

*MINUTES OF MAYOR NELSON AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE VILLAGE OF FLOSSMOOR, ILLINOIS HELD ON DECEMBER 19, 2022*

*VILLAGE HALL / ZOOM MEETING*

*DECEMBER 19, 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; Assistant Village Manager Jonathan Bogue; Acting Chief of Police Keith Taylor; Fire Chief Bob Kopeck; Program & Event Coordinator Stephanie Wright; Finance Director Scott Bordui; Director of Public Works John Brunke; Building and Zoning Administrator Scott Bugner; Village Attorney Kathi Orr; Village Clerk Gina A. LoGalbo; 25 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 at the end of the meeting. Members of the public could submit comments on items on the agenda by emailing [info@flossmoor.org](mailto:info@flossmoor.org), which would be shared with the Village Board. Mayor Nelson asked that all in attendance act with decorum so that the business of the Village could be conducted. She noted that individual commenters would be limited to five (5) minutes, for a maximum of thirty (30) minutes total for public comment.*

*Recognitions and Appointments:*

*Mayor Nelson referred to Agenda Item #1 – Resolution Honoring Juanita Mitchell. Mayor Nelson read a Resolution Honoring Juanita Mitchell on her 111<sup>th</sup> birthday. The Board congratulated Ms. Mitchell.*

*Mayor Nelson referred to Agenda Item #2 – Resolution Honoring Chief Kamleiter. Mayor Nelson read a Resolution Honoring Chief Kamleiter for his twenty-six (26) years of law enforcement service to the Village of Flossmoor. The Board congratulated Chief Kamleiter.*

*Mayor Nelson referred to Agenda Item #3 – Consideration of an Appointment to the Community Relations Commission. Mayor Nelson called for a motion to appoint Kevin Dorsey to the Community Relations Commission. Trustee Daggett so moved, seconded by Trustee Lofton. Mayor Nelson stated that Kevin Dorsey is a twenty-one (21) year resident, works in healthcare financial management, has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Columbia College, a Master's Degree from National University in San Diego, an MBA from the University of Illinois, and is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of Illinois. He's also been extremely involved in community events and activities.*

*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*

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ABSTAIN:     None  
NAYS:         None

Mayor Nelson referred to Agenda Item #4 – Consideration of an Appointment of a Vice Chair to the Community Relations Commission. Mayor Nelson called for a motion to appoint Jackie Riffice as Vice Chair of the Community Relations Commission. Trustee Mustafa so moved, seconded by Trustee Mitros. Mayor Nelson stated that Jackie Riffice has lived in Flossmoor for thirty (30) years, has served on the Community Relations Commission for three (3) years, has a Bachelor's Degree from Illinois State University, and has been incredibly involved in community activities including Flossmoor Fest and Sleep in Heavenly Peace.

Trustee Mustafa stated that Jackie Riffice is a profoundly capable, passionate, and hardworking member of the Community Relations Commission. When she joined the Commission, she contributed to evaluating the Commission's operations for its betterment.

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

Mayor Nelson referred to the Consent Agenda (which encompassed Agenda Items 5-7):

5. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting Held on December 5, 2022
6. Presentation of Bills for Approval and Payment as Approved by the Finance Committee (December 19, 2022)
7. Consideration of a Resolution Approving a Proposal to the Village of Flossmoor, Cook County, Illinois from Brycer LLC

Mayor Nelson called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Trustee Lofton so moved, seconded by Trustee Mustafa.

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:

Mayor Nelson referred to Agenda Item #8 – Recommendation to Accept a Donation to the Public Art Sculpture Program (Structure #9). Mayor Nelson called for a motion to Approve the Recommendation to Accept a Donation to the Public Art Sculpture Program (Structure #9). Trustee Daggett so moved.

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seconded by Trustee Bradley-Scott. Jeff Stevenson, Co-Chair of the Flossmoor Public Art Commission, stated that they received an offer from artist Gunnar Theel to donate his sculpture, Structure #9, to the Village of Flossmoor because he wants it to be on public display. Mr. Theel has sold other similar pieces for between \$80,000.00 to \$100,000.00. The piece is attractive to the Public Art Commission particularly, because it's corten steel, which is low maintenance. The suggested location for the piece is in the lawn area of the Sculpture Garden in Leavitt Park. Mr. Theel would cover some of the costs associated with accepting the donation, such as cleaning the sculpture. The costs associated with accepting the donation would be for delivery and installation at \$2,875.00.

