

**THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE  
VILLAGE OF FOREST PARK, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
HELD ON MONDAY EVENING, JUNE 24, 2024**

Mayor Hoskins led all assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Maxham, Melin-Rogovin, Voogd and Mayor Hoskins answered the Roll Call. Commissioner Nero was absent.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

It was moved by Commissioner Maxham and seconded by Commissioner Melin-Rogovin that the minutes from the June 10, 2024, Regular meeting of the Council be approved.

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES:** Commissioners Maxham, Melin-Rogovin, Voogd and Mayor Hoskins

**NAYES:** None

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Nero

The motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Steven Backman questioned the ten \$2,000.00 payments to consultant GPG Strategies, noting that nothing on their website or LinkedIn page has changed since last year.

Ms. Nancy Greco expressed her displeasure with the tree in her parkway being cut down instead of being trimmed. Ms. Greco further requested that the village communicate with residents regarding tree trimming and removal. Last, Ms. Greco declared that the removal of the tree has devalued her property, and she expects a new tree to be planted in the fall.

Mr. Dan Riley expressed his concern about tall weeds growing in the alleys, on the parkway on Roosevelt Road and in the vacant lot at Marengo and Roosevelt Road.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

None

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

None

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

It was moved by Commissioner Maxham and seconded by Commissioner Melin-Rogovin that the Resolution for the payment of bills be adopted. The bills totaled \$600,569.97. There was discussion about payments to GPG Strategies for the last 10 months as well as the consultant agreement and reporting to the Village Council.

**R-49-24  
APPROVAL OF BILLS IN  
THE AMOUNT OF  
\$600,569.97  
APPROVED**

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES:** Commissioners Maxham, Melin-Rogovin,  
and Mayor Hoskins

**NAYES:** Commissioner Voogd

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Nero

The motion carried.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

It was moved by Commissioner Melin-Rogovin and seconded by Commissioner Maxham that the Resolution approving the specifications and authorizing the advertising of bids for the Village of Forest Park 2024 Sidewalk Improvement Project be adopted.

**R-50-24  
RESOLUTION APPROVING  
SPECIFICATIONS AND  
BIDDING FOR 2024  
SIDEWALK PROJECT  
APPROVED**

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES:** Commissioners Maxham, Melin-Rogovin, Voogd  
and Mayor Hoskins

**NAYES:** None

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Nero

The motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Melin-Rogovin and seconded by Commissioner Maxham that the Resolution approving the specifications and authorizing the advertising of bids for the Village of Forest Park Roosevelt Road Islands Landscape Removal Project be adopted. There was discussion suggesting highly visible replacement islands.

**R-51-24  
RESOLUTION APPROVING  
SPECIFICATIONS AND  
BIDDING FOR ROOSEVELT  
ROOD ISLAND REMOVAL  
PROJECT  
APPROVED**

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES:** Commissioners Maxham, Melin-Rogovin, Voogd  
and Mayor Hoskins

**NAYES:** None

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Nero

The motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Melin-Rogovin and seconded by Commissioner Maxham that the Resolution rescinding Resolution Number R-47-24, authorizing the award to IHC Construction Companies, LLC, and rejecting all bids for the 2024 Lead Service Replacement Project be adopted.

**R-52-24  
RESOLUTION RESCINDING  
RESOLUTION R-47-24 AND  
REJECTING ALL BIDS FOR  
2024 LEAD SERVICE  
REPLACEMENT PROJECT  
APPROVED**

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES:** Commissioners Maxham, Melin-Rogovin, Voogd and Mayor Hoskins

**NAYES:** None

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Nero

The motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Melin-Rogovin and seconded by Commissioner Maxham that the Park District of Forest Park's request to close Harrison Street from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on July 4, 2024, be approved.

**PARK DISTRICT REQUEST  
TO CLOSE HARRISON  
STREET ON JULY 4, 2024  
APPROVED BY MOTION**

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES:** Commissioners Maxham, Melin-Rogovin, Voogd and Mayor Hoskins

**NAYES:** None

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Nero

The motion carried.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

Administrator Entler expressed her thanks to all those who attended the Town Hall meeting regarding funerals traveling through Forest Park. The result of the Town Hall is the formation of a Task Force. The Administrator also reported the following:

- Village Hall will be closing at 2:00 on Wednesday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> and will be closed on Thursday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, in observance of the Independence Day Holiday.
- The Emergency Operations Team visited the Cook County Office of Emergency Management and gathered information regarding safety protocols and the equipment that is at our disposal as we need it.
- The village's Pride Celebration was a great success, demonstrating the collaboration of the village and the businesses.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS:**

Commissioner Maxham reported the following:

- The next budget meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup>.
- The commissioner congratulated the Police Department and all those who participated in the Torch Run to raise money for Special Olympics Illinois.
- The Juneteenth Pool Party was a great success, thanks to Megan Roach for all her efforts.
- There will be a Stoop Session tomorrow at 926 Marengo at 7:00 p.m.
- The commissioner thanked all those who organized and attended the Pride Celebration.

- With the slowdown of cicada activity, residents were encouraged to seek out the Cicada Sculptures around Forest Park.

Commissioner Melin-Rogovin thanked staff and all the supporters involved in the Pride and Juneteenth events recently, especially our Police and Public Works teams. The commissioner also reported that there will be a Bike Safety Carnival on July 13<sup>th</sup> in Constitution Court.

Commissioner Voogd echoed the accolades to Public Works and congratulated them on a job well-done for the many recent village-wide events. The commissioner further expressed her displeasure with the unspecific power point presentation submitted by GPG Strategies and stated that she did not receive any supporting documentation. Further, the Commissioner opined that approving the payments to GPG is unfair and irresponsible on the Village Council's part.

Mayor Hoskins thanked all those who organized and participated in the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Juneteenth Pool Party, especially Village Administrator Entler and Executive Assistant Megan Roach. The Pride event also went off without a hitch, thanks to the many organizers, volunteers and participants. The Village is using our consultant to chase down a series of appropriations through the Governor's office., including the hundreds of thousands of dollars to install traffic calming on Jackson Boulevard. This is one of the things resulting from the Funeral Procession Town Hall. The village's application for the Federal Water Resources Development Act Funds has not been finalized yet, according to Congressman Danny Davis's office. Last, Mayor Hoskins let everyone know about the passing of Irene O'Shea. Mrs. O'Shea is the mother of our village prosecutor, Sharon O'Shea, as well as the grandmother of former Police Department employee Claire Manor. Residents are asked to keep the O'Shea family in their prayers.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to be addressed, Commissioner Maxham moved and Commissioner Melin-Rogovin seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

Mayor Hoskins declared the meeting adjourned at 7:38 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Vanessa Belmonte, Village Clerk