 2024, the Village requests a waiver of the second reading.

Trustee Shiba moved to waive the second reading of Ordinance 24-30, seconded by Trustee Thill.

**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>

Trustee Shiba then moved to adopt Ordinance 24-30, seconded by Trustee Khan.

**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>

h. Trustee Shiba was quite excited about the Village Hall and Police Department finally getting “a new home.” He said it had been a long time coming!

i. Trustee Thill explained that basically the Village is selling property it owns on the north side of Dempster to the bank. The bank will construct a new building there.

j. Mayor DiMaria also thanked the MG Park District Commissioners, past and present, who helped bring this to fruition, and said the Village is very grateful for their assistance.

X. **STAFF REPORTS** (continued)

A. Village Administrator: (continued)

8. **Resolution 24-77, Authorizing the Village of Morton Grove to Acquire Property Commonly Known as 6201 Dempster Street, Morton Grove.**

- a. Mr. Meyer stated, as previously mentioned, the Morton Grove Park District currently owns a 0.51 acre parcel of vacant land abutting Dempster Street and immediately west of the Civic Center, commonly known as 6210 Dempster Street. It was formerly the site of the MB Bank drive-through bank facility. The Park District acquired this property in 2010. The bank indicated it would be willing to sell the 6201 Dempster property to the Village, if it could purchase the 6210 Dempster property. The bank would then develop the 6210 Dempster property as a 2,800 square foot retail banking and drive-through facility.
- b. In December of 2022, the Village and the Morton Grove Park District agreed to exchange a 0.67 acre parcel of Village-owned vacant land located immediately north of the Civic Center and the Park District-owned 6210 Dempster property contingent upon the Village and the bank entering into agreements for the purchase of the 6210 Dempster property by the bank and the purchase of the 6201 Dempster property by the Village. In April of 2023, the Village Board approved a real estate purchase and sale agreement for the Village to purchase and the bank to sell the property at 6201 Dempster for the price of \$2,023,780.00. That agreement was subsequently terminated. The bank and the Village have renegotiated a contract, subject to the Board’s approval, with the following renegotiated terms:
  - A. Purchase price: \$2,023,780.00
  - B. Earnest money in the amount of \$25,000 to be held by Chicago Title Insurance
  - C. A 30-day “due diligence” contingency
  - D. Closing shall occur simultaneously with the closing of the sale of 6210 Dempster to the bank
  - E. The Village will lease the property to the bank until the bank has completed the construction of its new facility and the bank is open for business at 6210 Dempster.

Mayor DiMaria asked for a motion and second for Resolution 24-77.

Trustee Minx moved to approve Resolution 24-77, seconded by Trustee Thill.

**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>

- d. Trustee Thill commented, this is where the Village is purchasing the bank’s property.
- e. Mr. Meyer said, regarding the last two legislative items, they could not have happened without the invaluable assistance of Ralph Czerwinski, Zoe Heidorn, and Corporation Counsel Liston. Mayor DiMaria agreed, but noted that Mr. Meyer should include himself—he also stepped up!

X. **STAFF REPORTS** (continued)

B. Corporation Counsel:

Corporation Counsel Liston had no formal report this evening.

XI. **TRUSTEES' REPORTS**

A. Trustee Khan:

1. Trustee Khan presented **Ordinance 24-26, Authorizing an Amendment to the Village of Morton Grove 2024 Adopted Budget.**

This is the second reading of this Ordinance.

- a. Trustee Khan explained that the Adopted 2024 Budget needs to be amended to include the expenditure of certain public safety equipment to be paid for by grant reimbursement opportunities and ARPA funds.
- b. The 2024 Budget was adopted by the Board on November 28, 2023. The Budget represents an estimate of revenues available and recommended expenditures for the Village. The Municipal Code allows the adopted budget to be amended by a vote of two-thirds of the Corporate Authorities. The Village has become aware of grant opportunities to partially reimburse itself for the purchase of certain necessary public safety equipment. This Ordinance will approve an amendment to the 2024 Adopted Budget to reflect the 2024 expenditures for this equipment and to designate ARPA fund which have already been received for these expenditures.

