

August 15, 2023

State of Illinois
County of Cook
Village of Stickney

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Stickney met in regular session on Tuesday, August 15, 2023, at 7:07 p.m. in the boardroom located at 6533 W. Pershing Road, Stickney, Illinois.

Upon the roll call, the following Trustees were present:
Trustees White, Savopoulos, Milenkovic, Torres, Kapolnek and Hrejsa

Trustee Milenkovic moved, duly seconded by Trustee Hrejsa to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting held on Tuesday, August 1, 2023

Upon the roll call, the following Trustee voted:
Ayes: Trustees White, Milenkovic, Torres and Hrejsa
Present: Trustee Savopoulos, Kapolnek
Mayor Walik declared the motion carried.

Trustee White moved, duly seconded by Trustee Savopoulos that the bills, approved by the various committees of the Board, be approved for payment, and to approve warrants which authorize the Village Treasurer to draw checks to pay the bills, to be signed by the authorized signers, as provided for by the Ordinances of the Village of Stickney.

Upon the roll call, the following Trustee voted:
Ayes: Trustees White, Savopoulos, Milenkovic, Torres, Kapolnek and Hrejsa
Mayor Walik declared the motion carried.

Trustee Torres moved, duly seconded by Trustee Kapolnek to Pass and Approve Ordinance Amending Chapter 14, Section 14-109 of the Municipal Code, Village of Stickney, Illinois Regarding Right Turn Regulations.”

Upon the roll call, the following Trustee voted:
Ayes: Trustees White, Savopoulos, Milenkovic, Torres, Kapolnek and Hrejsa
Mayor Walik declared the motion carried.

Prior to the vote Chief Sassetti explained that we are seeking changes for vehicles going northbound on Harlem Avenue cannot make right turns on to 41st Street and 40th Place between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. The purpose of it is we have seen a lot of non-residents using 41st and 40th Place as through streets to avoid the Harlem Avenue traffic. I hope through the enforcement efforts after this ordinance is passed we can minimize the amount of cars that are using the interior streets as through streets.

Prior to the vote, Village Trustee Milenkovic questioned if Section (a) should be included in the time restrictions. Village Attorney Fese read the section and explained that an oral amendment could be made to include 44th, 43rd and 42nd streets. Police Chief Sassetti clarified that these streets had barriers placed there back in late fall of 2020 after the civil unrest, at that time he asked the Board to leave the barricades up on 44th, 43rd and 42nd Streets to prevent traffic from going eastbound. We plan on leaving those barricades up permanently.

Trustee Kapolnek moved, duly seconded by Trustee Torres to Pass and Approve Ordinance 2023-17, "An Ordinance Amending Chapter 18, Section 18-325 of the Municipal Code, Village of Stickney, Illinois Regarding Fencing."

Upon the roll call, the following Trustee voted:

Ayes: Trustees White, Savopoulos, Milenkovic, Torres, Kapolnek and Hrejsa
Mayor Walik declared the motion carried.

Prior to voting, a resident asked for an explanation of the ordinance. It was clarified that corner lots, including the last house on the alley, can have a six-foot fence and also the gate. Our Building Inspector Josh Brniak requested this because it is difficult to cut the fences down to five-foot heights.

Trustee Hrejsa moved, Trustee Kapolnek to grant permission to conduct a block party in the 4100 block of Wisconsin, August 26, 2023 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Upon the roll call, the following Trustee voted:

Ayes: Trustees White, Savopoulos, Milenkovic, Torres, Kapolnek and Hrejsa
Mayor Walik declared the motion carried.

Trustee Torres moved, Trustee Kapolnek to grant permission to conduct a block party in the 4300 block of Maple, September 16, 2023 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Upon the roll call, the following Trustee voted:

Ayes: Trustees White, Savopoulos, Milenkovic, Torres, Kapolnek and Hrejsa
Mayor Walik declared the motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Public Works is getting everything ready for the kids going back to school. They are getting the trees trimmed and painting the markings on the street. We just came from Home School where Detective Ortiz cooked hot dogs for the kids at a back-to-school event. We have Family Day coming up. We are still looking for volunteers for the food.

CLERK'S REPORT: The clerk provided information concerning that the Stickney Township Assessor's office is open for tax appeals. Days and hours were given for their office. She also gave information on the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning provided a sizable amount of information in their Community Data Snapshot series 2023. It provides information obviously taken from the Census.

