

**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
JANUARY 20, 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 Mr. John Wise (Village Attorney)

Trustees (Present in the Room):

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)
Frank Grieshamer (Treasurer)
Nick Weber (Deputy Utilities Commissioner)
Lisa Manzo (Deputy Building Department)
Nick Walny (Director of Community Development and Zoning)
Dan Corcoran (IT Director)
Tom McCabe (Village Engineer)
Dafne Henriquez (Assistant Village Engineer)

The Village Clerk declared a quorum was present.

IV. ADMINISTRATION OF OATH

Village Clerk Arellano administered the oath of office to Nicholas Weber as Franklin Park Utilities Commissioner

Village Clerk Arellano administered the oath of office to Kathryn Sexton as Franklin Park as member of the board of Trustees of the Firefighter's Pension Fund

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. NONE

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

1. MR. JOHNSON ANNOUNCED THE DATE OF THE ANNUAL STAND DOWN EVENT AT THE AMERICAN LEGION, JANUARY 25. THEY ARE ACCEPTING NEW OR GENTLY USED CLOTHING, BLANKETS, TOILETRIES WHICH CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT THE LEGION AFTER 4PM

2. ON BEHALF OF THE FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT, MR. JOHNSON DID NOT HAVE ANYTHING TO REPORT
2. **WATER AND SEWER/FLEET MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE, (Ms. Avitia, Chair)**
 1. ON BEHALF OF MS. AVITIA, MS. SPECIAL REPORTED 2 MAIN BREAKS AND REPLACED 1 LEAD SERVICE
 2. MS. SPECIAL REPORTED THE SEWER DIVISION HAD AN EMERGENCY MANHOLE REPAIR AT 9033 WALNUT
 3. MS. SPECIAL REPORTED THE SEWER STAFF JET CLEANED 350 FEET AND TELEVISED THE 3000 BLOCK OF GEORGE STREET WITH THE SEWER DIVISION CAMERA TRUCK AND THE VACTOR TRUCK USING 535 GALLONS OF WATER. STAFF ALSO JET THE 3100 BLOCK OF DORA CLEANING 1,116 FEET USING 2,350 GALLONS OF WATER
 4. MS. SPECIAL REPORTED STAFF ALSO CLEANED THE STORM LINE AT 3541 BRITA JUNCTION PARK STORM LINE THAT SERVICES THE RESIDENTS BACK YARDS ON NICHOLS AVENUE AND THEY JETTED 400 FEET USING 620 GALLONS OF WATER
 5. MS. SPECIAL REPORTED STAFF IS WORKING ON THE MAIN PUMP HOUSE
 6. MS. SPECIAL REPORTED WITH THE BREAK IN THE SNOW, STAFF IS OUT PICKING UP GARBAGE AROUND TOWN. THEY FILLED UP 45 BAGS OF GARBAGE
3. **POLICE AND FIRE COMMITTEE, (Mr. Ruhl, Chair)**
 1. ON BEHALF OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, MR RUHL DID NOT HAVE ANYTHING TO REPORT
 2. ON BEHALF OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, MR. RUHL REPORTED THE DEPARTMENT IS DOWN 3 FIREFIGHTERS/PARAMEDICS
 3. MR. RUHL REPORTED IN 2025, 270 SMOKE ALARMS WERE INSTALLED IN 55 RESIDENTIAL HOMES. SINCE THE START OF THE PROGRAM IN 2021, 855 SMOKE DETECTORS HAS BEEN INSTALLED IN 172 RESIDENTIAL HOMES
 4. MR. RUHL REPORTED FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC BRIAN ZAKOWSKI WAS AWARDED PARAMEDIC OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR 2025
 5. MR. RUHL REPORTED IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVED 342 CALLS FOR SERVICE AND A TOTAL OF 4138 CALLS FOR 2025
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 ALL MAINS WERE SWEEP
 3. MR. YBARRA REPORTED 2 TREE TRIM REQUESTS WERE COMPLETED
 4. MR. YBARRA REPORTED STAFF WORKED ON REMOVING CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS, THERE WERE 3 SNOW EVENTS IN THE LAST 2 WEEKS
 5. MR. YBARRA REPORTED STAFF WORKED ON SNOWPLOW MAINTENANCE AND THE STREET DIVISION COMPLETED THE FIRST WEEK OF CHRISTMAS TREE PICK-UP, AND VARIOUS AREAS WERE POTHOLE PATCHED
5. **PROPERTY, PLANNING, ZONING, BUILDING, AND TREE PRESERVATION COMMISSION, (Ms. Special, Chair)**
 1. ON BEHALF OF THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT, MS. SPECIAL REPORTED 63 CONTRACTORS APPLIED AND REGISTERED FOR LICENSES, 27 BUILDING PERMITS WERE APPLIED FOR, 8 ELECTRICAL, 3 SIGNS, 6 FIRE, 0 DUMPSTER PERMITS WERE APPLIED FOR A TOTAL OF 44 PERMITS
 2. MS. SPECIAL REPORTED 10 PROPERTY CLOSINGS, 6 NEW BUSINESSES APPLIED FOR OCCUPANCY AND 1 NEW OCCUPANCY CERTIFICATES WERE ISSUED
 3. ON BEHALF OF THE TREE PRESERVATION COMMISSION, MS. SPECIAL REPORTED THE FRANKLIN PARK TREE BOARD APPLIED FOR A TREE TOOLKIT GRANT FROM MORTON ARBORETUM AND THE APPLICATION WAS ACCEPTED.