Trustee Khan moved to adopt Ordinance 24-26, 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>

2. Next, Trustee Khan presented **Ordinance 24-27, Implementing a Municipal Grocery Retailers' Occupation Tax and a Municipal Grocery Service Occupation Tax for the Village of Morton Grove.**

This is the second reading of this Ordinance.

- a. Trustee Khan explained that, on August 5, 2024, Governor Pritzker signed legislation repealing the State grocery tax and authorizing municipalities to recover their share of revenue from the State grocery tax. The Illinois Municipal Code provides that, beginning in January 2026, all Illinois municipalities may impose a tax “upon all persons engaged in the business of selling groceries at retail in the municipality” at the rate of 1% of the gross receipts from these sales, provided the municipality also imposes a Service Occupation Tax at the same rate “upon all persons engaged,

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

A. Trustee Khan: (continued)

in the municipality, in the business of making sales of service, who, as an incident to making those sales of service, transfer groceries” as “an incident to a sale of service.”

- b. These taxes will be administered, collected, and enforced by the Illinois Department of Revenue.
- c. The Village believes that it is appropriate, necessary, and in the best interests of the Village and its residents to levy this tax in order to replace the Village’s share of the State grocery taxes. This tax shall take effect on January 1, 2026, provided a certified copy of this Ordinance is filed with the IL Department of Revenue on or before April 1, 2025. If no action is taken the Village would lose approximately \$152,000 in revenue currently generated through its share of the state grocery tax.

Trustee Khan moved to adopt Ordinance 24-27, 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>

- 3. Trustee Thill said, as clarification for the public, that the Village isn’t just raising taxes; this tax is happening because the State took away municipalities’ share of the State grocery tax. Now the Village has to cover this loss, hence this tax.

Trustee Khan wished everyone a wonderful holiday season.

B. Trustee Minx:

- 1. Trustee Minx had no formal report, but wanted to promote the Holiday Food Drive on behalf of the Firefighters Association of Morton Grove.
  - a. The Firefighters Association is collecting monetary donations to purchase grocery store gift cards, toys, and holiday hams for families in need. Cash and check donations will be accepted until December 13. Checks can be made payable to: Firefighters Association of Morton Grove. Monetary donations can be delivered by mail or in-person to: Morton Grove Fire Station #4, Attn: Food Drive, 6250 Lincoln Avenue, Morton Grove, Illinois 60053
- 2. Trustee Minx wished everyone happy holidays, and hoped the holiday season would be a safe and joyful one for everyone.

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

C. Trustee Shiba:

1. Trustee Shiba presented **Resolution 24-66, Authorizing a Contractual Agreement with Dell, Inc. to Provide for the Renewal of a Microsoft Enterprise Agreement for Microsoft Software Licensing for Operating and Productivity Software for Village Staff and Users.**
  - a. He explained that the Village is required to maintain licensing of operating and productivity software it uses in daily operations. The operating system, individual applications, cloud services, and connectivity to servers all maintain their own licensing scheme. The Enterprise Agreement licensing structure and software maintenance structure were originally established in 2008.
  - b. The use of an Enterprise Agreement structure has advantages over individual purchases, including lower platform costs, distributed payments, anniversary period renewals, and software upgrade assurances. The pricing and licensing structure for 2025 was competitively reviewed to ensure the fiscal responsibility of this agreement, and the IT Department Manager has recommended the Village renew its contract with Dell, Inc. of Round Rock, Texas, a large account reseller of Microsoft Software products, and maintains the current pre-negotiated State of Illinois reseller master blanket purchase order for Microsoft Enterprise Agreement licensing.
  - c. The Enterprise Agreement renewal includes an annual maintenance fee for updates and upgrades (Microsoft Software Assurance) and license costs. The license pricing is held stable for three (3) annual renewal periods if there are no adjustments to license quantity. The 2025 renewal is the second renewal period of the three stable pricing periods through the State of Illinois contract. This payment covers the license and maintenance period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, and the Resolution is prepared before the expiration date for business continuity. The 2025 licensing and software maintenance expense is \$63,249.05.