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

Trustee White: He reminded us that during the week of Labor Day, September 4, the garage pick up will be delayed. Our next meeting will be September 5th. On August 25, at 10:00 a.m. we will have a bid opening concerning the paving of 41st and 40th Street and part of East Avenue. Hopefully we will be able to accept one of those bids. The Mayor interjected that these are paid for through a grant from Cook County. It is no cost to the taxpayers.

Trustee Savopoulos: A tentative Zoning Board meeting was discussed.

Trustee Milenkovic: There was a Tree Board meeting on August 9th at 3:30. We are ordering twelve trees for our lottery. We received only four requests from residents this year. During the most recent storm three trees at Home School were damaged. We will replace them in different spots. We are planting one on East Avenue between 42nd and 43rd where the water main project took place. Planting will be done in the middle of October. At 4143 Home we will plant a Maple, at 4129 Wisconsin will get a Maple, 4401 Maple will get an Oak and 4245 Gunderson will get an Oak. This is our Ten-Year Tree City Anniversary.

Trustee Torres: She announced the Pet Fest on September 16th, and the Haunted Hayride and pumpkin patch on October 21. We will have a paper shredding event on August 19th for residents only. Flyers were sent in the mail.

Trustee Hrejsa: Our Family Day is September 3. It includes fireworks. Volunteers are needed.

The Mayor reminded the audience of Music in the Park this Wednesday. Little League is cooking. The bands have been extended for two more weeks.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Public Works Supervisor Joe Lopez: We have our annual shredding event on August 19th for Stickney residents only. He explained that Waste Management locks it in a bid and takes it away for the shredding. We get a certificate as to how much we collected. Last year it was the most collected ever. Small electronic appliances can be brought to this event as well. He thanked the Board for the beautiful new truck. It is currently being outfitted for the snowplow. In addition, there is a wet land area for planting. We sought assistance from resident Mr. Kotnor who is a horticulturist. He helped make the planting suggestions to revitalize the area. At a later time, we will be placing signage identifying the names of the plants. These plants are attractive to bees and butterflies.

Police Chief James Sasseti: Reported that the recent open house on August 5th of the police station had close to 300 people attending. He thanked those from the police department and other departments that helped out. Trustee Hrejsa helped out with the balloons. During the month of July, we responded to 2128 calls. This was our highest call volume yet. We are constantly seeing our call volume increase. All the new squad cars that we have purchased since the 4th quarter of last year have been delivered, striped and outfitted. You will start seeing the entire fleet of white squad cars on the street. We are thinning them out and using them less in order to give us more longevity to stay within the warranty period and keep the miles down.

He then provided the bad news. The Cook County Department of Transportation will start redoing the Central Avenue bridge. It is estimated to be a two-year project. Commencing on September 1st the Central bridge will be down to one lane of traffic in each direction. They will be narrow ten-foot lanes. It is creating a huge public safety impairment for us. He directed our four Watch Commanders to put together an action response plan for incidents that happen on the Central bridge. If there is an accident we will not be able to get to it. We encourage you to avoid the Central bridge for the next two years. We may have to go to Cicero Avenue or Harlem Avenue and circle back to get to people who are injured in accidents. The on and off ramps will be one lane also. Our dispatch will direct non-injury accidents and will instruct people to go directly to the police station. We will not even send police there. It is only one way up and one way down. He encouraged everybody to avoid the Central bridge. You should have received a card in the mail alerting you to this construction project.

We will do some Facebook and some other things to let our residents know. They are putting up temporary lights. Go to Harlem. IDOT will do the snow removal on Central during this construction.

Fire Chief Jeff Boyajian: He has been in communication with the chiefs in surrounding communities to come up with a plan for responses on the top of the Central bridge. It effects ambulances from Chicago going to MacNeal. They will have to reroute Central Stickney and Bedford Park . We have been in contact with them that it is coming. They should use Cicero or Harlem for responses. Depending on where it is located on the bridge, we would respond from the north and Forest View will respond from the south. We were updated on the UTV that the Board approved to purchase, it is now 98% completed. It is sitting out front of the Village Hall for people to view. It is nicely lettered and has its lights on. The only thing it is missing is the patient transport carrier in the back.

There being no further business, Trustee White moved, duly seconded by Trustee Savopoulos that the meeting be adjourned. Upon which the Board adopted the motion at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey McAdams, Village Clerk

Approved by me this 5th of September, 2023

Jeff Walik, President