VILLAGE OF
FRANKFORT
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LAND USE AND POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES
NOVEMBER 13, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Keith Ogle called the meeting of the Land Use and Policy Committee to order at 7:22 P.M. on Wednesday, November 13, 2019, at the Village Administration Building, 432 W. Nebraska Street, Frankfort, Illinois.

ROLL CALL

Land Use and Policy Committee members present included Mayor Jim Holland, Village Clerk Gene Savaria, Chair Keith Ogle, Trustees John Clavio, Margaret Farina, and Jessica Petrow; Stacy Bond, Michael DiMaggio, Cindy Heath, and Brian Samuels. Staff in attendance included Village Administrator Rob Piscia, Asst. Administrator Jeff Cook, Police Chief John Burica, Deputy Chief Kevin Keegan, Supt. Terry Kestel, Finance Director Jenni Booth, Building and Economic Development Manager Adam Nielsen, and Administrative Assistant Theresa Cork. Others in attendance included Deborah Hardwick, Mark Baker, Nuria Mathog, Cynthia Manestar, Michael Cartolano, David Swanson, Greg Wroblewski, Barb Wroblewski, Jack Schimanski, Roger Wandersee, Brandon Palmer, Katie Wade, Bob Wade, Michele Widger, Adam Widger, Lori Ortiz, and Steve Ortiz. Member Paul Slade was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (October 9, 2019)

Mayor Holland made a motion (#1), seconded by Trustee Petrow, to approve the minutes of the Land Use and Policy Committee meeting of October 9, 2019, as presented. The motion was unanimously approved. Trustee Farina abstained.

AXON BODY-WORK CAMERA TRIAL

Police Chief Burica provided an overview of the Frankfort Police Department's (FPD) 30 day trial of Axon body-worn cameras. He reported the FPD was issued three cameras which were deployed to patrol shifts and specialty units during this 30 day trail period, with one officer on the shift wearing the camera each day. Officers and staff were briefed on department policies, including Policy 462 and applicable laws that apply to the body-worn cameras. Sergeants assigned and collected the body-worn cameras at the beginning and end of each shift. Included with the test and evaluation, the Village was provided access to the 'cloud' backend of the system which allowed for the review of videos as well as access to the process for redaction of the videos.

Chief Burica explained that in many cases cameras are added to a department to improve transparency, promote accountability, investigate officer misconduct complaints, and increase

conviction rates for arrests. He then shared some of the pros and cons of the body-worn cameras from the trial. The officers felt the video obtained from these cameras was a great way to capture an incident away from the in-car camera and they were open to using this type of technology. Some of the challenges of the cameras included body placement of the cameras, policies about when officers should turn on the cameras, costs, privacy concerns, reporting, managing storage, and public access to the information.

Following presentation and brief discussion, it was the consensus of the committee not to move forward with the purchase of the body-worn cameras at this time due to the perplexity of the Law Enforcement Officer-Worn Body Camera Act.

VILLAGE'S CODE OF ORDINANCES AMENDMENT – RESIDENTIAL GARBAGE CAN SCREENING REQUIREMENTS

Manager Nielsen presented a proposed amendment to the Village of Frankfort's Code of Ordinances, Chapter 150, Building Regulations, Section 150.26. The proposed addition to the 2012 International Property Maintenance Code addresses residential waste receptacle requirements. He reported the proposed amendment would require all single-family residential properties to screen their receptacles for waste and recyclable material in such a manner that the receptacle cannot be viewed from the public right-of-way. He noted this proposed amendment was part of the Village's 2019 goals and provides a mechanism which will allow the Village the ability to enforce if there are reported infractions or routine offenders.

Committee members discussed the proposed amendment requirements, fines and penalties associated with same. Some concern was expressed for compliance for smaller homes in the downtown historic district or other older neighborhoods and notifying residents of the new screening requirements. It was noted this addition is limited to single family homes as location and material requirements have been previously identified for industrial, commercial, and multi-family zoning districts. It was suggested to add a commercial component to the ordinance for properties approved prior to the zoning requirements addressing receptacle screening requirements.

It was the consensus of the committee not to take action at this time and for staff to continue to work on this item, focusing on the aesthetic value of the screening requirements without imposing on residents.

TROLLEY BARN PARKING LOT LEASE

Asst. Administrator Cook provided an overview of a lease agreement between the Village of Frankfort and Great Space, LLC, for Village use of the Trolley Barn parking lot as a public parking facility for supplemental downtown parking and community events. The lease agreement was for a term of five years, with an additional five-year renewal option, subject to 120 days' written notice prior to the expiration date of April 30, 2020.

