

**CITY OF OAK FOREST**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**Tuesday**

**January 26, 2021**

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Mayor Kuspa called the City Council meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and the Roll Call as follows:

*Present:* Alderman Simon  
Alderman Wolf  
Alderman Selman  
Alderman Emmett  
Alderman Hortsman  
Alderman Danihel

*Also Present:* City Clerk John F. Janozik  
City Administrator Tim Kristin  
Bldg. Comm. Mike Forbes  
Info. Tech. Dir. Tom Rieman  
Econ.Comm. Dev. Dir. Travis Bandstra

*Absent:* Alderman Gray

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**3. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNITY CALENDER**

City Hall does remain open to the public, but social distancing and facemasks are required. However, the payment of water bills must be done by mail, online at [www.oak-forest.org](http://www.oak-forest.org), or dropped in the night depository box.

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The City has posted a part time job opportunity for a Code Enforcement Officer in our Building Department. Details are available at oak-forest.org.

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The annual Fleadh, sponsored by the Oak Forest Chamber of Commerce, is scheduled to take place on March 6, 2021, assuming restrictions

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related to COVID-19 allow this event. Registration is currently open for the Virtual 5K at oak-forest.org. More information regarding this event will be available as planning progresses.

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The City of Oak Forest is currently at Tier 1 Mitigations. This means that indoor service is available but limited to the lesser of 25 guests or 25% capacity of the room.

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City Hall has received numerous phone calls regarding questions about vaccinations. Cook County and Cook County Department of Public Health are pleased to offer COVID-19 vaccinations to those living or working in Cook County. Cook County is currently in Phase 1b which includes individuals 65 and over and frontline essential workers. Vaccination supply is extremely limited at this time so please be patient. For more information, you can call the Hotline at 833-308-1988 M-F 7am - 7pm Ct or sign up at the website: vaccine.cookcountyil.gov/.

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As of today, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 19,822 Oak Forest residents have been tested for COVID-19 with 2,471 positive cases of the virus. The City continues its efforts to assure resident's safety by complying with the Governor's Restore Illinois plan. The positivity rate for Region 10 - Southern Cook County - is 7.0%. I urge all residents to continue to socially distance, wear face coverings, and avoid large gatherings. More information can be found at [www.oak-forest.org](http://www.oak-forest.org).

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A zero contact, drive-thru COVID-19 test center will be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00am to 2:00pm at the Bremen Township Senior/Youth Complex, 15350 South Oak Park Avenue in Oak Forest. A drive-thru coronavirus test center has also opened at 7460 Duvan Drive in Tinley Park and offers same day rapid testing results.

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The new schedule for Metra's Rock Island Line takes effect on February 1<sup>st</sup>. This schedule is available at [www.oak-forest.org](http://www.oak-forest.org).

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According to the Cook County Treasurer, penalties on late payments for property tax installments in 2021 have been waived for two months. While the First Installment of your 2020 taxes is due on march 2, 2021, the application of late charges has been moved back to May 3, 2021. The Second Installment of 2020 taxes is due August 2, 2021 with the application of late charges moved back to October 1, 2021.

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Seniors whose annual household income is \$55,000 or less can apply now for the Senior Citizen Real Estate Tax Deferral Program, which issues loans to cover property tax payments. These loans are issued by the State of Illinois. More information is available at [www.oak-forest.org](http://www.oak-forest.org).

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As a reminder, after 2 inches of snow has fallen, there is no parking on city streets to allow Public Works Department crew members to clear and salt the streets efficiently and effectively. Vehicles must remain off streets for 12 hours after the end of snowfall or risk being fined and/or towed. It is also against city ordinance to shovel or blow snow from driveways into the streets as this can cause a hazard.

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This week's announcements had a lot of information on multiple topics. If anyone would like additional information or more details, especially seniors looking for vaccination sites, please feel free to call the Mayor's Office at City Hall 687-4050 extension 1005. Ask for Jim Richmond, he'll be happy to lead you in the right direction and give you whatever additional information you may need.

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**4. MOTION TO ESTABLISH CONSENT AGENDA**

Alderman Simon made the motion to establish consent agenda.

Alderman Danihel seconded.

**Roll Call vote was taken as follows:**

<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Alderman Simon			
Alderman Wolf			
Alderman Selman			
Alderman Emmett			
Alderman Hortsman			
Alderman Danihel			

Alderman Gray

The motion to establish consent agenda carried 6/6.

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**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Approval of Minutes**

1. City Council - January 12, 2021

**B. Consideration of the following Lists of Bills dated:**

1. Regular Bills: FY 2020-21 - January 26, 2021

**C. Consideration of the following minutes:**

1. Veterans Commission - November 19, 2020

2. Planning & Zoning - January 6, 2021

Alderman Danihel made the motion to approve Consent Agenda.

Alderman Selman seconded.

**Roll Call vote was taken as follows:**

<b><u>AYES</u></b>	<b><u>NAYS</u></b>	<b><u>ABSTAIN</u></b>	<b><u>ABSENT</u></b>
Alderman Danihel			Alderman Gray
Alderman Simon			
Alderman Wolf			
Alderman Selman			
Alderman Emmett			
Alderman Hortsman			

The motion to approve Consent Agenda carried 6/6.

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**6. ADMINISTRATION**

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A. Approval of Ordinance No. 2021-01-08220 regulating businesses in Oak Forest relating to the sale of puppies and kittens. The attached memo from City Administrator Kristin, dated January 26, 2021, provides supporting details.

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Alderman Wolf made the motion to approve Ordinance No. 2021-01-08210.