Trustee Shiba moved, seconded by Trustee Witko, to approve Resolution 24-66.

**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>

Trustee Shiba wished everyone a joyful holiday season, and cautioned, “Don’t drink and drive!”

D. Trustee Thill:

Trustee Thill had several Resolutions to present tonight:

1. **Resolution 24-67, Authorizing the Appropriation of 2025 Motor Fuel Tax Funds for the Maintenance of Streets and Highways.**

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

D. Trustee Thill: (continued)

- a. Each year, the Village receives a portion of the motor fuel tax collected by the State. These funds must be spent on eligible roadway improvements. The State requires an estimate and statement of the maintenance expenses for each program year. For 2025, the Village's portion of the State's motor fuel taxes is \$688,000.00

Trustee Thill moved to approve Resolution 24-67, 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>

2. **Resolution 24-72, Authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement Between the Village of Morton Grove and the Morton Grove-Niles Water Commission for the Transfer of Assets From the Village of Morton Grove to the Morton Grove-Niles Water Commission.**

- a. The Morton Grove-Niles Water Commission (MGNWC) was established by Morton Grove and Niles in 2017 for the purpose of constructing and operating a public water supply system. During the design stage of the MGNWC water system, the project engineers determined it would be more cost-effective to reline approximately 14,100 feet of a 20-inch water main owned by the Village of Morton Grove and transfer said water main and related infrastructure and equipment to the MGNWC for use as part of its distribution system. The MGNWC successfully completed the relining of the water main in November of 2024. This Resolution will approve an intergovernmental agreement between the Village and the MGNWC to effectuate the transfer of these assets. No money will be exchanged. The estimated value of the equipment and infrastructure to be transferred to the MGNWC is \$4,742,800.00.

Trustee Thill moved to approve Resolution 24-72, 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>

3. **Resolution 24-73, Authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement Between the Village of Morton Grove and the Morton Grove-Niles Water Commission for the Transfer of Assets From the Morton Grove-Niles Water Commission to the Village of Morton Grove.**

- a. The Morton Grove-Niles Water Commission (MGNWC) was established by Morton Grove and Niles in 2017 for the purpose of constructing and operating a public water supply system. During the design stage of the MGNWC water system, the project engineers determined it was necessary to construct infrastructure improvements within the Morton Grove South Reservoir property on

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

D. Trustee Thill: (continued)

Oakton Avenue to sufficiently provide water from the MGNWC system to the Village water distribution system.

- b. The MGNWC has completed the construction and installation of these improvements. This resolution will approve an intergovernmental agreement between the Village and MGNWC to effectuate the transfer of these assets. No money will be exchanged. The estimated value of the equipment and infrastructure to be transferred to Morton Grove is \$41,600.00

Trustee Thill moved, seconded by Trustee Travis, to approve Resolution 24-73.

**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>

4. **Resolution 24-74, Authorizing a Contract with Advanced Tree Care, Inc. of Lincolnshire, Illinois for the 2025 Tree Trimming Program.**