Property owner Mike Cartolano was present and spoke before the committee. He noted this parking lot provides 100 public parking spaces for the community.

Following brief discussion, Member Heath made a motion (#2), seconded by Member Samuels, to exercise the five-year renewal option for the Trolley Barn parking lot lease agreement between the Village of Frankfort and Great Space, LLC. The motion was unanimously approved. Trustee Clavio abstained.

Staff was directed to provide written notification to Great Space of the Village's intent to exercise the five-year renewal option.

ETHICS ORDINANCE DISCUSSION

In 2004, the Illinois General Assembly enacted the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act, 5 ILCS 430, which regulates ethical conduct, political activities, and the solicitation and acceptance of gifts by state officials and employees. Pursuant to Section 70-5 of the Act, all units of local government and school districts were required to adopt an ordinance or resolution regulating the political activities of, and the solicitation and acceptance of gifts by their respective officers and employees "in a manner no less restrictive" than the provisions of the Act. The Village of Frankfort subsequently adopted Ordinance No. 2077, which was later amended by Ordinance No. 2262.

Trustee Ogle opened the discussion on the topic and suggested to create an ad hoc committee to craft a new ethics ordinance. Committee members discussed the importance of trust in government and elected officials as well as the importance of integrity and transparency. Mayor Holland shared that the state is expected to look at laws governing ethics during the 2020 spring legislative session. It was determined to not take any action at this time and wait until the state makes any changes to the Ethics Act and revisit the matter at that time.

CASINO DISCUSSION

Mayor Holland opened the discussion relating to the casino license authorized for the south suburbs. He reported the Matteson Village Board approved the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma's plans for a casino that would be developed at the northeast corner of Lincoln Highway and Harlem Avenue in Matteson. He explained that the Illinois Gaming Board is a five-member board, appointed by Governor Pritzker, charged with reviewing and assessing all of the submitted casino application materials. He further explained the Illinois Gambling Act provides the Gaming Board 12 months to process and determine eligibility for each applicant.

Mayor Holland shared that the Gaming Board received application materials from four host communities for the one south suburban casino license on or before the October 28, 2019 deadline: City of Calumet City, City of Homewood/East Hazel Crest, Village of Lynwood, and Village of Matteson.

Mayor Holland reported state law makes it very clear that the Village of Matteson has the right to apply for the casino license, noting Matteson has not indicated any plans to change the proposed location. He further reported the Village has sought professional help from our own legal counsel in an effort to become better informed about the matter and determine the most appropriate action to take.

Committee members shared their views of the proposed casino in Matteson, voicing concerns for its proximity to schools and residential subdivisions and its potential impact on municipal services. Overall, members felt it was important to be a good neighbor and work with Matteson, but wished the community would have engaged Frankfort earlier in the process to allow concerns about the proposed site be identified. They felt a location closer to I-57 and I-80, or at the former Matteson Mall site would be better suited for the casino.

Several Frankfort residents in attendance spoke in opposition of the Matteson casino proposal and voiced concerns on the proposed development's proximity to Summit Hill Junior High School and its possible effects on housing prices. Several residents reported they have already begun pushing back against the proposal and formed a group called Families Against Casinos Taking the Southland (FACTS). They requested the help of the Village Board to provide guidance and coordinate a concerted effort to communicate their concerns and voice their opposition to this proposed location adjacent to Frankfort. Residents felt a unified approach would have most impact.

Residents were encouraged to express their concerns in writing to State Senator Michael Hastings and State Representative Debbie Meyers-Martin. Other suggestions included voicing their concerns to the Illinois Gaming Board, attending the meetings related to the casino, utilizing social media, enlist the help of the local schools' booster organizations, and reaching out to Matteson residents who oppose the casino. The Village will continue to work with legal counsel on the issue.

OTHER BUSINESS

Manager Nielsen reported an offer of employment for the Village's new full-time Code Compliance Specialist was accepted and she is expected to start on December 2.

Trustee Borrelli requested to review the existing quantity and quality of the Village's security cameras in public areas at a future committee meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments from the public.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, Trustee Borrelli made a motion (#3), seconded by Trustee Farina, to adjourn the Land Use and Policy Committee meeting of November 13, 2019, at 9:22 P.M. The motion was unanimously approved.