

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
VILLAGE OF STEGER, WILL & COOK
COUNTIES, ILLINOIS

The Board of Trustees convened in regular session at 7:00 P.M. on this 7th day of August, 2023 in the Municipal Building of the Village of Steger, Illinois. Mayor Peterson led all in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

The roll was called. The following Trustees were present; Thurmond, Lopez, Stewart, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson was present.

Also present: Village Administrator Mary Jo Seehausen, Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper, Fire Chief Michael Long, Police Chief Greg Smith, EMA Chief Tom Johnston and Community Center Director Diana Rossi.

AWARDS, HONORS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION

None

MINUTES

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 17th meeting as all members have copies. Trustee Stewart seconded the motion. Voice vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

CaShawn Morris, proprietor of Crave VR at 3345 Chicago Rd came before the board with concerns regarding her recently opened business. She is looking for support in way of mention in the Village Newsletter or other direct mailing. She is proposing having a comedy show in her establishment to try and draw more business. She wants to create a space that is safe for everyone. Mayor Peterson stated that we do have a newsletter and we do highlight businesses in town from time to time. He stated as far as a marketing aspect would come more from the Chamber of Commerce or individually, businesses market on their own to promote business. Because the ideas she is offering is not in line with what she proposed when she got her business license, Mayor Peterson recommended that she make an appointment with our Village Administrator and discuss options and what would be entailed. Parking would also be an issue, however the municipal lot near the K-Mart building could be utilized, as long as they did not infringe on the south end of the lot which is privately owned. Discussion will continue between Ms. Morris and Village Administrator Seehausen.

Jami Torres of 3113 Carpenter St, Unit 1 came before the board to discuss issues with her water service being disconnected on July 27th due to non-payment. She stated that

the meter had been removed and questioned if that was the proper way to shut off service. Village Administrator Seehausen stated that was a landlord issue, but that she would like to talk about this outside this meeting. Ms. Torres and Village Administrator Seehausen discussed options with which they could discuss this, but Ms. Torres is very limited on the amount of time she can stay. She was assured the meeting would be quick and they could talk. It was for Ms. Torres benefit that her issues not be part of the public record. Mayor Peterson stated that this is not the forum to discuss this. I appreciate the fact that your time is limited, but if we can quickly go through the meeting, I promise there is not a lot on the agenda, or we can try to schedule another time where it is more convenient because there are some things that I am hearing that are concerning that we need to look into, to help you. Village Administrator Seehausen excused herself from the meeting and invited Ms. Torres to join her in her office. Ms. Torres asked to have the discussion to be included in the minutes. Mayor Peterson stated that was not appropriate for this matter. Ms. Torres questioned ownership of the water meter; Mayor Peterson stated we need to gather more information to make that determination. Trustee Joyce stated as of right now it's on record that you were here to discuss the issue, just not the details which will be handled with Village Administrator Seehausen. Ms. Torres questioned if details can be on record in the next meeting after the details are discussed? Village Administrator Seehausen stated, we shut your water off, the fact that the meter's not there is irrelevant because the water is shut off. Ms. Torres stated she lost four days. I paid my water on 27th and had to wait 4 additional days for access for my landlord to be available in his schedule, after I was promised on the 20th that it would be restored when I paid the late fees, reconnection fee and bill in full. So, me and my kids went without water for 4 extra days. Trustee Joyce asked if that is what she wants on the record. Ms. Torres stated she wants to know if the meter belongs to the city or the house? Mayor Peterson stated that we can't answer that until we know all the facts. When you have your discussion with Village Administrator Seehausen, we can get those facts and we will be able to respond to you. Ms. Torres offered one more question: I was told that the unit, 3113 Carpenter St. is not an area zoned for duplex living. It is only zoned for single family dwellings, is that correct. Village Administrator Seehausen stated the property is legal nonconforming. Ms. Torres thanked the board for it's time and left without further discussion with Village Administrator Seehausen.

Curtis J. Beasley of 3008 Louis Sherman Drive began to describe his new business restoring old cars. It came to light that his business license application is on the agenda and will be discussed shortly. He was invited to wait until that time for his presentation.

Jerry Brossmer of 3431 Lewis came before the board to discuss issues that have yet to be resolved concerning issues with his water/garbage billing. Mr. Brossmer discussed his many attempts to get this problem resolved. Mayor Peterson assured Mr. Brossmer that we will get to the bottom of the situation. Village Administrator Seehausen offered to stay after the meeting and review the account to see who is in error. Mayor Peterson told Mr. Brossmer that it will be taken care of tonight. Mr. Brossmer further discussed the

restoration work being done by NICOR following the recent re-piping that has been done in town. He questioned who was responsible for restoring yards. Specifically, where sod was removed, it was left with reseeding mesh. It was recommended that he reach out to NICOR to discuss any issues with his yard's restoration.

