

**League of Women Voters
Observers Report**

Board meeting attended: Downers Grove Village Council

Date and Location of meeting: November 14, 2017, Council Chambers, 801 Burlington Ave.

Meeting started: 7 p.m.

Meeting adjourned: 10 p.m. (approx.)

League Observer(s): Emily Teising

Trustees present (P) not present (NP) tardy (T), (Term expires)

| | | |
|--------------------|----|--------|
| Mayor Martin Tully | P | (2019) |
| Bob Barnett | P | (2021) |
| Margaret Earl | P | (2021) |
| Greg Hose | P | (2021) |
| Nicole Walus | P | (2019) |
| William Waldack | NP | (2019) |
| Bill White | P | (2019) |

Estimated Number Attending (excluding Board and Staff): 15 in audience

Meetings are Streamed and Archived at:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/VillageDownersGrove>

Agenda can be found at: [Agenda November 14, 2017](#)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gordon Goodman expressed appreciation for Carpenter Street improvements.

Shannon Tully and **Christine Martin** are the new co-chairs of Friends of the Edwards House

Resident (name?) Request for traffic calming elements on Carpenter Street.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approved unanimously

ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. An ordinance amending permit and background investigation provisions for food truck vendors [ORD 2017-7552](#) Tully expressed appreciation for the cooperation of staff, council members and members of the business community to make this possible.
- B. A resolution granting historic landmark designation for 735 Maple Avenue [RES 2017-7560](#) Christine Martin, Shannon Tully, Gordon Goodman and the property owner expressed appreciation.

- C. An ordinance authorizing a special use for 1543 Ogden Avenue to permit an automobile dealership [ORD 2017-7534](#) The lot is at the southeast corner of Downers Drive and Ogden Avenue. Green spaces will be added to the lot. There is no access to the adjacent neighborhood from Ogden Avenue. Scott Richards used to live near this lot and requested that business owners be reminded to respect local laws keeping sidewalks clear of parked cars.
- D. An ordinance amending certain traffic provisions [ORD 2017-7553](#) Following a request by residents, stop signs will be added to the intersections of Lee Avenue and Janet, Carol and Virginia Streets. Following complaints by residents, four-hour parking restrictions will be implemented on Hadow Avenue where commuters using the Belmont train station were parking.
- E. A motion estimating the 2017 aggregate tax levy for the Village of Downers Grove [MOT 2017-7561](#)

| 2017 | Before abatements | After abatements |
|--|-------------------|------------------|
| Village Levy | 21,801,706 | 13,348,834 |
| Projected Village Tax Rate | | 0.5571 |
| With Library operating DG Downtown service areas and Fairview Fire Protection District | 27,372,010 | 18,919,138 |

Gordon Goodman noted that compared to similar DuPage County municipalities, Downers Grove has the third lowest property tax rate, and applauded their stewardship.

FIRST READING

An ordinance adopting the fiscal year 2018 budget in lieu of passage of an Appropriation Ordinance [ORD 2017-7523](#) (**6th Budget discussion of the year, no new information. Purpose to prepare for adoption in December.**)

Tully: The budget as proposed would not have been balanced, and he saw no reason for that. Staff returned with suggestions, one of which Tully endorsed.

1. Reallocate some of the money previously made available for major facilities changes (Police Station, Village Hall) and from other Capital Funds Projects rather than using reserves.
2. Tully proposed earmarking \$14,000 out of the capital budget for maintenance of the Lyman Woods buffer zone mentioned by Dr. Goodman at the November 7 meeting. Will follow up with Park District, DuPage Forest Preserve, leadership at Good Samaritan.

Hosé and Earl agree with suggestion.

Barnett: Will agree to the mayor’s suggestion, but would prefer to decrease expenses or increase revenue rather than moving money around to avoid using reserves. He agrees with earmarking funds for the Lyman Woods buffer zone maintenance.

Council Member Reports

Walus: Reminder about Bonfield Express Foundation 5K race on Thanksgiving Day: <https://www.bonfieldexpress.com/>

Manager's report: Discussion of Downtown Development Regulatory Framework

Discussion of proposed zoning districts for the area in and around downtown Downers Grove.

| Current | Proposed |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Downtown Business | Downtown Core (DC) |
| | Downtown Edge-1 (DE-1) |
| Downtown Transition | Downtown Edge-2 (DE-2) |
| | Downtown Transition (DT) |

Changes affect allowable building height, buildable area, density and permitted uses.

Details available here: [Proposed Downtown Zoning Video of discussion, November 14, 2017](#)

Specific Areas discussed

1. Southwest corner of Washington and Rogers: recommendation: DE-1 (originally proposed DT)
2. SW corner of Gilbert and Forest: DC
3. East side of Main Street between Rogers and Franklin. DE-2 (originally proposed DT)
4. NE and NW corners, Maple and Washington (DE-1 or DE-2? Concern about spot-zoning)
5. 5109 and 5111 Main Street (property owner's concern about maximum height permissible)

Discussions sought to reconcile vision of the town with the practical reality on the ground and potential for redevelopment should the need arise.

Discussion of uses related to emphasis on embracing the new economy and attracting sources of sales tax revenue, as well as appropriateness for the surroundings.

Date Submitted: November 15, 2017

By: Emily Teising

Note: the Observer had to leave halfway through discussion of the proposed downtown zoning and completed notes based on video.