

HOLY TAXIARHAI and ST. HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES FOR October 28, 2025

Commencement of Meeting: The Parish Council meeting began at 7:00pm with an opening prayer led by Father Tilemahos. Father Dean also attended. 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 Zavos, T Bournias, A Calabrese, E Dimoutsikos, A Demeros, P Giannopoulos, A Koutsikos, D Loomos, B Bozikis

Absent: G Giolas

Non Voting Attendees: Anna Prekas

PARISH OPERATIONS

- **Motion to enter Executive Session.**

A Koutsikos/2nd E Kiriazopoulos. Vote: 19-0-0. Passed Unanimously.

- **Motion to exit Executive Session.**

A Koutsikos/2nd E Dimoutsikos. Vote: 19-0-0. Passed Unanimously.

Per direction from the Metropolitan, Father Dean will be retiring at the end of this year.

Treasurer's Report (T Zavos)

Proposed Budget and updated Financial Reports were distributed before the meeting by T Zavos.

Some expressed concern that the 2026 budgeted amount for Stewardship may be too high, especially if we are not going to hit 2025 budgeted number. After discussion, it was approved to leave at \$570,000.

Budgeted amount for the 75th Anniversary is a conservative amount of \$60,000. Expected to me much more.,

It was decided to increase the budgeted amount for Electricity expense by \$5000.

There is a need to get the property re-assessed, but this will not effect the current budget.

There was a suggestion to increase Inreach and/or Outreach expense, but it was decided to leave the same, but committees should be encouraged to spend in these areas if they see fit to.

- **Motion to take the 2026 Budget to the General Assembly.**
L Psychogios/2nd G Cooledgeorgen. Vote: 18-0-1. Passed Unanimously.

- **Motion to accept September 2025 Financials.**
L Psychogios/2nd G Cooledgeorgen. Vote: 17-0-2. Passed Unanimously.

Key Points:

- Net Operating Income (REVENUE less EXPENSES) currently \$180,000 favorable to planned YTD budget (including SCHOOL)
- Stewardship \$11,800K favorable to plan
- Budget is in excellent position YTD
- Administrative Expense higher than expected but still in range.

Inreach (Led by Father Dean)

- The recent Women's Retreat was well received, over 60 attendees.
- Spring sessions are being planned.

Outreach (Led by Father T)

- Container to Madagascar has received a great number of donations and will require securing a larger container.
- Preparing for Night to Shine in February
- The key to growth is to personally invite others to be more involved and to become core Stewards.

Youth Committee (Led by G Coologeorgen)

- Recent trip to Rochester, MN was a great success. Kids helped paint houses and attended a Church service.

Facility Planning Committee (Led by T Bournias)

- Buildout of the new classrooms in the West lobby is now complete.
- This committee will be merging with the Building & Grounds committee.
- Next meeting will be next month.
- Need to prioritize capital projects to ensure cashflow.

Stewardship (Led by N Megremis)

- As of October 2025, 682 Stewards pledged about \$494,600 (90% of goal) and have given roughly \$451,600 to date (\$38K since last month).
- For comparison, at this time last year we had 649 Stewards pledging \$466,000 and given \$406,000.
- Current Median amount is \$500 and the average pledge is about \$725.

Building and Grounds (Led by T Sikoral)

- Need window replacements in lobby.
- Also need new doors in the classrooms.
- Extend the new flooring to the older parts of the community center for a better appearance.
- We received two quotes for outside caulking, but need to go back to get bids for the same scope of work.

Athletics (Led by D Loomis)

- Basketball season is starting. Practices already started and schedules are being finalized.
- We are hosting the first games on Nov 16th.

Minutes (Led by N Megremis)

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

- **Motion to approve September 2025 Meeting Minutes.**
A Calabrese/2nd E Kiriazopoulos. Vote: 15-0-2. Passed Unanimously.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE PARISH

- There was a generous donation specifically for the new sound system of \$26,000. Scheduled install is planned for November 11.
- Golf outing was a great success and had 105 participants. In total, it brought in about \$11K.
- There was a suggestion to look into painting the Narthex.
- Plan is in place to add additional outdoor cameras for added security.

- John K and Tom S are working to see if we can secure a grant writer to secure extra funds.
- Teachers will be receiving technical emergency training on November 25th. Louie will look into opening this up to Parish Council members and other members of the Church.
- The annual Thanksgiving event tickets have been printed and the venue reserved (Fountain Blue).
- Father T mentioned that Orthodoxy on Tap will be hosted by us on November 4th.
- We will also be hosting an Orthodox Youth Ministry on November 15th.
- Also on Nov 15th, we will be hosting a meal packing event in the morning.
- November 8th is our Church's Feast-day and vespers will be taking place that night.
- Vicariate Councils will be starting next week and we are hosting the first session.

- **Motion to adjourn meeting.**
 - A Andrews/2nd E Kiriazopoulos. Vote: **19–0–0**. Pass Unanimously

Closing Prayers led by Father Dean at 9:35pm.

Respectfully submitted by Nick Megremis, Recording Secretary