

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
TUESDAY –APRIL 14, 2015
VILLAGE HALL BOARD ROOM

CALL TO ORDER: Village President Hofeld called the regular meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Approximately 15 people from the public were present. Two press representatives were in the audience.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Village President Hofeld led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Clerk Marilyn Thomas recorded the roll call. Those present were Village President Richard Hofeld, Trustee Barbara Dawkins, Trustee Lisa Purcell, Trustee Karen Washington, Trustee Anne Colton, Trustee Jay Heiferman, and Trustee Ray Robertson.

INTRODUCTION OF STAFF: Village President Hofeld introduced staff members in attendance: Village Attorney Christopher Cummings, Village Manager Jim Marino, Director of Finance Dennis Bubenik, Director of Public Works John Schaefer, Fire Chief Bob Grabowski, Police Chief Larry Burnson and Assistant Village Manager Michael Marzal.

MINUTES: There were no comments or corrections to the minutes of March 24, 2015. A motion was made by Trustee Purcell and seconded by Trustee Heiferman to approve the minutes of March 24, 2015.

Roll Call: AYES – Trustees Dawkins, Purcell, Washington, Heiferman and Robertson. NAYS – None. ABSTAIN – Trustee Colton. The motion carried.

CLAIMS LIST: A motion was made by Trustee Colton and seconded by Trustee Purcell to approve the Claims List of April 14, 2015, in the amount of \$943,053.59.

President Hofeld pointed out that 68 percent of the total was for three major purchases: \$190,198.15 and \$184,486.85 to the City of Harvey for Lake Michigan water; \$187,706.54 for employees' group health insurance premium; and \$78,829.86 to Thorn Creek Sanitary District.

Roll Call: AYES – Trustees Dawkins, Purcell, Washington, Colton, Heiferman and Robertson. NAYS – None. The motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS: Trustees were asked to approve the appointment of Carlyn Coleman to the Community Relations Commission. She will serve through August 2018. Trustees were also asked to reappoint Greg Knoll to the Police Pension Board through April 2017; Nancy Dederer to the Ethics Commission through April 2018; and Charles Lawrence to the Storm Water Resource Committee through April 2018.

A motion was made by Trustee Colton and seconded by Trustee Dawkins that the Board approve the appointments of Carlyn Coleman, Greg Knoll, Nancy Dederer and Charles Lawrence.

Roll Call: AYES – Trustees Dawkins, Purcell, Washington, Colton, Heiferman and Robertson. NAYS – None. The motion carried.

Clerk Thomas administered the oath of office to Carlyn Coleman, newly appointed to the Community Relations Commission.

PRESENTATIONS:

OATH OF OFFICE – STREET DIVISION CREW LEADER: Clerk Thomas administered the oath of office to Dale Demro as the Street Division Crew Leader in the Department of Public Works. He accepted the position on March 31, 2015. He has 18 years experience with the department.

A motion was made by Trustee Purcell and seconded by Trustee Colton for approval of a resolution honoring Dave Ebert for his 35 years of service with the Village of Homewood.

Roll Call: AYES – Trustees Dawkins, Purcell, Washington, Colton Heiferman and Robertson. NAYS – None. The motion carried.

RESOLUTION R-2218 / DAVE EBERT / 35 YEARS OF SERVICE / PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT: Director of Public Works John Schaefer read the resolution honoring Assistant Public Works Director Dave Ebert for his outstanding service. He served as chief mechanic from October 1983 through November 2014 when he accepted the assistant director's position overseeing day-to-day operations of four Public Works Divisions: Street, Utility, Landscape & Maintenance and Fleet Services. Director Schaefer recognized Assistant Director Ebert as innovative, loyal and a valued member of the department.

HEAR FROM THE AUDIENCE: President Hofeld invited members of the audience to address the Board on any issues not on the agenda. Amy Crump, Director of the Homewood Public Library, addressed the Board and public inviting them to the 1st Veterans Benefits Fair from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 25, and a special celebration/reception from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 26, marking 25 years of the Library being in its current location at 17917 Dixie Highway.

