

CITY OF OAK FOREST  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday

August 23, 2022

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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 McCarthy  
Alderman Wolf  
Alderman Selman  
Alderman Emmett  
Alderman Hortsman  
Alderman Danihel

*Also Present:* City Clerk John F. Janozik  
City Administrator Timothy Kristin  
Public Works Director Mike Salamowicz  
Economic Director Ed Cage  
Human Resource Mgr. Bridget DiSanto

*Absent:* Alderman Gray  
Treasurer Ericka Vetter

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**There was a brief break after it was discovered the broadcast was not going out live.**

**3. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Kuspa announced that Cook County Commissioner Donna Miller is hosting a Secretary of State Mobile Event here at City Hall tomorrow. What does the mobile event curtail? Well, you can get your license renewed, corrections on your driver's license or state id, you can get a state id, license plate stickers, organ donor registration; a lot of different things you can do here. They're not going to do driving tests or issue driver's licenses. If you need a correction or to buy a sticker you can do it here at City Hall tomorrow.

**(Note: there was an error on the date given - this event is September 24, 2022)**

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Mayor Kuspa announced the Oak Forest High School Soccer Program invites residents to the Heroes Night Home Opener, Wednesday, August 24<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Members of our police and fire departments, as well as veterans, active military members, and health care workers will be honored at the game. Voluntary donations will be accepted for Project Fire Buddies.

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State Representative Bob Rita is hosting a Community Shred and E-recycling Day on Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, from 9 am - 11am at Oak Forest High School. This is a great opportunity to safely dispose of documents, electronics, and prescription medications at one location. For more information, you can visit the city website at oak-forest.org, or Representative Rita's office at (708) 396-2822. Every time that we've had the event previously it was here at Oak Forest City Hall parking lot, this event is going to be at the high school. Also, generally they ask that people bring personal files, up to two file boxes, and there is a fee for electronic recycling, Mayor Kuspa didn't know off the top of his head what that was. Depending on basically what size tv you bring they charge a little bit more. Again, for any additional information contact Bob Rita's office at (708) 396-2822.

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Saturday August 27<sup>th</sup>, stop by the community carwash right here at Oak Forest City Hall, Fire Department 1, from 8:30am - 4pm. You can get your car washed for \$10, participate in a raffle, and grab something to eat while you're waiting. Proceeds benefit Venture Crew 422, Project Fire Buddies, and Law Enforcement Torch Run. A lot of good causes here, so it's a community fundraiser carwash.

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Justine Beatty, a member of Venturing Crew 422, is working toward her Summit Award, one of the highest honors from the Boy Scouts of America, by collecting paper goods and household cleaners for the Crisis Center in South Suburbia. There is a bin located in the lobby here at City Hall through the end of the month. Please consider making a donation.

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The Oak Forest Park District is excited to announce the Old Time Picnic is back! The annual Labor Day picnic is Sunday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, from noon to dusk. The day includes beanbag tournaments, bingo tent, dj, live music, kiddie rides, and much more. Be there if you can, it's a lot of fun.

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City Administrator Kristin had a letter from a citizen, received at City Hall. Mayor Kuspa granted permission for the letter to be read. "To Whom It May Concern, I'm writing about the outstanding job your Officer Melissa Drozd did on July 29, 2022. In total desperation that Friday morning, I put a call through to Melissa Drozd, the Animal Control Officer. I left a brief message explaining the need for immediate help with my neighbors deceased dog's body to be taken to the vets office. There was no one around who could help us lift the dog into our van for transportation. Officer Drozd came immediately, and was so kind and understanding to my neighbors' feelings that I feel the need to call this matter to your attention and for her to be commended. She went above and beyond her duties to make a lonely woman whose only friend had just died, feel she had someone to lean on for help. I am proud of all the officers and firefighters in Oak Forest, for how they keep us safe, but in this situation they showed compassion an respect to someone who was really in need. Please see to it that she knows how much we appreciate her, dedication to service means to all of us. Sincerely, Mary Schrowder"

Administrator Kristin received a phone call from a resident this week also, about Officer Drozd commending her for another job well done, so hats off to Officer Drozd. She is doing a great job.

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**4. MOTION TO ESTABLISH CONSENT AGENDA**

Alderman Danihel made the motion to establish 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 McCarthy			
Alderman Wolf			
Alderman Selman			
Alderman Emmett			
Alderman Hortsman			

The motion to establish consent agenda carried 6/6.

