

*MINUTES OF MAYOR NELSON AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE VILLAGE OF FLOSSMOOR, ILLINOIS HELD ON AUGUST 1, 2022*

VILLAGE HALL / ZOOM MEETING

AUGUST 1, 2022

7:30 pm

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm.

Village Clerk Gina A. LoGalbo took roll.

PRESENT: Mayor Nelson, Trustees Bradley-Scott, Daggett, Driscoll, Lofton, Mitros, Mustafa

ALSO PRESENT: Village Manager Bridget Wachtel; Fire Chief Bob Kopec; Chief of Police Tod Kamleiter; Public Works Director John Brunke; Building and Zoning Administrator Scott Bugner; Communications Manager Amy Kent; Program and Event Coordinator Stephanie Wright; Finance Director Scott Bordui; Village Attorney Kathi Orr; Village Clerk Gina A. LoGalbo; 85 residents

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order. Mayor Nelson noted that the meeting was being held in person and via Zoom, which is permitted by Public Act 101-0640. Mayor Nelson noted that the public was invited to monitor the meeting via Zoom or attend the meeting in person. Public participation would be permitted only in person during the citizen comment portion of the agenda. Members of the public could submit comments on items on the agenda by emailing info@flossmoor.org, which would be shared with the Village Board.

Mayor Nelson thanked the attendees of the meeting for being present and noted that our thoughts and condolences are with the family and everyone involved. She stated that the Village is transparent in all that the Village does and will continue to communicate openly. Mayor Nelson stated that the Village could not engage in a dialogue and noted that as required in an officer-involved shooting, the Illinois State Police Public Integrity Task Force is conducting an active and independent investigation, and the Village is cooperating fully. She stated that the Village could not comment further on the investigation. She noted that the topic of mental health is an increasing concern for public responders across the country, and Flossmoor is no different. She stated that the department meets its required training as mandated by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board, details of which can be found on the Village's website. Mayor Nelson stated that continuing to identify additional resources for the Village's first responders remains a goal.

Mayor Nelson stated that the Village Board welcomed the public's comments and asked that attendees observe Board policy for public comment, which includes a five (5) minute limit on speaking time per person and maintaining public decorum. If attendees were part of a group, they could designate a single speaker so that the Board could hear from as many people as possible. Also, if an attendee spoke at a previous meeting, to consider allowing someone else to speak first. Per Board policy, there would be a maximum public comment time of thirty (30) minutes. Mayor Nelson stated that the Village would continue to update residents and the website as additional information becomes available. She invited the first three speakers to come up who had signed up for the public comment portion of the agenda.

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Citizens Present Wishing to Address the Board on a Non-Agenda Item:

Jackie Riffice, a Flossmoor resident and member of the Flossmoor Community Relations Commission for several years, stated that given the number of people present who likely wanted to comment she would hold her own comments and pass her turn onto the next person.

Lewis Spells stated that he was the brother of Madeline Miller. He stated that Miller was murdered and that he wants justice. In his opinion, he stated that the way the Flossmoor Police Department (FPD) handled the matter was like Miller was an animal. He stated that if she were a different color, she would likely be alive today. In regards to the Village claiming it's transparent, it's not transparent because at 4:30 p.m. they found out Miller had passed away and at 1:15 p.m. she was pronounced dead. He stated that the cops that did that treated her like a dog, and that there is talk year after year about Black people getting killed, but nothing is done about it. He stated that when it happens, the finger is pointed the other way, and in his opinion, the cops that killed his sister are the animals and should be locked in jail. He stated that in his opinion, the cops look at them differently and shoot Black people and women. He stated that Miller was a good woman who had a breakdown, just like anyone in the room could have a bad day. The cops had tasers and were grown men who could have surrounded her in the open area but instead chose to assassinate her. He stated that it's like talking to a wall every time that this happens, and he hopes that something gets done to the cops this time to stop the violence.