OMNIBUS VOTE: Village Clerk Thomas read the following items:

- A. **ANNUAL REPORT / STORM WATER RESOURCE COMMITTEE:**
Accept the 2014 Annual Report for the Storm Water Resource Committee.

- B. AGREEMENT RENEWAL - GRASS CUTTING / VEGETATION TRIMMING / DEBRIS REMOVAL / WEED SPRAYING: Renew the agreement for grass cutting, debris removal, nuisance bush and tree trimming, and weed spraying on privately-owned non-compliance properties with American Lawn Corporation for the term May 1, 2015 through April 30, 2016 with a pricing increase of 0.4% from the previous year's cost.
- C. LABOR ATTORNEY CONTRACT RENEWAL: Authorize the Village Manager to enter into an agreement with Laner, Muchin, Dombrow, Becker, Levin and Tominberg, Ltd. to provide legal services in the areas of labor relations, employment law and employee benefits for a term effective May 1, 2015 through April 30, 2017 in the amount of \$44,000 per year.
- D. PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEE BENEFITS ACT (PSEBA) SETTLEMENT / SHAWN WASHINGTON: Approve a settlement agreement resolving litigation between Shawn Washington and the Village of Homewood concerning Washington's eligibility for benefits pursuant to the Public Safety Employee Benefits Act.
- E. ORDINANCE M-1960 / FIRST AMENDMENT TO LEASE AGREEMENT – HICKORY ROAD / NEW CINGULAR WIRELESS PCS, LLC (AT&T): Pass an ordinance approving the First Amendment to the Lease Agreement between the Village of Homewood as lessor and New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC as lessee.
- F. ORDINANCE MC-922 / CHAPTER 10 – CLASS 8 LIQUOR LICENSE: Pass an ordinance amending Chapter 10 of the Homewood Municipal Code concerning licenses for the sale of alcoholic beverages.
- G. EAST HAZEL CREST INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT – GAMING DEVELOPMENT: Approve an extension of the intergovernmental agreement between the Village of Homewood and the Village of East Hazel Crest to jointly develop property within the Villages of East Hazel Crest and Homewood.
- H. BUDGET AMENDMENT - BID AWARD / PASSENGER VEHICLE:
- i. BUDGET AMENDMENT: Approve a budget amendment adding \$19,096 to budget line item 01-3-812-55-7037 (2015 Ford Fusion).

- ii. BID AWARD / PASSENGER VEHICLE: Award the bid for a 2015 Ford Fusion to Van Drunen Ford of Homewood, Illinois, the lowest responsible bidder, in an amount not to exceed \$9,096.00 (purchase price of \$19,096 less trade in of \$10,000).

Trustee Heiferman asked for clarification on Item F. He asked why the Class 8 license allows for packaged goods. Attorney Cummings said it was a carry-over from previous language.

A motion was made by Trustee Colton and seconded by Trustee Purcell for the Board to approve the Omnibus List as presented.

Roll Call: AYES – Trustees Dawkins, Purcell, Washington, Colton, Heiferman and Robertson. NAYS – None. The motion carried.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

HALSTED CORRIDOR LANDSCAPE PLAN: Village Manager Marino introduced Kevin Graham of Planning Resources, Inc. (PRI) who made a presentation on a new landscape plan for Halsted Street from I-80 south to 183rd Street.

Mr. Graham said the prototypes before the Board are meant to improve sight-lines for drivers who now have limited visibility to stores and store signs because of overgrowth of bushes and trees. His recommendations call for durable, sustainable plants able to withstand harsh winters and road salt. The new plantings will help create a new image for Homewood’s shopping district and revitalize the area.

The plans will be guidelines for requirements for new businesses and the cooperation from current businesses.

