

**CITY OF COUNTRY CLUB HILLS  
REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
July 13, 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, Glispie, Evans and Spivey.

Excused as absent was Alderman Davis.

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

3. **Journal of Proceedings:**

- A. **Approval of Minutes**

1. **Administrative Meeting - June 15 2015**
2. **Regular City Council Meeting - June 22, 2015**

Alderman Lockett moved for Council approval of the minutes of the Administrative Meeting of June 15, 2015 and the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of June 22, 2015. Second - Alderman Evans. Discussion - none. Motion to approve the minutes of the Administrative Meeting of June 15, 2015 and the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of June 22, 2015 Carried Via Voice Vote.

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

None

5. **City Treasurer's Report**

City Treasurer Argie Johnson-Martin , gave the qualified Treasurer's Report for the month ending May 31, 2015 citing revenue and expenditures for the period and fund balances.

6. **City Clerk's Report**

No Report

Mayor Ford thanked everyone for their efforts and thanked the residents for attending the annual fireworks event. He announced that the City wide Community picnic will be held on Saturday, July 25, 2015 at Community Park from 10 am to 4 pm.

**7. Committee Reports**

**I. Finance:** **Alderman Davis,**  
**Chairman**  
**(Committee Meeting July 23 2015 5:00 pm)**

**A. Approval of Vouchers - July 13, 2015**

Alderman Lockett s moved for Council approval of vouchers in the amended amount of \$548,914.92. Second - Alderman Evans Discussion - It was explained that this included the A/P Disbursement and Payroll AP.

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

0 Nays

1 Absent: Alderman Davis.

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

**B. Lay Budget for Fiscal Year 2015-16 on the Table**

Alderman Lockett moved for Council approval to Lay the Budget for Fiscal Year 2015-16 on the Table. Second - Alderman Glispie. Discussion - Mayor Ford explained that the public hearing for the budget will be held on July 20, 2015 at 7 pm and that the draft copy of the budget is available on-line.

**C. Presentation - Lauterbach & Amen 0 FY 2013 Audit**

Matt Behren addressed the Council and discussed the 2013 financial statements. He explained that the audit was being issued with a qualified opinion mentioning wire transfer documentation. He explained the remainder of the financial statements including fund statements, water and sewer fund and pension funds.

**II. Law, Ordinance, Government**

**Operations & Alderman  
Evans, Chairman**

**Contract Compliance (TBA)**

**A. Approval -An Ordinance Repealing Ordinance No O-06-11 “An Ordinance Declaring a City-Wide Hiring Freeze”**

Alderman Evans moved for Council approval of Ordinance No O-07-15 , an Ordinance Repealing Ordinance No O-06-11 “An Ordinance Declaring a City-Wide Hiring Freeze”. Second - Alderman Glispie. Discussion - it was explained that repealing this ordinance would haven o effect on the 2011 layoff decisions and lawsuits.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

3 Ayes: Aldermen Glispie, Spivey and Mayor Ford..

2 Nays Aldermen  
Lockett and Evans

1 Absent: Alderman Davis.

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

**III.**

**Public Works and Utilities  
Alderman Glispie,  
Chairman**

**(Committee Meeting TBA)**

No Report

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

**Alderman Spivey, Chairman**

Alderman Spivey announced that the following businesses are coming to Country Club Hills: Dusties/Kenny's Ribs, a cooking school, and ATI Physical Therapy.

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

**No Report**

## **VI. Special Committee Theater of the Whole**

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

The following individuals public addressed the Council:

- Daryl Glinton, Country Club Hills, addressed the Council and inquired as to whether the TIF money transfer issue had been resolved. Mayor Ford explained that the money had been transferred and was now allocated to the proper account.
- Thomas Melton, Country Club Hills, addressed the Council and stated that he was disappointed in his recently received property tax bill and felt that raises for part-time aldermen were insulting to the residents.
- The homeowner at 17841 Princeton, addressed the Mayor and Council and requested the City allow a cash bond to be posted regarding the sale of his home as he is elderly and can no longer maintain the property. Mayor Ford stated that earlier in the day, staff had been instructed to make arrangement for a cash bond for the property.
- Clifton Graham, Country Club Hills, stated that he felt property taxes were too high and his taxes exceeded his neighbors. He asked that property taxes be reduced and TIF funds be allocated to other projects. He concluded by asking about the property tax rebate.
- Izella Rogers, Country Club Hills, stated that she agreed with Mr. Melton and with Mr. Graham regarding taxes. She stated that during the budget hearing process, the department heads requested more than they should have without considering the City's financials.
- Terrell Thomas, Country Club Hills, stated that the high property taxes are forcing people to walk away from their homes, taxes should be cut, and the residents should be put first.
- Harry Evans, Country Club Hills Park District Commissioner, stated that taxes continue to rise, that he disagreed with repealing the hiring freeze, and invited residents to attend the Park District Board Meetings.
- Hosea Gray, Country Club Hills, stated that the scheduled Park District meetings should be posted on the City's website and on the lobby board and that he also felt that property taxes had increased unreasonably. He stated that he felt the budget would increase if there were no hiring freeze and that there are better ways to utilize TIF funds. He also suggested revenue ideas for the theater.
- An unidentified resident addressed the Council and asked what plans were in place to avoid a similar incident to the overpayment from Cook County of property taxes. He stated that if the City was going to invest 2.5 million in the theater, a study should be done to determine the possibility of a profit and recoup of the funds.
- David Gonzalez, GW & Associates, addressed the Council and explained that property taxes have gone up in other municipalities and that the issue is a problem throughout the southern suburbs.

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

City Attorney John Murphey explained that the City Council has not raised the tax levy in several years; however, the City's EAV has decreased (as it has in many other municipalities) since the market crash of 2008 by 40%. He explained that property values have crashed and are slowly recovering, that the SSMMA has been considering this problem for quite some time and that the consensus is that property taxes are not the fair method of funding education.

## **8. Aldermen's Reports**

- Alderman Lockett wished everyone a safe 4<sup>th</sup> of July, advised that residents check on their neighbors and stated that the lawns in Country Club Hills were benefitting from the amount of rainfall.
- Alderman Glispie stated that street sweeping will occur throughout the City until July 22, 2015.
- Alderman Evans stated that despite the hiring freeze, staff had been hired. She stated that individuals need to be held responsible and position should be funded properly and determined to be necessary. She continued that several budget meetings had been held and that the City's union contracts are a large portion of the City's budget. She explained that often difficult decisions need to be made about personnel, such as layoffs and restriction of pay increases. She stated that missing monies and wire transfer documentation make a difference in the City's audit reports. She explained that TIF monies are restricted funds and cannot be used for street repairs.
- Alderman Spivey announced that a 4<sup>th</sup> Ward meeting will be held on July 23, 2015 from 7 - 9 pm at the Fire Station on 175<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Mayor Ford reiterated that TIF funds are restricted funds.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:14

Respectfully submitted  
Deborah M. McIlvain, City Clerk