

City of Deer Park
City Council Meeting
Municipal Building
December 4, 2023

Mayor Donnellon opened the meeting at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the Invocation. A moment of silence was observed for long-time business owner, Willa Kolthoff, who recently passed away.

The clerk read the roll. Mr. Kelly, Mrs. Kohorst, Ms. Downs, Mayor Donnellon, Mr. Camp, Mr. Feldhaus, Mr. Daily. All members were present.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Downs motioned to approve the minutes from the November 20, 2023 Council Meeting. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Public Comment – Citizens and Guests

Carrie Baker – 4169 Webster Avenue

Ms. Baker spoke in favor of the formation of the Diversity & Inclusion committee. Ms. Baker stated she believes the committee is needed in addition to the Park Board and the city should acknowledge its rising diversity.

Dana Diedrichs – 7122 Carnation Avenue

Ms. Diedrichs echoed Ms. Baker's comments, stating she feels the Diversity & Inclusion committee is a great idea, which will make Deer Park better.

Standing Committee Reports

Legislative and Finance Committee Chair Chris Westmark –

Ms. Westmark motioned to accept the November 2023 Income Tax report. Mr. Feldhaus seconded the motion. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Ms. Westmark motioned to accept the November 2023 JEDZ report. Mr. Feldhaus seconded the motion. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Safety Committee Chair Tom Camp -

Mr. Camp reported he discussed the fire lane issue with Chief Meador, including conducting an audit. Mr. Camp will work with Chief Meador to make a presentation to council in 2024, including options and guidelines for streets that do not presently have a fire lane.

Public Works Committee Chair Kathy Downs –

Ms. Downs reported the GCWW Water Main replacement project on Plainfield Road is nearing completion. Re-paving will take place in 2024. Dr. Jetter stated the waterline work should be complete by year's end.

Park Board Committee Chair Mark Feldhaus -

Mr. Feldhaus reported the tree lighting ceremony was well-attended. Both Santa and the Grinch made an appearance at the event. The Toys for Tots collection is going well.

Diversity & Inclusion Steering Committee – Neil Kelly

Mr. Kelly thanked Council for their attention to the presentation he made regarding the Diversity & Inclusion committee. Since the last council meeting, Mr. Kelly met with Dr. Jetter, Mr. Pacheco, and Ms. Westmark for further discussion. The steering committee will reconvene on Thursday, December 28 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss changes to their proposal and Mr. Kelly will give an update to council in January.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Mayor Donnellon motioned to establish the Clerk of Council salary at \$4,000 annually. Mr. Feldhaus seconded the motion. Mr. Kelly – yes, Ms. Kohorst – yes, Ms. Downs – yes, Mayor Donnellon – yes, Mr. Camp – abstain, Mr. Feldhaus – yes, Ms. Westmark – yes. Motion carries 6-0-1.

Reports from Other City Officials

Solicitor –

Mr. Pacheco thanked City Council for allowing him to serve as City Solicitor.

City Manager –

- Dr. Jetter thanked City Council for his re-appointment.
- The 2024 appropriation budget will be on the December 18 agenda.
- The city has received some criticism for the detour for the Plainfield Road project, however; the detours are established by the construction team.
- Dr. Jetter made a presentation for the grant request for Chamberlin Park last week.
- Dr. Jetter noted that income tax collection will likely be up \$200,000 over last year by the end of 2024. Tax department employee Julie Hoffman has been doing a great job.

Mayor -

- Thanked everyone for their support. The city still has a lot of work to do and is looking forward to a busy and prosperous 2024.
- Mayor Donnellon noted both meetings in January fall on a holiday. Mr. Kelly motioned to reschedule the January council meetings to January 8 at 7:00 p.m. and January 22 at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Camp seconded the motion. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Schedule

December 18, 2023 – Council Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

December 25-26, 2023 – Christmas holiday – Offices closed

January 1-2, 2024 – New Year's holiday – Offices closed


Community Events

December 11 – Community Info Session – Library at 7:00 p.m.

December 19 – Block Watch – 6:30 p.m. – Pot luck dinner.

Adjournment

Mr. Kelly motioned to adjourn. Mr. Feldhaus seconded the motion. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.



John Donnellon
Mayor

Meredith George
Clerk of Council