HOLY TAXIARHAI and ST. HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES FOR October 20, 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, J Ksiazek, D Loomos, L Psyhogios, A Andrews, G Coologeorgen, T Bournias, T Zavos, A Calabrese, G Tziavaras, B Bozikis, G Giolas, E Dimoutsikos, A Demeros

Absent:A Koutsikos, C Haralampoloulos

Non Voting Attendees: Anna Prekas

PARISH OPERATIONS

- We received a Thank You letter from the Metropolis Cup Golf Gala for our donation
- Reminder to submit your Parish Story for the Album soon. The Gala was a great success, and we would like to carry that momentum to 2027 with a good participation in the Album.

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

- **Motion to approve September Minutes (pending update).**
  A Calabrese/2nd J Ksiazek. Vote: 15-0-1. Passed Unanimously.

School Report (Led by George Anastasiadis)

- Slow start to the school year, but now going well.
- Day school is now ending at 2:45 pm as opposed to 1pm to compete with local schools and daycares.
- Tuition was increased slightly to help offset costs of extra hours. Still about 15% below market.
- There has been a drop in Saturday Greek School enrollment. Reason not yet known.
- Current enrollment shows 54 morning-school students and 114 afternoon students, but the Saturday Greek program fell to ~63. School forecast shows a small program surplus now but remains a wildcard. Total school-year projected favorable variance ~$10,700 (subject to change).
- School needed a new teacher for afternoon Greek School; a replacement for a departing teacher.

- **Motion to approve new teacher hire.**
  T Zavos/2nd L Psyhogios. Vote: 17-0-0. Passed Unanimously.

- **Motion to donate $500 to the Archdiocese Church Musician Program.**
  E Dimoutsikos/2nd A Calabrese. Vote: 14-0-3. Passed Unanimously.

Treasurer's Report (Led by T Zavos)

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

- **Motion to accept September Financials.**
  G Tziavaras/2nd E Kiriazopoulos. Vote: 15-0-2. Passed Unanimously.

- Stewardship, donations, trays, candles and interest now cover ~77% of the budget.
- September summary: net operating income $289k vs plan $252k (+$36k). Key drivers: stewardship up (+$13k vs budget), candles up (+$18k), bookstore net (including food press) ~$12k.
- The 75th anniversary (year-long activities) brought in ~$240k to date; ~$100k of related expenses remain to be paid. Final net proceeds are forecast to be $100k–$150k, with the plan to seed the endowment after allocating $60–$75k to operating needs.

- Administrative non-personnel expenses are elevated (+~$45k) due to capitalizable repairs and unplanned clergy professional development; contributions line increased mainly due to clergy insurance reimbursements being reclassified.
- Personnel favorable variance through September ~$32k (timing due to one priest for part of year) but expected to tighten as staffing costs continue.
- Cash & balance sheet: changes to presentation clarified unrestricted/unreserved segmentation; bank cash line noted at $1,119,727.83 for transparency.

Outreach Committee (Led by G Giolas)

- Starting a Special Needs Sunday School class soon, teachers already secured.
- Also planning a Special Needs BBQ on Nov 14.
- Supply drive with the Wings program has started.
- Coat Drive also starting soon.

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

- Annual trip to Minnesota went well, with 14 participants. Attended Church and volunteered their time.
- Youth Choir debuting soon.
- Practices for GOAL Basketball have started, with games starting in mid November. We are hosting 7 games.

Facility Planning Committee (Led by T Bournias)

- Committee is meeting on Tuesday to discuss the use of the $150K state grant.
- Roof inspection is planned for the next week or two, specifically for the Church building.
- Designers have come to give us ideas for our outdoor landscape. More to come.

Iconography (Led by T Bournias)

- Out of 22 full-size Saint icons, 18 are already sponsored; totaling $270K in donations so far.
- Out of 35 medallion-size Saint icons, 7 are already sponsored. Total donations $52,500.
- Four phases of the Panagia have all been sponsored for a total of $100K. And two other scenes have been sponsored for another $35K.
- $477,500 in total Iconography sponsorship to date.

Stewardship (Led by N Megremis)

- As of October 18, 2026, 662 Stewards pledged about $524,000 and have given roughly $472,000 to date. This translates to an average amount of $800 per Steward Family, and a Median amount of $500. We are still about $46,000 short of our goal for the year.
- For comparison, last year at this time we had 682 Stewards pledging $495,000 and giving $451,000.
- Stewardship Luncheon planned for January 31st, with food provided by Platiea.

Budget Review for 2027 (Led by T Zavos)

- Budget outline was provided by Tom Zavos before the meeting.
- Still looking for a new Office worker, bookkeeper, and social media consultant.
- Budget highlights: balanced at $1.213M; schools budgeted conservatively (expect zero net contribution in the plan); capital budget increased to $35k (network/computer needs); janitorial & maintenance currently budgeted at $93k (under review for potential reduction if handyman/combined staffing options realized).

- **Motion to accept 2027 Budget.**
  T Bournias/2nd E Kiriazopoulos. Vote: 16-0-1. Passed Unanimously.

- **Motion to increase health reimbursement allowance (HRA) contribution for Anna Prekas up to $7000.**
  A Calabrese/2nd A Demeros. Vote: 17-0-0. Passed Unanimously.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE PARISH

- General Assembly is planned for Nov 15, with a backup date of Nov 22.
- Parish Council Elections planned for December 13.
- 76th Anniversary Date for 2027 will be October 24 or November 14.
- Ordination ceremony planned for Oct 31. Ushers will be needed.
- Starting our own podcast soon.
- Dance Troop has been created with a total of 20 participants so far.

- **Motion to adjourn meeting.**
  E Kiriazopoulos/2nd G Coologeorgen. Vote 17-0-0. Pass Unanimously

Closing Prayers led by Father Tilemahos at 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by Nick Megremis, Recording Secretary