CITY OF COUNTRY CLUB HILLS
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL
June 25, 2012

1. A regular meeting of the City Council, City of Country Club Hills, County of Cook, State of Illinois, was held in the City Hall, 4200 W. 183rd Street at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by the Honorable Dwight W. Welch, Mayor.

   a. The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all those in attendance.

2. **THOSE ON ROLL CALL ANSWERING PRESENT WERE:**

   Aldermen Hutson, Lockett, Martin, Ford, Burris, Edwards, Williams and Davis.

   Also present were: City Clerk, Deborah McIlvain; City Attorney, John Murphey, and Rhonda Williams, City Treasurer.

   Excused as absent were: Aldermen Comein and Singleton.

2a. Invocation was given by Pastor Blackmon.

3. Journal of Proceedings:

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular City Council Meeting - June 11, 2012

Alderman Hutson moved for Council approval of the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of June 11, 2012. Second - Alderman Ford. Discussion - none. Motion to approve the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of June 11, 2012 Carried Via Voice Vote.

4. Communications and Reports by the Mayor:

Mayor Welch announced the following:

- Alderman Comein is recovering from a heart attack and will return shortly. Mayor Welch requested everyone's thoughts and prayers.

- The large City flag is currently not flying because of high winds.

- A Special Meeting of the City Council will be held on Thursday, June 27, 2012 at 7pm where a casino presentation will be made by the Gatling family and Canary Gaming.

- The Bailey family is welcoming home their son from active duty with the military.

- Soon-to-be PFC Isaac Rodgers, a member of the Public Access Cable Commission, was honored at a reception held on the lower level of City Hall earlier this evening.

- Pictures of residents going under the fence at the rear of Heritage Plaza were given to the aldermen.

- Mayor Welch distributed a memo from Dan Barr indicating that the City had received $20,616.82 in grant money from the State of Illinois.

A. Veto Message - Proposal to Provide Account Reconciliation Services

Mayor Welch read the following into the record:

I hereby veto the approval of the proposal to provide account reconciliation services by Wonderful Watson, LLC.

In my opinion, this proposal represents bad public policy, is a waste of resources, and is not in the best interest of our residents.

Mayor Welch explained that monies should be spent in obtaining a 2 year audit.

- Mayor Welch announced that Fire Chief, Joe Ellington had submitted his resignation effective June 29, 2012. He distributed a letter, for discussion at the Administrative Meeting, indicating the possibility of Ellington becoming a building inspector. Alderman Hutson stated that he felt an attempt should be made to retain Ellington as Fire Chief. Mayor Welch explained that Ellington was retiring.

B. Consideration of Property Tax Rebate Amount

Mayor Welch requested that the City Council giver further consideration to the Property tax rebate with the suggestion of 1million as a rebate and 1 million paid to reduce the City's amount owed to Cook County. Alderman Hutson stated that the Council should not go back on an ordinance that had been passed. Alderman Lockett stated that the ordinance would have to be rescinded and that if the rebate were distributed now, the City would "shut down." He suggested that the City wait to distribute the rebate until the City was in a better financial situation. Alderman Williams stated that he agreed with the suggestion . A heated discussion ensued between the aldermen and the Mayor regarding the responsibility for the debt owed to

County. Mayor Welch stated that nothing has been accomplished in the recent past, that the City's is in need of the audit being completed and that street repairs have yet to be done in the past 2 years. Alderman Burris stated that the City Council did not receive the notification from Cook County regarding the excess funds received and suggested that the rebate should perhaps be done in August . The heated discussion ensued.

Alderman Lockett moved for Council approval of a request for an RFP for a 3 year forensic audit. Second - Alderman Martin. Discussion - none.

ROLL CALL VOTE 8 Ayes: Aldermen Hutson, Lockett, Martin, Ford, Burris, Edwards, Williams, and Davis.

0 Nays:

2 Absent: Aldermen Comein and Singleton.

Motion Declared Carried and Hereby Made a Part of the Original Journal of Proceedings this date.

