

**RULES MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
HELD REMOTELY
PUBLIC NOTICE POSTED AT THE VILLAGE HALL
350 VICTORY DRIVE
PARK FOREST, ILLINOIS**

Village Hall- Boardroom

7:00 p.m.

July 13, 2020

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

ABSENT: none

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Village Manager Tom Mick, Deputy Police Chief Paul Winfrey, Fire Chief Tracy Natyshok, Village Attorney Ross Secler, Assistant Finance Director Sharon Floyd, Director of Personnel Denyse Carreras, Assistant Director of Economic Development Sandra Zoellner, Director of Recreation and Parks Rob Gunther, Director of Building and Code Enforcement Manager Jerry Martin, Director of Public Works Roderick Ysaguirre, Director of Public Relations Jason Miller, and IT Coordinator Craig Kaufman

RECORDER: Village Clerk Sheila McGann

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Phil Perkins, Chairman of Economic Development Advisory Group (EDAG); Tareq Nouri, Chief Operating Officer/Owner of Elegance USA Inc.

Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Mayor Vanderbilt. Roll was called by Clerk McGann.

Mayor Vanderbilt read the new guidelines for Park Forest relating to the statewide disaster declaration which the Village will be following regarding the Open Meetings Act and teleconferencing the meetings.

Mayor Vanderbilt read a proclamation recognizing and celebrating Recreation, Parks, and Community Health Professionals Day on July 17. He noted the value of the essential services which they provide for all Park Forest residents and thanked them all for their service.

1. Consideration of an Economic Development Incentive Agreement and Resolution Supporting a Cook County Class 8 Tax Assessment Classification for 2250 S. Western Ave.

Manager Mick said this item from Economic Development Advisory Group and the Economic Development Department. He gave background on the property history, application and requirements for the Class 8 tax incentive. He added that Economic Development Advisory Group reviewed the application and added stipulations which are attached in the resolution. Assistant Director Zoellner said that the owner, Mr. Nouri, was also on the call. Mr. Nouri

submitted his application and fee and met with the Economic Development Advisory Group on Jun10. She listed the added conditions and asked that the Board adopt the resolution authorizing the Cook County Class 8 Assessment incentive for 2250 S. Western Avenue and approving the Economic Development Incentive Agreement, and authorizing the Village Manager to execute the Economic Development Incentive Agreement.

Trustees Settles and Woods commended EDAG and the Economic Development Department on their thorough job with the application and pursuing another business in Park Forest. When Trustee Hennessy asked about the purchase date and health care for the employees, Mr. Nouri said they closed on the property on May 13, 2020. Although they do not currently offer health care, he would like Aflac to be a temporary option. Later, he would like to include health care and 401K options to his employees. Trustee Herron likes the EDAG incentive and sees the improvement on the building already. Trustee Hardy thanked EDAG and the applicant for the work they have done together to move the incentive along. When asked by Mayor Vanderbilt to introduce his company, Mr. Nouri said the company was started about eight years ago with his brothers that would allow a better distribution of barber shop supplies to stores across the country. They are a family-based business with this being their first building they own. The building will be divided into different areas, i.e. manufacturing, office, and distribution. He said Mr. Zoellner and Monica DeLord have been amazing to work with. Mayor Vanderbilt had the letter from EDAG which included the staff overview of the application and noted that all questions asked by EDAG members were answered by the applicant. Mayor Vanderbilt recently saw progress on the building with the new roof and the exterior painting. Hearing no other questions by the Board, this item will be on the agenda at the next regular meeting.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Vanderbilt reported that a new business in Park Forest, Maliyah Minks, had their grand opening last Saturday. Congratulations to the owner, Cherey Harrington. He also noted that the South Suburban Humane Society on their recent grant from Cook County Commissioners to build a new facility.

