

**CITY OF COUNTRY CLUB HILLS
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL
May 26, 2015**

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 James W. Ford, Mayor.

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

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

Aldermen Lockett, Davis, Glispie, Evans and Spivey.

Also present were: City Clerk, Deborah McIlvain; City Treasurer Argie Johnson-Martin and City Attorney, John Murphey.

2a. Invocation - The invocation was given by Alderman Spivey.

3. **Journal of Proceedings:**

A. Approval of Minutes

1. **Administrative Meeting - May 4, 2015**
2. **Special City Council Meeting -May 4, 2015**
3. **Regular City Council Meeting - May 11, 2015**

Alderman Lockett moved for Council approval of the minutes of the Administrative Meeting of May 4, 2015, the minutes of the Special City Council Meeting of May 4, 2015, and the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of May 11, 2015. Second - Alderman Evans. Discussion - none. Motion to approve the minutes of the Administrative Meeting of May 4, 2015, the minutes of the Special City Council meeting of May 4, 2015 and the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of May 11, 2015 Carried Via Voice Vote.

4. **Communications and Reports by the Mayor:**

Mayor Ford stated that he appreciated the attendance at the Memorial Day Service and thanked the Veterans Commission and JoAnn Wade for all of their efforts.

A. Approval - 2015 City Council Committee Assignments

Alderman Davis moved for Council approval of the 2015 City Council Committee Assignments. Second -Alderman Lockett. Discussion - it was explained that anyone in the

audience interested in the assignments should see the Mayor after the meeting. Motion Carried Via Voice Vote.

B. Approval - An Ordinance Amending Chapter 1 Article 3 Section 5 - Item #10 Council Approval of Expenditures

Mayor Ford moved this item for consideration to the Finance portion of the agenda.

5. City Treasurer's Report

City Treasurer, Argie Johnson-Martin, stated that the prior month's financial reports are not available from the financial consultants until the 4th Thursday of each month. In order to provide correct and accurate information, she will make the Treasurer's Report for the month of April 2015 available at the June 8, 2015 Council meeting.

6. City Collector's Report

City Collector, Deborah McIlvain, gave the Collector's Report for the month ending April 30, 2015 delineating specific revenues for various funds.

7. City Clerk's Report

No Report

An activities report was given by staff member, JoAnn Wade. She stated that over 650 guests attended Cares Day (in cooperation with Portia Lyons) with special thanks to J.C. Penney Company and Alderman Lockett. She stated that there was good attendance for Memorial Day, reminded everyone that the Cops on Top event will be May 28 from 5 am to 2 pm at Dunkin Donuts to raise funds for the Torch Run for Special Olympics and that the Mother/Son dance will be held on May 29. She stated that the City's hosts 17 commission and that several openings are available. The City will be starting a new Multi-Cultural commission and anyone interested in these or other volunteer opportunities should contact her at City Hall.

8. Committee Reports

**I. Finance: Alderman Davis, Chairman
(Committee Meeting June 4, 2015 5:00 pm)**

A. Approval of Vouchers - May 26, 2015

Alderman Davis moved for Council approval of vouchers in the amount of \$365,943.56 and reissued vouchers in the amount of \$871.04. Second - Alderman Lockett Discussion - It was explained that this included the A/P Disbursement and Payroll AP.

ROLL CALL VOTE 4 Ayes: Aldermen Lockett, Davis, Glispie, and Spivey.

1 Nays Alderman Evans

Alderman Evans cast a :”no” vote for Mr. Benny’s in the amount of \$3950.00 stating that the City should not pay for the former Mayor’s retirement party.

0 Absent:

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

B. Approval - An Ordinance Amending Chapter 1 Article 3 Section 5 - Item #1 Council Approval of Expenditures of the Country Club Hills City Code

Alderman Davis moved for Council approval of Ordinance Amendment NO. OA-02-15, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 1 Article 3 Section 5 - Item #1 - Council Approval of Expenditures of the Country Club Hills City Code. Second - Alderman Lockett. Discussion - it was explained that this would increase the Mayor’s expenditure limit from \$2,500 to \$15,000 and that this had been discussed at the Administrative Meeting and recommended for approval.

ROLL CALL VOTE 5 Ayes: Aldermen Lockett, Davis, Glispie, Evans and Spivey.

0 Nays

0 Absent:

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

C. Approval - an Ordinance Granting a Temporary Moratorium on the Automatic Water Rate Increase Imposed by Section 18.4.01A of the Country Club Hills City Code

Alderman Davis moved for Council approval of Ordinance No O-06-15, an Ordinance Granting a Temporary Moratorium on the Automatic Water Rate Increase Imposed by Section 18.4.01A of the Country Club Hills City Code. Second - Alderman Lockett. Discussion - It was explained that the water rate would not increase 3% this fiscal year.

ROLL CALL VOTE 5 Ayes: Aldermen Lockett, Davis, Glispie, Evans

and Spivey.

0 Nays

0 Absent:

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

D. Approval -Service Agreement By and Between the City of Country Club Hills and GW & Associates P.C.

Alderman Davis moved for Council approval of the service agreement by and between the City of Country Club Hills and GW & Associated, P.C. Second - Alderman Lockett. Discussion -Mayor Ford stated that the phrase “oversight of the treasurer’s office” needed to be stricken from the agreement. It was also explained that the agreement can be terminated with 30 days written notice and was at a cost of \$14,500 per month. Alderman Davis also explained that this firm supplied budget and tax levy preparation, financial statements, bank reconciliations and many other reports and services. Roll Call Vote on the agreement as amended as follows:

ROLL CALL VOTE 5 Ayes: Aldermen Lockett, Davis, Glispie, Evans and Spivey.

