



VILLAGE OF WILMETTE

1200 Wilmette Avenue
WILMETTE, ILLINOIS 60091-0040

MEETING MINUTES

MUNICIPAL SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE VILLAGE BOARD

MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2011

7:30 A.M.

FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM OF VILLAGE HALL

Members Present: Trustee Cameron Krueger, Chairman
Trustee Alan Swanson
Trustee Julie Wolf

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Brigitte Mayerhofer, P.E., Director of Engineering Services
Jorge Cruz, P.E., Assistant Director of Engineering Services
Brian King, Police Chief
Mike McGarry, Police Department
Jeff Stein, Raysa & Zimmermann
Linda Reilley, Engineering Assistant

Guests Present: None

I. CALL TO ORDER.

Chairperson Krueger called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. Committee members Krueger, Swanson and Wolf were present.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES; MUNICIPAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING OF JUNE 29, 2010.

Chairperson Krueger directed the Committee's attention to the draft minutes of the Municipal Services Committee meeting of June 29, 2010.

Trustee Swanson moved that the Committee approve the minutes as drafted. The motion was seconded by Trustee Wolf and approved by unanimous voice vote. **The motion**

carried.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE GRADING ORDINANCE EXEMPTING BEACH MAINTENANCE

Ms. Mayerhofer opened the discussion by indicating this item was brought to staff's attention by a Michigan Avenue resident who spoke on behalf of her neighbors. The activity of recontouring the sand in the backyards of properties adjacent to Gillson beach has been taking place for years without a permit. Given that this grading activity is routine maintenance that occurs annually, staff suggests adding an exemption to the grading ordinance with the following conditions:

1. Sand or other fill material may not be brought in or removed from the property;
2. The sand recontouring may not alter, reverse or redirect the natural flow of water;
3. Land disturbing activities within the floodway are prohibited, unless approved by Appendix 9A Development Regulations in Flood Hazard Areas.

Trustee Wolf asked if someone could apply for a permit to change the grade of their property to which Ms. Mayerhofer indicated they could.

Chairman Krueger asked if this just applied to the beach side of their property, to which Ms. Mayerhofer indicated that is the intent.

A discussion took place regarding existing dunes and whether or not they are allowed to be "leveled." It was determined that large sand dunes with vegetation should be maintained. Trustee Swanson suggested adding language that indicates residents cannot change the essential topography or characteristics of the property. The proposed ordinance will be amended to reflect this change.

Trustee Swanson moved that the Committee approve the draft ordinance as amended. The motion was seconded by Trustee Wolf and approved by unanimous voice vote. **The motion carried.**

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE OVERWEIGHT AND OVERSIZED VEHICLE ORDINANCE

Chief King introduced Officer Mike McGarry who is certified to perform truck enforcement. He noted the police department started its truck weight enforcement program in August of last year with one officer and will continue to train additional officers as classes become available. Based on their feedback, a summary of the modifications are as follows:

1. Modify the list of exceptions by deleting two categories.
 - a. Vehicles operated for the purpose of making delivery or picking up a load on that particular designated street, and only to the extent that such vehicle is driven no more than the minimum distance necessary for that purpose;
 - b. Vehicles used in the construction or repair of public projects that are operating under a contract with the Village to engage in such work.
2. Add to the length of time permits are valid for single vehicle trips. The Police Department recommends that a permit be valid for a one-way trip completed within (5) calendar days. A round trip shall be completed in (10) calendar days. This would be consistent with IDOT standards.
3. Modify the ordinance to accept fines for vehicles in violation of the length, height, and width requirements.
4. Increase the allowable width of trucks to eight feet- six inches from the current eight feet. This would bring the Village's ordinance in line with state statute.
5. Add the Sheridan Road Bridge weight (74,880 lb- total gross weight) to the Village ordinance.

Chairman Krueger asked about the success of the enforcement. Officer McGarry indicated a large number of the trucks that are overweight are currently exempted because they are making a delivery to a Wilmette resident or working on a publicly funded project. He noted the sewer work at Wilmette and Prairie Avenue where the contractor's loads continued to increase after he/she learned they were exempt from the overweight ordinance.

