

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN PARK
HELD IN THE POLICE STATION COMMUNITY ROOM
AT 9451 BELMONT AVENUE
April 06, 2026**

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. CALL TO ORDER: Village President Pedersen called to order the Board of Trustees of the Village of Franklin Park in session at 7:00 p.m.

III. ROLL CALL; ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Village Clerk April J Arellano called the roll:

Present at Board Meeting: Mr. Barrett F. Pedersen (Village President), Ms. April J Arellano (Village Clerk), and Joseph Montana (Village Attorney)

Trustees (Present in the Room):

Ms. Irene Avitia

Ms. Karen Special,

Mr. John Johnson,

Mr. William "Bill" Ruhl,

Mr. Andres "Andy" Ybarra

Mr. Gilbert Hagerstrom

Department Heads:

Thomas Ferris (Police Chief)

Mark Stewart (Fire Chief)

Dave Gonzalez (Village Comptroller)

Nick Weber (Utilities Commissioner)

Lisa Manzo (Deputy Building Director)

Nick Walny (Director of Community Development and Zoning)

Lisa Anthony (Director of Human Resources & Operations)

Tom McCabe (Village Engineer)

Dan Corcoran (IT Director)

Dafne Henriquez (Assistant Village Engineer)

The Village Clerk declared a quorum was present.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. In summary, Firefighter/Paramedic, Mr. Bart Borowiec stated negotiations began in December 2024, but no action has been taken since. He noted that two members are prepared to submit their resignations, with the possibility of additional resignations forthcoming. During his time, membership has rapidly declined from 43 to 31 members. Mr. Borowiec stated that this trend is not sustainable for the fire department and is expected to worsen. This is a matter of public safety. He also reported that multiple attempts to communicate with legal counsel have gone unanswered. Mr. Borowiec stated that the overtime budget is at its highest
2. Legal Counsel, Joe Montana stated that his office has communicated with the union legal counsel to set a schedule to go forward with mitigation

3. In summary, Firefighter/Paramedic, Mr. Peter Hassett discussed the impact of 24-hour work schedules, noting concerns including sleep deprivation, depression, and increased anxiety. He stated that staffing shortages have heightened these risks and could potentially increase the likelihood of firefighter injury. He further reported that some members have been required to work 48-hour shifts. Mr. John expressed concern that these conditions could elevate risk factors and hopes the department does not become the subject of a headline as a result of the current conditions
4. In summary, Firefighter/Paramedic Mr. Kevin Bartnicki reported that the demands of overtime and current staffing shortages have caused him to miss important moments in his child's life. He stated that these pressures have also affected his home life, as his wife is experiencing added strain managing her work schedule, which may place her employment at risk. Mr. Bartnicki noted that many members are facing similar challenges and have considered seeking employment elsewhere with more competitive wages. He requested the Board's help in identifying a solution to the current situation

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. FINANCE AND SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEES, (Mr. Johnson, Chair)

1. MR. JOHNSON REPORTED HE DID NOT HAVE REPORTS FROM EITHER FINANCE OR SPECIAL EVENTS. HE STATED VILLAGE COMPTROLLER WILL GO OVER FINANCIAL REPORTS DURING STAFF REPORTS

2. WATER AND SEWER/FLEET MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE, (Ms. Avitia, Chair)

1. MS. AVITIA REPORTED 3 MAINBREAKS
2. MS. AVITIA REPORTED THE SHUT OFF LIST OF 119 RESIDENTS WENT DOWN TO 14, AND SCHEDULED FOR SHUT OFF
3. MS. AVITIA REPORTED STAFF REBUILT THE FIRE HYDRANT AT 9400 KING
4. MS. AVITIA REPORTED THE PUMP AT 17TH LIFT STATIONS PUMP 2, HAD TO BE PULLED TO HAVE IT REBUILT
5. MS. AVITIA REPORTED STAFF PICKED UP GARBAGE AROUND TOWN FILLING 41 BAGS
6. MS. AVITIA REPORTED 2 MANHOLES HAD TO BE REBUILT AT 10440 GRAND AVE
7. MS. AVITIA REPORTED STAFF FINISHED THE MONTH WITH 5" OF RAIN. JUST 6 DAYS INTO APRIL WE ARE AT 1.8" OF RAIN. IT'S BEEN A RAINY SPRING WITH ONLY 1 REPORT OF STANDING WATER IN THE STREET AT SCHILLER & GUSTAV DUE TO A CLOGGED STREET DRAIN
8. MS. AVITIA REPORTED CREWS RESET 2 B- BOXES AT 2846 RUBY & 2825 HAWTHORNE
9. MS. AVITIA REPORTED M.E. SIMPSON IS BACK IN TOWN DOING LEAK DETECTION COVING 87 MILES OF WATER MAIN FINDING 15 LEAKS. 12 OF THE 15 HAVE BEEN REPAIRED

