

HOLY TAXIARHAI and ST. HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES FOR April 21, 2026

Commencement of Meeting: The Parish Council meeting began at 7:00pm with an opening prayer led by Father Tilemahos. Tom Sikoral acted as Chairman of the meeting. Nick Megremis acted as Recording Secretary.

Attendees: N Megremis, T Rizos, G Houpis, T Sikoral, J Karnezis, E Kiriazopoulos, B Bozikis, T Zavos, A Calabrese, C Haralampoulou, J Ksiazek, D Loomos, L Psychogios, A Andrews, G Coolidge, T Bournias, A Demeros, G Tziavaras, A Koutsikos, G Giolas

Absent: E Dimoutsikos

Non Voting Attendees: Anna Prekas

PARISH OPERATIONS

Updates (T Sikoral)

- Father Tuda has officially been relocated to our sister Church in Racine.
- No Grant updated, but we applied for another \$100,000 grant to replace windows around the building. Should hear back from the state in a couple of weeks.

Minutes (Led by N Megremis)

March Meeting Minutes were distributed to the Parish Council prior to the meeting by N Megremis.

- **Motion to approve March 2026 Meeting Minutes.**
D Loomis/2nd J Karnezis. Vote: 16-0-3. Passed Unanimously.

Treasurer's Report (T Zavos)

- Updated Financial Reports were distributed before the meeting by T Zavos for March Financials.
- 2026 Net Operating Income (NOI) up nearly \$82,000 versus approved budget through March
- Net Operating Income currently at \$38,000
- NOI down \$25,000 vs prior year due to timing - Annual Dinner Dance (Feb) replaced with 75th Anniversary Gala (Oct)
- Total Revenue is up nearly \$80,000 vs budget
- Stewardship is up \$60,000 vs budget (up \$7,000 vs PY)
- Total Expenses are nearly on plan versus budget (flat vs PY)

• **Motion to accept March 2026 Financials.**

G Coologeorgen/2nd L Psychogios. Vote: 15-0-4. Passed Unanimously.

• **Motion to enter Executive Session.**

T Zavos/2nd N Megremis. Vote: 19-0-0. Passed Unanimously.

• **Motion to exit Executive Session.**

E Kiriazopoulos/2nd T Zavos. Vote: 19-0-0. Passed Unanimously.

Religious Education (Led by Father T)

- A Woman's Retreat is being planned for this year.
- Youth Sunday will take place on June 7 and will recognize The Oratorical Festival participants.
- Wednesday night Lenten series was a great success.

Outreach Committee (Led by G Giolas)

- Container to Madagascar reached its destination, and a Thank You letter was received and will be shared with the Parish soon.
- The “All In” special youth ministry on March 28th was well attended and the participant enjoyed the festivities.
- This Saturday a Meal Packing event is taking place.
- The committee is meeting and will be working with the Philoptochos group for future joint projects.

Youth and Athletics (Led by G Coologeorgen and D Loomis)

- Committee is planning for summer activities as the school year winds down.
- Committee planning to replace the Youth Director in some fashion for the rest of the calendar year.
- Youth choir debuted on Good Friday,
- Junior Olympics sign up emails will go out by May 1st at the latest.

Facility Planning Committee (Led by T Sikoral)

- Iconographer has signed our contract and is ready to start working.
- Committee is discussing updates to the West classrooms and more storage space for Philoptochos. Also considering installing a built-in stage in the gym.
- Received quotes for painting in the Church, but will need to get one more.
- Sound quality as not been great, even though recently updated. Need to contact the company again to come and consult. Also need to ask about our outdoor speaker system.

Stewardship (Led by N Megremis)

- As of April 19, 2026, 421 Stewards pledged about \$373,000 and have given roughly \$260,000 to date.
- For comparison, last year at this time we had 417 Stewards pledging \$325,000 and giving \$235,500. Pledged amount is up about \$43,000 since last month.

- Currently, the average pledged amount is \$885 and the Median pledged amount is \$600. 70% Families are contributing under \$500 for the year.
- It was suggested that we need an action plan to see if we can generate more giving and involvement from the above 70% of families. Possibly engage our Stewards during Sunday Coffee Hours.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE PARISH

- Using the Upper Room as an overflow room and updates that were made for the flow of people outside for Holy Friday and Holy Saturday nights were a great improvement.
- The outdoor speaker issue was merely a miscommunication issue and should not be an issue going forward.
- Passing out a second tray on Good Friday should be done only if collecting for a specific reason and should be announced. We should consider removing the second tray altogether.
- **Motion to only have one tray for any Friday or Saturday night service during Holy Week.**

T Zavos/2nd L Psychogios. Vote: 12-6-1. Passed.

- Social Media Update: Maria now has access and is working on all our Social Media platforms. She recommends buying professional camera equipment to improve the look of our presents. She has already billed us for 69.5 hours of work.
- **Motion to continue with our new Social Media consultant, not to exceed 80 hours per month for the next 3 months, through the end of July.**
J Ksiazek/2nd G Houpis. Vote: 19-0-0. Pass Unanimously
- **Motion to update Maria's employment to be a 1099 consultant.**
J Ksiazek/2nd T Bournias. Vote: 17-0-1. Pass Unanimously

- A reminder from Father T that he will be traveling and out of town May 14-16, and also during the Memorial Day weekend.
- It was requested that the School Board President or representative attend Parish Council meetings more often throughout the year to provide updates.
- The Greek Parade in downtown Chicago took place on April 19. It was well attended, especially by our schools and youth.
- **Motion to adjourn meeting.**
E Kiriazopoulos/2nd L Psychogios. Vote 13-0-0. Pass Unanimously

Closing Prayers led by Father Tilemahos at 9:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Nick Megremis, Recording Secretary