

**APPROVED MINUTES - REGULAR BOARD MEETING
PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF OAK PARK
HELD ON TUESDAY, JULY 6TH, 2010 AT 7:30 P.M.
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF OAK PARK VILLAGE HALL**

OFFICIAL RECORD

PRESENT: Trustees Brewer, Hale, Hedges, Johnson, Lueck and Pate; President Pope
ABSENT: None
QUORUM: President Pope called the meeting to order at 7:39 p.m. and declared that a quorum was present.

AGENDA

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda for the meeting. President Pope announced that Item E has been removed from the agenda and Item K would be moved from the Consent Agenda to the Regular Agenda. A voice vote was taken and the agenda was approved as revised.

MINUTES

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Special Meeting of June 1, 2010, the Special Meeting of June 21, 2010 and the Regular Meeting of June 21, 2010 be approved. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were approved as presented.

PROCLAMATION

Americans with Disabilities Act 20th Anniversary – July 26, 2010

It was moved and seconded to concur in a Proclamation to recognize the Americans with Disabilities Act 20th Anniversary on July 26, 2010 in the Village of Oak Park. President Pope read the Proclamation aloud. A voice vote was taken and the Proclamation was adopted.

VILLAGE MANAGER REPORT

- A.** Deputy Village Manager Lisa Shelley noted that a number of construction projects may be suspended due to strikes of various workers. The Public Works Department has been reviewing those locations to ensure that these areas are being secured to reduce problems with access or mobility. The designs for the remaining improvements of the water crossings over the I-290 continue. Work has been completed at the East Avenue water main under the I-290 in time to meet the I-290 resurfacing project coordination; the line is expected to be back in service this week. The water and sewer main improvements project that is slated to begin the week of July 12th is pending the outcome of the current strike. Bids for the 2010 resurfacing project are scheduled for July 8th. The 2010 alley project is in the final stages with some minor cleanup work remaining. The first phase of the sidewalk program is complete; the second phase is scheduled for late this summer. The I-290 resurfacing work is on schedule and all lanes are now open during the daytime. The project is expected to be complete in late

October, again pending the current strike situation. The contract for Roosevelt Road streetscapes was awarded by IDOT on June 29th and should start in July, pending the outcome of the strike. The first phase, to be completed this year, will be between Harlem and Oak Park Avenue. Bids are currently being solicited for overflow modifications to the central pumping station as well as some cleaning, sealing and striping at the first level of Holley Court.

CITIZEN COMMISSION VACANCIES AND APPOINTMENTS

- B. President Pope referred to the Board and Commission vacancy report, and Village Clerk Teresa Powell urged residents to volunteer for commissions and boards.

Trustee Johnson expressed concern regarding expired terms, particularly of Chairs that were still serving. Village Clerk Powell noted that she and President Pope were addressing this issue.

REGULAR AGENDA

- F. It was moved and seconded to approve a **Motion to Receive the Living Wage Report from the Community Relations Commission.**

Cecil Hunt, Chair of the Community Relations Commission (CRC) explained the history behind the Living Wage Report. On November 4th, 2008 there was a non-binding ballot initiative in support of the Living Wage asking voters if the Village of Oak Park should adopt an ordinance stipulating that Village employees, employees of contractors or subcontractors performing work for the Village and employees of businesses that receive a subsidy from the Village receive a Living Wage that would include health benefits and paid time off. The vote was 60% in favor. On January 26th, 2009, the Board of Trustees charged the CRC with conducting an assessment of the issues involved in enacting a Living Wage ordinance and to report its findings to the Board. The CRC worked on this report for 13 months. Two public hearings were held before the final report was drafted and approved to present to the Board.

Mr. Hunt defined the concept of a Living Wage as a level of income that would enable workers to meet their basic needs without having to rely on public assistance. He discussed other cities across the country that have implemented this and described the different methods used to compute the level of a Living Wage in various communities. The CRC chose to use a methodology called the Penn State Living Wage calculator. They recommended a Living Wage of \$11.50 per hour beginning in January, 2011, increasing annually based on the Consumer Price Index. This rate is based on a family of two adults working full time and one child.

They also recommended the creation of a Monitoring Board to oversee implementation, compliance and impact.

Mr. Hunt noted that the CRC had several concerns regarding the concept of a Living Wage, one of these being that it would affect a relatively small number of Oak Park residents because of the low level of poverty in the Village. There may be poor people

in the Village who work elsewhere who would not receive the benefit of a Living Wage in the Village itself. Without specific targeting based on family income, workers in low wage jobs but with substantial family income would be eligible. A Living Wage may raise the cost of doing business in the Village and be detrimental to existing and potential businesses, raising the cost of goods and services to consumers in Oak Park. Finally, for non-residents, the increases in worker's wages may be spent outside of Oak Park, and not be an economic benefit to Oak Park businesses.

