

HOLY TAXIARHAI and ST. HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES FOR November 18, 2025

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, L Psychogios, G Tziavaras, C Haralampopoulos, J Karnezis, E Kiriazopoulos, A Andrews, G Coologeorgen, T Bournias, E Dimoutsikos, A Demeros, P Giannopoulos, A Koutsikos, D Loomos, B Bozikis, G Giolas

Absent: T Zavos, A Calabrese

Non Voting Attendees: Anna Prekas and Dr. Dean Velis

PARISH OPERATIONS

Minutes (Led by N Megremis)

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

- **Motion to approve October 2025 Meeting Minutes.**
J Karnezis/2nd E Kiriazopoulos. Vote: 10-0-2. Passed Unanimously.

Treasurer's Report (T Sikoral)

Updated Financial Reports were distributed before the meeting by T Zavos.

Net Operating Income (REVENUE less EXPENSES) currently \$186,000 favorable to planned YTD budget (including SCHOOL)

Budget remains in very good position. Some large expenses (insurance premiums) expected in November. Net Operating Income full-year forecast estimated at approximately \$110,000 - \$125,000

- **Motion to accept October 2025 Financials.**

E Dimoutsikos/2nd L Psychogios. Vote: 14-0-2. Passed Unanimously.

Clergy-Laity Meeting (Led by T Sikoral)

- The budget review passed.
- An additional 13th payment of allocation will go to the SIRC.
- And an additional 7.5% will go to Metropolis Operations.

Outreach (Led by G Giolas)

- Container to Madagascar was packed and left for delivery on Thursday, November 13. Planned to leave the port on November 24th and will take a couple of weeks to arrive,.
- Preparing for Night to Shine in February. Next meeting will be on Dec 3rd.
- Coat Drive is currently going on.
- Need volunteers to serve Thanksgiving Meals at the Niles Senior Center.
- Exploring the possibility to start a prison pen-pal ministry. Still in the works.

Safety Training (Led by L Psychogios)

- A planned Emergency Response training will take place on November 25th for the Day School teachers. If successful, will open up future trainings for other members of the Parish.

Facility Planning Committee (Led by T Bournias)

- Looking to get new flooring in the school.
- \$25,000 will be requested at the General Assembly from the Condes Fund.
- Another \$20,000 will be requested for fencing around the property, but committee is also looking into securing grants for this.
- Another \$15,000 will be requested for the decorating committee to use to beautify the Church and Building.
- A new AC condenser will be needed soon, which will cost about \$17,000.
- Choir Loft will need updating as well, which will cost about \$5000
- We also contacted a grant-writer to try and secure grants for security upgrades around the property (which can include windows, doors, fencing, cameras, etc.). The writer will charge \$7000, but if no grant can be secured, they will provide equipment (like cameras, etc) in the amount of the fee.
- Could also contact a different grant-writer for grants specific to school updates.

- **Motion to approve up to \$7000 to hire a grant-writer to try and get both state and federal grants for our property.**

J Karnezis/2nd G Coologeorgen. Vote: 16-2-0. Passed.

Iconography (Led by T Bournias)

- The Metropolis office has approved moving forward with our plans, but our request must first go through the BPA Committee review, before Parish Council and General Assembly approval.

Stewardship (Led by N Megremis)

- As of November 2025, 691 Stewards pledged about \$500,000 (90% of goal) and have given roughly \$468,00 to date.
- For comparison, at this time last year we had 677 Stewards pledging \$478,000 and given \$444,000.
- Current Median amount is \$500 and the average pledge is about \$700.

Athletics (Led by D Loomos)

- Basketball season is in full swing.
- We are hosting the Thanksgiving Tournament, which games scheduled Friday through Sunday after Thanksgiving.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE PARISH

- The Chancellor of the Metropolis recently met with Father Tilemahos and our Council President and presented a possible additional priest to come help with our Parish: Father Milos.
- **Motion to move forward and let Father Tilemahos talk with Father Milos.**
A Demeros/2nd E Kiriazopoulos. Vote: 11-0-5. Passed Unanimously.
- The 75th Anniversary planning committee has secured a venue for the dinner, but is also considering hiring an event planner to help with the buildup to the event.
- The budgeted expense amount for the steward story album is about \$30,000.
- Instead of an Ad Book at the anniversary dinner, the notion is to have one at the Apokriatiko Dinner on February 15th that is being planned by PTAs of the schools.
- **Motion to approve doing an Ad Book for the Apokriatiko Dinner on Feb 15.**
L Psychogios/2nd P Giannopoulos. Vote: 18-0-0. Passed Unanimously.
- The new Sound System was installed in the Church. The company will be coming back to fine tune the work and to update the outdoor speakers.
- Also getting quotes for updating the speakers in the Narthex and the cry room.
- Updates to the sound system in the gym has been delayed.
- Per the School Board, it's been requested that we hire a Teacher's Aid for the 1st Grade for the Afternoon Greek School and they provided a recommendation.

- **Motion to approve the hiring of a new Teacher's Aid for the Greek School, per the recommendation from the School Board.**

G Coologeorgen/2nd E Dimoutsikos. Vote: 18-0-0. Passed Unanimously.

- **Motion to adjourn meeting.**

E Kiriazopoulos/2nd T Rizzos. Vote: 19-0-0. Pass Unanimously

Closing Prayers led by Father Tilemahos at 8:50pm.

Respectfully submitted by Nick Megremis, Recording Secretary