Manager's Comments

Manager Mick gave an update on the census with 62.2% of Park Forest residents counted. He stressed the importance of each resident to be counted. Due to Covid-19, Tall Grass will have an online silent auctions. No paid ticket is required. There will be a recycle event in Park Forest on Saturday, September 26. The summer meeting schedule for the Board includes two meetings (one rules/one regular) meeting in July and two meetings (one rules/one regular) in August. Manager Mick thanked the Veterans Commission and the community for setting up a drive-by birthday celebration for 95 year old Ed Fizer. Manager Mick added that he shared information with the Board regarding the CARES Act which provides funding to communities related to the Covid 19 pandemic. Through a complex formula, Park Forest should receive approximately \$572,000. As more information is available, he will share it with the Board. This information is to reassure residents that Park Forest continues to be fiscally sound.

Mayor Vanderbilt added that the Cook County Board of Review is now accepting property tax appeals. He also welcomed Sienna's Sweet Shop to Park Forest and encouraged residents to stop in for ice cream and/or candy.

Trustee's Comments

Trustee Settles reported that the Senior Advisory Commission met via Zoom July 2. As there are three vacancies, any interested resident may find an application on the Village's website. There will be no meeting in August; the next meeting will be September 3 via Zoom. She welcomed the two new businesses in Park Forest and reminded the community to support local businesses. She also encouraged the residents to wear masks and be socially distant, and be patient. Saturday, the Veterans Commission had an informal meeting at the Main Street Market to make residents aware of the commission.

Trustee Graham welcomed Tareq Nouri from Elegance USA to Park Forest. She also enjoyed the grand opening of Maliyah Minks. She thanked EDAG for getting new businesses to Park Forest. The Environment Commission met July 2 and are continuing to work on their tool lending library. Trustee Graham said that Vintrendi now has their new patio open.

Trustee Woods thanked EDAG for their work with the three new businesses and welcomed the three. He thanked Chief Mannino for their conversation regarding transparency and diversity. He encouraged all to fill out the census forms and be counted. He noted that there is much information included in this month's water bill. Trustee Wood thanked the band, Front Porch Fun, and Chuck Sabey for their creativity with My Street Nights!

Trustee Hennessy stated that a virtual meeting of the Beautification Awards Commission was held on July 8. There were over 200 nominations and judging began yesterday. Award winners will receive their certificate in the mail. The Library Board meeting will meet on Thursday, July 16 virtually.

Trustee Hardy welcomed the new businesses. She thanked those involved in the census event at 7-11. The Commission on Human Relations and the Planning and Zoning Commission will not meet in July.

Trustee Herron also welcomed the new businesses. She extended her condolences to the family on the passing of Housing Authority member Ed Whitfield. She thanked Recreation, Parks, and Community Health Commission for all they do. They will be meeting Tuesday, July 21 via Zoom.

Attorney's Comments

No formal report

When Mayor Vanderbilt asked Chairman Perkins if he had anything to add regarding the agenda item, he said that Assistant Director Zoellner had covered it all.

Clerk Comments

No report

Audience to Visitors

As per the agenda posting, public comments were to be sent to Manager Mick by 3p.m. of the day of the meeting and would be read at the meeting. None were received. (See below)

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. 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 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila McGann
Village Clerk

NOTE – DUE TO COVID-19

THE BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD VIA CONFERENCE CALL

***Public, in-person attendance of the Meeting has been deemed unfeasible; All public comment can be sent prior to the phone conference Board Meeting, via email to tmick@vopf.com, by 3 pm the day of the meeting; Public comments received via email will be read during the public meeting.**

****A record (verbatim recording) of all action (if any) taken during the Board Meeting in open session will be made available upon request.**

*****This meeting will be broadcast live, and recorded, on the local cable access channels in Park Forest (channel 4 for Comcast subscribers & channel 4 for AT&T U-Verse subscribers) and will be streamed live, and subsequently archived, on the Village website at www.villageofparkforest.comNOTE: Copies of Agenda Items are Available on the Village website at www.villageofparkforest.com**