

**VILLAGE OF MATTESON BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

**MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2018**

**VILLAGE HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**4900 VILLAGE COMMONS, MATTESON, IL**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Village President Chalmers-Currin called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Clerk Brown called the roll. Elected Officials Present were Village President Chalmers-Currin, Trustee Brown, Trustee Cotton, Trustee Farr, Trustee Hardin, Trustee Satchell, Trustee Shorter.

**ABSENT TRUSTEE(S):** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** Anthony Burton, Deputy Village Administrator/Director of Recreational Services; Michael Jones, Police Chief; Ben Wilson, Director of Economic Development; Bart Gilliam, Director of Public Works; Chris Schwalbe, Fire Chief; Kathleen Murray, Director of Human Resources; Ron Heller, Finance Director/Budget Officer; Toni Ashmore, Director of Community Affairs; Angie Simington, Deputy Village Clerk/Recording Secretary.

**VILLAGE ATTORNEY PRESENT:** Mary Ryan Norwell, Odelson Sterk, LTD

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:** Robin Range asked what is the leadership's plan concerning redlining. She also said she would volunteer to help the Village with economic development.

Bryan McGraw asked if the Village has looked at trending. He suggested the Village pursue businesses that are part of the long-term goal of the Village. He said that he'd like to know where the Village is on carrying out its strategic plan. Mr. Burton responded by saying for the most part, the Village is ahead of the economic trend.

Belinda James came before the board to discuss the difficulty she has had getting the Pace Para Transit to pick her up and take her to class in the evenings to Governor State University. She said the bus is not available after a certain time. President Chalmers-Currin asked her to discuss with Administrator Burton and he would investigate further as to how the Village could assist her.

Rick Siska commented that he has walked through his neighborhood and noticed some possible Ordinance violations. He suggested that a list of Village Ordinances be sent to residents in the water bill.

Taiyuan Banks Tillmon wanted to know what State Representatives are doing for the Village of Matteson.

Cheryl Coleman asked if Economic Development meetings have resumed. She said that the Board, before the redevelopment of Brookmere subdivision, believed that more rooftops would help bring in more businesses. She said that businesses do not know how to diversify, the average household income of the Village has increased and the number of businesses has not. She said that our economy is based strongly on retail and that Matteson needs to be the place for a regional attraction.

Trustee Hardin said that we need a better plan for economic development and an agenda that meets the needs of the residents of Matteson.

Trustee Shorter said that we cannot control redlining and that small businesses are the blood line of the economy. The Village needs to diversify and not focus solely on big box stores.

President Chalmers-Currin said that Trustees Hardin and Shorter are on the Administration and Finance Committee and meetings will start again soon. She also encouraged everyone to view the video fighting for Class 8 of her testimony which is posted on the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Website.

Trustee Satchell said that their needs to be better communication and that if the Village were home rule we'd be able to impose some rules that we are currently unable to.

Christina Collins asked that the Trustees be more open minded when it comes to economic development of the village.

Administrator Burton shared the email address to the Carson's Store Representative in case anyone wanted to voice their opinion regarding the recent/abrupt store closing.

Nick Hale, President of Old Matteson HOA said that he was not in favor of tearing down Lincoln Mall and that Streets and Street Signs needs to be repaired and lawns needs to be maintained to present a nicer looking Village that could attract more businesses.

Mel Williams commented that stores come and go; the Village needs something big.

Jennifer Phillips commented that with stores closing, we are in a better position.

LaSharon Branch commented that some of the audience members have never been to a Matteson public meeting and that everyone needs to be proactive instead of reactive.

Rachel Wasira said that we need to create jobs, start small and boycott stores in other communities. She said she wants to be a part of the solution.

Trustee Cotton thanked Stephanie Stanford who said on the television news that she shops in Matteson and she shops here as often as she can. He also said that Amazon is not opening a store in our area because we shop on line and we are killing our brick and mortar stores.

Patrick Peterson wanted to know why the streets were blocked off at Central and Lincoln Highway on Friday and he said he shredded his Carson's card when he heard about the Matteson store closing and he contacted the corporate office. He added that if nothing improves, J.C. Penney will also be closing.

Chief Jones said there was an accident at Central and Lincoln Highway that is still under investigation so he was unable to share much detail.

Lionel Harris commented that the Village needs to consider the cost of buying goods on line and contact State Representatives about tax relief.

The Village Attorney said that if the Village were home rule certain taxes could be imposed.

President Chalmers-Currin asked the Village Administrator to schedule a Home Rule seminar to inform the residents about the pros and cons of the Village being home rule.

Dwayne Shipp said that with the sales tax revenue loss, he'd like to know how the Village is going to be able to sustain services in the Police Department, Fire Department and Public Works.

Ryan Jackson asked if anyone knows of any technical schools he can attend. Mr. Burton asked Mr. Jackson to contact his office.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Trustee Satchell made a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Trustee Brown.

Aye: Brown, Cotton, Farr, Hardin, Satchell, Shorter

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

**Consent Agenda Items:**

- Consideration of Minutes of the meeting of February 20, 2018-APPROVED
- Consideration of Salary, Overtime and Accounts Payable-APPROVED
- Consideration of a Resolution supporting the "Invest in Cook" grant application process.-APPROVED

**ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA:**

None

**ACTIVE AGENDA**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Trustee Hardin made a Motion to pass a Resolution in Support of a Class 8 Real Estate Incentive for the Occupation of Abandoned Property-with Special Circumstances of the Commercial Property located at 1031 Kostner Avenue Submitted by Kiddie Scholars, Inc. as presented. Seconded by Trustee Satchell.

Aye: Brown, Cotton, Farr, Hardin, Satchell, Shorter

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

**COMMENTS/REPORTS BY VILLAGE OFFICIALS:**

President Chalmers-Currin said that there is a possibility that Municipalities could lose the ability to offer Class 8. She also commended the Chief and Members of the Matteson Police Department and thanked them for all they do.

Trustee Satchell reminded everyone about the Green Power Day at J.C. Penney.

Trustee Shorter reminded everyone to take part in early voting at the Matteson Community Center.

Trustee Farr said that she attended the Police Awards and she congratulated the award recipients and the Police Department for a job well done.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Trustee Farr made a Motion for Adjournment at 9:10 p.m. Seconded by Trustee Brown.

Aye: Brown, Cotton, Farr, Hardin, Satchell, Shorter

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Respectfully Submitted,

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Yumeka Brown

Village Clerk