

HOLY TAXIARHAI and ST. HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES FOR June 16, 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, C Haralampoulou, J Ksiazek, D Loomos, L Psychogios, A Andrews, G Coolidge, T Bournias, G Tziavaras, A Koutsikos, G Giolas, E Dimoutsikos

Absent: E Dimoutsikos, T Zavos, A Calabrese, A Demeros

Non Voting Attendees: Anna Prekas, Fr. Elias, Dr. Dean Velis

PARISH OPERATIONS

- **Motion to table May Meeting Minutes and Financials.**
G Houpis/2nd G Giolas. Vote: 14-0-1. Passed Unanimously.

Outreach Committee (Led by G Giolas)

- St. Haralambos was approved for the next Night to Shine in 2027.
- Completed five additional water wells in parts of Africa. We signed up to sponsor two more.
- Container to Madagascar was such a success that we are exploring sending one to Kenya in the future.

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

- Youth Sunday was well attended and commemorated our graduates and sport participants.
- GOAL Basketball will start in September.

Facility Planning Committee (Led by T Bournias)

- Some interior walls have been painted and blinds added.
- Additional painting is planned for inside the Church for about \$22,000.
- Flooring in west classrooms will be updated.
- It was recommended that we have the roof inspected.
- After the Fest, we will look to do improvements to the parking lot.
- Committee looking to add a trophy case in the south wall of the east lobby.
- State grant approved for \$150,000 for infrastructure. Still waiting for approval of the FEMA grant.
- Filters on water fountains need replacement.
- Vents in the Church also need replacement.

Iconography (Led by T Bournias)

- New brochures that discuss icon sponsorship should be ready around July 1.

Stewardship (Led by N Megremis)

- As of June 16, 2026, 513 Stewards pledged about \$438,000 and have given roughly \$347,000 to date.
- For comparison, last year at this time we had 547 Stewards pledging \$414,000 and giving \$340,000.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE PARISH

- We need to hire an office worker and a bookkeeper very soon. Both positions will be posted online soon.
- Altar robes and vestments for clergy and altar boys need replacing. Estimated total with shipping will cost \$16,000. Some funds are already earmarked.
- **Motion to spend up to \$10,000 for new vestments.**
G Giolas/2nd E Kiriazopoulos. Vote: 17-0-0. Passed Unanimously.
- VCS was well attended with 140 students.
- The next 75th Anniversary event will be our Panegiri on August 15th, from 12 to 5pm. There will be no pre-order/pre-pay. First come, first serve, with 350 pounds of pork ordered. Invites for the 75th gala will go out early August.
- Food Fest Update: Committee meetings going well. They only ask that a bigger presence be made in the Niles 4th of July parade to help advertise our Fest.
- Womans Safety Seminar will be presented at our Church by the Clerk of Circuit Court of Cook County on August 30th, from 1-3pm. Flyers will be created and distributed before the event.
- Sound System in the Church still needs improvement. Should also look into replacing coat hooks in the school hallway.
- **Motion to donate \$2000 to the John Bartholomew Family from Outreach fund, specifically for the child's endowment.**
J Karnezis/2nd G Giolas. Vote: 17-0-0. Pass Unanimously
- **Motion to adjourn meeting.**
E Kiriazopoulos/2nd T Rizzos. Vote 17-0-0. Pass Unanimously

Closing Prayers led by Father Tilemahos at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by Nick Megremis, Recording Secretary