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**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Consideration of the following List of Bills dated:

1. Regular Bills: FY 2022-2023 - August 23, 2022
2. Supplemental Bills: FY 2022-2023 - August 23, 2022

B. Consideration of the following minutes:

1. Consumer Protection Commission - July 13, 2022
2. Oak Forest Veterans Commission - July 21, 2022
3. Oak Forest Crime Prevention Commission - May 18, 2022

C. Consideration of the following reports:

1. Baxter and Woodman progress report - August 9, 2022

Alderman Wolf made the motion to approve Consent Agenda.

Alderman Danihel seconded.

Roll Call vote was taken as follows:

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

The motion to approve Consent Agenda carried 6/6.

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**6. ADMINISTRATION**

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A. Approval of a one year contract with Blue Cross Blue Shield and the continuation of services with Delta Dental, VSP Vision and Principle Life Insurances. The attached memo dated August 18, 2022, from Human Resource Manager Bridget DiSanto with supporting details.

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Alderman Danihel made the motion to approve the continuation of services.

Alderman Wolf seconded.

Human Resource Manager DiSanto stated the annual cost will be \$2.8 million for 130 covered employees and retirees. The renewal premium decreased 3.8% from last year, just under \$109,000.00 in annual savings. There are no changes to Delta Dental, VSP Vision, and Principle Life Insurances.

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

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

The motion to approve continuation of services carried 6/6.

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B. Approval of broker service fess agreements with Alliant/Mesirow for insurance brokerage services in the amount of \$88,000.00. See attached memo dated August 18, 2022, from City Administrator Kristin with supporting details.

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Alderman Emmett made the motion to approve the service fees.

Alderman McCarthy seconded.

City Administrator Kristin said this piggybacks on what HR Manager DiSanto just provided to you. This is the broker service fees agreement that's been in place since 2017, back when the city did a search for new brokerage services. Their fees have remained flat, we're very happy with the service they provide to us, and there is no increase from last year, or actually 2017.

**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 McCarthy			
Alderman Wolf			
Alderman Selman			

The motion to approve the service fees carried 6/6.

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**7. ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

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A. Approval of proposal from Baxter and Woodman in the not to exceed budgeted amount of \$54,300.00 to perform the design engineering of the 2022 sanitary sewer extension for the LPC Oak Forest projects. The attached memo dated August 23, 2022 with supporting details from Community Development Director Edmund Cage.

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Alderman Emmett made the motion to approve the proposal for not to exceed \$54,300.00.

Alderman Wolf seconded.

Community Development Director Cage explained this is design-engineering proposal from Baxter & Woodman. The LPC project, which is 41 acres, to one of the furthest parts south of the city, was recently looking to develop as a light industrial area. It obviously needs to be served by water and sewer. The proposal is for Baxter & Woodman to do design engineering, that sewer, and it's quite a considerable distance from Forest, across over to Cicero, and then obviously the development will connect to that. The one aspect he would like to point out, in addition to the sewer serving the LPC project, which is a major development project, it will be going through some properties to Cicero Avenue. The good news there, that opens up some of the vacant land on the west side of Cicero for new development purposes.

**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 Emmett			
Alderman Hortsman			
Alderman Danihel			
			Alderman Gray
Alderman McCarthy			
Alderman Wolf			
Alderman Selman			

The motion to approve the proposal not to exceed \$54,300.00 carried 6/6.

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**8. PUBLIC WORKS**

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A. Approval of pay Estimate No. 1, to Iroquois Paving, in the amount of \$286,450.79 for the 2022 MFT Road Program. See attached memo dated August 23, 2022, with supporting detail from Public Works Director Michael Salamowicz.

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Alderman Selman made the motion to approve Estimate 1 for \$286,450.79.

Alderman Danihel seconded.

Public Works Director Salamowicz said back on May 10<sup>th</sup> of this year a contract was approved with Iroquois Paving for this year's MFT road program. Progress has been going very well; we've been making sure the work is being done correctly, they are on schedule. This is the first pay estimate, which actually dates back to July 15<sup>th</sup>. The original contract was \$1,483,020.20. This pay estimate came in at \$318,278.66, with a reduction of \$31,827.87 for retainage. This results in a payment for estimate 1 in the amount of \$286,450.79.

Alderman Emmett said the punch lists he and Alderman Hortsman talked about from last year, has that punch list been updated? Director Salamowicz said yes, he and Joe Petrizzo, the Street Superintendent, walked every street with the gentleman from Baxter & Woodman and the contractor for some of it. They put together an extensive punch list; they've been working on that pretty, much most of that punch list is completed. Once they get everything completed, they will do another walkthrough just to make sure everything has been corrected. With the current project, this year's project, Joe Petrizzo and the gentleman from Baxter & Woodman have already been walking through several of the streets putting together the punch list and they are definitely much less. They've done a very good job this year of the paving, we've definitely got a shorter punch list, but they will take care of all of that work.

