

CITY OF OAK FOREST  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday

April 20, 2022

---

Mayor Kuspa called the City Council meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and the Roll Call as follows:

*Present:* Alderman Gray  
Alderman Wolf  
Alderman Selman  
Alderman Emmett  
Alderman Hortsman  
Alderman Danihel

*Also Present:* City Clerk John F. Janozik  
Treasurer Ericka Vetter  
City Administrator Tim Kristin  
Finance Director Colleen Julian  
Fire Chief Gary Kasper  
I.T. Director Tom Rieman  
Public Works Dir. Michael Salamowicz  
Building Commissioner Mike Forbes  
Economic Director Ed Cage  
Community Planner Paul Ruane

*Absent:* Alderman Simon

---

**3. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Spring Cleanup Week is happening now. Residents of single-family homes may dispose of multiple bulk items, including furniture, carpet, and appliances at the curb on their regular pickup day. Public Works chipping crews will be following Homewood Disposal's pickup schedule. Please leave your branches at the curb by 7 a.m. on your pickup day.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Citywide Garage Sale is Friday, June 3 and Saturday, June 4. This is your chance to be part of hundreds of garage sales happening in our community. It's free to participate. All you have to do is register

online at [www.oak-forest.org](http://www.oak-forest.org). The city will promote the event through the newspaper, social media, website, and cable television.

\*\*\*\*\*

Vehicle stickers go on sale Sunday, May 1 through the online portal. Residents also can purchase stickers through the mail, the drop box outside City Hall, or in the City Clerk's Office during regular business hours. Seniors who have information on file will automatically receive their vehicle stickers in the mail. If you have any questions please call the Clerk's Office at 708-687-4050.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Oak Forest Rotary Club will host a community blood drive on Saturday from 9a.m. to 1 p.m. at City Hall. The link to schedule your donation is available at [oakforestrotary.org](http://oakforestrotary.org), but walk-ins are welcome.

\*\*\*\*\*

**4. PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE CITY OF OAK FOREST FY 2022-23 BUDGET**

A. Motion to open Public Hearing

Alderman Danihel made the motion to open the Public Hearing.

Alderman Gray seconded.

**Roll Call vote was taken as follows:**

<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Alderman Danihel			
Alderman Gray			
			Alderman Simon
Alderman Wolf			
Alderman Selman			
Alderman Emmett			
Alderman Hortsman			

The motion to open the Public Hearing carried 6/6.

\*\*\*\*\*

B. Public Comments

No Public Comments were made.

\*\*\*\*\*

C. Motion to close Public Hearing

Alderman Selman made the motion to close the Public Hearing.

Alderman Danihel seconded.

Roll Call vote was taken as follows:

<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Alderman Selman			
Alderman Emmett			
Alderman Hortsman			
Alderman Danihel			
Alderman Gray			
			Alderman Simon
Alderman Wolf			

The motion to close the Public Hearing carried 6/6.

\*\*\*\*\*

**5. MOTION TO ESTABLISH CONSENT AGENDA**

Alderman Selman made the motion to establish consent agenda.

Alderman Danihel seconded.

Roll Call vote was taken as follows:

<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Alderman Selman			
Alderman Emmett			
Alderman Hortsman			
Alderman Danihel			
Alderman Gray			
			Alderman Simon
Alderman Wolf			

The motion to establish consent agenda carried 6/6.

\*\*\*\*\*

**6. CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Approval of Minutes

- 1. City Council - April 12, 2022
- 2. Committee of the Whole - April 11, 2022

B. Consideration of the following Lists of Bills dated:

- 1. Regular Bills: FY 2021-22 - April 26, 2022
- 2. Supplemental Bills: FY 2021-22 - April 26, 2022

C. Consideration of the following minutes:

- 1. Oak Forest Veterans Commission - March 17, 2022
- 2. Oak Forest Cable Commission - March 10, 2022
- 3. Senior Commission - March 9, 2022
- 4. Senior Commission - January 13, 2021
- 5. Oak Forest Planning and Zoning - February 16, 2022

Alderman Danihel made the motion to approve Consent Agenda.

