



The regular town board meeting, being held at 175 West Jefferson Street, Joliet Township government offices, Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at 5:00 P.M. was called to order by Supervisor Alicia Morales. The following official business was transacted:

The Supervisor led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. The Deputy Clerk called the roll as follows:

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|----------------------|---------------------|--|
| <b>TRUSTEES:</b>     | Tanya Arias         | Present                                |
|                      | Antione J. Edwards  | Present                                |
|                      | Cesar Escutia       | Present                                |
|                      | Raymond F. Slattery | Present                                |
| <b>SUPERVISOR:</b>   | Alicia Morales      | Present                                |
| <b>DEPUTY CLERK:</b> | Estefany Bonilla    | Present - Appointed as Clerk at 5:19PM |

- |                         |                            |         |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|---------|
| <b>OTHER OFFICIALS:</b> | Commissioner Vince Alessio | Present |
|                         | Assessor James Brenzewski  | Present |

- ALSO PRESENT:**
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| General Assistance Director Patricia Venziano         | Behavioral Health Team                 |
| Animal Control Assistant Director Rebecca Gomez       | Assessor James Brenzewski              |
| Transportation Director Jacqueline Smith              | Highway Commissioner Vincent Alessio   |
| Cemetery Liaison Steven Wright                        | Senior Liaison Jeff Wallace            |
| Violence Prevention Council Coordinator Leshae Hudson | Executive Assistant Ana Campa Castillo |
| Community Violence Intervention Director Keshia Ellis | Attorney Bryan Wellner                 |

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Town Board Minutes: Trustee Escutia motions to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2024, Town Board Meeting, seconded by Trustee Slattery. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.<sup>1</sup>

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Joliet resident Janet Soto presented a concern about her neighbor about them pumping water onto her property. This is causing the trees, grass, and road to be damaged on her property. Ms. Soto and Highway Commissioner Alessio met after public comment to address Ms. Soto’s issue. Catherine Beavers from Family & Friends Adult Day Care thanked the Township for the grant as they work with Veterans to assist them with housing.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**APPROVE/2024 Hispanic Heritage Month Proclamation**

Trustee Arias read the 2024 Hispanic Heritage Month Proclamation to the audience with the date being on September fifteen to October fifteen as amended. Supervisor Morales asks for a motion to approve. Trustee Arias motions. Seconded by Trustee Escutia. Motion carried.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Morales. Nays (0).

<sup>2</sup> Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Morales. Nays (0).

**APPROVE/Ordinance No. 402-2024 Lease Agreement on 180 South Chicago Street**

Supervisor Morales asks for a motion to approve Ordinance No. 402-2024 Lease Agreement on 180 South Chicago Street. Trustee Slattery motions. Seconded by Trustee Edwards. Motion Carried.<sup>3</sup>

**APPROVE/Fighting Chance Youth Boxing Program Contract**

Supervisor Morales asks for a motion to approve the Fighting Chance Youth Boxing Program Contract pending Attorney review. Trustee Edwards motions. Seconded by Trustee Arias. Motion carried.<sup>4</sup>

**APPROVE/GRANTS: After the Peanut Foundation, BluePrint Agency, Family & Friends Adult Day Care, Justice for Wives Foundation, LEDA, Spanish Community Center, Warehouse Workers for Justice**

Supervisor Morales asks for a motion to approve the seven grants. Trustee Escutia motions. Seconded by Trustee Slattery. Motion carried.<sup>5</sup>

**ADOPT/Resolution Warrant of Appoint – Clerk**

Supervisor Morales asks for a motion to approve the Resolution Warrant of Appoint – Clerk. Trustee Escutia motions. Seconded by Trustee Edwards. Motion carried.<sup>6</sup>

**OATH OF OFFICE:**

Honorable Judge Carla Policandriotes does the honor of administrating the Oath of Office to Estefany Bonilla as Joliet Township Clerk.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**New Reports**

**General Assistance Director, Patricia Venziano**

The General Assistance department has been busy between the utility disconnects and notary services on residency forms for the children that are going back to school. The General Assistance department continues to attend outreach events and promote all of Joliet Township’s services to the public. Other than that, it has been business as usual.

**Animal Control Assistant Director, Rebecca Gomez**

Animal Control has been busy in the month of August 2024 with hiring staff. The training has started for the hired weekend staff and for the new on-call Animal Control Officer. There will be an event this Saturday, September 14, 2024, at 3PM to 8PM where Animal Control will have a few animals for adoption. Animal Control will continue their Volunteer Program registration starting on Monday, September 16, 2024, for people who need community hours.

