

**League of Women Voters  
Observers Report**

**Board meeting attended:** Downers Grove Village Council

**Date and Location of meeting:** December 12, 2017, Council Chambers, 801 Burlington Ave.

**Meeting started:** 7 p.m.

**Meeting adjourned:** 8:45 p.m.

**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	P	(2019)
Bill White	P	(2019)

**Est. Number Attending (excluding Board and Staff):** 35, approx. 20 left after proclamation.

**Meetings are Streamed and Archived at:**

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

**Agenda can be found at:** [Agenda December 12, 2017](#)

**Proclamation**

Mayor recognized Downers Grove North Boys' Cross Country team state champions, 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Scott Rausch (sp?), Rogers Street, wishing to speak about Downtown Development Regulatory Framework. Returned later in the meeting to speak, as this item was on the agenda.

**CONSENT AGENDA** Approved unanimously

**ACTIVE AGENDA**

- A. An ordinance rezoning certain property located at 4340 Prince Street The petitioner is requesting a Zoning Map Amendment to rezone the subject property from B-2, General Retail Business and R-6, Residential Apartment/Condo 6 to

INP-1, Neighborhood-scale Institutional and Public District. The INP-1 designation is intended for small, public, civic and institutional scale developments that are near residential neighborhoods. The property is owned by the Downers Grove Township which contains an approximately 9,500 square-foot office building with administrative offices for the Township and a surface parking lot. The INP-1 designation will allow the governmental facility to be zoned appropriately per the Zoning Ordinance and Comprehensive Plan ORD 2017-7571

- B. An ordinance authorizing the extension of a special use to permit construction and redevelopment of a fueling station and car wash at 1401-1445 Ogden Avenue to March 20, 2018 ORD 2017-7598
- C. A resolution granting historic landmark designation for 4632 Main Street RES 2017-7593
- D. A resolution granting historic landmark designation for 1324 Maple Avenue RES 2017-7594

Shannon Tully of Friends of the Edwards House thanked everyone for making this possible.

- E. An ordinance adopting the 2017 aggregate tax levy ORD 2017-7607

Barnett: Not in favor of the tax levy as it continues a negative slide (moving funds around to avoid raising taxes, rather than making difficult decisions to raise taxes to pay for services we provide).

Hosé: Voted against last week, but one way or another, we have a lot to do, so I will be voting in favor.

Waldack: Will be supporting the ordinance, because not passing the levy would be disastrous.

Tully: Not in favor of the tax levy. Pleased with staff's creativity to keep the village portion of the levy flat. Noted Village operations portion of tax levy has been flat for seven years. Plans to vote no to send a message to the Downers Grove Public Library (over whose budget he has no control), that he is dissatisfied with the 2.75 percent increase in their portion of the levy. Was upfront that his vote would depend on how colleagues voted, to ensure the ordinance passed.

(Near the end of the meeting, Barnett and Tully engaged in a contentious discussion questioning each others' motives and actions, which you can see on the recording posted on YouTube.)

**Passed 5-2, with Barnett and Tully voting nay.**

- F. An ordinance levying taxes for the fiscal year commencing on the first day of January 2017 and ending on the thirty-first day of December 2017 for Village of

Downers Grove Special Service Area #2 (Downers Grove Downtown Service Area) ORD 2017-7608

- G. An ordinance levying taxes for the fiscal year commencing on the first day of January 2017 and ending on the thirty-first day of December 2017 for Village of Downers Grove Special Service Area #4 (Green Acres Subdivision) ORD 2017-7609
- H. An ordinance levying taxes for the fiscal year commencing on the first day of January 2017 and ending on the thirty-first day of December 2017 for Village of Downers Grove Special Service Area #5 (Atwood Subdivision) ORD 2017-7610
- I. An ordinance levying taxes for the fiscal year commencing on the first day of January 2017 and ending on the thirty-first day of December 2017 for Village of Downers Grove Special Service Area #6 (Fairview Fire Protection District) ORD 2017-7611
- J. An ordinance levying taxes for the fiscal year commencing on the first day of January 2017 and ending on the thirty-first day of December 2017 for Village of Downers Grove Special Service Area #7 (Dunham Subdivision) ORD 2017-7612
- K. An ordinance levying taxes for the fiscal year commencing on the first day of January 2017 and ending on the thirty-first day of December 2017 for Village of Downers Grove Special Service Area #8 (Nelson Meadow Subdivision) ORD 2017-7613
- L. An ordinance levying taxes for the fiscal year commencing on the first day of January 2017 and ending on the thirty-first day of December 2017 for Village of Downers Grove Special Service Area #9 (35th & Saratoga Subdivision) ORD 2017-7614