AGENDA ITEM PUBLIC COMMENT

Ron Baiman, 205 S. Humphrey. Mr. Baiman spoke in favor of a Living Wage ordinance. He believed that, regardless of where the affected workers lived, the residents of Oak Park voted for this as an effort to avoid a form of economic discrimination and to send a message that this is a caring community.

Marty Noll, Chairman, Oak Park Development Corporation, 839 N. Oak Park Ave. Mr. Noll spoke on behalf of the OPDC in opposition of a Living Wage ordinance. He stated that the companies most affected by this ordinance are those who are generally the least able to afford it and it would be making an already difficult business climate more so.

Reverend C.J. Hawking, 322 S. Lombard Ave. Reverend Hawking was in favor of the Living Wage ordinance and implied that the passing of such an ordinance would be a significant moment in history.

Rich Pokorny, 1102 S. Maple. Mr. Pokorny had collected 498 signatures in favor of the Living Wage. He commented that businesses generally oppose it based on the false assumptions that government interference and regulations are harmful.

Bob Loro, 1029 South Blvd. Mr. Loro, who is a business owner and President of the South Marion Business Association, spoke in opposition of the Living Wage ordinance. He stated that this will hurt businesses that are struggling to survive in the current economic climate.

Kim Goldschmidt, Oak Park River Forest Chamber of Commerce, 716 N. Belleforte Ave. Mr. Goldschmidt spoke on behalf of the Oak Park River Forest Chamber of Commerce in opposition to the Living Wage. He commented that the business community would like all who work to qualify for a Living Wage by virtue of education, training and experience, not an ordinance.

Bamshad Mobasher, Community Relations Commisison, 600 Carpenter Ave. As one of the authors of the Living Wage Report, Mr. Mobasher believed that it was very objective and balanced. He stated that the sentiments of the community were taken into consideration when making their recommendations.

Trustee Hedges expressed concern regarding how a Living Wage ordinance would be enforced. He noted that a particular vendor may have employees working in Oak Park and employees working elsewhere; this would mean establishing different levels of pay for the same job, and could create resistance on the part of the vendor.

Trustee Lueck asked for clarification concerning exactly what types of employees would be covered and under what circumstances. She agreed with Trustee Hedges with regard to enforcement issues and added that providing paid vacation and sick leave only for some employees of a company would be difficult to administer. Mr. Hunt explained that the employer would be able to claim credit against the \$11.50 as the Living Wage for those expenses going directly to medical costs, sick leave and vacation time. Also, the employer wouldn't be paying \$11.50 plus those expenses; they would be incorporated within that number.

Trustee Johnson asked how the companies involved would be monitored and wondered if that would include going through their financial records. Mr. Hunt said it would not be intrusive; they would rely on the individual companies to report back to them. Trustee Johnson asked how the CRC determined which studies to use and which to exclude with regard to economic impact. He noted that the report relied heavily on the University of Massachusetts study, when there were other studies that contradicted this one. Mr. Hunt stated that they chose studies based on areas with demographics similar to Oak Park's. Mr. Hunt also noted that a living wage is often confused with a minimum wage, which, even at \$8 in Illinois, is not enough for a family to live decently without public assistance.

Trustee Hale asked if the question of the need for a Living Wage in Oak Park was addressed, given the level of wages paid by the Village and the prevailing wage requirements for contractors. Mr. Hunt acknowledged that there would only be a small number of workers living in Oak Park affected. Trustee Hale also stated that a lot of people would benefit from it that didn't need it; it would have very little real impact. Mr. Hunt said that even though the number that benefited would be small, that benefit would be significant and believed that the Living Wage ordinance would be the right thing to do.

Trustee Hale also pointed out that those who worked under 20 hours per week were exempt from the ordinance; employers could easily start hiring people to work less hours or cut back full-time employees to part-time. Mr. Hunt agreed that this could potentially occur.

Trustee Pate noted that there is still additional discussion and research that needed to be done. There are other taxing bodies in the community that this should pertain to; she asked how they would address that issue. Mr. Hunt pointed out that this was not part of the referendum.

Trustee Brewer asked if any research was done regarding the communities that once had a Living Wage ordinance but dropped or appealed it. Mr. Hunt answered that the ordinances were dropped for various reasons.

President Pope asked how broad the level of authority is that is instituted for a municipality to be able to enact a Living Wage ordinance that is more broadly encompassing. Since the proponents of this ordinance went to the Township to get it placed on the ballot, they could have addressed the issue with the Township Board. It could potentially be interpreted as something that applies to all of the governing

bodies within the geographic parameters of the Village of Oak Park.