5. City Treasurer's Report

City Treasurer, Rhonda Williams distributed a draft report for the month ending May 31, 2012. She indicated to the Council that she cannot attest to the accuracy of the report as reconciliations still need to be completed. She stated that political differences need to be set aside and the best interest of the residents and the City need to be kept in mind.

6. City Clerk's Report

No Report .

7. City Collector's Report

The City Collector's Report for the month ending May 31, 2012 was included in the Council packets.

8. Committee Reports

I. Finance: Alderman Burris, Chairman
(Committee Meeting July 5, 2012 at 6:30 pm)

A. Approval of Vouchers

Alderman Burris moved for Council approval of vouchers in the amount of $863,655.99.

Second - Alderman Lockett. Discussion - it was explained that only those payments of a vital nature will be released. Alderman Hutson was given clarification regarding the release of refunds to individuals.

ROLL CALL VOTE 8 Ayes: Aldermen Hutson, Lockett, Martin, Ford, Burris, Edwards, Williams, and Davis.

0 Nays:

2 Absent: Aldermen Comein and Singleton

Motion Declared Carried and Hereby Made a Part of the Original Journal of Proceedings this date.

Alderman Burris moved for Council approval to reduce the salary of the Liquor Commissioner to $1. Second - Alderman Lockett.

ROLL CALL VOTE 6 Ayes: Aldermen Lockett, Martin, Burris, Edwards, Williams, and Davis.

1 Abstain: Alderman Hutson

1 Nays: Alderman Ford.

2 Absent: Aldermen Comein and Singleton

Motion Declared Carried and Hereby Made a Part of the Original Journal of Proceedings this date.

II. Law, Ordinance and Government: **Alderman Martin, Chairman (Committee Meeting TBA)**

No Report

II. Public Works and Utilities Alderman Williams, Chairman (Committee Meeting July 2, 2012 6:00 pm)

A. Approval - Service Contracts Bid Recommendation

Alderman Williams began to move for Council approval of service contract bids for Aquatic Weeds (Clark Aquatics Services), Park Mowing Maintenance (Midwest Environmental), Comfort Station (Service Sanitation)., Rights of Way (Midwest Environmental).

Second - Alderman Lockett. Discussion - It was stated that other companies had been vetted by the Contract Compliance Committee and that further discussion was warranted. Alderman Davis moved that these items be tabled for further discussion . Second - Alderman Martin. Discussion none. Roll Call Vote on Motion to table as follows:

ROLL CALL VOTE 8 Ayes: Aldermen Hutson, Lockett, Martin, Ford, Burris, Edwards, Williams, and Davis.

0 Nays:

2 Absent: Aldermen Comein and Singleton

Motion Declared Carried and Hereby Made a Part of the Original Journal of Proceedings this date.

Alderman Williams moved for Council approval to cease all cutting of the grass. Second - Alderman Davis. Discussion - none.

ROLL CALL VOTE 3 Ayes: Aldermen Lockett, Williams, and Davis.

5 Nays: Aldermen Hutson, Martin, Ford, Burris, and Edwards.

2 Absent: Aldermen Comein and Singleton

Motion Failed.

Alderman Williams moved for Council approval to restrict grass mowing to every 2 ½ weeks or more frequently as needed. Second - Alderman Davis. Roll Call Vote as follows:

ROLL CALL VOTE 8 Ayes: Aldermen Hutson, Lockett, Martin, Ford, Burris, Edwards, Williams, and Davis.

0 Nays:

2 Absent: Aldermen Comein and Singleton

Motion Declared Carried and Hereby Made a Part of the Original Journal of Proceedings this date.

B. Approval - Provincetown Fence RFP Recommendation
C. Approval - 2012 Water Tank Repainting Bid

Items B and C were removed form the agenda.

D. Approval - Nob Hill Subdivision Phase II MFT Engineering Agreement
E. Approval - FY 12/13 MFT Maintenance Program
F. Approval - 2012 MFT Ditch Maintenance

Alderman Williams moved for Council approval of Nob Hill Subdivision Phase II MFT Engineering Agreement, the FY 2012/13 MFT Maintenance Program and the 2012 MFT Ditch Maintenance. Second - Alderman Lockett. Discussion - none.

