

Village of Peoria Heights
Departmental Meeting
July 6, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Everyone stood for a moment of silence and the Pledge to the Flag.

Upon calling roll, the following Trustees were present: Sarah DeVore, Jeff Goett, Beth Khazzam, David Marfell, Matthew Wigginton, and Brandon Wisenburg. Others present included Mayor Michael Phelan, Village Administrator and Chief of Police Dustin Sutton, and Village Clerk Stephanie Turner.

Trustee Marfell made a motion to approve the minutes from June 22, 2021. Trustee Khazzam seconded the motion. The Board voted 6-0 to approve the minutes.

Mayor Phelan opened the meeting to public comment.

Ms. April and Jamie Silver came forward to explain that they were proposing a Bike Your Way for MS event. The event will benefit MS and lead into the Tour de Farms event. This event would be on the trail, and they're excited to work with local communities to chair the event board as well as participants to form a team. Ms. Silver explained that they were requesting use of Tower Park on October 9, 2021. The event would start around 10:00 am with cyclists returning around noon for a lunch and celebration. Mayor Phelan thanked the Silvers for their presentation and explained how to seek event approval.

Hearing no additional comments, he closed the meeting to public comment and asked for old business to come before the Board. There was no old business so the Board moved on to new business.

Trustee DeVore made a motion to approve a special use permit for a digital sign at 4301-4303 N. Prospect Road. Trustee Goett seconded the motion. Trustee DeVore explained that Mr. Davenport had requested a permit to install a digital sign which was reviewed by the Zoning Board of Appeals and approved with conditions. Trustee DeVore explained that she believes there should not be a digital sign in the business district, but there is no codification regarding digital signs. She noted that the Board should review that section of code soon. Trustee DeVore made a motion to amend the motion to approve a special use permit in order to add the following conditions: the digital sign must be a monument style sign no taller than 7 ft using the bricking currently on the building and the bulbs for the sign must be 10mm or smaller, and to remove any restriction on hours of operation of sign so long as it has auto-dimming based on sunlight. Trustee Wisenburg seconded the amendment to the motion. Trustee Marfell commented it was a great compromise and solution. Trustee Wigginton asked about compromise. Trustee DeVore explained that the Board had the authority to deny the sign but compromising on the appearance was a win for everyone. Trustee Khazzam explained to Mr. Davenport she appreciated his efforts with the building and thanked Trustee DeVore for her work with Mr. Davenport on the issue. She also commented on the timing that the Village has approved its comprehensive plan but hasn't had a chance to act on coding changes. Trustee Khazzam noted that the business is on the edge of the business district where the Board might consider restricting digital signs in the future which made her more amenable to approving the sign. Mr. Davenport explained his intentions to beautify the property and the quality of the sign that he would be installing. Mr. Davenport stated he believed he could work with the conditions laid out though he expressed concerns about installing a sign so low to the ground. He asked the Board to reconsider the condition set by the

ZBA that the setback shall be 12 feet from the property line. He requested the height be raised to 8 feet as well. Trustee DeVore stated she wasn't willing to increase the height, but she was willing to consider amending the setback. Mayor Phelan noted the option was to defer the item for another two weeks or leave the amendment as is. Trustee DeVore again expressed she was firm on the height though she'd consider amending the setback as well to 10 feet. Trustee Khazzam asked Mr. Davenport if he would prefer to wait or to have a decision immediately. Mr. Davenport requested a decision. Trustee DeVore clarified her amendment, which was still under discussion, to remove a setback restriction for the digital sign. Trustee Wisenburg agreed with the changes to the amendment. The full amendment was as follows: the digital sign must be a monument style sign no taller than 7 ft using the bricking currently on the building, the bulbs for the sign must be 10mm or smaller, to remove any restriction on hours on operation of sign so long as it has auto-dimming based on sunlight, and to remove setback restrictions on the placement of the sign. The amendment passed 6-0. Trustee Wigginton asked Chief Sutton to comment public safety being so low to the ground. Chief Sutton stated he had no concerns. The Board approved the amended special use permit 6-0.

Trustee DeVore made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-1656: an Ordinance Amending Title 9 of the Village Code of the Village of Peoria Heights for the Purpose of Amending Chapter 8A to Require Registration of Properties Rented on a Short-Term Basis. Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. Trustee DeVore explained that the ordinance clarified language so short term rentals, like AirBnBs or VRBOs, would register for the landlord registration program. Ordinance 2021-1656 passed 6-0. Mayor Phelan noted that there had been interest from local communities in the Village's policies for regulating short term rentals.

