

**RULES MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VILLAGE OF PARK FOREST, 350 VICTORY DRIVE, PARK FOREST, ILLINOIS
COOK AND WILL COUNTIES**

Village Hall- Boardroom

7:00 p.m.

March 28, 2022

IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor Jonathan Vanderbilt, Trustee Theresa Settles, Trustee Tiffani Graham, Trustee Joseph Woods, Trustee Candyce Herron, Trustee Maya Hardy, and Trustee Erin Slone

ABSENT: none

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Police Chief Paul Winfrey, Fire Lieutenant William Brei, Acting Village Manager /Finance Director Mark Pries, Director of Community Planning Larrie Kerestes, Director of Economic Development and Planning Department Sandra Zoellner, Director of Recreation, Parks, and Community Health Rob Gunther, Director of Public Works Roderick Ysaguirre, and IT Administrator Mark Geising

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Chriselda Bell, on Westwood; and approximately seven other residents

RECORDER: Village Clerk Sheila McGann

Roll Call

Mayor Vanderbilt called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Mayor Vanderbilt read a proclamation honoring Park Forest Police Department Auxiliary Officer Betty Lou McCray, Badge # 237 from 1983-1989. All who knew her were touched by her spirit, kindness, and volunteerism. The Village thanked her for her service and condolences were offered to her family who were presented with the proclamation.

Mayor Vanderbilt asked the Board if there were any comments. Each of the Trustees offered their condolences and prayers to the McCray family and thanked them for lending her with the Village as she was trailblazer and history maker.

1. An Ordinance Authorizing Northern Illinois Gas Company (d/b/a NICOR Gas Company) Its Successors and Assigns, to Construct, Operate and Maintain a Gas Distributing System in and Through the Village of Park Forest, Illinois

Mr. Pries explained that this ordinance will renew the franchise agreement. It has been agreed to by NICOR and the Village and reviewed by the Village Attorney. It is a housekeeping matter as a franchise agreement in the municipality. This item is up for first reading at tonight's Regular Meeting. Mayor Vanderbilt asked if there were any questions or comments from the Board. Trustee Woods inquired about water/sewer pipe damages and repair responsibility. Mr. Pries said in the past accident in the Village, it was not negligence by NICOR. There was uncertainty where responsibility lay, with the subcontractor or the line not being marked. He added that Section 2 does govern where NICOR's responsibility lies. When asked by Trustee Woods if the

Village had any financial responsibility for any of those damages at the accident in the past, if was Mr. Pries' understanding that the Village did not incur any costs as he was not working for Park Forest. When asked by Trustee Brown about the date of January 2022 in the agreement, Mr. Pries said legally the former agreement would stay in place until a new one comes into effect. Hearing no other questions, this item will be tonight's agenda at the Regular Meeting.

2. An Ordinance Authorizing the Sale of Real Estate commonly known as 117 Wilson Street in the Village of Park Forest, Cook and Will Counties, Illinois

Mr. Pries said this item comes out of the Economic Development and Planning Department. Director Zoellner gave background information regarding South Suburban Trades Initiative (SSTI) and this property and other properties in Park Forest. As 117 Wilson is ready to be sold, on the recommendation of the Village Attorney, Staff is requesting prior authorization for the Village Manager to sell this house at a minimum price of \$120,000. The Village is requesting potential realtors to submit their proposals to represent the Village. The realtor will be chosen by April 18. Mayor Vanderbilt asked the Board if there were any questions or comments. When Trustee Settles asked how many homes are targeted for the trades union apprentice program, Director Zoellner said there are two more targeted at this time. Trustee Woods asked how is the Park Forest realtor selected. Director Zoellner said the realtors come to the open house, submit their proposals that will include their recent experiences of selling homes in Park Forest, and analysis of the sale of this home and their recommendations. We also look at reviews of the realtors. When Trustee Slone asked about recruitment of residents to participate in the SSTI, Director Zoellner said there is information on the Village's website and recruited at South Suburban Community College and Prairie State College. The Village reimburses for the class time of Park Forest residents who participate in the program. Mayor Vanderbilt added that some journeymen tradesmen have volunteered their time and worked on these homes. Hearing no other questions, this item will be on tonight's agenda at the Regular Meeting.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Vanderbilt dispensed with the comments section of the agenda until the regular meeting.

Manager's Comments

Trustee's Comments

Attorney's Comments

None present

Clerk Comments

None

Audience to Visitors

Chriselda Bell, on Westwood, noted that two missing women from Park Forest should be remembered, Jerrica Laws and Brenda Jackson. She also commented on the condition of her road on Westwood Drive due to the weather and traffic. Mayor Vanderbilt suggested she can speak individually with Director Ysaguirre tonight regarding future road repair in her area.

Adjournment

This concluded the Rules Board meeting.

There being no further business. Mayor Vanderbilt called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Trustee Settles, seconded by Trustee Graham and passed unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned following a roll call vote with the following results:

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

The meeting was adjourned with seven (7) ayes, no (0) nays, and no (0) absent.