0 Nays

0 Absent:

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

Law, Ordinance, Government Operations & Contract Compliance (TBA)

Alderman Spivey, Chairman

Alderman Evans stated that a committee meeting is scheduled for June 18, 2015 at 6:30 pm.

III. Public Works and Utilities (Committee Meeting TBA)

Alderman Glispie, Chairman

A. Approval - Bid Recommendation - Water Meter Installation

Alderman Glispie moved for Council approval of the Bid Recommendation - Water Meter Installation. Second - Alderman Davis. This item was discussed at the committee level and at the

administrative meeting and was recommended to the full Council for approval

ROLL CALL VOTE 5 Ayes: Aldermen Lockett, Davis, Glispie, Evans
and Spivey.

0 Nays

0 Absent:

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

**IV. Economic Development, Planning, Zoning & Economic Development
(TBA)**

Alderman Spivey, Chairman

Adleman Spivey stated that the next committee meeting will be June 4 2015 at 7:00 pm.

**V. Insurance, Risk Management & Personnel Alderman Lockett, Chairman
(Committee Meeting TBA)**

A. Approval - Annual Employee Benefits Rate Renewal

Alderman Lockett moved for Council approval of the Employee Benefits Rate Renewal. Second - Alderman Spivey. Discussion - Alderman Lockett explained that there was a 3.45% increase in the Blue Cross Blue Shield rate and that all other coverages were to remain unchanged.

ROLL CALL VOTE 5 Ayes: Aldermen Lockett, Davis, Glispie, Evans
and Spivey.

0 Nays

0 Absent:

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

VI. Special Committee Theater of the Whole

It was explained that the City Council and the Theater Commission will be working together to consider season operation and possible additional seating.

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

The following individuals public addressed the Council:

- Karen Peterson, Country Club Hills, addressed the Council and thanked everyone for the Memorial Day Service. She stated that she was upset about the \$3950 for the former Mayor's retirement party to which she had heard that the residents were not invited.
- Arthur Mooring, Country Club Hills, stated that he had been "fired" as the City's insurance broker and that the cost of benefits were increasing. He asked that the Council rescind their vote and allow him to present an insurance renewal quote.
- An unidentified resident addressed the Council and stated that individuals should remain after making comments to hear if there is a response. He continued that he felt Alderman Evans was doing a good job. He also stated that the theater should be given a chance on a smaller scale without numerous ticket giveaways and free seats. He concluded by stating that he felt it was unacceptable that no one is holding anyone accountable for home maintenance, especially for the owner of multiple homes.
- An unidentified resident stated that she is asking that everyone come together and take responsibility for the appearance of their property by cutting the grass and taking care of weeds and debris. She also commented on the planters at Heritage Plaza.
- Izella Rogers, Country Club Hills thanked Mayor Ford for listening to everyone's comments. She also provided positive comments regarding the Senior Police Academy and suggested it would be beneficial for all age groups. She stated that a representative from the Police Department will be at the Ward 3 town hall meeting to provide information on interaction with the police.

Alderman Lockett moved that the floor be closed to the public. Second - Alderman Evans.
Motion Carried Via Voice Vote.

9. Aldermen's Reports

- Alderman Spivey stated that he and one of the building inspectors had identified several distressed properties in the 4th Ward and asked that grass be maintained on a weekly basis. He concluded by stating the appearance of the community represents the residents.
- Alderman Evans requested that commission applications be made available on the City's website and possibly advertised on Channel 4. She stated that the rate renewal for employee benefits was a good rate, the City does not have to absorb any of the increase and this will be beneficial for staff morale. She stated that the former Mayor is entitled to a retirement party but the taxpayers should not have to pay for it. She stated that grass

maintenance was also a priority for her (she jokingly suggested that her son was available). She concluded by stating that she conducts a town hall meeting the 1st Thursday of each month at 7 pm. A police department sergeant will be addressing the issue of police perception.

- Alderman Glispie stated that the planters have been removed at Heritage plaza in order to proceed with the paving project restrictions. He requested the cooperation of the residents so of the 1st Ward regarding property maintenance
- Alderman Lockett stated that the insurance broker had been replaced because the employees were not happy with the situation and that the staff is happy with the new broker. He continued that after 28 years of service the former Mayor is entitled to a retirement party. He stated that there is a group in the South Suburbs consisting of 2 men and a woman robbing people and they may be associated with a recent killing in Hazel Crest.
- Alderman Davis stated that the draft budget should be given to the aldermen on Tuesday, budget meetings will be held on June 2 and June 4, all of the aldermen are responsible for voucher approval and any request to remove a voucher should be submitted in writing to the Finance committee chair. He concluded by stating that Cornerstone Christian Church will be hosting a food pantry on Friday at 10 am.

Mayor Ford clarified that a paving contractor has been approved for Heritage Plaza and work should begin soon, that he felt the 3.45% rate increase was a good number, that Commission volunteers are needed and individuals are encouraged to apply. He stated that he met with the company that owns numerous homes this past Friday and explained the City's property maintenance standards. He stated that the retirement party for former Mayor Welch was not a dinner, involved a cash bar, the public was more than welcome to attend, and donations would be graciously accepted.

Alderman Lockett requested a moment of silence upon the passing of the father of Alesia Franklin Allen. Mayor Ford requested a moment of silence upon the passing of Russell Richardson, long time resident and commission member.

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Davis. Second - Alderman Lockett. Motion Carried Via Voice Vote and hereby made a part of the original journal of proceedings this date.

Meeting adjourned at 7:56

Respectfully submitted
Deborah M. McIlvain, City Clerk