



Village Clerk's Office

31 West Quincy Street • Westmont, Illinois 60559
Tel: 630-981-6220 Fax: 630-829-4441

Clerk's Office
Village of Westmont

MINUTES OF THE HYBRID VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING HELD Thursday, February 10, 2022.

Mayor Gunter called the meeting to order at **6:00 P.M.**

WESTMONT VIRTUAL VILLAGE BOARD MEETING ROLL CALL:

PRESENT:	Mayor Gunter	<u>P</u>	Clerk Szymiski	<u>P</u>
TRUSTEES:	Barker	<u>P</u>	Simonovich	<u>P</u>
	Brady	<u>P</u>	Guzzo	<u>A</u>
	Liddle	<u>P</u>	Nero	<u>P</u>

STAFF:

May (Village Manager)	<u>P</u>	Parker (Assistant Manager)	<u>P</u>	Sylvester (Community Dev. Director)	<u>P</u>
Brainerd (H.R. Director)	<u>A</u>	McIntyre (Communications Director)	<u>A</u>	Liljeberg (I.T. Manager)	<u>P</u>
Chief Gunther (Police Dept.)	<u>P</u>	Dep Chief Thompson (Police Dept.)	<u>A</u>	Dep Chief Gruen (Police Dept.)	<u>A</u>
Chief Riley (Fire Dept.)	<u>A</u>	Dep Chief O'Hare (Fire Dept.)	<u>P</u>	Mulhearn (Deputy Liquor Commissioner)	<u>P</u>
Ramsey (P.W. Director)	<u>A</u>	Mielcarski (Administration Supervisor)	<u>A</u>	Richards (Deputy Clerk)	<u>A</u>

ATTORNEY: Zemenak P (zoom) Carrara A

A QUORUM WAS PRESENT TO TRANSACT BUSINESS.

PRESS:

Bugle A

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DIRECTOR: Forssberg - P

THOSE PRESENT RECITED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

OPEN FORUM:

No open forum.



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VOTING KEY: **A=ABSENT** **AB=ABSTAIN** **N=NO** **W=Withdrawn**
 P=PRESENT **Y=YES** **R=RECUSE**

Note: *The items listed in these minutes are summaries only and are not meant to be a direct transcript of the Mayor's, Manager's, Clerk's and Trustees' comments. For actual quotes of the referenced items please refer to the Archival video copy of this meeting.*

VOTING SUMMARY

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
TRUSTEE BARKER	<u>Y</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>Y</u>
TRUSTEE BRADY	<u>Y</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>Y</u>
TRUSTEE GUZZO	<u>A</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>A</u>
TRUSTEE LIDDLE	<u>Y</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>Y</u>
TRUSTEE NERO	<u>Y</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>Y</u>
TRUSTEE SIMONOVICH	<u>Y</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>Y</u>

REPORTS

Mayor Gunter

- Mayor Gunter asked Deputy Chief O'Hare to give an update on COVID-19.
 - Deputy Chief O'Hare stated that cases have been trending down over the past month.
 - The Governor will be lessening the mask mandate starting February 28th, except in schools, hospitals, nursing homes and several other facilities. Each village / municipality may make their own rules regarding masks.
 - Illinois test positivity rates are at 7.5%, cases are down 66%, hospitalizations are down 63% and unfortunately deaths are still up at this time.
 - In DuPage County the positivity rate is at 8%, hospitalizations are decreasing rapidly. We have had 200,931 cases along with 1,723 deaths.
 - In Westmont there have been 4,914 cases and 97 deaths. There have been no new deaths within the past two weeks.
 - 75% of residents in DuPage County are vaccinated. 83% have at least one shot and 53% have received their booster.
 - DuPage County is bringing back their testing site at the fairgrounds. That will be accessible on March 1, 2022.
 - The Mayor stated that the Village follows the State and County guidelines.
 - The Mayor or the Village does not have any power to regulate school districts as far as masks or no masks.
- The Park District Winter Beer Fest will be at Ty Warner Park on Feb. 19th. Sign up on the Park District website at westmontparks.org.
- Congratulations to Westmont High School. Last Friday, there were several people introduced into the WHS Athletics Hall of Fame. They include Annie Carlson, Jack McInerney, Joe Morganfield, and all of the members of the 1998 Boys Cross Country Team.
- The U.S. luge tryouts are coming to Westmont again in June of this year. Stay tuned for the dates.
- The national swimming meet is coming to Westmont. U.S.A. Swimming, the national

organization responsible for selecting and training athletes for national and international competitions, including the Olympics, has announced that they will be coming to Westmont IL to host a pro swim series event. This event has been scheduled to take place March 2 - 5th at the FMC Natatorium. More information will be published on the Village website.