**Transportation Director, Jacqueline Smith**

In August of 2024, the Transportation Department completed a total of four hundred fifty-nine trips as that concluded their summer programs serving the Greater Joliet Area YMCA and the Park District. This was followed by a senior group named The Moose Club, where thirty senior passengers were transported to Moline, IL, a 2.5 hour drive each way. The drivers had the opportunity to attend and enjoy the cruise with the senior group. Midway through the trip, Lead Driver Darrell Jefferson, provided a positive update, reporting that both drivers and passengers were having a

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<sup>3</sup> Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Morales. Nays (0).

<sup>4</sup> Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Morales. Nays (0).

<sup>5</sup> Roll call vote: Ayes (4). Trustees Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Morales. Nays (0). Abstains (1). Trustee Arias.

<sup>6</sup> Roll call vote: Ayes (4). Trustees Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Morales. Nays (0). Abstains (1). Trustee Arias.

wonderful time. Upon completion of the trip, Darrell confirmed a safe return and reported high passenger satisfaction. HR Director Holmes and Transportation Director Smith are actively addressing the driver shortage within the Transportation Department. There are daily interviews being conducted and revised screening processes in the Transportation Department to attract serious candidates. To support driver coverage during this period, Transportation Director Smith, has taken a more hands-on approach by personally driving to the scheduled trips. The Transportation Director is optimistic that these efforts will help recruit more drivers and continue to grow the department. There are no new signed MOUs currently for August of 2024. Additionally, the Transportation Director assisted with the HHCD food deliveries, which are made weekly to Joliet Township residents. The Transportation Director worked closely with Liz Protich and Brianna Jackson to develop a more efficient delivery process, addressing several challenges. These collaborative efforts led to effective changes that will benefit both the Transportation Department and HHCD. Currently the Transportation Department delivers to twenty-five residents, including those at the Victory Center, Joshua Arms, and Senior Suites. With these improvements, the Transportation Department hopes to increase the number of deliveries to additional residents residing in these locations.

### **Cemetery Liaison, Steven Wright**

There is an ongoing project on data migration as the data used to build the backend of the database was migrated from an excel spreadsheet compiled by a previous sexton. This process took nearly four weeks and 57,000 records were transferred. This final number is not representative of how many interments there are. The spreadsheet also contained lot owner information which was recognized as a grave. The reason for this is that lot owners are identified as "grave 0". For these not to be recognized as burials they must be edited. In many cases the owner is listed twice because of this. The unmapped properties, once the data was migrated there, was approximately 15,000 unmapped properties. This means that the software was not able to locate the grave on the map using GPS. This was caused by several issues with the designations of lots within the cemetery. The first was due to the lack of lot numbers in the Single Grave sections. All the single graves were pinned to lot 1 in of those sections. To accurately identify each grave, the pins had to be dropped individually on each lot. The other issue is the software does not recognize subdivision within a lot. In Oakwood Cemetery the lots are divided into halves and quarters; as well as feet that were purchased from an adjoining lot as to allow these properties to be properly pinned, a custom field was added to the backend of the program, so that this subdivision could be placed in. As of today, the number of unmapped properties has been brought down to 10,000. As the issues are corrected other errors are recognized. This includes first and last names being reversed. Last names being listed in the middle name field as well as the last name field. These will be corrected in the next phase of proofing the data migration.

### **Violence Prevention Council Coordinator, Leshae Hudson**

The R.E.I.A.L had a successful Anniversary Brunch, Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> of 2024. There were over sixty attendees including elected officials from every level of government, community stakeholders, executive directors of non-profits, REIAL members, CVI, and Grant expert Nicole Garret. The R.E.I.A.L was nominated for the Collaborative Excellence in Prevention Award. The award will be presented at Prevention First's Connections in the Prevention Conference room on September 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of 2024 at the Marriott Chicago Naperville.

### **Community Violence Intervention Director, Keshia Ellis**

The Community Violence Intervention will have the International Day of Peace on September 21<sup>st</sup> of 2024. This is a collaboration with Nonviolent Cities Projects and the CVI program under Joliet Township Government at the Joliet Central High School Campus at 1PM. This collaboration will bring awareness to the International Day of Peace event and will be celebrated by doing a peace walk, having guest speakers, and coming together as a community with local informational resource tables being available. CVI has utilized partnerships in agreement with Salvation Army to

provide clothing items to the affected families of a shooting that took place near the Riverwalk Community. The Spanish Community Center also provides a safe space and temporary housing for affected victims. CVI has canvassed by showing community support with nine out of the eleven shooting incidents that has taken place within the last two weeks. The services would include creating community pop-ups, engagement for emergency needs for clients, housing assistance, clothing, personal supplies, food, and assistance with the VOCA application. Joliet Township CVI highlights Outreach Worker Harry O'Daniels for potentially saving the life of a minor as Mr. O'Daniels took a mandatory Stop the Bleed training to administer a tourniquet and use his skills in a real-time emergency.

