

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MEETING OF THE
PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
February 18, 2025**

President Hayes called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: President Hayes; Trustees Baldino, Bertucci, Dunnington, LaBedz, Shirley and Tinaglia

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Trustees Grasse, Schwingbeck

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Village Manager Randy Recklaus; Assistant Village Manager Diana Mikula

OTHERS PRESENT: Ilona House; Lizbeth Esquivel; Pedro Sanchez

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of Minutes Committee of the Whole minutes January 21, 2025

Trustee LaBedz moved to approve the Committee of the Whole minutes from the meeting on January 21, 2025. The motion was seconded by Trustee Dunnington.

7 Ayes

0 Nays

The motion passed.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Interview of Ilona House to the Performing Arts Metropolis Board of Directors, term ending February 18, 2028

Mayor Hayes stated that Ilona has many experiences and qualifications which make her a good fit for this Board position. As a Marquee member of the Metropolis, Ilona is familiar with the theater and its importance to the community. Ilona has a strong desire and passion to see the Metropolis continue its success.

Ilona explained that she has lived in Arlington Heights for 35 years and is familiar with the town. She is a figure skater so has a love for the arts. As a member of the Metropolis, she attends every event that she can and loves that her community has the Performing Arts Center. Ilona also worked at her husband's veterinarian office where she helped manage the office, the staff and the payroll so she understands the business side as well.

Mayor Hayes asked Ilona to explain how her experience with producing figure skating shows and event planning will help her in this role. Ilona stated that she participated in many figure skating shows and then organized shows with Olympic champions and local talent coming together. She is willing to help on the Board in any way that she can and has some ideas for using the space in creative ways.

Mayor Hayes noted that several members of the Performing Arts Metropolis Board of Directors were in attendance and he thanked them for showing their support for Ilona.

Trustees thanked Ilona for her willingness to serve.

Trustee LaBedz moved to concur in the Mayor's appointment of Ilona House to the Performing Arts Metropolis Board of Directors, term ending February 18, 2028. Trustee Baldino seconded the motion.

The following voice vote was recorded:

7 Ayes

0 Nays

The motion passed.

B. Recommendation that the Liquor Commissioner issue a Class A Liquor License to THLACO LLC dba Thlaco Cocina Tijuanaense located at 1786 W. Algonquin Road

The Mayor swore in Lizbeth Esquivel and Pedro Sanchez, owners of THLACO LLC dba Thlaco Cocina Tijuanaense.

Assistant Village Manager Diana Mikula gave the staff report. A walk through was conducted on February 10, 2025 and the submitted floor plan matched what was seen at the establishment. In August 2024, the Police Department completed a background check on both individuals and no issues were noted. They are leasing the space and are not anticipating late night hours.

Upon a satisfactory interview tonight, Ms. Mikula stated staff feels it would be appropriate to issue a Class A Liquor License to THLACO LLC dba Thlaco Cocina Tijuanaense located at 1786 W. Algonquin Road.

Mayor Hayes asked Lizbeth and Pedro about their experience in the liquor business. Pedro stated that they started doing business in Hanover Park in 2022. They are a different type of Mexican Taqueria with their cooking style coming from the west coast. This is their first time serving alcohol since their location in Hanover Park does not serve alcohol. Pedro worked at Costco for 16 years as a supervisor and in management so he learned how to handle alcohol. Pedro stated that he was never cited for a liquor violation. Lizbeth has experience working in restaurants and a hospital kitchen but has never served alcohol.

Mayor Hayes asked about their Basset certification status. Pedro is Basset certified and Lizbeth is in the process of getting Basset certified. Pedro stated that initially they are only planning on selling beer. The restaurant's focus is on the food and it is a family atmosphere. Since there is no table service, the patrons will need to purchase alcohol from the bar. Their policy is to card every patron purchasing alcohol. There will be 8-10 employees but only Pedro and only one other person will be selling alcohol. Mayor Hayes encouraged in-person Basset training and reminded them about the annual compliance checks.

Trustees welcomed Lizbeth and Pedro and thanked them for bringing their business to Arlington Heights.

Trustee LaBedz moved, seconded by Trustee Dunnington to recommend that the Village Board of Trustees recommend that the Liquor Commissioner issue a Class A Liquor License to THLACO LLC dba Thlaco Cocina Tijuanaense located at 1786 W. Algonquin Road.

The following voice vote was recorded:

7 Ayes

0 Nays

The motion passed.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS - none

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

VIII. ADJOURNMENT – Trustee Baldino moved, seconded by Trustee Tinaglia to adjourn.
The meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.