Trustee DeVore made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-1657: an Ordinance Providing for the Vacation of Alley (East Duryea Avenue). Trustee Khazzam seconded the motion. Trustee DeVore explained the alley would be vacated to allow the proposed apartment complex green space. Ordinance 2021-1657 was approved 6-0.

Trustee DeVore opened the discussion of vacating the alley from War Memorial Drive to Division Avenue between Monroe Avenue and Faber Avenue. She explained the alley would be vacated for development of a gas station. Chief Sutton stated he's working with the Village's waste disposal company to find a solution for waste collection. Trustee DeVore noted that's her sole concern, but she believes that there's a workable solution. She noted that she believes it's necessary for the development of the property, and it would be a good opportunity for the Village. Mayor Phelan stated plans to move this to the next Board meeting for action. Trustee DeVore stressed that vacating the alley did not give site plan approval, and there would be additional hearings on the project.

Trustee Marfell opened the discussion of the purchase of a backhoe from Martin Equipment in the amount of \$127,900. He explained there was a quote for a 2021 backhoe including a hydraulic hammer. He said there were two backhoes which were getting old, and the purchase was included in the Water budget. Trustee Wisenburg asked if this was part of the plan for the water rate increase, and Clerk Turner stated it was.

Trustee Marfell opened the discussion of payment to D&D Sweeping in the amount of \$42,551 for MFT Spray Patching. Trustee Marfell stated spray patching was completed in June for multiple areas in the Village. Superintendent of Water, Mr. Chris Chandler, explained that Well No. 12 had been rehabbed, and it had passed its testing so it was in operation again. Superintendent of Streets, Mr. Mike Casey, stated Forest Park Drive would be closed July 15 for maintenance and tree trimming. He also stated that

there would be maintenance asphalt work along Prospect on July 12 so the southbound lane would be closed. Public Works has been moving through the Village trimming vegetation in the alleys.

Trustee Wigginton opened discussion of selling fire equipment. He stated that the Peoria Heights Fire Department is looking to sell engine 655 which is a 1976 8000 Ford tilt cab. The engine is not working currently. Fire Chief Thompson stated the department is also interested in selling another engine, an 1949 Seagraves, which isn't operational. The PHFD no longer has personnel to work on the equipment. Trustee Wisenburg asked if the engine had served the Village. Fire Chief Thompson stated it had. Trustee Wigginton explained the PHFD had reached out to the Wheels of Time Museum to see if they'd be interested in the vehicle, and they initially expressed interest but didn't pursue it. Fire Chief Thompson will research setting prices. Trustee Khazzam asked if it would come back to the Board prior to the sale, and Chief Sutton stated it would. She stated it could be an interesting piece of history if it could be made working again. Trustee DeVore asked if there was debt service on either vehicle after acknowledging it was unlikely, and Fire Chief Thompson assured her there was not.

Trustee Wigginton announced the PHFD had a pass the boot fundraiser about two weeks ago and had raised almost \$3,000 for the Association. On July 7, the Peoria Heights Police Department will be hosting a talk about safety for seniors at St. Thomas Church.

Mayor Phelan asked for miscellaneous business.

Chief Sutton updated the Board that the Village had received the last round of grant reimbursements in the amount of \$95,000 from DCEO. He stated the reimbursements were issued after paperwork was successfully completed and submitted, and he thanked Clerk Turner, Ms. Smesrud, and Ms. Witbracht for their hard work on all the grant programs the Village administered in the last year.

Trustee DeVore requested that the Board move forward on revising the code to remove the option of a digital sign in B-1 as well as requiring a special use permit for any sign for a commercial property. Mayor Phelan asked Trustee DeVore to work with Chief Sutton to discuss the changes.

Trustee Goett shared that Ms. Julie Bielfeldt had approached him to discuss a mural for Fired Up! He invited Ms. Bielfeldt forward to speak. She stated that the idea was to offer tiles for a 4' x 6' mural for the Bridge to Bridge event. The tiles would be reviewed and corrected by Fired Up! employees and then installed, possibly, in Village Hall.

Mayor Phelan reminded the Board that the Illinois Municipal League would be holding its annual conference in September. He also thanked the Board for completing work from the Village planning session. The Board will move forward with another planning session soon.

Trustee Goett made a motion to adjourn, and Trustee DeVore seconded the motion. The Board voted 6-0 to adjourn at 6:53 pm.

Michael Phelan, Mayor

Stephanie Turner, Village Clerk