Iletha Hudson stated that she was one of Madeline Miller's seven sisters. She stated that Miller was the fifth child of eleven kids and the first one to die. She said that their family is devastated and that in regard to people wondering why they weren't out earlier, it was because they were too devastated. Hudson stated that her sister was loving, kind, would invite people to her house, and take people to a WNBA game. Miller taught her to do various things, and Miller was a wife, mother, and grandmother. She stated that her sister didn't have to get killed, and that the police could have used other tactics like pepper spray, punching her, kicking her, or running from her. Hudson stated that Miller was her friend; she will miss her dearly, and that Miller was from a God-fearing family whose grandmother was a minister. She stated that they wished that the police officers all across America would use other de-escalation tactics when it comes to Black people, and that they wished the cops would have looked at Miller as if she were their wife, mother, or grandmother so they would have compassion. Hudson stated that it seems that when there are people of color, especially Black people, that there is a fear and the first thing that they want to do is shoot to kill. She stated that in the Black community they don't try to call the police first because they know what might happen. Hudson stated that she hopes all police can use other de-escalation tactics, which they do have but don't use them on Black people and that they should treat them like they treat White people.

Dr. La'Shawn Littrice read a statement stating that it was from Aaron McIntire, who thanked Mayor Nelson for meeting with him. She noted that Mayor Nelson said authorities were looking into de-escalation programs for Flossmoor and that Mayor Nelson said that one of the reasons the investigation wasn't moving faster was because of the mental state of the FPD.

Mayor Nelson stated, no that was not true.

Littrice stated that he thanked Mayor Nelson for informing him that the majority of people making noise about this situation aren't from Flossmoor, so she doesn't necessarily have to address them, but he thinks that is false. Littrice stated that she and Mayor Nelson spoke in October after the murder of Kevin Jones

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in Ballantrae. She stated that she has been a resident of Flossmoor for seventeen years, and that they met with Camiella to create some resources for the youth in southland communities, including a peace council and meetings with the HOA Board. She stated that she is very familiar with Mayor Nelson. She doesn't have a personal agenda but rather she has an organization called Make Noize for Change. She's a community psychologist, mother of seven, and fights for racial injustice, inequalities, and social inequality and that she doesn't receive any money for this work. She stated that in regards to the conversation with Aaron McIntire, that was an intimidation tactic by Mayor Nelson and inappropriate for a seventeen-year-old to have to speak to the Mayor about an investigation. Littrice stated that there was a sharing of pertinent information from a case that should have been made public to the family present at the meeting. She stated that they wanted to pull McIntire back from helping them, but they didn't invite him to the meeting and that he spoke up on his own. Littrice stated that her other issue was to talk about the traumatization of police, she's a community psychologist and deals with trauma. She stated that there are killer police who murdered an elderly woman who are claiming they're too traumatized to speak, yet Mayor Nelson stated to McIntire that the investigators told the Mayor that they had no other choice but to shoot and kill Madeline Miller, and that would mean information was shared with a seventeen-year-old that should never have been told to him. Littrice stated that in regard to the claim that many of them aren't from Flossmoor, that is a lie. Many people in the room are from Flossmoor, and they don't have to be from Flossmoor to be concerned since they have students, family, and property in Flossmoor. They are part of a social justice movement and fight for communities that they don't live in. She stated that she appreciates Trustee Daggett for reaching out to each of them because he showed compassion, and that he wanted to know what was going on. She stated that they demand that Mayor Nelson launch an administrative investigation into the Flossmoor Police Department, specifically looking into the racial inequalities that exist in traffic stops, use of force, and ticketing among people of color and White people. She said that they also want to deal with the de-escalation tactics that don't exist when it comes to Black people because they are considered animals. She stated that they are demanding that the Flossmoor Police Department receive intense training on crisis intervention and that they want to ensure that de-escalation and mental health training is in place. She stated that they want Mayor Nelson to look into the Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets (CAHOOTS) program.

Camiella Williams stated that her agenda is to support families that need to be supported, and yielded the rest of her time to the brother of Madeline Miller.

Pastor Jerry Strickland stated that injustice has to have a voice and a physical image to protect itself from those that cater to injustice. He stated that he is a Pastor, and that his ministry is to save the lost, and that he was present to defend Madeline Miller. He stated that all the police thought about was excessive force and not getting cut, scratched, or injured, which isn't justified. He stated that there is a crisis in the nation where Black people are being mauled, murdered, misunderstood, and that no one can tell him that he doesn't have a right to defend the little man. He stated that a guy in Highland Park shot thirty-four people and was gently ushered into the police vehicle to take him to jail, and in North Carolina, a man shot a bunch of people and then the police took him to McDonalds on the way to jail. He stated that Madeline Miller's only crime was that she was sick and didn't have a good mental process working in her favor, and that if someone can tell him that's justified, then he'll stand there all day. He stated society is multi-colored and that Black people still have a right through the 1st and 14th Amendments.