ROLL CALL VOTE 8 Ayes: Aldermen Hutson, Lockett, Martin, Ford, Burris, Edwards, Williams, and Davis.

0 Nays:

2 Absent: Aldermen Comein and Singleton

Motion Declared Carried and Hereby Made a Part of the Original Journal of Proceedings this date.

IV. Economic Development Alderman Hutson, Chairman
(Committee Meeting Wednesday, July 11, 2012 6 pm)

Alderman Hutson reported on the opening of Baby's Steak and Lemonade. Alderman Davis requested that the possibility of ground breaking for an outlet mall in Lemont be investigated.

V. Planning, Zoning and Development Alderman Comein, Chairman
(Committee Meeting TBA)

No Report.

VI. Insurance and Risk Management Alderman Lockett, Chairman
(Committee Meeting Thursday, June 27, 2012 6pm)

Alderman Lockett stated that an Insurance and Risk Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 27, 2012 at 6 pm. He stated that he feels it is fortunate that he is the Chairman of the Committee and as chairman that he has discovered much. Alderman Lockett stated that he has discovered possible "insurance fraud of ½ million dollars" and is in the process of contacting

the Illinois Department of Insurance.

VII. Community and Park Activities **Alderman Singleton, Chairman**
(Committee Meeting TBA)

No Report

VIII. Contract Compliance **Alderman Ford, Chairman**
(Committee Meeting TBA)

Alderman Ford stated that a meeting was held earlier this afternoon with the committee vetting the MBE/FBE of contracts up for approval.

IX. Special Committee - Schools & Education Alderman Edwards, Chairman
(Committee Meeting July 9, 2012 at 5:30 pm)

Alderman Edwards stated that the committee was working with the local school districts in preparation for events in the fall, with possible programs to include study groups, guest speakers, and PTO meetings.

X. Special Committee
Country Club Hills Outdoor Theater **Alderman Davis, Chairman**
(June 27, 2012 at 7:00 pm)

A. Approval - Clear Channel Media Advertising Agreement and Living Social Agreement

Alderman Davis moved for Council approval of the Clear Channel Media Advertising Agreement and the Living Social Agreement . Second - Alderman Lockett. Discussion - it was explained that the Clear Channel fees were lower than the previous season and the Living Social contract was a new advertising opportunity for the theater. Alderman Davis also stated that he and his committee were committed to operating the theater in as fiscally responsible a manner as possible.

ROLL CALL VOTE 8 Ayes: Aldermen Hutson, Lockett, Martin, Ford, Burris, Edwards, Williams, and Davis.

0 Nays:

2 Absent: Aldermen Comein and Singleton

Motion Declared Carried and Hereby Made a Part of the Original Journal of Proceedings this date.

B. Consideration/Approval of Theater Performance Contracts
These items were not addressed.

Alderman Hutson moved to open the floor to the public. Second - Alderman Lockett. Motion Carried Via Voice Vote.

The following individuals addressed the Council:

RaShawn Pitts, Country Club Hills, addressed the Council and suggested that the conduct of the Council during meetings was unacceptable and the edification was needed.

Harry Jones, Country Club Hills, addressed the Council and stated that he felt the City was experiencing dysfunctional leadership , term limits should be created for elected officials, the transportation budget was too high, that the Gatling family had originally proposed a outdoor theater, and questioned the veracity of the Mayor.

Michele Barber, Country Club Hills, stated that the point of purchase was important in determining theater revenues, recommended identification of account access, stated that she agreed that the salary for the liquor commissioner was too high, agreed with the forensic audit proposal and concluded by suggesting that the conduct of some of the aldermen outside City Hall following a Council meeting be observed.

Ida Harris, Country Club Hills addressed the Council and stated that she felt that the number of aldermen needed to be reduced.

