

**VILLAGE OF NORTH RIVERSIDE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING SEPTEMBER 6, 2022  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS 7:00 PM**

Mayor Mengoni called the meeting to order with a Roll Call. In attendance were Trustee Bianco, Trustee Czajka, Trustee Flores, Trustee Mandel and Trustee Sarro. Trustee Demopoulos was absent.

Others in attendance were Administrator Scarpiniti, Attorney Peter Murphy, Police Chief Erhenberg, Fire Chief McDermott, and Public Works Director Ranieri.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Trustee Czajka moved and Trustee Bianco seconded to approve the agenda for this meeting as presented. Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Trustees Bianco, Czajka, Flores, Mandel, Sarro

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Trustee Demopoulos

Motion carried

**BIDS-** None

**CASH RECEIPT REPORT-** No report

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Trustee Bianco moved and Trustee Mandel seconded to approve the Village Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes from the August 15, 2022 meeting as presented. Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Trustees Bianco, Czajka, Flores, Mandel, Sarro

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Trustee Demopoulos

Motion carried

**AUDIENCE**

A resident on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue has an issue with a neighbor that has a camera pointing in his backyard and feels it is a violation of his privacy as he has young children. There has been a previous issue

## **AUDIENCE (continued)**

with this neighbor involving the police. Mayor Mengoni suggested he speak to the police chief after this meeting.

Mr. Kovar thanked the Village for repaving a section by his home on 23<sup>rd</sup> St.

## **MAYORAL REPORT**

Mayor Mengoni introduced and welcomed our new Village Attorney, Mr. Peter Murphy from Peterson, Johnson & Murray.

Mayor Mengoni stated that he is happy to report the Village recently began a comprehensive enforcement campaign to address on-going property maintenance issues and overnight parking violations. You may have seen an increase in police and code enforcement presence throughout the town, especially on the east side where there is a higher concentration of complaints and violations. Increased enforcement efforts are currently underway to address the increasing complaint fielded by Village staff and elected officials. I would like to remind all residents that all vehicles parked overnight on village streets from 2am to 6am must either display a North Riverside vehicle or be registered with the police department as a visitor.

Village staff is also finalizing the new vehicle sticker program and renewals will be mailed within the upcoming weeks. The new vehicle stickers will now expire on September 30<sup>th</sup> of each year. Please watch for more details to be released in the upcoming weeks on when residents can begin to purchase your 2022/2023 vehicle sticker and daily visitor overnight parking passes.

Over the last four weeks the Police Department has increased their parking enforcement approximately 70 % on the east end of town to help address overnight parking violations in the Village focusing on one part of town at a time.

Many residents may be unaware of the multitude of duties the police department handles overnight. Parking is one part of a much larger picture.

Although they try to get every vehicle parked on our streets overnight, there will be times its just not possible. They are asking for your help. Please call the police right away if you notice an overnight violation. Do not wait until the next day when the car is no longer in violation or has possibly left the area.

According to State Farm, Illinois is 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation for catalytic converter theft which has jumped 1000% since 2019. These thefts have major financial impact on vehicle owners who may pay as much as \$2,500 to replace the device which is stolen because of the precious metals they contain. In the upcoming months the North Riverside Police Department will be hosting a catalytic converter marking event, Officers will spray "POLICE" in bright pink paint on resident's catalytic

## **MAYORAL REPORT (continued)**

converters making them less desirable for potential thieves because scrap yards are less likely to purchase them.

The paint will only be visible to would-be-thieves and will not affect your vehicle operation. The event is free and open to all North Riverside residents only. Attendees must present ID for proof of residency upon checking in.

We especially invite those residents with most targeted vehicles: Ford and Chevy pick-ups, Hondas, Toyotas and Jeeps. Please watch for more information and how to sign up for the event in the coming days.

## **REPORT OF TRUSTEES**

### **Trustee Bianco**

Trustee Bianco reminded residents that Mexican Independence Day will be celebrated at the North Riverside Park Mall on September 11<sup>th</sup> from 2pm-4pm. On October 1<sup>st</sup> Proviso Township will host Tour Day Proviso. This year bike riders will ride through Historic Riverside with an expo to follow.

