

**HOLY TAXIARHAI and ST. HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES FOR JULY 22, 2020**

Commencement of Meeting: The Parish Council meeting began at 7:09pm with prayers being led by Father Dean via Zoom. Father George is also present.

Attendance: C Agalliu, W Bozikis, T Bournias, N Gianaris, P Giannopoulos, G Giolas, K Ioannou, T Kanelos, T Karabatsos, E Kiriazopoulos, A Koutsikos, L Konstantellos, R Kozlowski, D Loomos, A Rizos, T Sikoral, T Zavos

Absent: N Andrews, A Demeros, N Megremis, M Pontikes

President's Remarks: R Kozlowski: Hope everyone is staying safe at their work place if they have returned.

Minutes: Led by K Ioannou.

Motion to approve June 2020 minutes: T Sikoral / 2nd E Kiriazopoulos **Vote: 13-0-1 Pass Unanimously**

Motion to approve the April 2020 Minutes: P Giannopoulos / 2nd G Giolas **Vote: 14-0-0 Pass Unanimously**

Motion to approve the May 2020 Minutes as corrected: T Zavos / 2nd E Kiriazopoulos: **Vote: 13-0-1 Pass Unanimously**

Motion to approve as corrected the February 2020 Executive Session Minutes G Giolas / 2nd T Sikoral **Vote: 13-0-1 Pass Unanimously**

Motion to approve April 2020 Executive Session minutes: G Giolas / 2nd L Konstantellos **Vote: 14-0-0 Pass Unanimously**

Treasurer's Report: Led by T Sikoral. Significant changes have occurred in June report, yet to be updated in statement. **Motion** to table June financial report: A Koutsikos/ 2nd T Kanelos **Vote Pass Unanimously 14-0-0.** Trending is down overall. Discussion had to have office staff work the regular hours, although overall the office salary is up over 5%. Typically, during summer session, the office is closed at 2 or 3 until the middle of August. The hope is to start regular hours again (9-5) for example on August 1st.

Agape Ministry: Led by T Kanelos. Approximately 45-55 grocery bags are given out weekly. We estimate that we have given out about 4 tons of food. Thank you to Christos and Argy for help. T Karabatsos' sons have also been helping a lot. We could use a few more volunteers just for a few hours a week. Thursday volunteers will arrive at 10am. We have had a lot of donations, perhaps we can have a financial statement for next month. The ministry is streamlined and it works well.

Stewardship: Led by G Giolas. Stewardship meeting took place last week. They are going to work on the 2021 Stewardship card. The theme will be taken from the Metropolis. There is an online stewardship form. They will work with the office to see if the procedure is correct. Currently in the process of allowing Text-In donations. G Giolas has gone through training this week. The first time you text the number, you have to put in your information. The second time you text the same number, that name will go through if you text the donation amount. So far it goes towards the general fund but there may be opportunities to donate to a particular ministry in the near future as well. As of July 14, 2020, 476 families pledged \$330,004 (\$693 per family). In 2019, as of August 21st, 544 families pledged \$344,407 (\$633 per family).

Phase III: Led by P Giannopoulos. Parking lot is going to be paved. By the end of the month the new driveway will be open. We are waiting to schedule the emptying out of the garage and the container. The old section will be seal coated and everything will be restriped. Inside the building, the majority of the windows are installed. They have been installing the drywall. All of the electrical, sprinklers, kitchen hoods are to be completed with potential occupancy of September. We are looking for carpet tiles for the upstairs and the gym floor. Perry has talked to the architect about getting drawings for the 3 classrooms in the old community center. In final, there will be a net gain of 2 classrooms, and a potential of 2 additional classrooms in the new building. Question: can we have a general assembly electronically. Waiting on guidance from the Metropolis. Koz is still attending Presidents of Parish Council meetings.

Schools: Led by T Zavos. Right now we are planning to have in-classroom learning. We are taking into consideration the health of the students and staff. We are following state guidelines. Many other school districts are trying not to have a resurgence until Thanksgiving. They are trying to understand what the needs of the families are, as far as being in person, online, hybrid models. The families' preferences in external surveys were split roughly evenly among the above choices ($\frac{1}{3}$ for each). There are 40 students registered for the morning school. They think they can accommodate the morning program with the proper spacing. They will have the teachers doing the rotation instead of the students. If they become at capacity for the afternoon and Saturday schools. It is possible to have people meeting in the gym, on the second floor, even if the partitions are not set up. Would we have the occupancy permits by September 1st by the time we open up the schools. Consideration to take into account the increased cleaning staff we will need. This coming year is going to be a challenging \$25,000-\$45,000 deficit. The School

Board would like to start the year with \$82,400 favorability, or whatever the favorability is, for the beginning of the school year, and in the future. There are no salary increases for the upcoming school year. Recent School Board meeting: the schools are moving forward with fiscal responsibility, and have shown fiscal responsibility for several years past. Discussion had at length with regards to the School Board having complete autonomy over all funds and expenses generated by the schools. Parish Council would still like to have oversight; a concern was mentioned with whether employees of the school are on the school board, as that is a conflict of interest. Is there a way of having a happy medium of both sides, is there a hybrid of the requests to satisfy both Parish Council and School Board. Parish council maintains the necessity to be informed of the School Board's plan, and how they are going to address the issue if attendance is down 75%, how many students are enrolled etc. Any purchase made over \$500 that the school board makes that is in the budget has to be approved by Fr Dean beforehand. Hope to have a plan sent to the parish council at least 1 week before the next meeting.

Fall Festival: Led by P Giannopoulos: If we are going to do something this fall, preferably in September. We need to set a date, Fr Dean to look at the calendar. Labor Day weekend would be too soon, but perhaps the weekend right after that. We need to set a date and start planning for it and go to the Metropolis for drive-through approval. Need to find out how to cook, what to serve, etc. They talked about having a reduced menu, doing everything via drive-through. We can also do a live-stream, for example cooking demonstration, tour of the church, something between 3 and 9pm either one or 2 days.

For the Good of the Parish: It's been a while since we have reopened the church for services, and more recently doing the sacraments, baptisms, weddings. We need people there to be able to usher. We need to check people on the list, and various other directives required for ushering during Covid. There is a request for the recommitment of the Parish Council members to Usher.

Motion to adjourn: G Giolas / 2nd T Kanelos **Vote Pass Unanimously**

Closing Prayer 10:10pm led by Fr Dean.

Respectfully Submitted by

Krystal Ioannou, Recording Secretary