Alderman Wolf seconded.

**Roll Call vote was taken as follows:**

<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Alderman Danihel			
Alderman Gray			
			Alderman Simon
Alderman Wolf			
Alderman Selman			
Alderman Emmett			
Alderman Hortsman			

The motion to approve Consent Agenda carried 6/6.

\*\*\*\*\*

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**26 April 2022**

**Page 5**

**7. FINANCE**

---

A. Approval of Ordinance No. 2022-04-09010 establishing charges for the wastewater collection system in the City of Oak Forest. The attached memo dated 04-19-2022 from Finance Director Julian with supporting details.

---

Alderman Gray made the motion to approve Ordinance No. 2022-04-09010.

Alderman Selman seconded.

Finance Director Julian explained the proposal for the sewer rates, sanitary waste removal, is actually a decrease of \$0.06. Her rate model is cost recovery. She takes all the costs for operating our sanitary sewer system and then divides it by the gallons sold. She reminded Council Alderman Selman had asked why, since our costs were rising slightly, is our sewer rate going down, and the answer to that is we are selling a little bit more water than in prior years. We took a huge hit years ago, and we had a slight increase in the past few years, that's why the sewer rate will be \$2.12 per 1,000 gallons.

**Roll Call vote was taken as follows:**

<b><u>AYES</u></b>	<b><u>NAYS</u></b>	<b><u>ABSTAIN</u></b>	<b><u>ABSENT</u></b>
Alderman Gray			Alderman Simon
Alderman Wolf			
Alderman Selman			
Alderman Emmett			
Alderman Hortsman			
Alderman Danihel			

The motion to approve Ordinance No. 2022-04-09010 carried 6/6.

---

B. Approval of Ordinance No. 2022-04-09020 establishing charges for the fresh water supply system in the City of Oak Forest. The attached memo dated 04-19-2022 from Finance Director Julian with supporting details.

---

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**26 April 2022**

**Page 6**

Alderman Gray made the motion to approve Ordinance No. 2022-04-09020.

Alderman Wolf seconded.

Finance Director Julian is proposing to increase the water rate, the volume rate, because of our rising costs. The City of Chicago increased \$0.20, and we're covering our other costs which are debt service, wages, insurance, etcetera. She is proposing to increase the volume rate an average of 3.95%; that's the normal, routine increase. Take the water rate model, look at all costs, and divide it by our usage. In addition to that, as discussed, she is also proposing an increase to the quarterly based charge. The reason for that is because after a comprehensive study done by our engineers they identified more than \$15 million worth of projects, so we're looking at a funding source for these projects. By increasing the base quarterly fee from \$15 - \$30 as well as increasing the multi-family units from \$5 - \$10 a quarter, she's looking at raising an additional \$500,000 per year which will be used for the sole purpose of water main and sewer main rehabilitation. That money will be added to the American Rescue Plan Act funds received of about \$3.7 million, looking to ramp up infrastructure improvement over the next couple of years. We have done major projects in the past; we now want to make this an annual, recurring program which has been the advice of the engineers for years. Looking to make the improvements, it's going to help with water main breaks, overtime, etcetera. The other thing to note, after this was last discussed, they want to be cognizant of the struggles, especially with our fixed income folks, so we have created a senior rate which will go from \$15 to \$20. Anybody who is a senior will not have the flat go from \$15 - \$30, it will go from \$15 - \$20 and any increase will be discussed down the road.

Mayor Kuspa told Director Julian he appreciates all the work she put in on this. Raising rates on basic services like water is very difficult for the elected officials, but we have a responsibility to make sure we are delivering clean, safe water. Some of our water mains are pretty old. Last month we had 7 water main breaks, which basically averaged out to 1 water main break every 4 days. Last week, the weekly report said we had 2 water main breaks. Investing in the infrastructure is something that's extremely, extremely important.

