

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING - April 16, 2025

The Finance Council of the Divine Grace Parish met for a regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 16, 2025, at the St. Ferdinand's Church, McAndrew-Biller Hall.

Those in attendance: Jamie Shearer, Amy Behun, Peter Boyer, Jay Cortez, Felicia DiNardo, Joe Ennis, Daniel Jenkins, Chelsey Knapton, Licia Lentz (P), Frank Lordi(P), Kate Maseth-Ready, Frances Tartal, Andrew Welch

A. BRIEF UPDATES:

1. On St. Agatha sale, Divine Grace lost the appeal on the new assessment for this property; the new tax amount is \$20,000. If we sell, then we can re-appeal and receive money back. Amy mentioned that the facility used to be a childcare center, and there should be a record of licensure for that. Frank mentioned that perhaps we could have the appeal heard by a judge through the county. Jamie said that would cost us, but we may get money back as a result. Licia stated that the mayor belongs to the church. Jay commented that there seems to be "drama" in the borough, as they turned down a zoning change for a softball field. A judge may be the better way to go. Frances noted the buyer wanted to close in May.
2. The Town Hall meeting on March 31st for Oldenski Hall remodel went well; Joe and Jamie were there. Also in attendance were Father Jim, Deacon Don, Mark Franz, and the Architect. Discussions centered around usage; remodel to facilitate weddings, showers, etc. In sum, the hall needs to be updated to serve the many functions in our Parish. We need to stay on a course for what the hall provides. We currently have \$2.7 Million dollars in Church Alive funds for this purpose, and that will be spent. The project will probably come in around \$6 or \$7 Million dollars. No official start date; but looking forward to 2026 to 2027. Jamie noted we need a gathering place outside of the sanctuary, and noted we need a much bigger kitchen. Joe brought up the idea of remodeling for wedding reception purposes, but Frances stated that should not be our overall purpose.
3. Regarding the Parish Employee Performance Review Document, Jamie noted we need to continue to push on that so it can be implemented in the near future; and that employee review is part of Licia and Felicia's council assignment.

B. ACTION ITEMS:

1. The minutes of the March 19, 2025, meeting were read and approved as written with a motion by Amy Behun, second by Peter Boyer and approved with a unanimous voice vote.
2. Review and approval of Form A for Ritzer Hall was discussed. Jamie was surprised at the price of \$630,000 that was recommended. The Diocese wants to list the property for \$790,000.

Father Jim said we should start at the \$790,000 level as we can always come down. Felicia asked why, since the Diocese uses Hanna, that we are using Berkshire as the agent. Father said that the realtor is a resident of Evans City, and the Pastor can exercise discretion on this. The motion was passed to list and sell the property for \$790,000, on a motion by Daniel Jenkins, second by Joe Ennis and approved with a unanimous voice vote.

3. The Form B for the parking lot paving for St. Ferdinands was presented to Council for discussion and approval. The cost is \$180,000. Tabs, JR Paving, and A. Folino were asked for bids; the winning bid was submitted by Folino. A lively discussion followed, as Council felt they did not have enough information and many questions. We attempted several times to contact someone on Temporalities by phone during the meeting, but to no avail. Felicia said we need to pass a motion such that any time Council is to approve these forms that a member of Temporalities be present to answer any questions. That motion was presented by Felicia DiNardo, second by Joe Ennis, and approved with a unanimous voice vote. Francis stated this is not the way to do things, e.g., have us sign due to a deadline with unanswered questions. Jamie expressed his frustration, and rightfully so that these forms were emailed to all council members in advance of the meeting, and questions should have been asked and answered. Going forward, the council needs to do this. Jamie further suggested that perhaps one of the Finance Council members attend the monthly Temporalities meeting as Mike Powell used to do. The council provided a conditional approval to Form B for the paving of the St. Ferdinand parking lots pending the satisfactory answers to questions advanced to the Temporalities Committee.

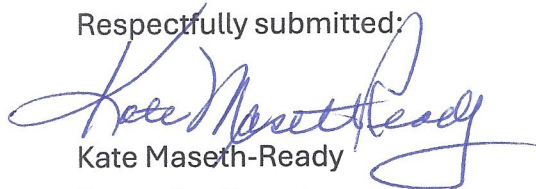
4. Finance Statements through March 2025 were reviewed. We continue to be in good shape.

5. The 2025-2026 budget continues to be worked on for a draft to be presented at the May meeting on May 21, 2025. Amy Behun and Andrew Welch are assisting John Greci.

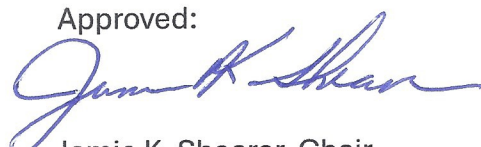
There being no further business, A closing prayer was offered, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

The next regular meeting of the Divine Grace Parish Finance Council will be held on Wednesday, May 21st at 6:30 P.M. at the St. Gregory School Library.

Respectfully submitted:


Kate Maseth-Ready
Recording Secretary

Approved:


Jamie K. Shearer, Chair

DATE: 05/21/2025