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Titilayo Anoma, a teen resident of Flossmoor, stated that she is disgusted by Flossmoor's local government and police department, and that Mayor Nelson went to the house of one of their seventeen year old protestors, Aaron McIntire. According to Anoma, Mayor Nelson allegedly told McIntire that the investigation of Madeline Miller can't go forward because the officers involved were too traumatized to testify.

Mayor Nelson stated that it wasn't true.

Anoma stated that the Mayor mentioned that State Police are investigating Miller's death, and Anoma noted that it may take months or years for the investigation to be complete. She stated that in the previous Commission meeting, McIntire shared his story that he and his twelve-year-old sister were stopped and frisked by police, who suspected that they stole a car. She stated that a Commissioner at the previous meeting stated that 12-year olds car jack, and that she's sharing these things to share the racist history of the FPD and the justification for those actions by the people in power. She thought it was inappropriate that Mayor Nelson went to McIntire's house to intimidate him and that she shared information about their efforts. She demanded that Mayor Nelson launch an administrative investigation into the FPD to look into their use of force, traffic stops, and ticketing among people of color and White people, that the Flossmoor Police Department receive intensive training on crisis intervention, de-escalation, and mental health, and that the FPD follow the CAHOOTS program.

Pastor Walter P. Turner stated that he watched a previous Village Board meeting on zoom, and he heard the rhetoric that a lot of the noise was being made from outside of Flossmoor. He said that he was a Black man who has lived in Flossmoor for 22 years and whose daughters graduated from Homewood-Flossmoor Community High School (HF). He stated that he's baffled because he keeps hearing the rhetoric and stalling tactics such as the Illinois State Police are holding up the investigation, and that the investigation can go longer than six months. He knows this because Jameel Robeson, who was killed in Robbins was his godson and musician in church. He stated that the police officer in Midlothian is still working, and that the Flossmoor police officer who shot Madeline Miller is on paid administrative leave. Turner stated that the family of Miller was hurting. He stated that they need to call Attorney General Kwame Raoul to give an independent and fair investigation. He stated that when something is wrong in the community, the whole community rises up and they don't have to be from Flossmoor. He asked when is someone going to recognize that Black lives matter, and that Miller had a problem and that people need to understand the role of de-escalation because everyone needs help. He stated that they [the Board] should not be arrogant, pious, or unconcerned.

Casey Kuelto, a resident of Homewood, stated that he was angry with Mayor Nelson's actions because she messaged organizer Aaron McIntire's mom to meet with her to push McIntire out of their movement. Kuelto stated that Mayor Nelson didn't have the compassion to lead Flossmoor through this situation. He stated that he took issue with some of the things that Mayor Nelson told McIntire, including complaining about their group going after minors and that McIntire went to their group. He stated that Mayor Nelson told McIntire she was concerned about him staying on the up and up path, and that she didn't want to speak to non-Flossmoor residents. Kuelto said that he moved to Homewood six and a half years ago because of Flossmoor, that his partner worked at Flossmoor Station for four years, that they loved Flossmoor's pride parties, and he visited Trustee Daggett's church. Kuelto noted that he saw on Facebook that Trustee Daggett was meeting with people from CAHOOTS the day after the last Village Board meeting. He stated

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that after the Flossmoor Police shot and killed Madeline Miller, they called for backup from Homewood, and that in Flossmoor's budget, it shows that the Flossmoor Police Department participates in mutual aid organizations across the southland which are the same organizations that the Dolton police participated with and who murdered Alexis Wilson last summer. He stated that it includes the Oak Lawn police who were seen beating a teenager last week, that Flossmoor is intrinsically connected to Homewood and all of the southland communities, and that Mayor Nelson has to listen to them. Their demands are that the names of the Police Officers who shot Miller be released; that the CAHOOTS program be implemented, which is in accordance with Illinois' recent Community Emergency Services and Supports Act (CESSA) law and the 988 initiative; that Flossmoor conducts an administrative investigation into Miller's death, racial disparities in the police department, and policing itself; continuous crisis intervention, mental health and de-escalation training for Flossmoor Police.

Mayor Nelson noted that Kuelto's time was up.