Alderman Hortsman asked people who have just come out of 2021 who are now seniors, how will they be picked up on that senior rate. Director Julian explained Staff is looking at the vehicle stickers, the residents that are eligible for a senior sticker, and identifying them

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**26 April 2022**

**Page 7**

in the water system as eligible for the senior rate. This rate will be grandfathered for current seniors, not anybody moving into town or becoming a senior.

Alderman Danihel verified senior age is 65, and was correct.

**Roll Call vote was taken as follows:**

<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Alderman Gray			Alderman Simon
Alderman Wolf			
Alderman Selman			
Alderman Emmett			
Alderman Hortsman			
Alderman Danihel			

The motion to approve Ordinance No. 2022-04-09020 carried 6/6.

---

C. Approval of Ordinance No. 2022-04-09030 fiscal year 2022-2023 Budget for the City of Oak Forest. The attached memo dated 04-14-2022 from Finance Director Julian.

---

Alderman Selman made the motion to approve Ordinance No. 2022-04-09030.

Alderman Hortsman seconded.

Finance Director Julian explained, as was discussed during the Levy, we have available funds, so she is hoping Council will pass the budget today with an \$800,000 deficit. It was decided for two years in a row not to raise property taxes, to use available resources, use reserves, to recognize the burden that's on our taxpayers as far as their property tax bill. Some revenues have been higher than anticipated, especially some of our income tax revenue from the State of Illinois. The surplus is more than anticipated and the sales tax dollars are pretty inflated, so this can be passed on to the taxpayers. We have a deficit, we have available funds, we're looking to then pass that savings on to our residents at this time. It still leaves us with an estimated fund balance at the end of FY 2023 of \$5.3 million, which is what we want our reserves to be, 25% of our operating expenses. We're

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**26 April 2022**

**Page 8**

still meeting policy, holding the line, etcetera. Last year Alderman Selman asked about the Governor's new tax holiday on grocery taxes, we get that money, there's a tax holiday at the state level but in fact, they are going to replace those dollars so it won't impact us. This budget maintains 124 full-time employees; there has not been an increase to staff. She is looking at a \$9.8 million capital budget next year, which is almost double normal. Majority of that is water mains. Of course there is a very healthy road replacement program that's coming also from Rebuild Illinois dollars; we're really excited that we've been able to double our MFT road replacement program over the last couple years. She is trying to get the largest bang for our buck. The budget is contingent on the sewer and water rates just passed, which will start building capital reserves in the water project when some of the other grants are no longer available.

**Roll Call vote was taken as follows:**

<b><u>AYES</u></b>	<b><u>NAYS</u></b>	<b><u>ABSTAIN</u></b>	<b><u>ABSENT</u></b>
Alderman Selman			
Alderman Emmett			
Alderman Hortsman			
Alderman Danihel			
Alderman Gray			
			Alderman Simon
Alderman Wolf			

The motion to approve Ordinance No. 2022-04-09030 carried 6/6.

\*\*\*\*\*

**8. FIRE DEPARTMENT**

- 
- A. Approval of intergovernmental agreement with Orland Fire Protection District to provide vehicle maintenance for the Oak Forest Fire Department fleet. The attached memo dated 04-26-2022 from Fire Chief Kasper.
- 

Alderman Emmett made the motion to approve the agreement with Orland Fire Protection District.

Alderman Danihel seconded.



Fire Chief Kasper explained the current inventory for vehicles is aging, and the cost to maintain the fleet is significant. The Fire Department issued a request for proposals in order to ensure Oak Forest's best financial practices are met for these expenditures. There were two RFPs submitted and neither were accepted. While looking for other solutions, the Command Staff met with the Orland Fire Protection District on multiple occasions. The Command Staff determined that moving forward with Orland Fire Protection District offers the best option for maintaining their fleet.

