



The regular town board meeting, being held at 175 West Jefferson Street, Joliet Township government offices, Tuesday, June 11, 2024, at 5:00 P.M. was called to order by Supervisor Angel Contreras. The following official business was transacted:

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

TRUSTEES:	Tanya Arias	Present
	Antione J. Edwards	Present
	Cesar Escutia	Present
	Raymond F. Slattery	Present
SUPERVISOR:	Angel Contreras	Present
CLERK:	Alicia Morales	Present
OTHER OFFICIALS:	Commissioner Vince Alessio	Present
	Assessor James Brenczewski	Not Present

ALSO PRESENT:

General Assistance Director Patricia Venziano	Transportation Director Jacqueline Smith
Senior Liaison Jeff Wallace	Violence Prevention Director Keshia Ellis
Animal Control Director Whitney McGill	Executive Assistant Ana Campa Castillo
Finance Director Ivan Diaz	Behavioral Health Team
Deputy Clerk Estefany Bonilla	Attorney Bryan Wellner

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Town Board Minutes: Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion. Trustee Arias motions to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2024, Town Board Meeting, seconded by Trustee Slattery. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.¹

Closed Session Joliet Township Board Minutes: Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion. Trustee Escutia motions to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2024, Special Board Meeting, seconded by Trustee Edwards. A roll call was taken. Motion Carried.²

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

ADOPT/Proclamation for June as Juneteenth

Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion to approve the Proclamation for June as Juneteenth. Trustee Arias motions. Seconded by Trustee Escutia. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.³

ADOPT/Proclamation for June as LGBTQIA+ Pride Month

Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion to approve the Proclamation for June as LGBTQIA+ Pride Month. Trustee Slattery motions. Seconded by Trustee Arias. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.⁴

¹ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

² Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

³ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

⁴ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

APPROVE/Consultant Agreement Between Joliet Township & Senior Liaison

Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion to approve the Consultant Agreement Between Joliet Township & Senior Liaison. Trustee Slattery motions. Seconded by Trustee Escutia. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.⁵

APPROVE/Public Input Annual Service Agreement

The Supervisor informs the Town Board how the service has helped, with its many integrated tools, the departments with data intake and assisting in capturing additional data on the grants during its trial run. Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion to approve the Public Input Annual Service Agreement. Trustee Edwards motions. Seconded by Trustee Arias. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.⁶

APPROVE/Lease on 180 South Chicago Street

Supervisor Contreras states how the Lease on 180 South Chicago Street will be tabled as the Township's legal team will be working further with TOIRMA. No motion needed.

APPROVE/GRANTS:

K-9 For Veterans

Is a non-profit organization that provides certain dogs to veterans who are suffering from PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder), MST (Military Sexual Trauma) and TBI (Traumatic Brain Injuries). The organization requested \$30,000 for their program. Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion to approve. Trustee Slattery motions. Seconded by Trustee Escutia. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.⁷

Harvey Brooks Motivation & Development Foundation

Is a non-profit organization that provides fresh vegetables, fruits, flowers, artistic landscapes and hands on sensory activities in the Joliet area through their local community gardens. The organization requested \$8,000 for their program. Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion to approve. Trustee Edwards motions. Seconded by Trustee Arias. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.⁸

Including You Inc

Is a non-profit organization built to serve those who serve others by empowering, inspiring and educating the core values to enhance the self-esteem of a spirited Joliet community. The organization requested \$5,000.00 for their program. Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion to approve. Trustee Edwards motions. Seconded by Trustee Slattery. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.⁹

Holsten Human Capital Development

Is a non-profit organization that strengthens at-risk populations by expanding their access to viable resources that promotes self-sufficiency, wellness and stability through comprehensive service provisions, developing low-income and affordable housing, and fostering economic development. The organization requested \$15,000.00 for their program. Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion to approve. Trustee Edwards motions. Seconded by Trustee Arias. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.¹⁰

Greater Joliet Area YMCA

Is a non-profit organization that helps the Joliet community with youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. The organization requested \$25,000.00 for their program. Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion to approve. Trustee Arias motions. Seconded by Trustee Slattery. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.¹¹