THIS GRANT CONSISTS OF 10 SHOVELS, 5 HARD RAKES, 2 PICKAXES, 10 PRUNERS, 10 LOPPERS, 5 SOIL KNIVES, 10 TARPS, 10 BUCKETS, 2 SOIL PROBES, ALONG WITH EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS. OUR TREE BOARD CHAIR RAMONA MICHAEL IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS SUCCESSFUL EFFORT

4. MS. SPECIAL REPORTED THE DIRECTOR OF SUSTAINABILITY, FORESTRY, PARKWAYS AND FACILITIES, ANDY SMOLEN SUBMITTED THE PAPERWORK FOR TREE CITY USA AND TREE CITY USA GROWTH AWARD TO THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, WAS ACCEPTED AND APPROVED FRANKLIN PARK'S APPLICATION
5. MS. SPECIAL REPORTED MORTON ARBORETUM IS OFFERING THE VILLAGE FREE TREES FOR THE SPRING 2026 PLANTING SEASON. THESE TREES ARE IN CONJUNCTION WITH VOLUNTEER GROUPS DOING A PLANTING PROJECT IN ONE AREA. PAST VOLUNTEER PROJECTS WITH DONATED TREES INCLUDES 68 TREES PLANTED ON THE FRANKLIN PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY PROPERTY, 33 TREES PLANTED ON THE 3100 AND 3000 BLOCKS OF CULLERTON, 39 TREES PLANTED ON KING STREET EAST OF ROSE STREET, 87 TREES PLANTED ON THE KING STREET PUMPING STATION PROPERTY AND 52 TREES PLANTED ON THE EASTSIDE OF 25TH AVENUE FROM FULLERTON TO GRAND. PRESENTLY I AM SEARCHING FOR A LOCATION IN TOWN THAT HAS ROOM FOR 50 TREES TO BE PLANTED. THANKS TO ARBORETUM FOR THE DONATION OF 279 TREES
6. ON BEHALF OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ZONING, MS. SPECIAL REPORTED ON JANUARY 13TH, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, ENGINEERING, AND PUBLIC WORKS STAFF MET WITH CHRISTOPHER BURKE ENGINEERING FOR A KICKOFF MEETING REGARDING THE CROWN ROAD STORMWATER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT. THE PROJECT WILL SEEK TO REDUCE SURFACE FLOODING IN THE AREA AROUND CROWN RD AND ALLEVIATE STRAIN ON EXISTING DRAINAGE INFRASTRUCTURE. THE SITE WILL ALSO INCLUDE A POCKET PARK FOR THE COMMUNITY TO ENJOY ON A VACANT SITE AT CROWN, SCHILLER, AND HOUSTON. THE PROJECT IS BEING FUNDED BY A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT AND BY STATE REPRESENTATIVE NORMA HERNANDEZ'S OFFICE THROUGH DCEO

6. HUMAN RESOURCES, SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES AND SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE, (Mr. Hagerstrom, Chair)

1. MR. HAGERSTROM STATED HE DID NOT HAVE A REPORT

VII. STAFF REPORTS AND COMMENTS: DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS

1. Assistant Village Engineer, Dafne Henriquez discussed updates on Trainfo beacons. She reported that there are currently 3 sensors, on Ruby, Edgington and 25th Street. These sensors are essential for gathering data for the underpass study