Roll Call vote was taken as follows:

<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Alderman Emmett			
Alderman Hortsman			
Alderman Danihel			
Alderman Gray			
			Alderman Simon
Alderman Wolf			
Alderman Selman			

The motion to approve the agreement with Orland Fire Protection District carried 6/6.

\*\*\*\*\*

**9. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

---

A. Approval of purchase in the amount of \$14,803.50 with Dell Technologies for Oak Forest Fire Department laptops. The attached memo dated 04-20-2022 from IT Director Rieman with supporting details.

---

Alderman Selman made the motion to approve the purchase.  
Alderman Danihel seconded.

IT Director Rieman explained this piggybacks on the previous item, with their aging fleet they have aging equipment as well. This is to replace seven year old laptops. They want to stay current with technology, make sure their operations are intact and working when emergencies happen.

Mayor Kuspa asked if these particular laptops fit in a cradle in the fire apparatus or is it something they carry. Director Rieman explained they go into the docking station, which is provided in the quote as well, and they can take them out as well.

Alderman Hortsman asked Director Rieman what the timing is, and was told probably 6 - 8 weeks out, it used to be 2 - 3 weeks; the docking stations are taking the longest right now.

Alderman Selman asked Director Rieman how a laptop gets designated rugged, and wondered if they do a drop test. Director Rieman said drop test, other tests including heat and spills.

**Roll Call vote was taken as follows:**

<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Alderman Selman			
Alderman Emmett			
Alderman Hortsman			
Alderman Danihel			
Alderman Gray			
			Alderman Simon
Alderman Wolf			

The motion to approve the purchase carried 6/6.

---

B. Approval of purchase contract in the amount of \$31,163.00 with Xtivity Solutions LLC to replace security cameras at the Oak Forest Public Works Campus. The attached memo dated 04-20-2022 from IT Director Rieman with supporting details.

---

Alderman Emmett made the motion to approve the purchase.

Alderman Wolf seconded.

IT Director Rieman said this system is to replace the one that is barely functional right now at Public Works. This is a project that has been needed for some time, and now that we have a Public Works Director, he wanted to make sure Director Salamowicz had a chance to look it over; this quote, this design, and get his approval on it. This will take care of coverage inside of all the buildings. This will

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**26 April 2022**

**Page 11**

also connect into the existing system that we have, which is why we're staying with Xtivity; we will have a single sign-on to be able to see all the cameras we have on the whole network.

**Roll Call vote was taken as follows:**

<b><u>AYES</u></b>	<b><u>NAYS</u></b>	<b><u>ABSTAIN</u></b>	<b><u>ABSENT</u></b>
Alderman Emmett Alderman Hortsman Alderman Danihel Alderman Gray			Alderman Simon
Alderman Wolf Alderman Selman			

The motion to approve the purchase carried 6/6.

---

C. Approval of purchase in the amount of \$15,800.00 with GYTPOL to provide security solutions for the city's IT network. The attached memo dated 04-20-2022 from IT Director Rieman with supporting details.

---

Alderman Wolf made the motion to approve the purchase.

Alderman Hortsman seconded.

Mayor Kuspa addressed IT Director Rieman and said while reading the paperwork on this, the proposal states that \$15,800 is the "best guess". Should the motion be "not to exceed this amount", or is Director Rieman confident that this is the right amount? Director Rieman answered he will say "not to exceed"; it basically goes by the number of devices in the network. The job of this software is to discover all the devices and get that count. He can limit it to that, so yes. Mayor Kuspa replied, he didn't want to put him in a bind, but by reading the documentation he really thinks the motion should be "not to exceed". Director Rieman agreed.

Mayor Kuspa asked Alderman Wolf if she would her motion to state not to exceed the amount of \$15,800. Alderman Wolf affirmed. Mayor Kuspa then asked Alderman Hortsman if he would second. Alderman Hortsman affirmed.

