

League of Women Voters Observers Report

Board meeting attended: Downers Grove Village Council

Date and Location of meeting: July 11, 2017, Council Chambers, 801 Burlington Ave.

Meeting started: 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned: 8:30 p.m.

League Observer(s): Emily Teising

Board Members/Trustees present (P) not present (NP) tardy (T):

Mayor Martin Tully	P
Bob Barnett	P
Margaret Earl	P
Greg Hose	P
Nicole Walus	P
William Waldack	P
Bill White	P

Estimated Number Attending (excluding Board and Staff): 20

Meetings are Streamed and Archived at:

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

Agenda can be found at: [Agenda July 11, 2017](#)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dennis Jackson expressed concern about the safety and integrity of construction at the intersection of Grove and Carpenter Streets. The intersection was reduced in size and rebuilt with permeable pavers. Mayor Tully thanked the resident for his concern and noted the intersection was part of a project experimenting with permeable pavers. Manager Fieldman added: the intersection has been rebuilt once at the contractor's expense, because of construction issues. The intersection will be rebuilt and redesigned again, also at the contractor's expense.

PRESENTATION:

Michael Cassa, President and CEO of the Economic Development Corporation (degdc.com) presented the First Quarterly Report for 2017.

- Downers Grove is less vulnerable than some neighboring localities because it relies less on tax income from apparel retail.

- Evolving trends based on the growth of e-commerce will continue shape shifts in the retail sector.
- Support for redevelopment of key areas such as the Grove Shopping Center (1206 W. 75th St.), and following guidelines (such as the Comprehensive Plan) the village already has in place will put the village in a stronger position.

Mayor's Report:

Thanks to all who attended 4th of July parade.
Coffee with the Council will take place Saturday, July 15 at the Downers Grove train station, near the farmer's market.

Manager's Report:

Brief comment on the approval of the state budget: the "processing" fee of tax revenue to the village that goes through Springfield will result in an income reduction to the village of \$600,000.

INFORMATION ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA Approved unanimously. See above agenda link.

ACTIVE AGENDA

All items approved unanimously.

For Items C-I, Bob Barnett clarified that code amendments are typically adopted a few years after they are initially presented, so that they can be reviewed first by the international body that governs such codes. (In reference to the fact that these items were 2015 codes.)

FIRST READING

- B. Regarding the establishment of a Food and Beverage Tax, Barnett proposed considering a 1.5 percent tax (rather than a 1 percent tax) given the tax rates in surrounding municipalities. Tully commented that this tax replaces lost revenue (from changes in retail sales), and is a way to tax non-residents. Bill White expressed support for the 1 percent Food and Beverage Tax.
- C. Authorize agreement with Allied Waste Services of North America. Allied is in the early stages of developing curbside composting in Downers Grove. General satisfaction with the service Allied has provided, mentioned by William Waldack and Margaret Earl, Tully and White. Greg Hosé pointed out that there was no cost increase last year, and future cost increases will be moderate. Barnett said he wished some parts of the fee structure could be changed, for example that there should be a base rate for all to have the service available to them.
- D. Judy Butney, Finance Director, presented information on the ordinance to provide for the issuance of general obligation refunding bonds. This will allow the Village to

save \$120,000.00 on debt service payments. The Village's AAA bond rating is important to making this savings possible.

TRUSTEE DISCUSSION

Comments/Concerns:

General Features

	Yes	No	Comments
Did the meeting start on time?	x		
Were members attentive and prepared?	x		
Were members courteous to each other?	x		
Were members attentive to the public's comments?	x		
Was the facility adequate?	x		
Could the audience see and hear?	x		
Were visual aids easily visible to the audience	x		
Were the meeting facilities handicapped accessible	x		

FOIA (Complete once, unless information changes.)

Illinois Open Meetings Act requirements

	Yes	No	Comments
Was the agenda posted 48 hours before the meeting? If yes, note where	x		
Did the agenda items clearly describe what was to be discussed?	x		

Were background materials made available to the public?	x		
Was there adequate discussion of the issues?	x		
Was there a closed session before, during or after the meeting?		x	
If there was a closed meeting, was any action taken after the closed session? If so, what action?		x	

Date Submitted: July 13, 2017
By: Emily Teising