President Hofeld asked how the Village would be able to work with existing businesses on the plan. Manager Marino said as plans come before the Appearance Commission, the new Halsted Street Corridor Landscape Plan will be part of the review. He said Potbelly’s, Portillo’s and Walmart are all using the plan.

Trustee Colton thanked PRI for the work that she believes will improve the image of Halsted Street.

Trustee Robertson asked about additional options, aside from landscaping, to the plan. PRI gave pictures of fences and banners but there was nothing to explain how that information could be used. PRI’s Mr. Graham said those were options the Village could consider. He recommends signage be the same for all businesses as it “upgrades the value” of the properties. If the Village were to go with information street pole banners, Mr. Graham said he again recommends a sameness.

Trustee Robertson also asked about plantings in medians. PRI’s Mr. Graham said it is

difficult to maintain medians that can vary in size and generally are part of state roads.

A motion was made by Trustee Purcell and seconded by Trustee Washington that the Board accept the Halsted Street Corridor Landscape Plan as presented by PRI.

Roll Call: AYES – Trustees Dawkins, Purcell, Washington, Colton, Heiferman and Robertson. NAYS – None. The motion carried.

ORDINANCE M-1961/ FISCAL YEAR 2015-16 BUDGET: President Hofeld asked Trustees if they had any questions on the budget as presented by Finance Director Dennis Bubenik at the March 24, 2015 meeting. Trustees again thanked Director Bubenik and his staff for the excellent work they did in preparing the budget.

A motion was made by Trustee Washington and seconded by Trustee Robertson for the Board to approve Ordinance M-1961 adopting the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 budget as presented.

Roll Call: AYES – Trustees Dawkins, Purcell, Washington, Colton, Heiferman and Robertson. NAYS – None. The motion carried.

FEE INCREASES: As part of the budget review, Finance Director Bubenik suggested several fee increases. He reported back to the Board on the proposals. He said the increases would fall primarily in the second year of the two-year budget planning cycle (2016-17).

Director Bubenik recommends increasing the liquor license that has not seen an increase in 10 years. Increases would be based on license class. Business license/certificate fees would increase from \$75 to \$150 for businesses with less than 5,000 square feet, and from \$150 to \$200 for businesses over 5,000 square feet. The tobacco license fee affects 16 vendors. The fee of \$200 has not increased since the Village first implemented the license in 2002. The fee would increase to \$400 per year.

Director Bubenik said licensing bills for 2015 had already been sent. He would recommend once the Trustees approve these license fees through code amendments, all new applications for licenses pay the higher fee. All Village businesses would be affected by the rate adjustments in 2016.

A motion was made by Trustee Colton and seconded by Trustee Washington for the staff to prepare for changes to the Municipal Code for increased liquor, business and tobacco license fees as presented by Finance Director Bubenik.

Roll Call: AYES – Trustees Dawkins, Purcell, Washington, Colton, Heiferman and Robertson. NAYS – None. The motion carried.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Village Manager Marino said the proposed Science Center plans will be outlined at a meeting on Monday, April 20, at Ravisloe Country Club.

He also expected work to begin on the Martin Avenue streetscape project the week of April 20.

GENERAL BOARD DISCUSSION: Trustee Heiferman said he appreciated the efforts to enhance landscaping on Halsted Street and other areas in the Village, but didn't see how the Village could enforce the new designs. He said previous plans were brought before the Appearance Commission but there was little follow-through after a time to force routine maintenance.

Attorney Cummings said the changes could be included through an ordinance with enforcement mechanisms that would mandate the upkeep to Homewood landscape standards. He said the Village may be limited as a non-home rule community, but he would investigate the issue.

A motion to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was made by Trustee Colton and seconded by Trustee Washington.

Roll Call: AYES – Trustees Dawkins, Purcell, Washington, Colton Heiferman and Robertson. NAYS – None. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Thomas
Village Clerk