### **Trustee Czajka**

Trustee Czajka reported that the Preschool Program is currently up and running as well as all the other upcoming fall events such as the Fall Flea Market on September 11<sup>th</sup>. The Autumn Fest and Chili Cook-Off will take place on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Please check the North Riverside Fall Fun Guide for more details.

### **Trustee Demopoulos- Absent**

### **Trustee Flores- No report**

### **Trustee Mandel**

Trustee Mandel stated a resident on the 2200 block of Park Avenue requested more lights on the street and also asked if there would be any upcoming Neighborhood Services meetings to inform resident about upcoming events.

Trustee Mandel visited a new store in town at 7337 W 25<sup>th</sup> Street called Door Busters and encouraged residents to visit the store.

A few residents have reached to her regarding the free grocery program and wanted more information.

## **REPORT OF TRUSTEES (continued)**

Trustee Sarro responded to Trustee Mandel's question regarding the Grocery Program. She stated that this program is not a Village run program. It is a program that is actually run by the Greater Food Depository of Chicago. This program is offered through the Berwyn Pav YMCA and residents need to reside in Cook County and available for seniors 60 years and older. There is a one page form to fill out they can and bring the form to the Pav YMCA . Grocery is available twice a month on Thursday's and pick up is from 12:30 and 2pm. This program goes through the end of the year and is not based on annual income. Trustee Sarro mentioned that there has been false information on social media stating that there is a delivery service through the Village. Trustee Sarro knows of a few seniors that are not able pick up their groceries so she has volunteered to pick them up for these few seniors. This is not a new program and has been in place since the pandemic when many seniors were not able to shop. Several other residents and board members have also volunteered to deliver groceries to other seniors in town. Trustee Sarro asked Trustee Mandel to please let her know if she knew of any seniors in need of a form for this program and she would gladly have one printed out for them.

### **Trustee Sarro**

Trustee Sarro called for an Administrative Committee Meeting for September 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm.

Trustee Sarro gave the following updates from the Community Development Department:

The following is a summary of activity from the Community Development Department for the month of August 2022:

#### **Building Reviews and Inspections:**

- Presales – The Community Development Department performed 7 single-family and 1 commercial presale inspection totaling \$4,763.75 in revenue.
- Permit Totals – The Community Development Department issued 65 residential and commercial permits totaling \$11, 314.55 in revenue.
- Permit Submittals – 76 residential and commercial permits were submitted for review.
- Inspections – 121 building inspections were conducted.
- 7700 W. 26<sup>th</sup> Street – permit was submitted for interior remodel of the old North Riverside Cleaners. Tenant is proposing a restaurant with outdoor seating and gaming.

#### **Code Enforcement:**

## **REPORT OF TRUSTEES (continued)**

On Monday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, the Village's contract code enforcement inspectors began a village wide property maintenance enforcement campaign, including windshield inspections. The

enforcement campaign involves village inspectors notifying properties through the issuance of door knockers of potential violations and providing them with a chance to correct the issue prior to a violation

being issued. The usually time frame for corrective action is 5-7 days. The types of property maintenance concerns noted at this stage usually consist of concerns with the condition of the outside of the property such as tall grass/weeds, outdoor storage of illegal items, unkept yards, overgrown shrubs and trees blocking an alley or sidewalk, and deteriorating building conditions. Larger structural issues are also being noted, but residents are provided more time for compliance due to the scope of the improvements and estimated financial costs. Properties still not in compliance after the initial reinspection or who have not reached out to village staff for an approved extension will receive a Final Notice of Violation in the mail to address the corrective action before a ticket will be issued. The entire enforcement process leading up to ticketing is approximately 2-3 weeks.

Since the start of this enforcement campaign, 119 door hangers were issued with 42 re-inspections resulting in Final Notices of Violations being mailed to properties that did not comply. Follow up compliance inspections will be conducted this week, resulting in tickets issued for non-compliance.