Alderman Hortsman said last year they did all of Rob Roy from Victoria down to 159<sup>th</sup> Street, and then came back again this year and did partial patching through those streets, but yet there were all these little impressions and divots. Now that we've done the patching on one side of the street those divots have gone away, on the other side of the street they're still there. Director Salamowicz said they haven't



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figured out why those appeared. They tried to get the contractor to do as much work as they could as far as punch list items. They had proof rolled the entire area, according to Baxter & Woodman, last year so that shouldn't appear. He doesn't know if that's going to come back again with the new patches they've done so they will keep an eye on it and see what they can do going forward to try to eliminate that. Alderman Hortsman said a couple residents from Fieldcrest area had called him, he's not sure why they called him, but are they doing any streets in that area. Director Salamowicz said yes, Oak Ridge; they're wrapping up the work initially in the contract and he added some additional patching so they will be going to those locations Corey and Reynolds was one of the locations, and he thinks Major was another location that they are adding more. They also added some on 157<sup>th</sup> Street as well.

Mayor Kuspa added if the contractor has any hesitation in taking care of those divots that Alderman Hortsman pointed out, he would be happy to meet him, himself, personally.

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

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

The motion to approve the estimate for \$286,450.79 carried 6/6.

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B. Approval of quote from Pro-Pump Inc to conduct lift station cleaning and inspections in the budgeted amount of \$15,399.00. The attached memo dated August 9, 2022, from Public Works Director Michael Salamowicz.

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Alderman Danihel made the motion to approve the quote for \$15,399.00.

Alderman Hortsman seconded.

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Public Works Director Salamowicz explained the city has nine sanitary lift stations and five storm lift stations; these require regular maintenance and cleaning. Unfortunately, this hasn't been done for the last several years so they are looking to get that program restarted again and perform annual maintenance. Just like with any piece of equipment you need to maintain it, you need to clean it, and you need to make sure it's running properly, and you get the equipment to last as much as possible. They contacted four companies to get quotes.

Mayor Kuspa said along with that he would like Director Salamowicz to work with the Communication Director and explain to residents, probably in e-Briefs, and maybe future announcements that flushable wipes are not flushable. Director Salamowicz said they intend to. Mayor Kuspa said that is one of the biggest problems that we have, when people flush items that aren't supposed to be flushed. Especially if their area isn't gravity fed. They tear up the pump something fierce. Director Salamowicz said they have a problem with the Crescent Green lift station; typically it's almost every week that they are having to pull the pumps, clean them, get rid of all the debris, so they're looking at putting grinder pumps in that location. Mayor Kuspa said he would like to see that as a regular announcement at least in e-Briefs.

**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 McCarthy			
Alderman Wolf			
Alderman Selman			
Alderman Emmett			
Alderman Hortsman			

The motion to approve the quote for \$15,399.00 carried 6/6.

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**9. OLD BUSINESS**

Alderman Emmett said he know City Administrator Kristin has a million things going but 159<sup>th</sup> and Cicero up to 163<sup>rd</sup> does not look nice. The

weeds from Oak Forest Hospital are growing on to the walking path there. It seems like we talk about this every year, he thinks they have to start in December for the County even to acknowledge us by November. 159<sup>th</sup> and Ridgeland is county property again; we had a personal injury accident there, we just had somebody hit by a car there. If they cut that brush back about a half a block he thinks that would be easier for the citizens that are on the walking path can see westbound traffic. He knows Administrator Kristin has a lot of stuff going, but the County does not answer us, they don't tell us nothing. 159<sup>th</sup> and Cicero, three corners are nice and that one corner is nasty. Mayor Kuspa said Cook County Commissioner Donna Miller is going to be here tomorrow. Alderman Emmett said it's not his job to talk to her, it's someone else's job to talk to her. He's tired of looking at it, it looks like hell.

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**10. NEW BUSINESS**

None

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**11. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

None

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**12. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Alderman Danihel made the motion to enter Executive Session.

Alderman Selman seconded.

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

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

The motion to enter Executive Session carried 6/6.

Executive Session began at 8:05 pm.  
Executive Session adjourned at 9:03 pm.

There was no further business conducted after Executive Session.

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**13. ADJOURMENT**

Alderman Hortsman made the motion to Adjourn.

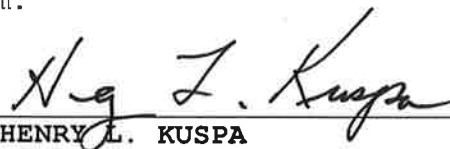
Alderman Danihel seconded.

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

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

The motion to adjourn carried 6/6.

The Council meeting adjourned at 9:06 pm.

  
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MAYOR HENRY L. KUSPA