*Cari Anderson stated that she was glad that Mayor Nelson was giving the community and Madeline Miller's family the ability to have some catharsis and have open discussions and that they should go on as long as it takes because the community needs to heal. She stated that she is a psychologist and member of the community for 25 years. She stated that everyone in the room has been hurt by what's transpired, and that she applauded the fact that Trustee Daggett was already looking into the CAHOOTS program. She stated that she would like to know where the Trustees stand and what can be done as a community to help Miller's family heal, and how to help the community, including the police department, heal. She recommended that everyone in the room read the book, *My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies* by Resmaa Menakem, which is a New York Times Bestseller and recommended that police and White people especially read it. Anderson stated that what intercepts with this and Miller's tragedy is mental health, that they need to find different policing manners, and that many of the calls need to have mental health professionals with police officers or handled solely by mental health professionals. She asked if the Trustees, a task force, or a commission of community members could advise the Board on these issues, and that sometimes they have to hear that the Board is working on the issue.*

Mayor Nelson asked if anyone present would like to speak on an agenda item. No residents wished to speak on an Agenda Item.

A resident inquired about the public comment ordinance and the procedure for extending the time and stated that Mayor Nelson could extend the time.

Mayor Nelson stated that there was no procedure for extending the time and that it was Board policy.

The audience became disruptive with chanting and shouting, obstructing decorum and resulting in the Board unable to move on with their agenda and conduct the scheduled business.

Mayor Nelson asked for a motion to recess at 8:13 p.m. Trustee Mitros so moved, seconded by Trustee Daggett. Mayor Nelson called for a vote on the motion as presented. Motion passed by a voice vote.

AYES: Trustees Bradley-Scott, Daggett, Driscoll, Lofton, Mitros and Mustafa.

ABSENT: None

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ABSTAIN: None
NAYS: None

The Board reconvened at 8:47 pm. Many of the audience members had left the room, but a few audience members remained.

Recognitions and Appointments

There were no recognitions or appointments for this meeting.

Mayor Nelson referred to the Consent Agenda (which encompassed Agenda Items 1-7):

- 1. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting Held on July 18, 2022*
- 2. Presentation of Bills for Approval and Payment as Approved by the Finance Committee (August 1, 2022)*
- 3. Consideration of a Resolution Amending the Budget for Fiscal Year 22-23 for the Village of Flossmoor*
- 4. Consideration of an Ordinance of the Village of Flossmoor, Cook County, Illinois, Approving a Rezoning - 1835 Dixie Highway and 1615 Vollmer Road*
- 5. Consideration of an Ordinance Granting a Variation from the Requirements of Section 285-21-1 F. (1) (a) [2] of the Flossmoor Zoning Ordinance (1808 Sylvan Court)*
- 6. Consideration of a Resolution of the Village of Flossmoor, Rich and Bloom Townships, Cook County, Illinois, in Support of Class 8 (3950 Vollmer Road)*
- 7. Consideration of a Resolution Approving an Agreement by and between the Village of Flossmoor, Cook County, Illinois and Windy Property Investments, LLC*

Mayor Nelson called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Trustee Mitros so moved, seconded by Trustee Driscoll. Mayor Nelson called for a vote on the motion as presented. Motion passed by a roll call vote.

AYES: Trustees Bradley-Scott, Daggett, Driscoll, Lofton, Mitros and Mustafa.
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None
NAYS: None

Reports of Committees, Commissions and Boards

There were no reports of Committees, Commissions or Boards this meeting.

Mayor Nelson referred to Agenda Item #8 – Consideration of a Resolution of the Village of Flossmoor, Cook County, Illinois, Approving a Local Road Safety Plan. Mayor Nelson called for a motion for Consideration of a Resolution of the Village of Flossmoor, Cook County, Illinois, Approving a Local Road Safety Plan. Trustee Daggett so moved, seconded by Trustee Mitros.

Mayor Nelson called for a vote on the motion as presented. Motion passed by a roll call vote.

AYES: Trustees Bradley-Scott, Daggett, Driscoll, Lofton, Mitros and Mustafa.

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ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None
NAYS: None

Mayor Nelson referred to Agenda Item #9 – A Motion to go into Executive Session to Discuss the Employment of Specific Individuals, Property Acquisition and Litigation.

There was no need to enter into Executive Session.

As there were no other items to discuss, Mayor Nelson called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Daggett so moved, seconded by Trustee Mitros and passed by a voice vote.

AYES: Trustees Bradley-Scott, Daggett, Driscoll, Lofton, Mitros and Mustafa.
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None
NAYS: None

The Regular Meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Gina A. LoGalbo
Village Clerk