### **Behavioral Health Team**

The CVI Behavioral Health team reported in August of 2024 on how they acquired one new client while continuing to work with twenty-nine existing clients. Karissa Fleming is a Trauma Licensed Therapist and has completed the sand tray therapy which is an art modality to assist clients during their therapy sessions. Rockdale finalized a MOU beginning into the first week of September with a capacity of eight clients between two therapists. JTHS will propose a MOU at the September School Board Meeting. The team also attended the JTHS's Curriculum Night and interacted with eighty-three people between both schools.

### **Assessor James Brenczewski**

In August of 2024, the Assessor's department has been back and forth between the assessments as those go out and residents have thirty days to notify the Assessor department with any concerns or complaints. Currently the assessments for houses are increasing as Assessor Brenczewski met with realtors to address this issue. The Assessor informs the public as they receive their tax bill, to make sure they have their home exemption. If the residents are sixty-five and over, then they need to make sure they are receiving their senior exemption as well. As a reminder, please contact the Assessor's office within thirty days after the assessments are out to be able to assist residents.

### **Highway Commissioner, Vincent Alessio**

The Road District wraps up the project on the Sugar Creek Bridge and the drainage project. The ribbon cutting for the Sugar Creek Bridge was a success. The Road District is currently working on patching potholes and preparing the roads for this upcoming winter. The Highway Commissioner will be working with the Joliet Township Clerk to set up a bid for bulk treated salt. With the Road District Budget limit, the Highway Commissioner has been working to assist residents as best as possible with what is available in-house.

### **Senior Liaison, Jeff Wallace**

The Senior Liaison has been circulating the informative Joliet Township Government flyers out to the senior communities. Senior Liaison has answered any questions that the seniors may have regarding the available services. The Veterans' luncheon will be on Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, from 12PM to 3PM at The Moose. Sign-ups for the Veterans' luncheon started in August and expect at least sixty people to attend who are Veterans of the groups the Township supports.

### **Supervisor, Alicia Morales**

The Supervisor states how Financial Director Diaz is working on the audit as it is still in the process. The Financial Director has also talked with the City of Joliet regarding the water leak. The City of Joliet required further forms to be filled out as the water bill was substantially high. The water leak has been repaired and all the paperwork is in the process of being completed in order for the Township to qualify for a hardship. The Forest Park Community Center now has a functioning HVAC system, all the thermostats are repaired, and all the units have been upgraded. There is still much to be cleaned out in the downstairs area of the building as the upstairs is under construction. The Forest Park



Community Center will have Comcast as the service provider for business telecommunications and technology. An electrical outlet will be re-routed in order for the building to have internet connection as scheduled. In a few more weeks the Forest Park Community Center will be able to have staff in the appropriate spaces. The Mitchell Center had electrical blinds installed last week. Updates on the employee handbook are about a quarter way in the process as the administration team and Supervisor are reviewing all the policies and procedures.

**CASH RECEIPTS:** Trustee Slattery motions to place the cash receipts into their proper accounts. Trustee Escutia seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.<sup>7</sup>

**FUND EXPENDITURES:**

**General Town Fund for August 2024: \$467,022.68**

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify the expenditures and approve them for payment. Trustee Edwards seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.<sup>8</sup>

**Capital Fund for August 2024: \$78,596.51**

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify the expenditures and approve them for payment. Trustee Escutia seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.<sup>9</sup>

**General Assistance Fund for August 2024: \$34,378.87**

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify the expenditures and approve them for payment. Trustee Arias seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.<sup>10</sup>

**Road and Bridge Fund for August 2024: \$182,132.52**

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify the expenditures and approve them for payment. Trustee Escutia seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.<sup>11</sup>

**Animal Control Fund for August 2024: \$80,351.52**

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify the expenditures and approve them for payment. Trustee Arias seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.<sup>12</sup>

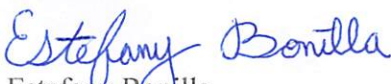
**Senior Fund for August 2024: \$00.00**

No expenditures in this fund. A motion is not needed.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Supervisor Morales asks for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Arias motions. Trustee Edwards seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion Carried.<sup>13</sup>

The meeting adjourned at 5:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Estefany Bonilla  
Town Clerk

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<sup>7</sup> Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Morales. Nays (0).  
<sup>8</sup> Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Morales. Nays (0).  
<sup>9</sup> Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Morales. Nays (0).  
<sup>10</sup> Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Morales. Nays (0).  
<sup>11</sup> Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Morales. Nays (0).  
<sup>12</sup> Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Morales. Nays (0).  
<sup>13</sup> Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Morales. Nays (0).