

**OF A REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FOR THE VILLAGE OF FORSYTH, IL**

**Held at the Village Hall
February 22, 2011**

Call to Order

Mayor Harold Gilbert called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Upon call of the roll, the following Trustees were physically present:

Hubbard, Reed, Rasho, Morr, Johnson.

Absent: Allsup.

Also Physically Present

Darrell Woolums, Larry Coloni, Sgt. Flannery, Rhonda Stewart, Jean Campbell, Charlyn Brautigam, Heather Kimmons, Kathy Mizer, Debbie Bogle, Craig Coil, Chris Lusvardi, Patrick Hoffman, Dave Harp, Robert & Amy Arthur.

Adoption of Consent Agenda

*** Consideration of items listed on the Consent Agenda under the omnibus vote designation:*

1. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Village Board meeting held February 7, 2011.
2. Approval of Bill presented for payment, February 22, 2011. ***Invoices are always available for review upon request.*
3. Approval of Treasurer's Report, January 31, 2011.

Trustee Reed moved, and Trustee Rasho seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. Upon a call of the roll, the vote was:

Yeas: 5—Hubbard, Reed, Rasho, Morr, Johnson.

Nays: 0—None.

Absent: 1—Allsup.

Motion declared carried by omnibus vote.

Public Comment

No comments were made.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

LAW ENFORCEMENT—

- Sgt. Flannery was present at the meeting to comment on recent activity in the Village officers have responded to. Items mentioned include:

- Hickory Point Fire Department did a great job in responding to a car fire at the Shell gas station last week. Fortunately, there was no loss of life or property damage reported as a result of the fire. Sgt. Flannery mentioned that the cause of the fire remains under investigation.

- Deputy Rodgers has reported that he has noticed a slight increase in the number of accidents at the intersection of US Rt 51 and Barnett Avenue, but noted that only a couple have been reported for the month of February. The increase may be a result of warmer temperatures and an increase in speed.

- Deputy Reedy has noticed that retail thefts are higher this month, but is unsure as to why.

- Sgt. Flannery mentioned that a suspicious package was discovered outside of Best Buy one night last week. The package was sealed and unmarked. Deputies called the Bomb Squad in from The University of Illinois to investigate the matter. Upon review, officers found that the package had been dropped off after the store had closed for the evening, and found that it contained spare electronic parts. Sgt. Flannery explained that Best Buy has a recycling box just inside the front door for patrons to drop off old or outdated items, such as cell phones, computers, or other electronics. Since the store was closed, someone sat the package outside. Sgt. Flannery reported that officers have asked Best Buy to revise its policy and move the container inside of the store to allow staff to monitor what is placed inside of it.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS —

Village Administrator Heather Kimmons mentioned that in addition to her report, Trustees have been provided with written reports or narratives from the Treasurer, Librarian, Public Works Director, and Engineer to review. Mayor Gilbert asked if there were any questions concerning any of these reports.

Trustee Hubbard reported that while attending a meeting at the Forsyth Library last week, a couple of ladies from the Springfield Banking Association approached him to comment on the library. They asked if the facility was new. Trustee Hubbard replied that the library was not new. Both seemed very impressed with the facility and the services provided.

OLD BUSINESS:

Funding Requests – Hotel/Motel Tax

Mayor Gilbert mentioned that at the last meeting the Board listened to presentations from individuals who asked the Village to consider granting a funding request to their specific organization this year. He suggested that Trustees act on each group's request separately. Mayor Gilbert referred to a memo included in meeting packets that was provided by Treasurer Rhonda Stewart to show what each group was given last year.

o Futures Charity Golf Tournament

Trustee Hubbard moved, and Trustee Morr seconded to approve contributing \$15,000 to the Futures Charity Golf Tournament, using Hotel/Motel Tax receipts. Upon a call of the roll, the vote was:

Yeas: 5—Hubbard, Reed, Rasho, Morr, Johnson.