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**26 April 2022**

**Page 12**

Director Rieman explained that this is for the network to be able to do a penetration test on our own instead of having to outsource this to other clients or vendors to be able to come in and pay \$30 - \$40,000, we'll be able to do it within this budget. It will scan and look for potential holes in our network, and single sign-ons, anyone's log ins. We've had the network here for over 25 years; it was in place before Director Rieman was here. This will look for the loopholes, find the security spots that need to get fixed, that might be getting missed right now.

Mayor Kuspa said this will be one more level of added security, and Director Rieman said yes, and he believes it will help the insurance to show that the city has something like this on the network.

**Roll Call vote was taken as follows:**

<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Alderman Wolf			
Alderman Selman			
Alderman Emmett			
Alderman Hortsman			
Alderman Danihel			
Alderman Gray			
			Alderman Simon

The motion to approve the purchase carried 6/6.

\*\*\*\*\*

**10. PUBLIC WORKS**

---

A. Approval to submit the necessary survey to the Illinois Department of Central Management Services requesting 1,600 tons of rock salt for the City of Oak Forest for the 2022-2023 winter season. The attached memo from Public Works Director Salamowicz.

---

Alderman Emmett made the motion to approve the request for rock salt purchase.

Alderman Gray seconded.

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**26 April 2022**

**Page 13**

Public Works Director Salamowicz explained Central Management Services for the State of Illinois is going to be soliciting for bids for rock salt for the coming '22 - '23 season. He has received an invite for that, this is something that we have purchased salt from over the last several years. This is probably the best opportunity to get the best price for the salt as the state is doing the bid, so they do the whole process and this would be the best opportunity to get the best price. Everything is done well in advance of the winter season; they got the notice, and they need to notify the State that we will or will not be participating by May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Mayor Kuspa asked, when they go to bid, is the bid price per ton or is it per ton plus cartage delivery to Oak Forest. Director Salamowicz explained it's per ton, and the way the contract is, or the agreement would be geared is that we're committing to purchasing 1,600 tons but it's what they call an 80 120. We would have to purchase 80% of that at a minimum but depending on the season we can go up to 120% of that at the same cost. Director Salamowicz added this is the same amount that has been purchased over the last several years. We have about 1,000 tons of salt currently in the dome right now; the 1,000 plus the 1,600 should put us in a good situation. Mayor Kuspa asked Director Salamowicz if he knew if this past season did the City of Oak Forest use less salt than previous years. Director Salamowicz said he believed it was a little bit less than the previous year. Mayor Kuspa verified that the price was per ton but did not include cartage, and Director Salamowicz confirmed. Mayor Kuspa asked if the winning bidder is from Cairo, IL, do we have to pay to ship it up. Director Salamowicz explained that last year was \$59.58 per ton. Mayor Kuspa added the cost of transportation has been going through the roof, so he was concerned.

Alderman Emmett said the EPA has been giving us guidelines, and asked if he received them yet; how much salt we can use. Director Salamowicz said they haven't received those as of yet. The EPA is starting to get more strict on salt usage and the issues with the salt getting into the creeks and things of that nature. There are different groups that the city is working with to look for ways to try to reduce the salt as much as possible, and alternate methods.

Roll Call vote was taken as follows:

<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Alderman Emmett			
Alderman Hortsman			
Alderman Danihel			
Alderman Gray			
			Alderman Simon
Alderman Wolf			
Alderman Selman			

The motion to approve the request for rock salt purchase carried 6/6.

---

B. Approval of Contracts with Dutch Valley Landscaping for the 2022- Planter Box Plantings and Maintenance, City Hall Flower Pots and Metra Lots & City Entryway Signs. The attached memo from the Public Works Director Salamowicz.

---

Alderman Wolf made the motion to approve the Dutch Valley contracts.

Alderman Gray seconded.