- a. The annual tree trimming program is necessary to maintain the health and appearance of the Village’s tree canopy and to maintain a safe passageway for the public traveling beneath trees within the Village right-of-ways. The Village annually contracts with tree experts to assist in trimming parkway trees.
- b. The contract being considered, as permitted within the Village’s Municipal Code, is a joint bid through the efforts of the Municipal Partnering Initiative (MPI). MPI is a group of Cook, Lake, and DuPage County municipalities that have successfully leveraged bulk purchasing and workload-sharing to reduce the cost of municipal services. Village staff considers it advantageous to contract the service through this method for cost and contractor qualifications.
- c. The bid amount is based on unit pricing, and the final price of the contract will be based on the number of units the Village determines necessary and authorizes. This resolution will authorize a contract with Advanced Tree Care, Inc. of Lincolnshire, IL for the 2025 Tree Trimming Program, and, if warranted, will authorize the Village Administrator to extend this contract for the 2026 Tree Trimming Program. The fiscal impact of this Resolution is \$49,038.40.

Trustee Thill moved to approve Resolution 24-74, 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>

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

D. Trustee Thill: (continued)

5. **Resolution 24-75, Authorizing Fire Station 4 Mansard Roof Improvement Project.**

- a. Public Works staff determined that the mansard roof at Fire Station #4 at 6250 Lincoln Avenue, installed in 1996, has exceeded its useful service life, and it is more cost-effective now to replace the roof system than continue maintenance. A bid package was advertised on November 14, 2024 on the Village’s website. Seven sealed bids were received, with the low bid coming from Bee Liner Lean Services.
- b. However, an evaluation of Bee Liner Lean Services revealed that they are not certified by the manufacturer to install the batten-seam metal roof panels specified in the bid documents.
- c. The next lowest, responsible, and responsive bidder was Wiesbrook Sheet Metal Inc. of Plainfield, Illinois with a base bid of \$196,723.00. This resolution authorizes a contract with Wiesbrook Sheet Metal Inc. in the amount of \$196,723.00. It also authorizes the Village Administrator to execute a change order if additional work is needed, up to a total contract amount not to exceed \$221,722.00. This contract must conform to the requirements of the Prevailing Wage Act. The fiscal impact of this Resolution is \$196,723 initially with authority not to exceed \$221,722.

Trustee Thill moved, seconded by Trustee Minx, to approve Resolution 24-75.

**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>

6. **Resolution 24-76, Authorizing Fire Station 4 and Fire Station 5 HVAC Replacement Project.**

- a. This Resolution will authorize the Village Administrator to execute a contract with Siemens of Rolling Meadows, IL to purchase, install, and replace two (2) HVAC units at Fire Station 5 and one (1) HVAC unit at Fire Station 4 to include the installation of one (1) new air conditioner unit to support critical information technology (IT) infrastructure in the server room.
- b. The Department of Public Works Facilities Division oversees the maintenance of HVAC equipment at Village-owned facilities. Staff identified three (3) HVAC units serving the Fire Stations that have reached the end of their useful life. Two (2) units at Fire Station 5 were installed in 1995 and 2010, respectively, and the HVAC unit at Fire Station 4 was installed in 1994. Continued maintenance costs have become more expensive over time, and replacing the HVAC units has been determined to be more cost-effective than continuing their maintenance. Staff also determined Fire Station 4 requires the addition of an air conditioning unit to support critical IT infrastructure in the expanding server room. The purchase and installation of new HVAC equipment was competitively bid through Sourcewell Procurement Agency, contract #070121. Public Works received two (2) proposals from vendors participating in Sourcewell contract #070121, with Siemens providing the low-bid proposal.

XI. TRUSTEES' REPORTS (continued)

D. Trustee Thill: (continued)

- b. This contract must conform to the requirements of the Prevailing Wage Act. The fiscal impact of this Resolution is \$67,726.36.

Trustee Thill moved to approve Resolution 24-76, 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>

- 7. Lastly, Trustee Thill commented that this is a time of year when people are getting a lot of boxes. Groot and SWANCC (Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County) have asked that people flatten all boxes before putting them out. He said, regarding wrapping paper and holiday cards, if the wrap or card is foil or if it's "bling-y," it belongs in the garbage, not the recycling. Trustee Thill also said that residents should not put their recycling in a plastic bag before putting it into the recycling bin. Just eliminate the use of the plastic bag; put all recycling directly into the bin.
- 8. Trustee Thill also wished everyone happy holidays and encouraged people to "celebrate safely."

