

HOLY TAXIARHAI and ST. HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES FOR August 18, 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, C Haralampoulou, J Ksiazek, D Loomos, L Psychogios, A Andrews, G Coologeorgen, T Bournias, A Koutsikos, G Giolas, E Dimoutsikos, T Zavos, A Calabrese, A Demeros

Absent: B Bozikis, G Tziavaras

Non Voting Attendees: Fr. Elias

PARISH OPERATIONS

June Minutes were provided via email to everyone before the meeting by Nick Megremis

- **Motion to approve June Minutes.**
E Kiriazopoulos/2nd T Rizzos. **Vote: 14-0-2. Passed Unanimously.**

Treasurer's Report (Led by T Zavos)

Financial info was provided via email before the meeting by Tom Zavos.

- **Motion to accept May, June and July Financials.**
G Giolas/2nd A Koutsikos. **Vote: 15-0-3. Passed Unanimously.**

- **Motion to approve spending \$4500 so that Father Elias can participate in the Accelerator Program for Leadership.**
A Koutsikos/2nd G Houpis. Vote: 18-0-0. Passed Unanimously.

Religious Ed (Led by Fr. T)

- A womans retreat is planned for September 19.
- Spring lineup of guest speakers is being finalized.
- First day of Sunday school is September 13.

Outreach Committee (Led by G Giolas)

- Our Church's website has been updated with all our current Outreach projects.
- Working with an Orthodox Church in Kenya to possibly ship another container of needed items.
- All the tips from the Food Fest (about \$5800) will be used to help offset costs of shipping the container.
- Planning a supply drive with the Wings program.
- Committee wants to continue providing a free lunch for Special Needs families on the Friday of the Food Fest.
- We will host the last two meal packing events for the year on September 12 and October 10.
- Links for people to donate to our two "clean water" projects are up on our website.

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

- The committee met last week and are ready to kick off the new school year with a welcome BBQ.
- GOAL Basketball will start in September.

Facility Planning Committee (Led by T Bournias)

- Completed the installation of blinds in the east lobby.
- The water heater in the kitchen broke the week of the fest and had to be replaced.
- We hired a painter to paint and fix light fixtures in the Narthex for about \$22,000.
- Flooring replacement in the west classrooms is complete.

- Sealcoating and striping in the parking lot is also complete.
- Looking for possible solutions to add a stage in the gym.

Iconography (Led by T Bournias)

- New brochures that discuss icon sponsorship are now available both in hard copy and online.
- Out of 22 full-size Saint icons, 12 are already sponsored.

Stewardship (Led by N Megremis)

- As of August 15, 2026, 618 Stewards pledged about \$503,000 and have given roughly \$421,000 to date. We are still about \$50,000 short of our goal for the year.
- For comparison, last year at this time we had 590 Stewards pledging \$442,000 and giving \$384,000.

Building and Grounds (Led by G Giolas)

- HVAC system has been difficult to regulate. Having a company come out to advise.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE PARISH

- There will be a committee leaders meeting on September 12.
- Our annual golf outing is taking place on September 17.
- Need to hire an additional office position and a bookkeeper soon. These will be posted on job network websites.
- Our Panegiri on August 15th was a tremendous success.
- Need to find a date for our annual Budget Meeting, ideally sometime in October.

- Anyone still interested in writing a story for the 75th Anniversary Album should sign up as soon as possible.
- Vacation Church School as a great success and well attended.
- Blessing of pets is this coming Saturday
- We were selected to host the Clergy Vasilopita event on December 29. Need to plan to host about 100 people.
- Woman's safety seminar planned for August 30.
- Our annual Men's Event is being planned for the Wednesday night before Thanksgiving at Fountain Blue.
- The Audits from 2023, 2024 and 2025 have been completed. There were no significant findings.
- We have sent in the required information for the 2027 Archdiocese commitment.

Food Fest Wrap-up (Led by T Zavos)

- The Food Fest netted about \$173,000 while the raffle alone netted about \$29,000.
- For future Food Fests, we should explore the possibility of purchasing insurance in case a rainout.
- A complete financial report for the Fest is still being finalized.
- **Motion to adjourn meeting.**
E Kiriazopoulos/2nd T Rizzos. Vote 18-0-0. Pass Unanimously

Closing Prayers led by Father Tilemahos at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted by Nick Megremis, Recording Secretary