**Items F-L passed 6-1, with Barnett voting Nay. There was no further discussion on the individual items.**

Motion to Adopt Ordinances ORD 2017-7615 through ORD 2017-7623 (Active Agenda Items M-U)

- M. An ordinance abating a portion of the 2017 tax levy related to the General Obligation Bonds, Series 2009 ORD 2017-7615
- N. An ordinance abating a portion of the 2017 tax levy related to the General Obligation Bonds, Series 2010 ORD 2017-7616
- O. An ordinance abating a portion of the 2017 tax levy related to the General Obligation Bonds, Series 2010B ORD 2017-7617
- P. An ordinance abating a portion of the 2017 tax levy related to the General Obligation Bonds, Series 2012 ORD 2017-7618
- Q. An ordinance abating a portion of the 2017 tax levy related to the General Obligation Bonds, Series 2013A ORD 2017-7619
- R. An ordinance abating a portion of the 2017 tax levy related to the General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2014 ORD 2017-7620
- S. An ordinance abating a portion of the 2017 tax levy related to the General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2015 ORD 2017-7621

- T. An ordinance abating a portion of the 2017 tax levy related to the General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2016 ORD 2017-7622
- U. An ordinance abating a portion of the 2017 tax levy related to the General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2017 ORD 2017-7623

**Items M-U were combined and passed unanimously.**

**First Reading**

- A. An ordinance authorizing the extension of a Planned Unit Development site plan approval to allow additional signage at 3300 Finley Road to December 20, 2018 ORD 2017-7626
- B. A motion approving the downtown development regulatory framework and directing staff to prepare implementation ordinances MOT 2017-7606

**See report from November 14, 2017 meeting for more details.**

Barnett: More conversation about specific properties is needed before he will be comfortable with the proposed changes.

White: This is part of the comprehensive planning process. He supports proposals with the caveat that adjustments are made to some of the Downtown Transition zoning setbacks.

Tully: It isn't surprising that in the movement from a broad vision to looking at properties on a street level, there would be significant changes.

**Seven property owners** spoke from neighborhoods under discussion near Rogers Street and Washington Street and Maple Avenue and Washington Street. Some reiterated previously-expressed concerns, and others requested that more effort be made to notify individual property owners before discussions at the meetings.

David Fieldman: Reminder that this is a framework staff would take as direction to create ordinances. There will still be opportunities to review before anything is voted on. The general goal is to treat properties the same, but there are processes in place to handle special cases.

Tully: There will be changes as a result of this process (compared to the fact that Downers Grove used to have areas with agricultural zoning, and no longer does).

(approximately eight people left the meeting at this point)

- C. A resolution amending the Village Council police and fire pension funding policy RES 2017-7531
- D. An ordinance amending the stormwater utility rate ORD 2017-7595

- E. An ordinance repealing water rates furnished by other municipalities ORD 2017-7596

Tully and Fieldman: Items C, D and E relate to budget implementation. Autonomous boards have made changes, and so the Village Board of Trustees must approve adjustments accordingly.

### **Mayor's Report**

Coffee with the council 9-10 a.m. on 12/16 at the Downers Grove Public Library.  
Recognition of Manager David Fieldman, Government Leader of the Year 2017, DuPage County Mayors and Managers Award.

### **Council Member Reports**

**Waldack:** Ongoing holiday events sponsored by the Downtown Management Corporation.

**Earl:** Downers Grove Public Library exceeded 1 million items checked out around Thanksgiving. Encouraged everyone to see how many more items we can reach by the end of the year.

**Barnett:** Took issue with Tully's characterization of his vote against the tax levy, which Tully then disputed.

**Date Submitted: December 13, 2017**

**By: Emily Teising**