Mayor Nelson thanked the Public Art Commission for their work for the community. She stated that she has concerns about the piece, including sharp corners that seem to be at toddler height and noted that the park is used by children. She expressed concern over the tent-like structure, which could invite unwanted conduct. She also expressed concern over the piece blocking a Richard Hunt piece.

Jeff Stevenson stated that the landscaping near the Richard Hunt sculpture provides a natural barrier to where Structure #9 would go, so there wouldn't be a visual competition. The materials are also very different and would be more complementary to each other. Mr. Stevenson stated that the Richard Hunt sculpture also has sharp points and that the landscaping around it creates a moat that discourages people from walking up/onto the sculpture. The Commission discussed the concerns about Structure #9 and thought that adding similar landscaping would be helpful. Also, Mr. Stevenson said that Structure #9 was previously on display in Lincoln Park, Chicago, and there were no issues with it being used in concerning manners. Mr. Stevenson suggested that the piece be positioned so that the open side of it faces the street, which would make it less likely to be used in an undesirable manner. Further, lighting on the sculpture could be considered, like there is for other sculptures in Leavitt Park. He also clarified that the sculpture is six (6) feet tall, fifteen (15) feet wide, and about six (6) feet long.

Trustee Mustafa stated that she saw the sculpture as a safety concern due to its edges and the fact that people can go inside it. Further, it could be a barrier to sight lines when cars are traveling around the park, especially traveling west around the curve. She added that there may be a need for remedial maintenance over time. Trustee Mustafa added that she thought the sculpture gave an ominous impression.

Mr. Stevenson explained that the maintenance being done by the artist is due to it being in storage and that there won't be any maintenance to the surfaces of the sculpture in the future unless something like a tree falls on it.

Trustee Daggett inquired about whether alternate locations were considered for the piece and asked about the surface, hard angles, and slip and falls from it.

Mr. Stevenson answered that sight line concerns prevented the Public Art Commission from suggesting other places for the sculpture. Due to its size, it wouldn't fit well in some of the considered traffic islands. Another benefit to the Leavitt Park location is the piece could be included easily in the sculpture tour, due to the proximity of the other pieces. He also noted that the surface would not be slick, and the edges would be finished.

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*Trustee Bradley-Scott noted that she was thankful for the height clarification and was concerned about the proximity of the sculpture to the schools and the safety of park visitors. She inquired about the potential lighting for the sculpture and noted the characteristics of the sculpture's shape.*

*Mr. Stevenson noted that the Art Commission didn't have a definitive design for potential lighting, but that there were many options for illuminating the sculpture. He explained that in regard to its shape, it would inspire people to investigate what it is.*

*Trustee Driscoll inquired about the possible landscaping for the sculpture and didn't think that a berm would deter children from climbing on the sculpture.*

*Mr. Stevenson explained that it would be like a barrier to distinguish where people should and shouldn't be near the structure and that the landscaping barrier works for the Richard Hunt sculpture.*

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

*AYES: None*

*ABSENT: None*

*ABSTAIN: None*

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

*Action Items:*

*Mayor Nelson referred to Agenda Item #9 – Consideration of the Advancement of a Class 8 Tax Abatement Renewal Request. Mayor Nelson called for a motion for Consideration of the Advancement of a Class 8 Tax Abatement Renewal Request. Trustee Lofton so moved, seconded by Trustee Bradley-Scott. Building and Zoning Administrator Scott Bugner explained that the Village received a petition for a Class 8 tax abatement renewal from Ingalls for the third floor of Flossmoor Family Care Center, which required six (6) affirmative votes from the Corporate Authorities in order for the petition to be advanced to the Village Board.*

*Trustee Lofton expressed his support for the measure.*

*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*

*Mayor Nelson referred to Agenda Item #10 – Discussion of a Class 8 Tax Abatement Extension for Ingalls Flossmoor Family Care Center. Mayor Nelson called for a motion for Discussion of a Class 8 Tax Abatement Extension for Ingalls Flossmoor Family Care Center. Trustee Mustafa so moved, seconded by*

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Trustee Bradley-Scott. Building and Zoning Administrator Scott Bugner explained that the request was for the third floor of the Ingalls Flossmoor Family Care Center, and that a similar request was approved in 2017 for the second floor. Under the Annexation Agreement, Ingalls agreed to make the Village whole for the Village's share of real estate taxes.