3. POLICE AND FIRE COMMITTEE, (Mr. Ruhl, Chair)

1. ON BEHALF OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, MR. RUHL REPORTED THE DEPARTMENT LOGGED 2,709 CALLS FOR SERVICE, INCLUDING 609 TRAFFIC STOPS. OFFICERS MADE 51 ARRESTS, ISSUED 353 STATE TRAFFIC CITATIONS, 45 COMPLIANCE CITATIONS, 507 PARKING CITATIONS, AND 21 LOCAL ORDINANCE CITATIONS
2. MR. RUHL REPORTED OFFICER JIM MCCROARY WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE HAS BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY STARTING APRIL 16TH, HE IS EXPECTED TO BE DEPLOYED FOR APPROXIMATELY 1 YEAR
3. ON BEHALF OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, MR. RUHL REPORTED THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVED 324 SERVICE CALLS

4. MR. RUHL REPORTED FIRE FIGHTER / PARAMEDIC ARNEL SINANAFIC HAS ATTENDED TRAINING THROUGH LOYOLA HOSPITAL AND IS NOW RECOGNIZED BY LOYOLA AS THE PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY CARE COORDINATOR FOR THE FRANKLIN PARK FIRE DEPARTMENT
 5. MR. RUHL REPORTED THERE ARE 3 FIRE FIGHTER / PARAMEDIC OPENINGS AND 3 FIRE FIGHTER / PARAMEDIC OFF ON INJURY
4. **STREETS, ALLEYS, AND FLEET MAINTENANCE (Mr. Ybarra, Chair)**
 1. MR. YBARRA REPORTED 2 VEHICLES WENT TO THE FLEET DEPARTMENT FOR REPAIR
 2. MR. YBARRA REPORTED 2 TEMPORARY STREET PATCHES WERE DONE FOR WATER MAIN BREAKS AND VARIOUS AREAS OF TOWN WERE POT HOLE PATCHED
 3. MR. YBARRA REPORTED 5 SIGNS WERE INSTALLED, GRAFFITI WAS REMOVED FROM STREET LIGHT POLES, CREW ASSISTED THE I.T. DEPARTMENT FOR MAINTENANCE ON VILLAGE CAMERAS, AND MAINTENANCE WAS DONE ON THE FOUNTAIN AT JOE LAURO PLAZA BEFORE TURNING ON THE WATER
 4. MR. YBARRA REPORTED, ALL MAIN STREETS WERE SWEPT. THE RESIDENTIAL STREET SWEEPING ROUTES STARTED APRIL 1ST
5. **PROPERTY, PLANNING, ZONING, BUILDING, AND TREE PRESERVATION COMMISSION, (Ms. Special, Chair)**
 1. ON BEHALF OF THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT, MS. SPECIAL REPORTED 184 CONTRACTORS APPLIED AND REGISTERED FOR LICENSES, 81 BUILDING PERMITS WERE APPLIED FOR, 12 ELECTRICAL, 2 SIGN, 7 FIRE, 1 DUMPSTER and 2 OUTDOOR CAFÉ PERMITS WERE APPLIED FOR A TOTAL OF 100 PERMITS
 2. MS. SPECIAL REPORTED 12 PROPERTY CLOSINGS, 3 NEW BUSINESS APPLIED FOR OCCUPANCY AND 5 NEW OCCUPANCY CERTIFICATES WERE ISSUED
 3. ON BEHALF OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ZONING, MS. SPECIAL DID NOT HAVE A REPORT
6. **HUMAN RESOURCES, SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES AND SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE, (Mr. Hagerstrom, Chair)**
 1. MR. HAGERSTROM ANNOUNCED THE DATE FOR THE ANNUAL SENIOR LUNCHEON ON APRIL 15, 2026. THIS EVENT WILL BE HELD AT NORTH PARK
 2. MR. HAGERSTROM ANNOUNCED THE PARK DISTRICT WILL BE HOSTING EARTH DAY ON SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH FROM NOON TO 2PM AT NORTH PARK. IN ADDITION TO ALL OF THE EARTH FRIENDLY VENDOR BOOTHS, RESIDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO DROP OFF THEIR UNUSED/ EXPIRED MEDICATIONS, OLD ELECTRONICS FOR RECYCLING AND SHRED ANY OLD OR PERTINENT DOCUMENTS

VI. STAFF REPORTS AND COMMENTS: DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS
NONE

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

(Items on the Consent Agenda will be enacted or approved by a single motion or omnibus vote. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless so requested by a member of the Village Board, in which case that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in the normal sequence of the Agenda.)