- They are also in the planning process of bringing other major national events here. That will be good for our businesses in town, our hotel, and restaurants. It's exciting for them to come to Westmont.
- Manager May contacted Metra regarding the train crossing. The westbound train no longer blocks the tracks and allows traffic to flow at Cass Ave.

Clerk Szymki

- Nomination forms for the Westmont Citizen of the Year program are available at the Village Hall, the Westmont Chamber office, and online at westmontchamber.com. The deadline to submit nominations is Friday, March 4 at noon.

Trustee Brady

- Westmont Restaurant Week is scheduled from Thursday, Feb. 17 - Sunday, Feb. 27. For participating restaurants and special prices see the fixed menus which are on the Chamber website.
- Congratulations to the Fire Department who recently sent volunteers to a recent fire that happened in a north suburb. The Police Department also sent volunteers to Kentucky. Thanked and congratulated the Police and Fire Departments for assisting fellow citizens.

Mayor Gunter gave the report on Trustee Johanik-Guzzo behalf

- The next Fire Public Safety Committee meeting will be March 10, 2022, 4:30pm at Village Hall.
- The 2021 Fire Department's Annual report has been published online. The Fire Dept. will make an in-person presentation of this report at the next Fire Safety Committee meeting.
- We ask residents to shovel out the fire hydrants if you have one near your property, and you're able to help. Please shovel the snow away from the hydrant to help out our first responders.

Trustee Simonovich

- The next Police Public Safety Committee will be April 21, 2022.
- The Annual Police Department Report has been posted on the website.
- The Westmont Police Department is hiring. Applications are being accepted now through February 22, 2022 at iosolutions.com and additional information can be found on the village website.



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Trustee Nero

- The next Public Works Committee meeting will be on March 24th, 2022 at 4:30pm at Village Hall.
- Gave an update on the winter snow totals and salt usage. We have had 20.25 inches of snow and we have used 750 tons of road salt and 7700 lbs of bag salt.
- Thanks to our Public Works team for the snow removal. They always do a great job and we appreciate it.
- The Public Works Water Division reports that we have had only 4 water main breaks.

Trustee Liddle

- The next Administration / Finance Committee meeting will be February 24, 2022, 4:30pm, at Village Hall.
- Welcomed Sonila Abas who is our new Accounting Specialist. She started on Monday, February 7th in the Business Office.
- The Village will soon be implementing a new billing system for waste hauling and water service. Details will soon be published on the village website.
- The Village has digitally published their first edition of the new Westmont Community Newsletter on the village website. Starting in March, the Westmont Community Newsletter will be printed and distributed to the entire community.
- The Peace, Hope, and Love Community Mural Project will be starting. Westmont Special Events and the Community Creative Arts Network have created the Peace, Hope, and Love project. There are three components and businesses can sign up to have a mural with the Peace, Hope, and Love theme on their windows. The community is invited to visit these murals and take selfies. People can take part in the Peace, Hope, and Love essay contest. Sign up at westmontevents.com.
- 8 Westmont businesses will be participating in the Westmont Jig and Swig this year. Each business will be hosting food and beverage specials as well as fun activities. The event will be Saturday, March 12th and you can sign up at westmontevents.com.

Trustee Barker

- Recapped the EIC meeting held February 7.
 - Thanked the staff for all of their work and the necessary steps to achieve a bronze level soul smart program. We are grateful for all of the work that has been done.
- One of the EIC members, Krista, and former staff liaison, Jon Yeater, will be participating in an environmental roundtable forum with Congressman Caston on February 14th.
- EIC is developing initial plans for Richmond Education Gardens ribbon cutting event along with the first conversations about programming at that site.
- The No Mow 'Til Mother's Day Program is up and running. We already have 50 people signed up so far and you can get more information on the Village website.
- The composting, yard waste, & brush pick up will begin on April 4th. Sign up for composting can be done through waste management at wm.com
- SCARCE is hosting an event called the "Sustainable Saturday Collection Event". It is a special collection event, Saturday, March 19, 2022, 9:00 a.m. to noon at Benedictine



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University. There is a very large list of items that will be accepted including paint, electronics, TVs and monitors, clothes, and more. Some items require a minimum disposal fee.

