

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 2nd day of January 2024 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, and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson was present. Trustees Stewart, Trotier and Joyce were absent.

Also present: Administrator Mary Jo Seehausen, Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper, Fire Chief Mike Long, Police Chief Greg Smith, EMA Chief Jason Stevenson, Community Center Director Diana Rossi, and Village Attorney James Vasselli.

AWARDS, HONORS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Jen Voigts announced the winners of the Christmas Home Decorating Contest for 2023.

3rd Place: 3029 Union Ave.

2nd Place: 3512 Phillips

1st Place: 3316 Butler

MINUTES

Trustee Lopez made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 18th meeting as all members have copies. Trustee Perchinski seconded the motion. Voice vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Mark Baxter of 3316 Butler asked if the Village is considering Beautification Awards. Mayor Peterson stated that Trustee Trotier is trying to spearhead a project like this for the Village. Hoping to know more in the Spring.

REPORTS

Village Administrator Mary Jo Seehausen I received a letter from the American Legion. They will be doing their Poppy Weekend Friday May 24th through Monday May 27th on Steger Road and Chicago Road. This will be going in our calendar.

Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper No report.

Chief Michael Long No report.

Police Chief Greg Smith No report.

EMA Chief Jason Stevenson No report.

Community Center Director Diana Rossi No report.

Village Attorney No report.

Treasurer I have copies of financials through November 30th. We have completed 75% of our audit. Everything seems to be in line with how we have budgeted. We have had an influx of taxes that were delayed by Cook County. We should see same amount for next year.

MAYORS REPORT I just want to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

VILLAGE CLERK No report.

TRUSTEES REPORTS

None

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, and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS:

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 1308: AN ORDINANCE REGARDING THE COOK COUNTY PAID LEAVE ORDINANCE FOR THE VILLAGE OF STEGER. Trustee Thurmond seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Discussion regarding Ordinance No. 1309: Village Attorney James Vasselli explained the Ordinance Amendment of the Municipal code that is being voted on tonight. He explained how it pertained to vehicles operating within the Village and how it spells out vehicles that belong in the village are excluded. Other drivers operating under Illinois permits and performing transportation for residents of the village such as Township Senior Buses, Ubers or taxi's hired by Steger residents are also exempt. Mayor Peterson added that we aren't trying to stop anyone, we just want to make sure it is orderly and that we have the resources necessary if we find ourselves in the situation where we have a bus load of people coming into our community, that we are not aware of. So that is the intent of this, and all this is saying is basically that you have to get approval from the police chief before you would drop people off in our community. There are exceptions to make sure that we are not picking up unintended consequences like an Uber or a Lyft or a Bloom Township vehicle. If we were a Home Rule Community, this would be a much easier process. By being Non-Home Rule we are comfortable that we do have the power to adopt this ordinance, but, we aren't able to do what other Home Rule Communities are able to do.

Mayor Peterson explained transportation of individuals between the Village and places outside the Village as requested by Trustee Thurmond.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 1309 with said changes from counsel: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF STEGER, ILLINOIS REGARDING THE LOADING AND UNLOADING OF PASSENGERS WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF STEGER, ILLINOIS. Trustee Lopez seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

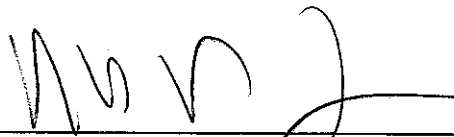
Discussion regarding Absolute Cleaning Contract: Trustee Perchinski said it is about an 8% increase. Mayor Peterson stated in discussion with the owner of Absolute that the increase comes from the higher cost of cleaning products and higher wages needed to secure quality employees. Trustee Thurmond pointed out errors he perceived in the cover letter that accompanied the proposal. He also questioned why the 8% is so much higher than the 3% national average for cost of living. Mayor Peterson explained that the increase was not only due to cost of living, but the costs of providing the services required.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the 2024 Absolute Cleaning Contract. Trustee Lopez seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Lopez and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Trustee Thurmond abstained. Motion carried.

Being no further business:

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:19 pm.



Kenneth A. Peterson, Jr., Village President



Joseph M. Zagone, Jr., Village Clerk