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM:
 - (a) THE MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2026
2. APPROVAL OF VOUCHER EXPENDITURES LIST IN THE AMOUNT OF:
\$3,458,311.81
3. RESOLUTION NO. 2526 R
A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A CLASS 6B REAL ESTATE TAX ASSESSMENT APPLICATION BY FRANKLIN PARK JM VENTURES FOR AN INDUSTRIAL FACILITY LOCATED AT 11227 FRANKLIN AVENUE, FRANKLIN PARK, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS (PIN: 12-19-400-143-0000)
4. RESOLUTION NO. 2526 R
A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A CLASS 6B REAL ESTATE TAX ASSESSMENT APPLICATION BY SEEFRIED INDUSTRIAL PROPERTIES FOR AN INDUSTRIAL FACILITY LOCATED AT 11330 MELROSE AVENUE, FRANKLIN PARK, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS (PIN: 12-19-400-069-0000)
5. ORDINANCE NO. 2526 G
AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AN AGREEMENT TO CONTRACT FOR GRASS CUTTING SERVICES BY AND BETWEEN THOMAS HERRERA LANDSCAPING SERVICES AND THE VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN PARK, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
6. ORDINANCE NO. 2526 G
AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE FRANKLIN PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT AND THE VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN PARK, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, FOR THE USE OF THE VILLAGE OWNED DOWNTOWN PLAZA FOR PROGRAMS AND EVENTS
7. ORDINANCE NO. 2526 G
AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN PARK, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, PROVIDING FOR A FEASIBILITY STUDY AND REPORT WITH RESPECT TO THE DESIGNATION OF A CERTAIN AREA AS A TAX INCREMENT FINANCING REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT AREA (PROPOSED AMENDMENT ONE TO SEYMOUR WAVELAND TIF DISTRICT)
8. ORDINANCE NO. 2526 G
AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN PARK, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, PROVIDING FOR A FEASIBILITY STUDY AND REPORT WITH RESPECT TO THE DESIGNATION OF A CERTAIN AREA AS A TAX INCREMENT FINANCING REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT AREA (PROPOSED DOWNTOWN GATEWAY TIF DISTRICT)

9. ORDINANCE NO. 2526 G

AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN PARK, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, PROVIDING FOR A FEASIBILITY STUDY AND REPORT WITH RESPECT TO THE DESIGNATION OF A CERTAIN AREA AS A TAX INCREMENT FINANCING REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT AREA (PROPOSED MARTINS TIF DISTRICT)

10. MOTION TO WAIVE BID REQUIREMENTS AND APPROVE THE PROPOSAL FROM STANDARD EQUIPMENT, ELMHURST, ILLINOIS, TO REPAIR THE 2015 PELICAN STREET SWEEPER IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$45,096.19, TO ENSURE THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE RESIDENTS AND AUTHORIZE THE OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS OF THE VILLAGE TO EXECUTE THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS AND TAKE SUCH ACTION TO EFFECTUATE SAME

(Village Clerk Arellano read aloud each of the items that were identified on the consent agenda and under consideration by the Village Board before final action on the items identified on the consent agenda occurred)

Motion made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Ms. Avitia to approve the Consent Agenda as presented

*Roll Call: Ayes – Ms. Special, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Ruhl, Mr. Ybarra, Ms. Avitia and Mr. Hagerstrom
Nay - 0. Absent – 0. Abstain – 0*

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

IX. NEW BUSINESS

NONE

X. COMMENTS FROM THE CLERK:

None

XI. COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT:

None

XII. CLOSED/EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Pedersen stated there is a need to go into executive session for “Salary Schedules for one or More Classes of Employees 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2) and Collective Bargaining Negotiations Matters 5ILCS 120/2(c)(2)”

Motion made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Ybarra to go into Executive Session at 7:27 p.m. for “Salary Schedules for one or More Classes of Employees 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2) and Collective Bargaining Negotiations Matters 5ILCS 120/2(c)(2)”

Roll Call: Ayes –Mr. Ruhl, Ms. Avitia, Ms. Special, Mr. Ybarra, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Hagerstrom
Nay – 0. Absent – 0. Abstain – 0

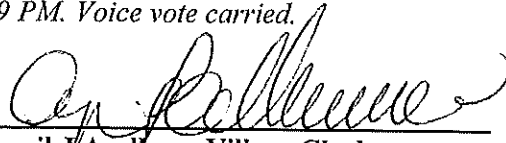
RETURNED FROM CLOSED SESSION AT 8:18 P.M.

Village Clerk, April Arellano, stated to let the record reflect that all members returned. No action was taken in Closed Session

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Hagerstrom to adjourn at 8:19 PM. Voice vote carried.

ATTEST



April J. Arellano, Village Clerk