Mayor Gunter mentioned that the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference is actively campaigning to get the Local Government Distribution Fund to get it closer to what it was supposed to be when it passed. The State was supposed to collect sales tax so we didn't have to do it and they were supposed to distribute that to the municipalities with 10%. Through the years it's gotten down to roughly 6% and there is a bill now to get it to 8%.

ITEMS TO BE REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA:

No items to be removed from the consent agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA [Omnibus Vote]:

Village Manager May addressed the Board on this agenda item.

Motion by **Trustee Liddle** to approve the consent agenda.

(A) BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Board to consider approving the minutes of the Village Board meeting held January 27, 2022.

(B) FINANCE ORDINANCE #20: Dated **February 20, 2022** in the amount of **\$ 2,090,171.33**

(C) PURCHASE ORDERS

22201980	Safe Step LLC	\$ 25,000.00
22201997	Westmont Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau	20,875.00
22201998	Visu-Sewer of Illinois	22,800.00
22201999	Public Safety Direct	44,050.74
Total of Purchase Orders		\$ 112,725.74

(D) TOTAL OF PURCHASE ORDERS & FINANCE ORDINANCE: **\$ 2,202,897.07**

Seconded by **Trustee Simonovich** and the motion passed.

VOTE ON MOTION #1

Ayes: Barker, Brady, Liddle, Nero, Simonovich

Nays: None

Absent: Guzzo

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There is no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

(2) REPEAL OF WATER RATE ADJUSTMENT ORDINANCE

Assistant Village Manager Parker addressed the Board on this item.

Motion by **Trustee Nero** to consider an ordinance repealing Ordinance 20-022, passed on March 12, 2020, regarding water rate increases.

Seconded by **Trustee Barker** and the motion passed.

VOTE ON MOTION #2

Ayes: Barker, Brady, Liddle, Nero, Simonovich

Nays: None

Absent: Guzzo

Discussion Only - CLASS 22 AND CLASS 23 LIQUOR LICENSE

Review Section 10-36 of the municipal code covering Class 22 and Class 23 Liquor License restrictions and requirements.

Deputy Liquor Commissioner Mulhearn addressed the Board on this item. He talked about the history of video gaming in Westmont. The original intent was to help established restaurant owners. Video gaming cafes have become more prevalent. The downtown business district has video gaming terminals as well. Currently, the approval of video gaming is examined on a case by case basis.

Mayor Gunter stated that the Board can enact a moratorium in the B1 District if they want.

Video gaming is meant to be an amenity to restaurants. We are able to measure if this is the case because we have places for eating tax. The Village can determine if more of their income is coming from food sales versus gambling. There was one business that we had to put before the Liquor Commissioner for a hearing. Right now we are monitoring them and giving them three months to try to turn their act around. They clearly stated that they were supposed to be a restaurant and they are clearly a video gaming cafe. We are working with them to try and turn that around.

Mayor Gunter said this is not about revenues, this is about making sure that these restaurants do not turn into video gaming cafes.

Trustee Nero asked if the restaurant owners have to report the gaming revenue.

The machines self report and that revenue is given to the State and the State then distributes it to municipalities.



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Everything is controlled by the IL Gaming Board. If there is a violation it is handled by them. If there is a liquor violation that would be handled by us.

We can now charge \$250 per terminal. We used to charge \$25 per terminal.

We have only had two reported instances of criminal activity involving video gaming since 2013. Both were overnight burglaries, where a group came in and tried to pry open the ATM's. In both cases other towns were getting hit as well.

We now have 21 video gaming licenses and we have 118 terminals in operation.

Can we increase the one time \$500 fee? The answer is yes we can change the initial fee and we can make it recurring as well.

Assistant Village Manager Parker showed a chart and explained the video gaming cafes and restaurants and percentage of revenue compared to video gaming.

Advertisement and signage was discussed. Pictures of A-frame signs in the downtown area were shown.

Businesses can not have your entire window covered. You can not have more than 40% coverage in a window.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- None

(3) MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:03 P.M.

Motion by **Trustee Nero** to adjourn the meeting at **7:03pm**.
Seconded by **Trustee Liddle** and the motion passed.

VOTE ON MOTION #3

Ayes: Barker, Brady, Liddle, Nero, Simonovich

Nays: None

Absent: Guzzo

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:03 P.M.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Virginia Szymski, Village Clerk

Ronald J. Gunter, Mayor

Dated this 24th day of February, 2022