John Brannigan, a tax attorney who represents Ingalls, spoke to the Village Board and noted that the Village previously approved a Class 8 Tax Abatement for the first and second floors of the facility. He explained that in the medical industry, there has been a lot of consolidation and tightening of the belt. When Ingalls and the University of Chicago merged, they closed down a facility on Lincoln Highway and in Calumet City. He added that the third floor of the Flossmoor facility is fully occupied by doctors and is fully taxable. The Class 8 Abatement makes the property more profitable. In terms of the make whole provision over the years, Ingalls and the University of Chicago will have reimbursed Flossmoor \$878,000.00. He added that if the Class 8 expires, the level of the assessment of the property would increase up to the full commercial level.

Mayor Nelson stated that the Board appreciates Ingalls and the University of Chicago for providing essential services and for being a part of the community.

Trustee Daggett stated that he appreciates the access to different options for medical care in our community, and he noted that Ingalls has been a great community partner.

Trustee Bradley-Scott added that she informs community members about the availability of Ingalls urgent care and doctors, and noted that the facility has been a great addition to the community.

Mayor Nelson referred to Agenda Item #11 – Consideration of a Resolution of the Village of Flossmoor, Illinois, in Support of Class 8 Renewal Incentive (19550 Governors Highway – Ingalls Family Care Center). Mayor Nelson called for a motion for Consideration of a Resolution of the Village of Flossmoor, Illinois, in Support of Class 8 Renewal Incentive (19550 Governors Highway – Ingalls Family Care Center). Trustee Lofton so moved, seconded by Trustee Bradley-Scott.

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

Discussion Items:

Mayor Nelson referred to Agenda Item #12 – Presentation on Bail Reform and the Third SAFE-T Act Trailer Bill. Deputy Chief of Police Keith Taylor explained that the Safety, Accountability, Fairness and Equity Today Act (SAFE-T Act), was signed into law on July 1, 2021 and aimed at improving police accountability, training and addressing inequalities and injustices in the criminal justice system. Many of

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*the laws of the Act were set to gradually effectuate every year to allow time for law enforcement to prepare for the changes. The Pretrial Fairness Act was also passed and called for comprehensive pre-trial reform. Acting Chief Taylor noted the report by the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Pretrial Practices and that results of studies showed people held in jail prior to trial have worse outcomes. The position of people desiring bail reform is that bail doesn't guarantee pre-trial confinement of those that pose a true risk to the public. On January 1, 2023, the elimination of cash bail is set to take effect, and various groups have lobbied for amendments to the bill regarding cash bail elimination. The third trailer bill to the SAFE-T Act was signed by Governor Pritzker on December 6, 2022.*

*Acting Chief Taylor addressed some of the notable changes regarding detainable offenses, hearings, warrants, trespass, misdemeanor citations, and traffic offenses with language extracted from the trailer bill. He explained that the trailer bill expands the list of detainable offenses and adds various offenses to the detention net with the intention of detaining people who pose a danger to the public and release of those who do not. The trailer bill also defined 'forcible felonies.' Other areas addressed in the trailer bill were clarifications of the 'dangerousness standard,' the relevant hearings, 'willful flight,' the relevant warrants, the right of police officers to issue a citation in lieu of custodial arrest for certain types of offenses and language regarding the ability to arrest, detain, and remove subjects committing Class B and C misdemeanors, or those who continue the criminal conduct after being issued a citation or a notice to appear.*

*Acting Chief Taylor noted that the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County has begun the process of disseminating citation and notice to appear forms, and they will be holding training sessions on the subject which he and other Flossmoor Police Officers will attend. He explained that the bail amendments should reduce the amount of people that the Flossmoor Police take into custody for certain offenses, and it should also reduce overtime and other costs associated with prisoner care. He added that the Flossmoor Police Department is ready to adapt to whatever changes are brought about by amendments to the SAFE-T Act.*

*Trustee Lofton inquired about the benefits of the changes from the trailer bill.*

