

Mayor Mark A. Hodge

The minutes of the regular board meeting of the corporate authorities of the Village of Hopkins Park, Kankakee County Illinois was held on December 19, 2024

Village Members

Mayor Mark A. Hodge, **Village Clerk** Kimberly Garfias **Asst Treasurer** Elvia Delgado **Trustees** Samantha Baines, Mihesha Gibbs, Ieshia Shields, Ruthel Teague, Tonia Lafi, Victor Rogers.

Members Absents; Trustee; Victor Rogers

Prayer: Mayor Mark Hodge

Roll Call & Meeting

The meeting was called to order by **Mayor Mark Hodge** at 6:00 p.m., 6 Trustees were present A quorum was present.

Approvals & Motions:

A motion to approve December 5, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes, Motion made by Ieshia Shields and second by Samantha Baines to carried by a vote of 5 Ayes, 0 Nay, 1 Absent.

A motion to approve December 19, 2024, Bill Warrants, Motion made by Mihesha Gibbs and second by Tonia Lafi carried by a vote of 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent.

A motion to approve Letter of Support for Tomika Talley for Grocery Store Project, Motion made by Samantha Baines and second by Mihesha Gibbs carried by a vote of 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent.

Review & Discuss: None

Village Clerk: No Report

Mayors Report:

- Mayor Hodge attended a news conference with Chicago Mayor, Brandon Johnson, Mr. Larry Huggins of Christmas in the Wards and several other elected officials at Pullman Walmart. This event was to support the Christmas in the Wards event hosted at the LRS School 12/21/2024. He also went shopping at Walmart in Kankakee, with LRS Superintendent Nicole Smith and the Founder of Christmas in the Wards Larry Huggins. LRS Superintendent Nicole Smith and Mayor Hodge attended a Christmas in the Wards event in Chicago at McCormick Place to see how this event is conducted in anticipation of Our event at Lorenzo Smith Elementary School. Village employees will assist with unloading and staging of gifts received from Christmas in the Wards at LRS School.
- Mayor Hodge attended the grand opening of the Newly formed Kankakee County Visitor Bureau at Train Depot with Rosemary Foster and many other elected officials Depot in Kankakee on East Ave.
- Mayor Hodge will have a meeting with Synetta Lewis of Black Contractors United to discuss container homes, her contractor got lost on the way. Will have to reschedule the meeting.
- On December 18, 2024, 12:00 Christmas Employee Luncheon.
- Wednesday, December 18, 2024, 1:00pm Samantha Senesac while being pursued by a Kankakee County Sheriff entered the Village Hall Building Main entrance and locked the door behind herself. She then entered the first office where two employees were located and locked herself in with the two

employees. One of the employees opened the door for the sheriff. He entered the office and placed her in handcuffs. A recap meeting was held immediately following the incident. There were no injuries, EAP was offered and all employees declined. A suggestion for employee safety is to place an electronic lock on the front door with a camera in the offices, so a button has to be pushed to allow access in the building.

- Met with RCAP Anthony Brown, he toured the sewer plant no issues noted. Also Discussed Community Development Block Grant that was submitted. The grant is to replace the water system on Gamble Road and in the Green Acres Subdivision. We are waiting for a response from DCEO regarding the grant application that was submitted December 4, 2024.
- Fire Chief Mark Baines wants to know if he can use the Green Dump Truck for emergencies to plow access for ambulances and other emergency responders. I asked him to come to the board meeting scheduled for December 19, 2024, and present his request to the board.

Treasurer Report: Read by Asst. Treasurer Elvia Delgado

Standing Committee Comments & Reports

Trustee Samantha Baines:

- Questioned if the office phones or service aren't working?

Trustee Ruthel Teague: No Report

Trustee Ieshia Shields: No Report

Trustee Tonia Lafi:

- Questioned when did the grocery store plans start?
- There's free information on the RMA web page. Each employee should have training in the open meeting act.
- The Village of Hopkins Park should have a yearly calendar

Trustee Mihesha Gibbs:

- Express her concern about the number of toys for Lorenzo Elementary School kids.

Trustee Victor Rogers: Absent

Code Enforcement: Absent

New Business – None

Public Comments, Public Hearing, Question

- Fire Chief Mark Baines

Motion to adjourn meeting 7:15pm was made by Samantha Baines second by Ieshia Shields carried by a vote of 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent.

Mark A. Hodge, Mayor