It was moved and seconded to amend the motion to include the phrase **“But Reject Recommendations Contained Herein.”**

The roll call on the vote was as follows:

AYES: Trustees Hale, Hedges, Johnson and Pate

NAYS: Trustee Brewer and Lueck; President Pope

ABSENT: None

The motion was approved.

It was moved and seconded to approve the amended **Motion to Receive the Living Wage Report from the Community Relations Commission to include the phrase “But Reject Recommendations Contained Herein.”**

The roll call on the vote was as follows:

AYES: Trustees Hale, Hedges, Johnson and Pate

NAYS: Trustee Brewer and Lueck; President Pope

ABSENT: None

The motion was approved

CONSENT AGENDA

*All Ordinances and Resolutions adopted herein
are herewith ordered filed in the Office of the Village Clerk*

President Pope announced that Item K would be moved from the Regular Agenda back to the Consent Agenda.

- G. Resolution 2010-R-86 entitled **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE USE OF MOTOR FUEL TAX FUNDS FOR MAINTENANCE OF STREETS IN THE VILLAGE OF OAK PARK**
- H. Resolution 2010-R-87 entitled **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SINGLE FAMILY HOUSING REHABILITATION LOAN AND LEAD HAZARD REDUCTION GRANT: SFR-032**
- I. Resolution 2010-R-88 entitled **RESOLUTION AWARDDING A MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING INCENTIVES GRANT AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF MARKETING SERVICES AGREEMENT MSA 1011-G**
- J. Resolution 2010-R-89 entitled **RESOLUTION TO RELEASE CERTAIN EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES**
- K. **Motion to Receive the One Year Report on the Special Use Permit for the Lights at the Oak Park River Forest Stadium**
- L. Ordinance 2010-O-41 entitled **ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSITION OF SURPLUS VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT ON AN “AS IS” BASIS**

- M. Ordinance 2010-0-42 entitled **ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 3, ARTICLE 8 OF THE CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF OAK PARK – CREATION OF A CLASS A-4 CATERING LIQUOR LICENSE FOR MARION STREET CHEESE MARKET, 100 S. MARION STREET, 60301**
- N. Ordinance 2010-0-43 entitled **ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 3, ARTICLE 8 OF THE CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF OAK PARK – CREATION OF A CLASS B-1 RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE FOR MARION STREET CHEESE MARKET, 100 S. MARION STREET, 60301**
- P. Resolution 2010-R-90 entitled **RESOLUTION DECLARING A DISTRIBUTION OF \$1,245,840.69 IN TAX INCREMENT REVENUES FROM THE DOWNTOWN OAK PARK TIF DISTRICT TO TAXING DISTRICTS BASED UPON 2008 TAX RATES**
- O. Ordinance 2010-0-44 entitled **ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2010 ANNUAL BUDGET**
- Q. Ordinance 2010-0-45 entitled **ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 3 OF THE VILLAGE CODE RELATING TO LIQUOR DEALERS**

Approve the Consent Agenda

It was moved and seconded to approve the items under the Consent Agenda.

The roll call on the vote was as follows:

AYES: Trustees Brewer, Hale, Hedges, Johnson, Lueck and Pate; President Pope

NAYS: None

The Consent Agenda was adopted.

CALL TO THE BOARD AND CLERK

Village Clerk Powell discussed posting of meetings as required by the Illinois Open Meetings Act. She gave an update of the number of vehicle stickers sold online, in person and by mail and compared this to last year's sales. She reminded those who have not bought one yet to please do to avoid a ticket. She also thanked all who were involved in the Fourth of July festivities.

Trustee Brewer thanked the Police Department for issuing a scam alert regarding people walking through the neighborhoods and saying that the Village requires your address be painted on the curb.

Trustee Pate commended those involved with the Fourth of July fireworks. She spoke about a project involving Middle School children and how they viewed wellness in the community. She read several of their recommendations to the Board. She also discussed bicycle safety.

Trustee Hale discussed signage in the Village and stated that it needed to be addressed sooner rather than later.

Trustee Johnson spoke about the opening of the Community Justice Center scheduled July 7. He commented that his parents visited Oak Park over the Fourth of July holiday and were impressed with the Village; he is proud to be a part of it and to serve the community.

Trustee Lueck discussed the signage and suggested the Board address the pros and cons of people riding their bikes on the streets and on the sidewalks.

Trustee Hedges commented about the signage and the complicated parking regulations in the Village.

President Pope discussed the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Chicago's handgun ban, which includes Oak Park's ban as well. He said there will be continued discussion with the Village's legal counsel as to how to proceed.

ADJOURN

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 10:45 P.M. Tuesday, July 6th, 2010.

SUBMITTED AND RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF:

By: MaryAnn Schoenneman
Executive Secretary

Teresa Powell, Village Clerk