### **Rodent Abatement:**

Bait stations have been installed in alleys that have active rodent activity and are checked on a weekly basis. Residents are encouraged to contact the village if they notice a bait station that has been damaged so our inspector can replace it as soon as possible. The village has also recently instituted evening drive throughs of the public alleys when rodents is especially known to be active. Areas with active activity are inspected frequently, with the Village inspector reaching out to residents to address issues on private property.

Community Development Department received 14 calls in the month of August reporting rat sightings, with numerous active burrows being discovered on residential private property. Chris from First Illinois Systems, the village's contracted abatement company, has privately reached out to each resident and scheduled inspections to check their property and/or neighboring properties for issues to be addressed. Properties with evidence of rodents on private property are required to provide evidence to the Village of an active treatment program. Regular inspections of the property are completed until the property is clear of rodents. Surrounding properties that are cited for possible rodent harborage are sent a Notice of Violation and informed to contact the village to schedule an inspection.

## **REPORT OF TRUSTEES (continued)**

Please contact the Community Development Department if you have seen rodent activity so we can check and work directly with the neighboring area to treat the affected area.

Please be a considerate neighbor and help keep our community beautiful and rodent free.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

- Thank you card from the family of Donna Rutchman-Williams
- Thank you card from the family of Giuseppina Sarro

## **APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Trustee Sarro moved and Trustee Flores seconded to approve the List of Bills submitted for this meeting totaling of \$521,481.77 and to have them paid out of proper funds when such funds become available. Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Trustees Bianco, Czajka, Flores, Mandel, Sarro

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Trustee Demopoulos

Motion carried

## **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

Trustee Sarro moved and Trustee Bianco seconded to approve an Ordinance Amending Title 10 of the North Riverside Municipal Code Regarding Regulation of Parking Certain Vehicles on Public Streets **(22-O-10)** and to waive the reading. Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Trustees Bianco, Czajka, Flores, Mandel, Sarro

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Trustee Demopoulos

Motion carried

Trustee Sarro moved and Trustee Bianco seconded to approve an Ordinance Amending Title 2 Chapter 2.16 of the North Riverside Municipal Code Regarding Committees **(22-O-11)** and to waive the reading. Roll call Vote:

AYES: Trustees Bianco, Czajka, Flores, Mandel, Sarro

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Trustee Demopoulos

Motion carried

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS (continued)**

Trustee Sarro moved and Trustee Bianco seconded to approve an Ordinance Amending Title 2 Chapter 2.70 of the North Riverside Municipal Code Regarding The Board of Library Directors (**22-O-12**) and to waive the reading. Roll call Vote:

Mayor Mengoni reiterated that this ordinance is to clean up the Village's codes that are no longer relevant.

AYES: Trustees Bianco, Czajka, Flores, Mandel, Sarro

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Trustee Demopoulos

Motion carried

Trustee Sarro moved and Trustee Bianco seconded to approve an Ordinance Amending Title 15 Chapter 15.54 of the North Riverside Municipal Code Regarding Regulation of Parking Certain Vehicles in Residence Districts (**22-O-13**) and to waive the reading. Roll call Vote:

AYES: Trustees Bianco, Czajka, Flores, Mandel, Sarro

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Trustee Demopoulos

Motion carried

**UNFNISHED BUSINESS**-None

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Mengoni reminded residents that on September 11<sup>th</sup> at 9am there will be a brief ceremony at the Fire Department in remembrance of the terrorist attacks that occurred 21 years ago. All are welcome to join in this ceremony.

Mayor Mengoni made the following appointments:

Trustee Sarro moved and Trustee Flores seconded to concur with the Mayor's appointment of Trustee Sarro to the position of Chairwoman of the Administrative Committee with an expiration date of April 30, 2023. Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Trustees Bianco, Czajka, Flores, Mandel, Sarro

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Trustee Demopoulos

Motion carried

**NEW BUSINESS (continued)**

Trustee Sarro moved and Trustee Czajka seconded to concur with the Mayor's appointment of Trustee Bianco to the position of Chairman of the Development Committee with an expiration date of April 30, 2023. Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Trustees Bianco, Czajka, Flores, Mandel, Sarro  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Trustee Demopoulos  
Motion carried