VIII. 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, JANUARY 05, 2026
2. APPROVAL OF VOUCHER EXPENDITURES LIST IN THE AMOUNT OF:
\$ 1,575,064.45

3. RESOLUTION NO. 2526 R
A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN PARK, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH RIGHT OF WAY ACQUISITIONS, INCORPORATED FOR PROFESSIONAL NEGOTIATION SERVICES FOR THE GRAND AVENUE TRAFFIC SIGNAL PROJECT
4. ORDINANCE NO. 2526 VC
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER SIX OF TITLE SIX OF THE VILLAGE CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN PARK, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS (HANDICAPPED RESERVED PARKING SPACE FOR 2927 WILLOW STREET)
5. ORDINANCE NO. 2526 VC
AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN PARK, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, AMENDING SECTIONS 9-9-2 AND 9-9-3 OF THE ZONING CODE REGARDING THE USE MATRIX TABLE AND PRINCIPAL USE STANDARDS (ZBA: 26-01)
6. ORDINANCE NO. 2526 VC
AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN PARK, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, AMENDING SECTION 9-2-3 OF THE ZONING CODE REGARDING PRIMARY, ACCESSORY, TEMPORARY AND PROHIBITED USE DEFINITIONS (ZBA: 26-02)
7. ORDINANCE NO. 2526 VC
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 6-6F-8 OF CHAPTER SIX OF TITLE SIX OF THE VILLAGE CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN PARK, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS TO ELIMINATE THE HANDICAPPED RESERVED PARKING SPACE AT 3133 SARAH STREET
8. ORDINANCE NO. 2526 G
AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A FINANCIAL SERVICE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN GW & ASSOCIATES AND THE VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN PARK, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
9. MOTION TO APPROVE SUPPLEMENT NUMBER ONE TO THE SCOPE OF SERVICES WITH SE3, LLC, LISLE, ILLINOIS, FOR THE WOLF ROAD AND ADDISON AVENUE INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$31,648.00 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 Mr. Ybarra to approve the Consent Agenda as presented

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

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
NONE

X. NEW BUSINESS
NONE

XI. COMMENTS FROM THE CLERK:
Village Clerk Arellano congratulated newly sworn in Utilities Commissioner Nick Weber on his appointment

XII. COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT:
Village President Pedersen gave updates on various items. He met with MWRD Director John Murray to discuss extensions and modifications to the storm water credit trading program. He stated the program expired in 2025 and only one municipality applied, Elk Grove Village Stormwater credit trading is a beneficial process that helps developers meet their stormwater requirements while generating new revenue for public landowners

Village President, along with Village Clerk Arellano and Trustee Johnson, attended Suburban Welding 75th anniversary. Village President Pedersen stated Suburban Welding does a lot of business with local businesses in town

Village President Pedersen sat on the Building Owners and Managers Association Mayor's forum regarding the state of commercial real estate

XIII. CLOSED/EXECUTIVE SESSION
Mayor Pedersen stated there is a need to go into executive session for "Purchase or Lease of Real Property, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5)," "Salary Schedules for one or More Classes of Employees 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)" and "Collective Bargaining Negotiations Matters 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)"

Motion made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Special to go into Executive Session at 7:30 p.m. for "Pending Litigation, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)," and "Collective Bargaining Negotiations Matters 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)"

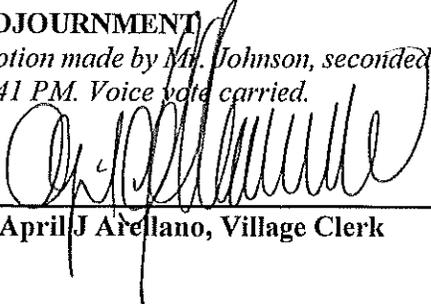
Roll Call: Ayes –Mr. Ruhl, Ms. Special, Mr. Ybarra, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Hagerstrom
Nay – 0. Absent – Ms. Avitia. Abstain – 0

RETURNED FROM CLOSED SESSION AT 8:40 P.M.

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

XIV. ADJOURNMENT
Motion made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Hagerstrom to adjourn at 8:41 PM. Voice vote carried.

ATTEST



April J Arellano, Village Clerk