Ralph Tolbert, Country Club Hills, addressed the Council and stated that he felt that the Mayor had sufficient financial background and cannot place blame on others, that the City is spending more that it brings in and that home rule should be eliminated.

Jack McAdams, Country Club Hills, addressed the Council and stated that the Mayor should be recalled as he felt that things were not being run properly.

Michael Lee, Country Club Hills, addressed the Council and stated that he felt that the Council was not acting in the best interest of the residents of the City, the theater should be shut down and salaries should be cut.

Derrell Thomas, Country Club Hills, addressed the Council and stated the Council should not be worried about grass when the City is in a serious financial situation.

Garrett Copley, Country Club Hills, addressed the Council and stated that the FBI was investigating the issue of the black seats at the theater.

Kathy Berg, Country Club Hills, addressed the Council and stated that she felt that the City was deeply in debt and in a deficit spending situation and that the Southtown/Star had not published all of the letter to the editor she had written. She stated that the Mayor should take responsibility for the current situation, she agreed with the change made to the Mayor's salary structure and that the leadership should put the interests of the people first..

Alderman Hutson moved the floor be closed to the public. Second - Alderman Martin. Motion Carried Via Voice Vote.

10. Aldermen's Reports

Alderman Davis thanked everyone for their attendance, stated that the theater was a tough situation but that he and his committee were working hard to correct the situation.

Alderman Lockett thanked everyone for their attendance, questioned the Mayor's veracity, stated that he would be willing to take a 20% reduction in his pay as alderman and stated that he had voted against the theater and the TAWS legislation. He stated that the 14 positions eliminated in the 2011/2012 budget were positions that were not needed, that the Council had reduced the levy by 10%, that the garbage collection contract had gone out to bid, that he was in agreement with the reduction in the Liquor commissioner salary, and commented negatively on the Fire Chief's job performance. He asked the Mayor to confirm that his (the Mayor's) girlfriend's baby was paid for by the City. Mayor Welch stated that former employees are entitled to Cobra options and that he could not comment on choices that had been made. A heated discussion ensued with Mayor Welch stating that comments could not be made due to pending litigation. Lockett commented on the possible referendum to reduce the number of aldermen and concluded by stating the "devil" had been elected Mayor.

Alderman Martin stated that the trail of the property tax monies needed to be examined., that some full time employees were only doing part time work, that the Council was not a "do nothing" Council, invited residents to attend the committee meetings, and suggested that something be placed underneath the fence at Heritage Plaza to avoid people going under the fence.

Alder Hutson thanked Mr. Pitts, and Chirs Ehlers for their work at the Block Party . He also stated that the Woodland Estates area had many dead ash trees.

Alderman Ford State that the 4th Ward had over 1000 dead ash trees and that they are dry and dangerous. He stated that the aldermen have begun the process of cutting back and have not taken any expense checks in the new fiscal year. He concluded by stating that he was hopeful that everyone could sit down together and have a decent discussion.

Alderman Burris suggested that "executive session" should be added to agenda so that litigation and personnel could be discussed whenever necessary, that a Finance committee meeting is scheduled for July 5, 23012 at 6:30 pm., that he had received an email from the FBI regarding the black seats, that he will be hosting a town hall meeting following the Special City Council meeting gon Thursday, June 28, the audit will help to clarify revenues/expenditures for the theater, and that he had contacted the Gatlings regarding the scheduled casino presentation.

Alderman Edwards stated that his next committee meeting will be on July 9, 2012 at 5:30. He stated that he felt the elimination of 5 aldermen would result in the 5 remaining aldermen having to work full time, there should be a petition for part-time Mayor, and that all should be working to bring new businesses to the City.

Alderman Williams thanked everyone for their attendance and stated that he was not concerned about what is said about the aldermen, especially if those making the comments cannot vote for him.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

A Motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Hutson. Second - Alderman Ford.

Motion Carried Via Voice Vote and hereby made a part of the original journal of proceedings this date.

Meeting adjourned at 9:14 pm

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Deborah M. McIlvain, City Clerk