⁵ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

⁶ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

⁷ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

⁸ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

⁹ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

¹⁰ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

¹¹ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

Heritage Corridor Festivals

Is a non-profit organization promoting the cultural, recreational, historical and natural assets of the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Corridor, the First Hundred Miles of Route 66 and Starved Rock Country through hosted events, tourist attractions and group tours throughout the service area. The organization requested \$10,000.00 for their program. Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion to approve. Trustee Slattery motions. Seconded by Trustee Escutia. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.¹²

Legacy Fine Arts Inc

Is a non-profit organization that provides music, theatre, dance, visual arts, and other fine and performing art programs, lessons, and mentoring for youth ages five to eighteen regardless of income level in the Joliet area. The organization requested \$10,000.00 for their program. Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion to approve. Trustee Edwards motions. Seconded by Trustee Escutia. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.¹³

Golden Stars Casa de la Cultura

Is a non-profit organization that provides a diverse curriculum that includes cultural dances, health and mental education, math education, physical education, activities involving instruments, art and theater. The organization requested \$10,000.00 for their program. Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion to approve. Trustee Escutia motions. Seconded by Trustee Slattery. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.¹⁴

One Collective

Is a non-profit organization that works in collaboration with many other agencies, schools, and churches in the Joliet community with a mentoring program for at-risk students to help them integrate into the community and connect them with available resources. The organization requested \$10,000.00 for their program. Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion to approve. Trustee Escutia motions. Seconded by Trustee Slattery. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.¹⁵

Joliet Park District

Provides quality recreational programming and events that promote healthy, active lifestyles to enhance the quality of life for the entire Joliet community. Joliet Park District requested \$10,000 for the Belmont Field, \$25,000 for the Hartman Turf and \$5,000 for the Adopt-A-Camper Scholarship. The Supervisor stated that this will be funded by the Municipal Partnership Fund that the Joliet Township created. Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion to approve. Trustee Escutia motions. Seconded by Trustee Arias. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.¹⁶

OLD BUSINESS:

New Reports

Director of Human Resources, Erica Holmes

Joliet Township Government has experienced significant growth in development across various departments. Key highlights, achievements, initiatives and improvements made HR practices to support the growth and ensured compliance with relative regulations. The staff growth has doubled in size from June 2023 to June 2024. This expansion indicated the increasing demand for services in the Township through their commitment to serving the community effectively. Coinciding with July of 2023 there was the start of hiring for job positions for the Violence Prevention Program and the Transportation Department in March of 2024. In the past year, there have been a total of eleven terminations primarily due to employees transitioning to new opportunities. This turnover reflects the dynamic nature of the workforce and the Township's dedication to fostering professional growth and advancement opportunities. Leadership training for all department heads has been implemented. The classification and salary structure has been completed for Animal Control. Department heads created their own handbooks and are waiting for legal review to be approved. Once they are approved it must be adopted into the Township's policy to ensure consistent compliance in all departments.

¹² Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

¹³ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

¹⁴ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

¹⁵ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

¹⁶ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

Director of Transportation, Jacqueline Smith

The Transportation Department, for the month of May, completed 206 trips and is currently partnered with six organizations. The Director of Transportation has noted receiving more requests for transportation and senior calls at a daily rate. As the Transportation Department receives the calls, the team would inquire to the inbound callers how they were referred to the program and most of the calls are from seniors who state that they saw the service by a flyer posted in their senior building located on Ottawa Street. On another note, the Transportation Department participated in the Active Shooter Training and the Narcan Training and received positive feedback from the drivers on both trainings. On Friday, May 24, 2024, the Transportation Department received a call to assist with transporting fifteen seniors from one location to another. Joshua Arms was very pleased as the Transportation Department assisted them with seven more trips the following week. With all eight trips, the Transportation Department transported sixty-three seniors back to their primary residence. The Director of Transportation stated that she is currently working on a flyer with the Media Specialist, Isabel Gloria, to create a schedule to take the seniors to the grocery store. The schedule will consist of a different store every week at a designated pick up and drop off time.

