

Village of Woodridge, December 12, 2013 Regular Board Meeting

Present: All board members except Trustee Martinez. Joseph Ruzich, a reporter for TribLocal.com, and members of the public. The Board approved all items on the consent agenda.

Mayor Cunningham congratulated William F. Murphy, former Mayor of Woodridge, for being chosen the 2013 Outstanding Citizen of the Year. Police Chief Grady introduced new Sergeant Jim McGilvrey; Director of Community Development Mays spoke about the Employee of the Quarter, Customer Service Representative Denise McGarel ; Director of Public Works Bethel introduced Anthony Pisciotto, a new Equipment Technician.

The Mayor and Director of Finance Alletto accepted the Government Finance Officers Association "Distinguished Budget Presentation Award", the first time the Village had received the award.

The proposed tax levy and abatement ordinances were open for public comment. Louis Wardin asked what the tax abatements are, and how much would be abated. Ms. Alletto explained that the Village chose not to levy on debt interest; it will use other revenue sources to pay the interest, which results in lower property taxes. The Mayor asked the Board to vote on the proposed tax levy and abatement ordinances 2013-60 to 2013-67 together. Trustee Abbott asked for separate consideration for Ordinance 2013-60 related to the tax levy for the Village and the library, which he opposed as an unnecessary hardship for taxpayers. Trustee Abbott found no compelling reason to increase the levy. The Mayor and three trustees voted for the levy which was adopted 4 to 2. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Village of Woodridge, December 12, 2013 Workshop Meeting

The Board reconvened at 8:36 p.m. to discuss the Village's 2010 ban of video gaming, and to review the Community Needs Survey.

Rich Moore, owner of Shanahan's,, and representatives from Pepe's, Nonnie's Pizza, Hollywood Boulevard, and American Video Gaming requested the video gaming ban be rescinded. They noted that they are losing customers to surrounding municipalities that allow video gaming, and that local communities with video gaming have not experienced an increase in crime. A representative of the International Union of Operating Engineers also spoke on behalf of the repeal, as 25% of video gaming revenues fund Illinois road and construction projects.

The Mayor asked the Board to provide direction for staff as to whether they should repeal the video gaming ban, continue the ban, or table the issue. Trustee Abbott stated he would support lifting the ban on video gaming. Although several trustees indicated that they also supported the local businesses' request, they were not prepared to make a decision without more information about the 2010 ban. Mayor Cunningham asked staff to provide the requested information.

Assistant Village Administrator Halik presented highlights from the Village's 2013 Community Needs Survey: 95% responded that they feel safe in their neighborhoods, 78% of respondents believe that they receive a fair level of service for their property taxes, and 96% of all respondents rated were satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of life in Woodridge.

The workshop meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m. and the Board went into Executive Session.