Mayor Vanderbilt adjourned the Rules Meeting at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila McGann
Village Clerk

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

350 VICTORY DRIVE

PARK FOREST, ILLINOIS

Village Hall - Board Room

7:00 p.m.

March 28, 2022

IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor Jonathan Vanderbilt, Trustee Theresa Settles, Trustee Tiffani Graham, Trustee Joseph Woods, Trustee Candyce Herron, Trustee Maya Hardy, and Trustee Erin Slone

ABSENT: none

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Police Chief Paul Winfrey, Fire Lieutenant William Brei, Acting Village Manager/Finance Director Mark Pries, Director of Community Planning Larry Kerestes, Director of Economic Development and Planning Department Sandra Zoellner, Director of Recreation, Parks, and Community Health Rob Gunther, Director of Public Works Roderick Ysaguirre, and IT Administrator Mark Geising

Roll Call

Mayor Vanderbilt called the meeting to order at 7:17 pm. Roll was called by Clerk McGann

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Vanderbilt led the Board and the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Reports of Village Officers

Mayor

Mayor Vanderbilt reported on the Cook County Forest Preserve investment which includes Sauk Woods. Welcome to the new restaurant in Park Forest Wings Galore. He congratulated Crete Monee's Navel Junior Officer Cadets and their Drill Team with the highest performing drill team in the nation. The Saturday Morning Board meeting will be canceled as the Board will be attending the Park Forest Annual Community Clean up at Hidden Meadows Golf Course. The Mayor was in Springfield last week with the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association and Illinois Municipal League to lobbying to restore funds to all municipalities which would reduce property taxes. He thanked the Park Forest Police Department for their assistance in the gas giveaway by Dr. Wilson.

Village Attorney

None present

Village Manager

Mr. Pries noted that the Prairie State College will host the Annual Economic Forecast Breakfast on Friday, April 1.

Village Clerk

No report

Reports of Commission Liaisons and Committee Chairpersons

Trustee Settles reminded residents that there is a list of special activities for Earth Month in the April water bill flyer. Also included in the flyer is information regarding the Village’s Hometown Banner Program to honor our veterans from Park Forest.

Trustee Graham said that Tall Grass’ Beau Arts Ball was a wonderful event and thanked all that made donations and purchased ads.

Trustee Woods stated that EDAG will next meet on Wednesday, April 13. He noted that there is one vacancy on the advisory group with applications available on the Village’s website. He congratulated Tall Grass on the Beau Arts Ball adding that Tall Grass and art itself continues to be an important staple in our community.

Trustee Herron reported that she will report at a later date to the Board regarding the library and development of the Education Committee at a future date.

Trustee Hardy noted that the Chicago Heights-Park Forest Rotary Club will be celebrating 100 years of service with a gala on Thursday, April 28 at Olympia Fields Country Club.

Trustee Slone congratulated Tall Grass Association for the Beau Arts Ball which was a great way to raise funds for arts education. The Beautification Awards Commission had their first meeting Tuesday, March 22. With over nine hundred homes recognized last year, there is an expected need for volunteer judges and a need to fill vacancies for commission members. See the Village website for applications.

Citizens Comments, Observations, Petitions

None

Motion: Approval of Consent

CONSENT:

MOVED that the Consent Agenda and each item contained therein be hereby approved:

- 1. Motion: A Motion to approve the minutes of the Rules meeting of January 24, 2022, the Regular meeting of January 24, 2022**

Approval of the consent agenda was moved by Trustee Woods and seconded by Trustee Hardy. Mayor Vanderbilt asked if anyone wished any item be removed from the consent agenda for further discussion. Hearing none, a roll call vote was called by Mayor Vanderbilt on the motion to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda was approved with the following results:

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0
Absent: 0

The consent agenda was adopted with seven (7) ayes, no (0) nays and no (0) absent.

DEBATABLE:

2. Ordinance: An Ordinance Authorizing Northern Illinois Gas Company (d/b/a NICOR Gas Company) Its Successors and Assigns, to Construct, Operate and Maintain a Gas Distributing System in and Through the Village of Park Forest, Illinois (First Reading)

This item has had first reading and will be on the agenda for action at a subsequent meeting.

3. Ordinance: An Ordinance Authorizing the Sale of Real Estate commonly known as 117 Wilson Street in the Village of Park Forest, Cook and Will Counties, Illinois (First Reading)

This item has had first reading and will be on the agenda for action at a subsequent meeting.

Adjournment

This concluded the Regular Board meeting.

There being no further business. Mayor Vanderbilt called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Trustee Herron, seconded by Trustee Slone and passed unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned following a roll call vote with the following results:

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0
Absent: 0

The meeting was adjourned with seven (7) ayes, no (0) nays, and no (0) absent.

Mayor Vanderbilt adjourned the Regular Meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila McGann
Village Clerk