Trustee Sarro moved and Trustee Bianco seconded to concur with the Mayor's appointment of Trustee Flores to the position of Chairman of the Public Safety Committee with an expiration date of April 30, 2023. Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Trustees Bianco, Czajka, Flores, Mandel, Sarro  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Trustee Demopoulos  
Motion carried

Trustee Sarro moved and Trustee Bianco seconded to concur with the Mayor's appointment of Trustee Czajka to the position of Chairwoman of the Parks and Recreation Committee with an expiration date of April 30, 2023. Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Trustees Bianco, Czajka, Flores, Mandel, Sarro  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Trustee Demopoulos  
Motion carried

Trustee Sarro moved and Trustee Bianco seconded to concur with the Mayor's appointment of Trustee Mandel to the position of Chairwoman of the Refuse & Recycling Committee with an expiration date of April 30, 2023. Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Trustees Bianco, Czajka, Flores, Mandel, Sarro  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Trustee Demopoulos  
Motion carried

Trustee Sarro moved and Trustee Bianco seconded to concur with the Mayor's appointment of Trustee Demopoulos to the position of Chairman of the Public Utilities Committee with an expiration date of April 30, 2023. Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Trustees Bianco, Czajka, Flores, Mandel, Sarro  
NAYS: None



**NEW BUSINESS (continued)**

ABSENT: Trustee Demopoulos  
Motion carried

Trustee Bianco moved and Trustee Czajka seconded to concur with the Mayor's appointment of John Fitzgerald, P.E. Novotny Engineering to the position of Village Engineer with an expiration date of April 30, 2023. Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Trustees Bianco, Czajka, Flores, Sarro  
NAYS: Trustee Mandel

ABSENT: Trustee Demopoulos  
Motion carried

Trustee Sarro moved and Trustee Flores seconded to concur with the Mayor's appointment of Paul O'Grady, Attorney Peterson, Johnson & Murray Chicago LLC to the position of Village Attorney with an expiration date of April 30, 2023. Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Trustees Bianco, Czajka, Flores, Mandel, Sarro  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Trustee Demopoulos  
Motion carried

Trustee Sarro moved and Trustee Bianco seconded to concur with the Mayor's appointment of Leonard Cannata, Attorney at Law to the position of Prosecuting Attorney with an expiration date of April 30, 2025. Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Trustees Bianco, Czajka, Flores, Mandel, Sarro  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Trustee Demopoulos  
Motion carried

Trustee Sarro moved and Trustee Bianco seconded to concur with the Mayor's appointment of Thomas Brescia, Attorney at Law to the position of Adjudication Attorney with an expiration date of April 30, 2025. Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Trustees Bianco, Czajka, Flores, Mandel, Sarro  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Trustee Demopoulos  
Motion carried

**NEW BUSINESS (continued)**

Trustee Bianco moved and Trustee Flores seconded to concur with the Mayor's appointment of George Georgopoulos to the position of Jont ZBA/Plan Commission with an expiration date of April 30, 2024. Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Trustees Bianco, Czajka, Flores, Mandel, Sarro

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Trustee Demopoulos

Motion carried

Trustee Bianco moved and Trustee Flores seconded to concur with the Mayor's appointment of John Bork to the position of Joint Plan Commission with an expiration date of April 30, 2025. Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Trustees Bianco, Czajka, Flores, Mandel, Sarro

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Trustee Demopoulos

Motion carried

Trustee Bianco moved and Trustee Flores seconded to concur with the Mayor's appointment of Matt Brophy to the position of Joint Plan Commission with an expiration date of April 30, 2025. Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Trustees Bianco, Czajka, Flores, Mandel, Sarro

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Trustee Demopoulos

Motion carried

Trustee Flores moved and Trustee Bianco seconded to concur with the Mayor's appointment of Luca Melone to the position of Police Pension Board Fire Pension Board with an expiration date of April 30, 2025. Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Trustees Bianco, Czajka, Flores, Sarro

NAYS: Trustee Mandel

ABSENT: Trustee Demopoulos

Motion carried

**ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Bianco moved and Trustee Czajka seconded to adjourn this meeting at 7:40 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

**KATHY RANIERI  
VILLAGE CLERK**