REPORTS

Village Administrator Mary Jo Seehausen No report.

Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper No report.

Fire Chief Michael Long No report.

Police Chief Greg Smith No report.

Community Center Director Diana Rossi No report.

EMA Chief Tom Johnston No report.

Village Attorney No report.

Treasurer Trustee Lopez presented the financial report for the Village of Steger for the month ending May 31, 2023. We see some good things in that we are in line with our budget. Kudos to the Village Administrator and the Department Heads regarding watching their budgets and dollars spent. Year over year, revenues collected we have seen a 16.6% increase compared to May of 2022. Some of the driving factors has been the increase in ambulance billing due to helping surrounding communities. The other driving factor is property taxes, having to do with when we got them compared to the previous year. One of my concerns is the State of Illinois Shared Income Tax portion that showed an 11% decrease over last year. The driving factor on this appears to be corporate taxes being collected by the state. Again, we are right in line with our budget.

MAYORS REPORT For my report, I want to give my condolences to Trustee Thurmond on the loss of Ernie Thurmond. He was very important to our community. I would also like to pass along my condolences to former Trustee Lenny Skrezyna on the loss of his father. He was also very important to our community. We had 2 great losses this week.

VILLAGE CLERK Asked department heads, when reporting on new employees or those in education, that those reports be presented to the clerk in writing for clarity in spelling names for the record. The recordings are not always clear enough to understand, and if recognition is to be given, I would like it to be accurate.

TRUSTEES REPORTS

Trustee Thurmond Recognition: I would like to recognize the hard work and dedication that our first responders displayed at the national night out event. I also want to thank the volunteers and residents contributing to the event.

Anthony DeLuca: Update on the meet and greet with Sen. Joyce, change of date and venue. Date is Aug 29th 8am to 9am at Chicago Heights Park District east golf course RSVP is required. 708-754-7900

One thing I forgot to add, is there an update we can get from Mary Jo and Dave on the Community Center repairs? Mayor Peterson stated that we can do that after the board meeting. You can get the update from them.

BILLS

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to pay all bills as listed when funds become available. Trustee Lopez seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Stewart, Trotier, and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Trustee Joyce voted yes with the exception of a bill for consulting, however the motion is for all as listed, so his vote was no to all. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to ratify the approval of a business license for K's Restaurant at 3125 Union Ave. Trustee Stewart seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Stewart, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to ratify ORDINANCE NO. 1300: AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES AND WAGES TO BE PAID TO MANAGEMENT AND NON-UNION EMPLOYEES OF THE VILLAGE OF STEGER, COUNTIES OF COOK AND WILL, STATE OF ILLINOIS. Trustee Stewart seconded the motion.

Discussion: Trustee Thurmond: in the discussion, maybe I misunderstood, I thought we were only retroing one year. Village Administrator Seehausen explained what was agreed. I am going to abstain because I don't agree with two of the increases.

Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Lopez, Stewart, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Trustee Thurmond abstained. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the Special Events Liquor License for Steger Day of Music Event to be held on August 19, 2023 from 12:00 pm – 11:59 pm. Trustee Trotier seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Stewart, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the Special Events Liquor License for October Fest Event to be held on October 1, 2023 from 12:00 pm-6:00 pm. Trustee Stewart seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Stewart, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Curtis Beasley again approached the board to describe his business. I restore old school vehicles to customer's taste. I modify completely rebuild these vehicles. My business is limited and very few vehicles are kept on site.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve a new business license application for CCC Custom Rides at 3008 Louis Sherman Dr. pending inspections. Trustee Joyce seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Stewart, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

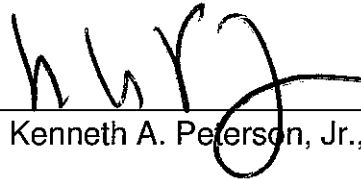
Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve a new business license application for Moving forward Barber & Beauty Shop at 20 E. 33rd Place, pending inspections. Trustee Joyce seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Stewart, Trotier, Joyce and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

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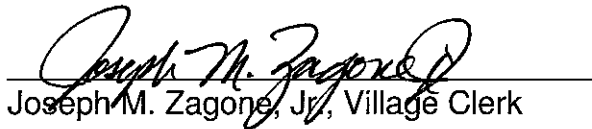
Being no further business:

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Trustee Joyce seconded the motion. Voice vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.



Kenneth A. Peterson, Jr., Village President



Joseph M. Zagone, Jr., Village Clerk