E. Trustee Travis:

- 1. Trustee Travis announced the Morton Grove Police Department's annual Toys for Tots collection drive. The drive has already begun and the last day to drop off toys is December 13th. If you are able and willing to donate, you can drop off a new, unwrapped toy at the following locations:
  - MG Police Department, 6101 Capulina Ave.
  - MG Fire Department #4, 6250 Lincoln Ave.
  - MG Village Hall, 6101 Capulina Ave.
  - MG Park District, 6834 Dempster St.
  - MG Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave.

Trustee Travis wished everyone happy holidays, and especially wished all a happy and healthy New Year.

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

F. Trustee Witko:

1. Trustee Witko presented **Ordinance 24-28, Approving a Text Amendment to Modify and Establish Regulations Relating to Tree Preservation and Protection and Establish a Tree Planting Fund.**

This is the second reading of this Ordinance.

- a. Trustee Witko explained that the Village of Morton Grove recognizes the services and functions that trees provide as a collective asset to the Morton Grove community. As the Village seeks to enhance regulations applying to trees on public and private property to better preserve and protect the urban forest as critical infrastructure, staff is recommending certain modifications to Chapter 12-11 and numerous related sections to establish a Tree Ordinance in order to help preserve and protect the Village's tree canopy.
- b. The proposed amendment was designed to:
  - Include a value statement that recognizes the services and functions trees provide as a collective asset to the Morton Grove community;
  - Establish a Tree Planting Fund;
  - Clarify public tree removal procedures and enhance tree protection requirements;
  - Establish landscape and tree preservation plan requirements, and enhance planting requirements;
  - Prohibit certain invasive plant species and add species diversity requirements; and
  - Regulate the removal of select trees on select properties (with exemptions provided for certain conditions outside the control of the property owner).
- c. At the request of Staff, the Appearance Commission reviewed the proposed amendment on October 1, 2024, and voted unanimously (7-0) to recommend approval of the amendment as presented. The Environment and Natural Resource Commission reviewed the proposed amendment on October 7, 2024, and also voted unanimously (7-0) to recommend approval of the amendment, with the addition of a value statement to the new Tree Preservation section. If approved by the Village Board, Staff will provide notice of the new tree preservation and protection regulations by Village website updates and mail (via the water bill) and provide direct guidance as needed.

Trustee Witko moved to adopt Ordinance 24-28, seconded by Trustee Thill.

**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>

- d. Trustee Witko thanked Andrew Hoffman for his help with this, and Trustee Thill thanked the members of the Environment and Natural Resources Commission for pushing this forward. He said, "We tried to do this 16 years ago, but we lost by one vote."

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

F. Trustee Witko: (continued)

e. Mayor DiMaria also thanked Village staff for their hard work on this Ordinance and bringing it to fruition.

Trustee Witko wished everyone a joyous holiday season and a happy, lovely, peaceful 2025.

XII. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Trustee Thill announced that holiday lights can be recycled from now to February 1, 2025. The lights must be disconnected from any decorative items, and they must be placed in the box next to the Finance Counter at Village Hall. (Don't put them with residential recycling!)

XIII. **WARRANTS**

Trustee Khan presented the Warrant Register for December 106, 2024 in the amount of \$2,960,565.21. Trustee Khan moved to approve the Warrants as presented, 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>

XIV. **RESIDENTS' COMMENTS**

NONE

XV. **ADJOURNMENT**

As there was no further business before the Board, Trustee Minx moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Khan. **Motion passed unanimously via voice vote.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

PASSED this 14th day of January 2025.

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 14th day of January 2025.



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

APPROVED and FILED in my office this 15th day of January 2025.



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

Minutes by Teresa Cousar