Chairman Krueger asked if the contractor bidding on public projects bids aggressively assuming use of overweight trucks. Trustee Swanson indicated they did so that they would be low bid and awarded the project. Chairman Krueger then asked who sees the savings from this to which Trustee Swanson suggested both the Village and contractor do, but primarily the contractor. The acknowledgement that contractors working on public projects will be fined for moving overweight vehicles will likely impact their future bids.

Chief King also noted that it is difficult to enforce trucks that are moving through town and exempt those working in town. Trustee Wolf asked if other towns have similar ordinances to which Mr. Stein indicated it varies from town to town. He indicated Wilmette's ordinance is in the middle in terms of aggressiveness.

Trustee Wolf moved that the Committee approve the proposed ordinance amendments as

drafted. The motion was seconded by Trustee Swanson and approved by unanimous voice vote. **The motion carried.**

V. DISCUSSION OF PAID ON-STREET PARKING FOR GILLSON AND LANGDON BEACH USERS

Chairperson Krueger introduced this item by indicating this issue has come up in his discussions with residents in the area of Gillson Beach. He noted this is a potential revenue source for the Village.

Ms. Mayerhofer suggested the discussion should begin with how this change would impact the residents who live on Michigan Avenue and the like, because they would also be required to pay for on-street parking.

Trustee Swanson suggested permitting the area such that residents could get permits for themselves and their guests and the Village could also sell permits to the public, with preference to Wilmette residents. He said the permits could be sold on a seasonal basis.

Trustee Wolf indicated she was on the Lakefront Commission prior to becoming Trustee. She indicated although many of the Gillson Park users are non-residents, the beach is intended to be public and open to all Illinois residents. Secondly, she noted changing the free parking will push the parking further into the neighborhoods. Trustee Swanson stated the influx of parking into the neighborhoods is based on the demand.

Mr. Stein indicated that because all of the streets in Wilmette are held in the public trust, it is illegal to assign permits only to Wilmette residents. Trustee Wolf asked how other communities can do this, to which Chief King indicated his belief that this is done illegally in other towns.

Chairman Krueger noted he does not support the fact that Wilmette residents pay to support the beach and local streets, but non-residents are not paying their share of the financial burden. Chief King noted he does not believe one can get around the public trust issue. He suggested the Community Playfield as an example as a public recreation area that is open to the public.

Chairman Krueger asked how far west the parking would migrate if Michigan Avenue was signed no parking. Trustee Swanson suggested the limit at Langdon Beach would be the Plaza del Lago lot and Gillson Park would vary depending on the demand.

A discussion ensued regarding how many beach users would continue to park on Michigan Avenue if the Village started to charge for parking. Trustee Wolf suggested the requirement to pay could be seasonal, to which Ms. Mayerhofer noted some of the

other parking regulations in the area were also seasonal.

Trustee Swanson suggested he did not believe this would make enough revenue for the Village. While he is not concerned about moving the parking further west, he is concerned about the impact on safety because of the narrow streets.

The Committee reviewed the beach parking lots and which lots required a Village sticker versus a daily pass and open to the public.

Trustee Swanson asked how often the beach lots are full to which Chief King and Trustee Wolf noted the lots have available parking on most days. This suggests that people will not pay to use Michigan Avenue either.

The discussion concluded with Chairman Krueger indicating he will talk to some of the residents impacted by beach season parking and asked the other Trustees to do the same. Further Trustee Krueger will speak with Terry Porter, who chaired the Lakefront Commission. Mr. Stein will review the ordinances of other lakefront towns and determine if there is a way to achieve similar parking regulations in Wilmette. Trustee Krueger also asked all present to look for ways to accommodate better lakefront parking and to not rely on the historical research and discussion that highlighted reasons to not look at improving the situation.

VI. OTHER / OLD BUSINESS.

None.

VII. ADJOURNMENT.

Trustee Wolf moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Swanson. No further discussion occurred on the motion. Voting yes: Chairperson Krueger, Trustee Swanson and Trustee Wolf. Voting no: none. **The motion carried.**

The meeting was thereafter adjourned at 8:42 a.m. Minutes Respectfully Prepared by Brigitte Mayerhofer, P.E., Director of Engineering Services.