Nays: 0—None.

Absent: 1—Absent.

Motion declared carried.

Trustees agreed that instead of taking receipt of any benefits provided as part of the sponsorship, they would be given back in exchange for more advertising for the Village.

○ *Decatur Celebration*

Trustee Hubbard moved, and Trustee Morr seconded to approve contributing \$10,000 to the Decatur Celebration, using Hotel/Motel Tax receipts. Upon a call of the roll, the vote was:

Yeas: 5—Hubbard, Reed, Rasho, Morr, Johnson.

Nays: 0—None.

Absent: 1—Absent.

Motion declared carried.

○ *Decatur Area Convention & Visitors Bureau*

Trustee Reed moved and Trustee Johnson seconded, to approve contributing \$60,000 to the Decatur Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, using Hotel/Motel Tax receipts. Upon a call of the roll, the vote was:

Yeas: 5—Hubbard, Reed, Rasho, Morr, Johnson.

Nays: 0—None.

Absent: 1—Absent.

Motion declared carried.

○ *Rodney Miller Triathlon*

Trustee Morr moved and Trustee Hubbard seconded, to approve contributing \$2,500 to the Rodney Miller Triathlon, using Hotel/Motel Tax receipts. Upon a call of the roll, the vote was:

Yeas: 5—Hubbard, Reed, Rasho, Morr, Johnson.

Nays: 0—None.

Absent: 1—Absent.

Motion declared carried.

○ *Macon County Fair*

Trustee Hubbard moved and Trustee Reed seconded, to approve contributing \$1,000 to the Macon County Fair, using Hotel/Motel Tax receipts. Upon a call of the roll, the vote was:

Yeas: 5—Hubbard, Reed, Rasho, Morr, Johnson.

Nays: 0—None.

Absent: 1—Absent.

Motion declared carried.

Funding Requests – General Fund

○ *Decatur Park District*

Trustee Reed moved, and Trustee Morr seconded to approve contributing \$5,000 to the Decatur Park District, using funds from the General Fund. Upon a call of the roll, the vote was:

Yeas: 5—Hubbard, Reed, Rasho, Morr, Johnson.

Nays: 0—None.

Absent: 1—Absent.

Motion declared carried.

○ *Maroa/Forsyth Post Prom Committee)*

Trustee Morr moved, and Trustee Hubbard seconded to approve contributing \$1,200 to the Maroa/Forsyth Post Prom Committee, using funds from the General Fund. Upon a call of the roll, the vote was:

Yeas: 5—Hubbard, Reed, Rasho, Morr, Johnson.

Nays: 0—None.

Absent: 1—Absent.

Motion declared carried.

Ordinance No. 816, Special Use Permit for Signage – Power Wash Services

Village Administrator Heather Kimmons referred to the proposed ordinance included in tonight's meeting packet. She explained that the Special Use Permit was granted at the last regular meeting and this ordinance formalizes approval of that decision. Heather recommended it be approved.

Trustee Hubbard moved, and Trustee Johnson seconded, to approve Ordinance No. 816 - An ordinance approving a Special Use Permit for signage for property located at 138 Highland Avenue. The petitioner may install two wall signs to assist customers using the automatic car wash bay, one sign placed above the door and one on the wall to the left of the bay door. Section 8.4 C (1) (a) of the Zoning Ordinance. Upon a call of the roll, the vote was:

Yeas: 5—Hubbard, Reed, Rasho, Morr, Johnson.

Nays: 0—None.

Absent: 1—Allsup.

Motion declared carried.

Ordinance No. 817, Special Use Permit for Signage – Aspen Dental Office

Village Administrator Heather Kimmons mentioned that action on this petition was also taken at the February 7, 2011 meeting. This ordinance reflects the decision made. Heather recommended the ordinance be approved.