Violence Prevention Director, Keshia Ellis

Peace Over Violence acknowledged that it is Gun Violence Awareness Month and asked local organizations and community members to wear orange and to take pictures on Fridays. The informed groups were encouraged to post the photos to social media with the tag platform under "Joliet Township Government", "Peace Over Violence" and "Gun Violence Awareness Month" for the month of June to show support. There will be upcoming staff training for the department regarding strategies to prevent burnout, a healthy balance between home and work lifestyles, Narcan motivational interviewing and de-escalation training. The Violence Prevention Director is looking forward to these trainings as they will help all staff members to further learn how to access and manage situations that could lead to full conflict considering recent incidents of violence and aggression in the community. Peace Over Violence has served seven families and victims while engaging with five out of the seven families with emergency needs, not limited to funeral service preparation. This also includes working with Will Grundy Medical Center to provide help as two of the seven victims led to adopting Will Grundy Medical Center as their medical home for medical needs and services. The Peace Over Violence Outreach Team, along with community engagement, sponsored a successful pizza and soda popup event on Sunday, May 30, 2024, in the Riverwalk Community. The team assisted about forty community members considering the three most recent shootings on Jefferson Street, Nicholson Street and the Birches Rental Community with aspirations to bring continual awareness and support to the neighborhood. Peace Over Violence has planned a gun-lock giveaway on Thursday, June 27, 2024, at the Ozzie and Peggy Mitchell Center as well as another event on Thursday, June 13, 2024, regarding a fair for resources and employment opportunities at the same location from 1PM to 5PM.

Behavioral Health Team

Ms. Fleming stated that since the month of January of 2024 the Behavioral Health Team has served forty-one individual clients with therapy and fourteen service linkages. The Behavioral Health Team served 316 individuals through psychoeducation, including nine community presentations, two community level psychological first AIDS and two group educations at the University of Saint Francis. Four MOUs were executed with the Joliet Township High School, Rockdale school, Lincoln school and the Morning Star Mission. There is a full staff as there are three therapists which are a certified medical social worker, a licensed clinical social worker and a bilingual counselor. They have also received two specialized trauma training courses which focused on cognitive behavioral therapy and eye movement desensitization and re-processing. The Behavioral Health Team is available through IRIS, MOUs and referrals through the Joliet Township's website.

Clerk, Alicia Morales

Clerk Morales stated that the bid hearing for a vehicle proposal was performed today on Tuesday, June 11th, 2024, and the apparent lowest bidder was D'Orazio Ford. The vehicle will be used to transport food products for the food pantries. Other than that, it's been business as usual in the Clerk's office.

Supervisor, Angel Contreras

The Supervisor noted the extensive organization of the expansion into the Forest Park Community Center as it's being maintained. This includes processing all the needed paperwork from the administration office as all departments are connected on a day-to-day basis. The internal debriefing with Peace Over Violence has tremendously helped the workflow of standardizing certain procedures. HR is also involved as the procedures must be reviewed by the legal team before they are approved. The Supervisor attended the General Town public bid for a Maverick vehicle as the current vehicles are only passenger vans for the Transportation program. Other than that, it has been business as usual.

CASH RECEIPTS: Trustee Slattery motions to place the cash receipts into their proper accounts. Trustee Escutia seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.¹⁷

FUND EXPENDITURES:

General Town Fund for May 2024: \$361,163.96

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify the expenditures and approve them for payment. Trustee Escutia seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.¹⁸

Capital Fund for May 2024: \$47,874.32

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify the expenditures and approve them for payment. Trustee Edwards seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.¹⁹

Road and Bridge Fund for May 2024: \$174,408.68

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify the expenditures and approve them for payment. Trustee Escutia seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.²⁰

General Assistance Fund for May 2024: \$26,001.90

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify the expenditures and approve them for payment. Trustee Arias seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.²¹

Animal Control Fund for May 2024: \$83,184.42

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify the expenditures and approve them for payment. Trustee Escutia seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.²²

Senior Fund for May 2024: \$0.00

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

ADJOURNMENT: Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Arias motions. Trustee Slattery seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion Carried.²³

The meeting adjourned at 5:58PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Alicia Morales
Town Clerk

¹⁷ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

¹⁸ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

¹⁹ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

²⁰ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

²¹ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

²² Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

²³ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Arias, Edwards, Escutia, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).