

Village of Woodridge, April 19, 2014, Regular Board Meeting

Present: All board members. Woodridge Public Library Director McNeil-Marshall attended the meeting, and about 15 members of the public were present for most of the meeting. At 8:45 p.m. Attorney Robin Jones took the place of Attorney Good. The Mayor convened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

The management team of Kohl's led the invocation and accepted a plaque from the Mayor in recognition of the store's 25th business anniversary in Woodridge. Mayor Cunningham also welcomed the 4-H Club of Du Page County and gave each of the members a replica of the Village's flag.

Prior to the public hearings on the budget ordinances for the stub year FY 2014 and FY 2015, Finance Director Alletto provided a presentation of the budget, its goals, expenditures, and revenues. Mayor Cunningham then opened the public hearing on the budget ordinances. No one spoke at the hearing.

Rich Moore, owner of Shanahan's, thanked the Mayor for allowing businesses to speak at the workshop meetings on video gaming. He commended the staff for their thorough research on video gaming, and he thanked the trustees for asking questions as they discussed the request to repeal the Village's ban of video gaming.

The Board approved Mayor Cunningham's motion to remove the video gaming ordinance from the omnibus agenda for immediate discussion. The ordinance would allow businesses that hold liquor licenses for on premise sales and consumption of alcohol to offer video gaming as defined by Illinois statute. Under the proposed ordinance, 20 establishments qualify for a video gaming license.

Even though the Board had reviewed video gaming extensively in two workshop meetings and the ordinance was on the consent agenda, additional discussion ensued. Based on feedback from residents who were concerned about the video gaming, Trustee Martinez proposed revising the ordinance to limit the number of video gaming licenses to eight or ten initially. Several board members spoke in favor of the proposal to limit the number of video gaming licenses and also noted that they had heard from residents who opposed repealing the ban on video gaming. Trustee Abbott noted that there may be no more than eight or ten qualifying businesses interested in obtaining a video gaming license, and that the information provided at the workshop meetings indicated that other communities with video gaming have not experienced an increase in crime.

Attorney Good explained that restricting the number of video gaming licenses to less than the 20 qualified businesses with liquor licenses would require an add-on video gaming license. Staff would have to develop an equitable means for distributing the reduced number of licenses such as a lottery or issue them on first come basis. The Board decided to support Trustee Martinez's proposal and to defer discussion of the revised video gaming ordinance to the April 24 or May 8 board meeting.

All but one item on the consent agenda was approved without comment. The annual salary ordinance provides a 2.25% salary adjustment for regular non-union employees, and a 4% salary increase awarded on a service anniversary date, not to exceed the maximum salary of the employee's salary range. Trustee Abbott thought that a 6.25% increase was too generous given the current economic climate. Trustee Beavers felt it was important to inform the new trustees that in 2011 the Village cut staffing and froze salaries. Mayor Cunningham asked for, and received, the Board's concurrence to approve the salary ordinance which she believes is fiscally responsible.

Mayor Cunningham reported that the Illinois Comptroller's Office presented Police Chief Gina Grady with a Leading Woman in Law Enforcement Award.

Under the Administrator's Report, the Board approved Ordinance 2014-22 which changes the Village's fiscal year so it coincides with a calendar year. The Board approved the budget ordinances for the stub year (May 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014) and for the fiscal year 2015. One trustee opposed the ordinances, because he believes that the staff and Board have not done enough to reduce labor costs.

The Mayor and board members presented Trustee Abbott with a birthday card.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

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