Trustee Reed moved, and Trustee Hubbard seconded, to approve Ordinance No. 817 - An ordinance granting a Special Use Permit Aspen Dental, located at 124 Highland Drive. Approval allows the petitioner to install an eight foot monument sign that will encroach into the side yard setback of the property. Section 8.4 C (2) (a) (ii) and (b) (iii) of the Zoning Ordinance. Upon a call of the roll, the vote was:

Yeas: 5—Hubbard, Reed, Rasho, Morr, Johnson.

Nays: 0—None.

Absent: 1—Allsup.

Motion declared carried.

Ordinance No. 818, Special Use Permit for Signage – Waite's Dry Cleaners

Village Administrator Heather Kimmons referred to the proposed ordinance included in tonight's meeting packet. She explained that the Board also approved this request at last regular meeting and this ordinance formalizes approval of that decision. Heather recommended it be approved.

Trustee Rasho moved, and Trustee Johnson seconded, to approve Ordinance No. 818 - An ordinance granting a Special Use Permit for Waite's Dry Cleaners, to be located at 125 and 115 Magnolia

Drive. Approval allows the petitioner to install their business logo on the new canopy as specified in the petition. Section 8.4 C (1) (a) (ii) of the Zoning Ordinance. Upon a call of the roll, the vote was:

Yeas: 5—Hubbard, Reed, Rasho, Morr, Johnson.

Nays: 0—None.

Absent: 1—Allsup.

Motion declared carried.

**Future of Standing Advisory Committees -
Activities and Events, Economic Development, Finance, Health & Safety
Library, Parks & Recreation, and Public Works**

Mayor Gilbert commented that in his opinion, the advisory committees are important. However, he stated that there may be a couple of them that could meet on an as needed basis rather than meeting at a regular time each month. He asked the Administrator to comment.

Village Administrator Heather Kimmons suggested this item be tabled since Trustee Allsup was not present to participate in the discussion. Trustees agreed. Mayor Gilbert asked that it be placed on the next meeting agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

Additional Funding Requests – General Fund

Mayor Gilbert mentioned that representatives from three more organizations were in attendance tonight to ask the Board to consider funding requests for their group. He asked that each one address the Board individually, and present their funding request in the order listed on tonight's agenda.

o *Economic Development Corporation – Craig Coil*

Mr. Craig Coil was in attendance on behalf of the Macon County Economic Development Corporation (EDC). He gave a letter to the Mayor to formally present the EDC's funding request. Craig thanked Trustees for its past support of the EDC over the last eight years, and also thanked Mayor Gilbert for his support and leadership in serving on the EDC Board. Since 2004, the Village of Forsyth has contributed \$17,550, paid quarterly to the EDC. Craig mentioned that he is requesting the same amount be given again this year. He reported that the EDC is funded 20% by the public sector, 75% by the private sector and 5% through fees and grants. Craig explained that the EDC is a not-for-profit private and public partnership that focuses its efforts in non-retail business attraction and expansion in the Macon County area. Craig provided Trustees with an update on activities the EDC has been involved in and expressed how important the participation by the Village was for the future of the EDC and the entire Macon County area.

Trustee Rasho stated that he had a couple of things he would like to mention. First, Trustee Rasho reported that the only time that he hears anything concerning economic development in the area, is from the newspaper and through local media outlets. The Board gets no reports whatsoever, on what is going on with the EDC. Trustee Rasho mentioned that last year when Craig came to make his funding request, he made the same comment about reporting. At that time Mayor Gilbert said that he would try and find a way to keep the Board updated on EDC activities. Trustee Rasho reiterated that this has not happened. The last time the Board was updated, was when Craig made his funding request to the Board.

Secondly, Trustee Rasho mentioned that last fall, the Board adopted an ordinance to require the Board of Trustee approve all appointments to external governmental or private organizations and boards, when the appointee will be representing the interests of the Village of Forsyth. He gave a copy of the ordinance to Craig to ensure he was aware of this decision.