Public Works Director Salamowicz informed Council that 2015 the city went out for bids for Streetscape. The original amount of the planter boxes was \$32, Dutch Valley was the low bidder. In 2018 an additional 88 planter boxes were added; as part of that approval contract there was verbiage in the memo that annually the contract could be extended. What he is looking to do this year is again contract with Dutch Valley for the same work, it's his understanding they've done excellent work over the last several years. What he has also done is added their contract for the mowing and maintenance for the commuter lots and the entry signs to the same approval, there are some additional planter boxes at City Hall. The recommendation is to approve this year, and next year recommend to go out for bids and see the pricing.

Alderman Wolf said she knows this has been talked about a few times, the viaduct on Cicero Avenue. They have talked with Public Works in the years before about landscaping on the two sides of the viaduct. She said they were told something was going to be done there and it never was. She asked if that was something Dutch could look at and give a bid on. Director Salamowicz they could certainly have them look

at it and get a pricing. Alderman Wolf added there is still garbage under the viaduct, it still has leaves from last fall, so it's never been cleaned out, and she knows there is a development coming in on Cicero Avenue that's going to be a big change for that area; she thinks it's important to make our community look good. Director Salamowicz told her it can definitely be looked into.

Alderman Emmett said the Waverly lot has been neglected, hasn't been used in years, and has been abandoned. There's a sign that says the Chamber of Commerce, maybe Director Salamowicz can look at that and see who's really supposed to maintain that corner. He doesn't know if the Chamber forgot about it, or thought the City was taking care of it, but the Waverly lot has been empty for a couple years. He suggested maybe even taking the sign down. Director Salamowicz said he can look into that.

Alderman Hortsman asked if this particular contract impacts any of the lawn mowing for the right-of-ways on Boca Rio or Arroyo, and Director Salamowicz said that's a different contractor.

**Roll Call vote was taken as follows:**

<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Alderman Wolf			
Alderman Selman			
Alderman Emmett			
Alderman Hortsman			
Alderman Danihel			
Alderman Gray			
			Alderman Simon

The motion to approve the Dutch Valley contracts carried 6/6.

\*\*\*\*\*

**11. ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

---

A. Approval of Resolution No. 2022-04-0421R approving the updated Official 2022 Oak Forest Zoning Map. The attached memo dated 04-26-2022 from Economic and Community Development Director Edmund Cage and Planner Paul Ruane with supporting details.

---

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**26 April 2022**  
**Page 16**

Alderman Danihel made the motion to approve Resolution No. 2022-04-0421R.

Alderman Hortsman seconded.

Community Planner Ruane informed Council the last Zoning Map was completed in 2014, so there have been significant changes, only in the last couple of years surprisingly with some rezoning, some consolidations, and other things that got added into that. The big ones that come to mind are Logistics Property Company and the Aldi. We are required by state law every year to update them.

Alderman Selman asked if this will be updated on the Planning & Zoning section of the Oak Forest website. Planner Ruane said yes, it is the plan to get it over to the website not only in the digital format, but also an interactive map, and will work with South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association who provides our mapping services and get that updated with any changes that have taken place.

Alderman Hortsman asked if it also includes any of the unincorporated properties too. Planner Ruane said yes, all of the annexations that have been added since then; the 149<sup>th</sup> and Cicero, the couple off of 167<sup>th</sup> and Cicero have all been added. Not Malecky's subdivision, this came in before that was approved, so that will be on next year's map.

**Roll Call vote was taken as follows:**

<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Alderman Danihel			
Alderman Gray			Alderman Simon
Alderman Wolf			
Alderman Selman			
Alderman Emmett			
Alderman Hortsman			

The motion to approve Resolution No. 2022-04-0421R carried 6/6.



---

B. Approval of proposal from Baxter & Woodman in the amount not to exceed \$17,500.00 to perform final engineering review and coordination for the LPC Oak Forest Project. The attached memo dated 04-21-2022 from Economic and Community Development Director Edmund Cage.

