

CITY OF OAK FOREST
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday

February 9, 2021

Mayor Kuspa called the City Council meeting to order at 7:32 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
Treasurer JoAnn M. Kelly
PW Dir. Darlene Milanowicz
Econ.Comm. Dev. Dir. Travis Bandstra

Absent: Alderman Gray

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cook County President Toni Preckwinkle called in to speak with Mayor Kuspa and the Council. Mayor Kuspa announced that the City has recently received \$307,000.00 through a Department of Emergency Management Regional Security Grant to erect the new Communication Monopole, and \$320,000.00 has been provided to the City for Corona Relief Funding. Mayor Kuspa is looking forward to applying for funding in the Cook County Department of Transportation Highway Invest in Cook Grant Program. Mayor Kuspa thanked President Preckwinkle for the help she has given Oak Forest. President Preckwinkle announced that a balanced budget passed last November with no increase in property taxes, and then went on to detail some of the other programs being funded. President Preckwinkle noted the new mass vaccination sites in the South and Southwest parts of the county, with the Tinley Park Convention Center vaccinating 2,000 people a day.

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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, or dropped in the night depository box.

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

As President Preckwinkle said, vaccination sites are available, but it is difficult to get an appointment. 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.cookcountyl.gov/.

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.

The new schedule for Metra's Rock Island Line took effect on February 1st. The schedule is available at www.oak-forest.org.

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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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, effectively, and safely. 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.

If anyone would like additional information regarding city business or anything that was on the agenda please feel free to call the Mayor's Office at City Hall 687-4050 extension 1005.

4. MOTION TO ESTABLISH CONSENT AGENDA

Alderman Danihel made the motion to establish consent agenda.

Alderman Simon 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 establish consent agenda carried 6/6.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. City Council

- January 26, 2021

B. Consideration of the following Lists of Bills dated:

- 1. Regular Bills: FY 2020-21 - February 9, 2021
- 2. Supplemental Bills: FY 2020-21 - February 9, 2021

C. Consideration of the following minutes:

- 1. Emergency Telephone System Board (911) - January 5, 2021
- 2. Planning & Zoning - January 20, 2021

D. Consideration of the following reports:

- 1. Baxter & Woodman Project Status Report - January 29, 2021

Alderman Danihel made the motion to approve Consent Agenda.

Alderman Selman 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 approve Consent Agenda carried 6/6.

6. PUBLIC WORKS

- A. Approval of Resolution No. 2021-02-0390R assuring the City of Oak Forest's compliance with rules and regulations set forth by the Illinois Department of Transportation for work done on state highways in Oak Forest. The attached memo from Public Works Director Milanowicz, dated January 29, 2021, provides supporting details.

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Alderman Emmett made the motion to approve Resolution No. 2021-02-0390R.

Alderman Danihel seconded.

Public Works Director Milanowicz explained that this is for emergency work on water main replacements, repairs, or sewer repairs. This will eliminate the City needing to get a permit before doing emergency work.

Mayor Kuspa verified having this resolution means the City will not have to go back to IDOT and put up security bonds, etc. that a private contractor would have to. Director Milanowicz said he is correct, and it will be for any IDOT right-of-ways. Mayor Kuspa then asked about the installation of new corner sidewalks, and if that was part of IDOT. Director Milanowicz explain that is an ADA requirement.

Alderman Emmett continued on the topic of IDOT by mentioning the deplorable conditions under the viaducts, and wanted to know what IDOT is doing to correct missing sidewalks and exposed wires. Director Milanowicz informed him she had forwarded his concerns to the state RPR (resident engineer on the project) and has not received a response yet.

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 approve Resolution No. 2021-02-0390R carried 6/6.

B. Approval to purchase a Vermeer BC 1800XL Brush Chipper from Vermeer Midwest of Aurora, Illinois at a total budgeted cost of

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\$67,424.00. The attached memo from Public Works Director Milanowicz, dated January 22, 2021, provides supporting details.

Alderman Simon made the motion to approve the purchase.

Alderman Danihel seconded.

Public Works Director Milanowicz stated that the current chipper is fourteen years old, and has chipped thousands of trees. Going into the City maple tree removal the chipper will need to be replaced and has a trade-in value of \$15,000.00.

Mayor Kuspa asked if it is worth keeping as a back up, and Director Milanowicz explained that it was better to trade it in while it was still worth something, than wait until it is worthless.

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 approve the purchase carried 6/6.

7. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A. Approval of project expenses in the amount of \$170,223.00 in budgeted funds for the Access to Transit Sidewalk Project. The attached memo from Economic & Community Development Director Bandstra, dated February 4, 2021, provides supporting details.

Alderman Simon made the motion to approve the purchase.

Alderman Wolf seconded.

Economic & Community Development Director Bandstra explained that these funds would be used as a partial payment of some of the engineering costs, followed by construction costs later this year.

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 approve the project expenses carried 6/6.

8. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

None

9. OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Kuspa informed Alderman Emmett that he would be working with City Administrator Kristin to get a letter from the Mayor's Office to IDOT addressing the viaducts and other concerns.

City Administrator Kristin, Police Chief Reid, and Deputy Chief Durano have acquired, and are on their way to pick up, equipment for the City Hall complex. These items have been acquired at no cost to the City, and includes office furniture and exercise equipment.

In a previous meeting, Alderman Hortsman had asked for information on committees. Mayor Kuspa informed the Council at this time he is not comfortable bringing back together committees that are not essential. This lull probably is a good opportunity to evaluate the commissions - their missions, what they should be doing, etcetera.

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10. NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Danihel wanted to be sure that Mayor Kuspa is aware the city is having a problem getting mail. Mayor Kuspa said he received two calls today regarding that. The Post Office will be contacted Wednesday, and he recommends anyone that has a problem with their mail service to contact the Post Office immediately. The Post Office is a separate entity from the City government; we have no control, or oversight, but we can ask that they look at and try to improve the situation.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

12. 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 8:02pm.



MAYOR HENRY L. KUSPA