Craig responded to Trustee Rasho's comments by stating that he was willing to come to any Board meeting to provide updates on what is happening with the EDC. He asked that the Village let him know on what they would like. On the second issue, Craig reported that the EDC bylaws specifically state that the voting member for municipal governmental entities shall be the Mayor or City Manager/Administrator.

Trustee Morr moved, and Trustee Reed seconded, to authorize a contribution in the amount of \$17,550 be made to the Economic Development Corporation, using funds taken from the General Fund. The amount is to be paid quarterly.

Yeas: 5—Hubbard, Reed, Rasho, Morr, Johnson.

Nays: 0—None.

Absent: 1—Allsup.

Motion declared carried.

○ *Lakeside Music and Arts Festival – Debbie Bogle*

Debbie Bogle was in attendance to present a funding request on behalf of the Lakeside Music and Arts Festival. She thanked Trustees for inviting her to come tonight, and for providing financial support for the event in the past. Debbie mentioned that the festival will be held at Nelson Park on July 2-3, 2011. Plans include scheduling activities with a family friendly focus during the day and an adult oriented focus during the evening. Debbie outlined some of the highlights that are planned for this year and asked Trustees to consider helping out again this year with a contribution of \$2,000.

Trustee Hubbard moved, and Trustee Morr seconded, to authorize contributing \$2,000 to the Lakeside Music and Arts Festival, using money from the General Fund. Upon a call of the roll, the vote was:

Yeas: 5—Hubbard, Reed, Rasho, Morr, Johnson.

Nays: 0—None.

Absent: 1—Allsup.

Motion declared carried.

○ *Warrensburg/Latham Post Prom Committee – Amy Arthur*

Amy Arthur was in attendance to present a funding request on behalf of the Warrensburg/Latham Post Prom Committee. She asked the Board to consider making a donation to help defray the cost of the event this year, which will be held at the YMCA in Decatur. Amy thanked the Board for inviting her to attend the meeting and also for its past support.

Trustee Johnson moved, and Trustee Rasho seconded, to authorize contributing \$250 to the Warrensburg/Latham Post Prom, using money from the General Fund. Upon a call of the roll, the vote was:

Yeas: 5—Hubbard, Reed, Rasho, Morr, Johnson.

Nays: 0—None.
Absent: 1—Allsup.
Motion declared carried.

Legal and Engineering Contracts

Mayor Gilbert suggested that this item also be tabled since all of the Trustees were not present. Trustees agreed. He asked that the item be placed on the next meeting agenda.

Tri-City Forum

Mayor Gilbert suggested the Board take no action on this item at this time. He mentioned that he is not sure if the City of Decatur plans to participate in the program this year or not.

Village Administrator reported that she did speak with the Village Administrator from Mt. Zion and was told that they do not plan to participate this year. The program was originally planned for sometime in April. Heather mentioned that she feels that if the Village of Forsyth and Village of Mt. Zion do not participate this year, the City of Decatur may not as well. She recommended the Board vote against participating in a tri-city business forum this year. Following a brief discussion, Trustees agreed to take no action on this item.

Community Leaders Breakfast Tickets

Village Administrator Heather Kimmons mentioned that she placed this item on the agenda to ask for direction from the Board. She explained that currently, the Village receives eight tickets on a standing order for each of the three leader breakfasts held during the year. The annual cost for the tickets is \$384.00. Heather reported that there continues to be low attendance by Trustees, which result into “recruiting” or pressuring employees to attend to fill the table. She recommended that the Board either authorize the termination of the standing order for the tickets, or, authorize the release of the tickets to the Mayor to pass them out, first to Trustees, and then, to others he may choose to invite.

Trustees did agree that it was beneficial for Trustees to attend. They discussed this issue at length before deciding to retain the standing order for tickets, and then evaluate this item following the next breakfast, which is scheduled for May.

Adjournment

Trustee Rasho moved, and Trustee Johnson seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m. on voice vote.

By: _____
Village Clerk