*Acting Chief Taylor explained that benefits include being on the street more since Police Officers don't have to take people into custody as often, and will in turn, have more time for other responsibilities that they have.*

*Trustee Mustafa inquired if the Court system is prepared to handle some of the new hearing timelines.*

*Deputy Chief Taylor answered that someone from the Court system should probably answer that, but he noted that some of the forms they are supposed to be using weren't ready yet for January 1<sup>st</sup>.*

*Trustee Bradley-Scott asked about timelines needed for implementation of the changes.*

*Acting Chief Taylor answered that there would be studies done on the effectiveness of some of the new initiatives. He added that he thinks that lawmakers understand the challenges that the SAFE-T Act present with respect to ensuring that municipalities can implement them, and he expects further changes and*

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*improvements to the bill. There are still things left unanswered in the trailer bill, and there will be lobbying by law enforcement for more changes.*

*Trustee Daggett inquired about the Flossmoor Police Department's training for the new changes.*

*Acting Chief Taylor answered that he expects the County to provide more information on forms and procedures in the near future, and then the department can adjust to be in compliance.*

*The Board thanked Acting Chief Taylor for his presentation.*

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

*(It should be noted that in reporting these comments, the Village has not researched the accuracy of any comments.):*

*Dr. LaShawn Latrice's comments, in summary, were that she was present to remind the Village Board that she and others were hoping to receive some viable solutions concerning justice for Madeline Miller. She and others seek real accountability and noted that her family is still grieving. She asked that there be follow-up to the community forum.*

*Don Gross's comments, in summary, were that it was heartless to be concerned about public art that may provide shelter during cold weather. He was present to show solidarity with the family of Madeline Miller, a Black grandmother who was shot by Flossmoor Police during a mental health crisis. He stated that the Mayor previously stated that the Illinois State Police should have turned over their investigation results to the Cook County State's Attorney by now. Don Gross named other cases where the Illinois State Police is delaying their investigations. He noted that the Village Board can terminate the Flossmoor Police Officers involved in the shooting, and the Village Board can make policy changes now. He said that the Village Board was more concerned about the discussed sculpture than policies that justified the shooting of Madeline Miller, and noted that there was an upcoming election and they should be on the right side of history.*

*Tom Ricci's comments, in summary, were that he was a union railcar mechanic, that he was held accountable for safety, and explained the safety standards at his work that could potentially impact the safety of others. He noted that he was taught that police were heroes who would help keep him safe, but that it's hard to look at patterns of police violence and see anything but neglect for human life, particularly for certain sectors of the community. He said that when police departments fail to hold police officers accountable for bad conduct, it's difficult to consider them as a bad apple and not an entire basket of poisonous apples.*

*Citizens Present Wishing to Address the Board on an Agenda Item*

*(It should be noted that in reporting these comments, the Village has not researched the accuracy of any comments.):*

*No residents wished to speak on an Agenda Item.*

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Other Business:

Mayor Nelson referred to Agenda Item #13 – 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.

Trustee Lofton wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Trustee Daggett checked on status of the work on Berry Lane, noted that it was very impressive, and congratulated everyone who contributed to the success of the project.

Trustee Mustafa noted that the residents of Berry Lane were very pleased with the work done on their street and thanked the staff and others who worked on the project.

Mayor Nelson noted that the Illinois State Police hadn't provided her with an update on their investigation in regard to the death of Madeline Miller, but that she would continue to follow up with them. Mayor Nelson stated that the Village's thoughts and prayers were with Madeline Miller's family, the officers involved, and all those impacted by the tragedy.

Mayor Nelson noted that the Police Department was working with the Community Relations Commission in reviewing the recommendations from the community forum. Together, they were coming up with an action plan. She hopes to have a report by March or early April.

Mayor Nelson stated that the lightings for Hanukkah and Kwanzaa would be at 5 pm at Flossmoor Park during their respective celebratory time periods and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and happy holiday season.

Mayor Nelson noted the Day of Service on Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday on January 16, 2023 and encouraged residents to participate. She also noted that the Village Board meeting had been moved to January 17<sup>th</sup> from January 16<sup>th</sup>. She reminded everyone that there was no first meeting in January due to the holidays.

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*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 Bradley-Scott 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 8:49 p.m.*

*Respectfully Submitted,*



*Gina A. LoGalbo*  
Village Clerk