Alderman Danihel seconded.

City Administrator Kristin described the treatment of animals in puppy mills. The ordinance was championed by Alderman Gray, supported by the Animal Control Officer, and Friends of Oak Forest Animal Control. This proposed ordinance is a business license regulation for pet stores in Oak Forest. The ordinance would regulate businesses that are licensed by the City of Oak Forest under current business licensing provisions.

Administrator Kristin read a statement from Alderman Gray, who could not be present at the meeting; "I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your patience and understanding. I have missed several council meetings recently due to a health challenge that arose last year. I am one hundred percent focused on my treatment and recovery and as such may miss some future meetings as well. I look forward to the day when I can meet with all of you again in person. The ordinance language before you today is a result of a partnership between The Friends of Animal Control Commission and our wonderful Control Officer Melissa. When our commission was formed our goal and mission was to make Oak Forest one of the most animal friendly cities

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in the Southland. We have met that goal by finding rescue and new homes for our unclaimed and abandoned strays that find their way into our Animal Control system, saving hundreds of lives, and taxpayer resources as well. This ordinance prohibits any pet supply stores that may operate within our city from selling puppies, dogs, cats, and kittens that have been obtained from commercial breeders, known as puppy mills or backyard breeders. It does allow for, and encourages, any pet business to allow animal rescue organizations and local shelters to use their facility to promote adoption of homeless animals. This ordinance does not interfere with a person's ability to purchase a purebred animal from a reputable private breeder. Our ordinance models the ordinance used by the Humane Society of the United States and has recently been passed in Naperville and Joliet. By taking this step to eliminate the selling of animals born into and raised in horrific conditions in our town, our commission and our city will take another giant step forward in making Oak Forest a progressive animal friendly, humane, and no kill city."

Alderman Simon asked if it would affect him as an individual (i.e., his dog had puppies), and Administrator Kristen answered that it only affects licensed, regulated businesses in the City of Oak Forest. Alderman Simon then asked if the city has any businesses that would fall under this at the current time, to which Mayor Kuspa replied no, this is planning for the future.

**Roll Call vote was taken as follows:**

<b><u>AYES</u></b>	<b><u>NAYS</u></b>	<b><u>ABSTAIN</u></b>	<b><u>ABSENT</u></b>
Alderman Wolf			
Alderman Selman			
Alderman Emmett			
Alderman Hortsman			
Alderman Danihel			
			Alderman Gray
Alderman Simon			

The motion to approve Ordinance No. 2021-01-08220 carried 6/6.

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**7. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

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A. Approval of renewing a copier contract for the Public Works Department for five years with Proven IT of Tinley Park, Illinois at a total cost of \$16,200.00. The attached memo from Information Technology Director Rieman, dated January 20, 2021, provides supporting details.

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Alderman Simon made the motion to approve the purchase.

Alderman Emmett seconded.

Information Technology Director Rieman came forward and explained the contract with Proven IT.

**Roll Call vote was taken as follows:**

<b><u>AYES</u></b>	<b><u>NAYS</u></b>	<b><u>ABSTAIN</u></b>	<b><u>ABSENT</u></b>
Alderman Simon			
Alderman Wolf			
Alderman Selman			
Alderman Emmett			
Alderman Hortsman			
Alderman Danihel			
			Alderman Gray

The motion to approve the purchase carried 6/6.

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**8. BUILDING**

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A. Approval of Ordinance No. 2021-01-08230 authorizing the sale or disposal of a Ford Crown Victoria no longer necessary for the operation of the Building Department nor capable of providing reliable service. The attached memo from Building Commissioner Forbes, dated January 19, 2021, provides supporting details.

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Alderman Danihel made the motion to approve Ordinance No. 2021-01-08230.

Alderman Hortsman seconded.

Building Commissioner Forbes came forward to explain the reasoning behind the vehicle disposal.

**Roll Call vote was taken as follows:**

<b><u>AYES</u></b>	<b><u>NAYS</u></b>	<b><u>ABSTAIN</u></b>	<b><u>ABSENT</u></b>
Alderman Danihel			Alderman Gray
Alderman Simon			
Alderman Wolf			
Alderman Selman			
Alderman Emmett			
Alderman Hortsman			

The motion to approve Ordinance No. 2020-01-08230 carried 6/6.

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**9. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION**

None

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**10. OLD BUSINESS**

Alderman Selman questioned when the new lights at the intersection of 159<sup>th</sup> and Central will be in operation. Alderman Emmett let him know they were activated as of 6pm tonight.

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**11. NEW BUSINESS**

City Administrator Kristin reminded residents to sign up for city notifications via Everbridge. It is a free service, and the notifications can be in the form of calls, texts, and emails.

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**12. EXECUTIVE SESSION**



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Alderman Emmett made the motion to move to Executive Session.

Alderman Danihel seconded.

**Roll Call vote was taken as follows:**

<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Alderman Emmett			
Alderman Hortsman			
Alderman Danihel			
			Alderman Gray
Alderman Simon			
Alderman Wolf			
Alderman Selman			

The motion to move to Executive Session carried 6/6. The City Council meeting ended at 7:52pm.

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**13. ADJOURMENT**

Alderman Danihel made the motion to Adjourn.

Alderman Hortsman seconded.

**Roll Call vote was taken as follows:**

<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Alderman Danihel			
			Alderman Gray
Alderman Simon			
Alderman Wolf			
Alderman Selman			
Alderman Emmett			
Alderman Hortsman			

The motion to Adjourn carried 6/6. The meeting ended at 8:34pm.

  
MAYOR HENRY L. KUSPA