---

Alderman Emmett made the motion to approve the Baxter & Woodman proposal.

Alderman Hortsman seconded.

Economic and Community Development Director Cage reminded Council the LPC project is very substantial, therefore entails a substantial review by our consultant engineer Baxter & Woodman. This amount exceeds what we would typically do through the Administrators' Office, so that is why it's brought to Council.

**Roll Call vote was taken as follows:**

<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Alderman Emmett			
Alderman Hortsman			
Alderman Danihel			
Alderman Gray			
			Alderman Simon
Alderman Wolf			
Alderman Selman			

The motion to approve the Baxter & Woodman proposal carried 6/6.

---

Items C & D were pulled by Mayor Kuspa for tonight, as there are last minute engineering questions that need to be answered.

\*\*\*\*\*

**12. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

Mrs. Sarah Odewald, said she knows that Central Avenue is a county road, and she has lived here about 22 years. Her main concern is the traffic that goes on there, more or less for the schools. She knows

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**26 April 2022**

**Page 18**

she might need to bring this up more to the county person, trying to get a hold of her is not an easy thing to do. The high school had crossing guards, and she knows the Police Department was in charge of that for a while, now it's up to the schools to do. She is a crossing guard, she has done Oak Forest High School and would have continued there but then the school decided that they wanted to do their security, and they do not still all the time have a crossing guard there. It is very dangerous for children to cross, not just during the day, or young adults, but at night also. When they have meets, football, or whatever you can't see there when you're coming through. Let's just face it, everybody has a lead foot, unless they really see something there that maybe they can slow down to, but not. There was talk that nobody wanted a stop sign there, nobody wanted a red light there because it's too close to 151<sup>st</sup> Street but we have them here, it's about the same distance between the Park District and 155<sup>th</sup>. What about a stop sign that has lights, let's face it, how many people really stay there 3 or 5 minutes like you're supposed to before you go, nobody. It's a stop and go kinda thing. If they didn't see anybody they would probably stop and go. How many times do we have to wait before somebody gets killed, or a worse accident? If we jump from that one and go down Central to where Arbor Park is, she is the crossing guard there now at 173<sup>rd</sup>. They had her there for a while and then she took off for a while and now she's back. She had the Police Department come and put one of those signs where you can see what the speed is going. With me standing out there they came out, the county did, and they put up new signs, that helped some. While she was gone, she doesn't know what happened with who was crossing she heard there was nobody, but she's not getting into that because the school has her hired back so that's fine. She's only there in the mornings and the speed has picked up again, and it's not just people going from down Central to go to the high school, Tinley Park, or whatever. You've got parents that come flying into that school, and come flying out of that school. Well, their kid's safe, but what about the other ones that gotta cross? She has a parent that comes with two twins and sometimes another little boy besides the first grader she's crossing, and she told Mrs. Odewald when she (Mrs. Odewald) wasn't there I relied on the school busses to stop and sometimes the people were nice and they would stop. So the crosswalk thing signs is not working. What can we do about this? You can't have crossing guards out there all the time, and she knows in the summer, but if you're building more and more and you're having more and more people move in to Oak Forest you're gonna have more and more traffic. And with the traffic comes more accidents, more speeding.

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**26 April 2022**

**Page 19**

Mayor Kuspa said he will take these concerns to our Police Chief. The first thing we can do is step up some patrols, traffic patrols, and he believes he will have a conversation with our Cook County Commissioner Donna Miller. He said we had two students hit by a car in front of Hille Middle School on 151<sup>st</sup> Street, and it took quite a bit of effort on the City's part, numerous meetings downtown, finally meeting with President Preckwinkle to finally get a traffic control light there in front of Hille School. It takes a lot of work but it can be done.

Mrs. Odewald added you still have crossing guards there, that she knew of. She says she knows they said no to crossing guards there because Tinley doesn't have any they don't need them, Bremen don't need them, and the other school in 228 doesn't need them, but Oak Forest needs them. Or they need a stop sign or something. It's kinda ridiculous, the Police Chief is aware of some of this before the crossing guards got tossed wherever we got tossed. They did put the speed zone there which helped out. She has been back over a week and just in the mornings, for two hours, she's only seen one police car that comes down that way. There's no county, there's no forest preserves, there's no nothing. She's sure they're other places, and is glad they're serving and protecting us, and she might have been the first one who brought a get well card to the police person who got shot. She's all for supporting these people, but everybody else has gotta support the community too.

\*\*\*\*\*

**11. OLD BUSINESS**

Alderman Hortsman said he sees a lot of construction equipment going on through the trails, and through the electrical wires in various communities around us. Do we have any update on the water project, where it's at at this point? Mayor Kuspa said he has been watching from a distance, and been driving by them, but didn't have anything. He asked Public Works Director Salamowicz if he had anything going on. Director Salamowicz said as far as with the water project the engineers are doing the design of the first phase of that so he anticipates some time maybe later this year. Mayor Kuspa interjected, he thinks what Alderman Hortsman is referring to is the water main from Oak Lawn. Director Salamowicz said he knows that obviously they're still working on that project; there have been some issues with the construction, obviously supply issues for material, things of that nature, so there are some delays. There are different phases of the project that they've actually pushed forward ahead of other

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**26 April 2022**

**Page 20**

portions of the project, so they're definitely working to get it completed as soon as possible. But again various delays; permitting, some issues with the Army Corps as far as some of the permitting through the wetlands, has kind of delayed the project a little bit. City Administrator Kristin said getting pipe is a big problem, they upsized one of the pipes, he couldn't remember in which town. The supply chain issues of getting pipe has been a setback for their project too.

\*\*\*\*\*

Alderman Emmett said he believes we're still in court on the Ace Hardware property, but he cannot sleep at night knowing that south wall is deteriorating rapidly. He knows City Administrator Kristin has been working on it, but the City of Chicago just had some fatalities, and we know about this, and why do we have to pay for it if it's in litigation? They should be putting a fence around that. (Building Commissioner) Mike Forbes looked into that, Alderman Emmett knows Commissioner Forbes sent some letters, but we have it all around the Magna Electric. We gotta have something out there, we got knowledge of it, it's not good. Whoever owns that property should be footing the bill. He feels bad. City Administrator Kristin said he had a conversation with their council yesterday. They're going to resolve it; unfortunately we don't own that building. Commissioner Forbes has taken appropriate steps to cite them and notify them; we have the pending litigation against them currently, and he had a conversation with their attorney yesterday.

**12. NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Kuspa, with a little bit of a heavy heart, announced to the Council that he and City Administrator Kristin had a meeting with Alderman Simon today at his home, and he has decided to resign his position on City Council effective at the next City Council meeting. Alderman Simon will be there. He strongly, the entire Simon family, recommends Joe McCarthy as his replacement, so Joe will be there. Mayor Kuspa would like to, at the beginning of the next City Council meeting, accept Alderman Simon's resignation. He just can't thank Alderman Simon enough for all his years of service, 34 years, her served on the Council. Mayor Kuspa will bring a candidate forward to the Aldermen, hopefully with their approval, but this is a candidate that Alderman Simon strongly recommends.

\*\*\*\*\*

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

\*\*\*\*\*

14. ADJOURMENT

Alderman Danihel made the motion to Adjourn.

Alderman Hortsman seconded.

Roll Call vote was taken as follows:

<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Alderman Danihel			
Alderman Gray			Alderman Simon
Alderman Wolf			
Alderman Selman			
Alderman Emmett			
Alderman Hortsman			

The motion to adjourn carried 6/6.

The Council meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR HENRY L. KUSPA