

**CITY OF COUNTRY CLUB HILLS  
REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
July 27, 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. The invocation was given by Alderman Davis.

3. **Journal of Proceedings:**

**A. Approval of Minutes**

**1. Regular City Council Meeting - July 13, 2015**

Alderman Lockett moved for Council approval of the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of July 13, 2015. Second - Alderman Evans. Discussion - none. Motion to approve the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of July 13, 2015 Carried Via Voice Vote.

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

**A. Approval - Volunteer Commission Appointments**

- 1. Jasmin Gore - Public Access Cable Commission**
- 2. Jonathan Hemphill - Public Access Cable Commission**
- 3. Thomas Melton - Theater Commission**
- 4. Michael Holmes - Education Commission**
- 5. John Edwards - Education Commission**
- 6. Seth Wilson - Theater Commission**

Alderman Lockett moved for Council approval of the appointment of Jasmin Gore (Public Access Cable Commission), Jonathan Hemphill (Public Access Cable Commission), Thomas Melton (Theater Commission), Michael Holmes (Education Commission) John Edwards (Education Commission) and Seth Wilson (Theater Commission). Second - Alderman Davis. Motion

Carried Via Voice Vote.

Mr. Hermphill, Mr. Melton, Mr. Holmes, Mr. Edwards and Mr. Wilson introduced themselves to the Council and stated that they were anxious to give back to the community and help move the City forward through their volunteer efforts on their respective commissions.

**B. Approval - A Resolution Extending the Appointment of the Cook County Sheriff as the City's Inspector General**

Alderman Lockett moved for Council approval of Resolution No R-03-15, a Resolution Extending the Appointment of the Cook County Sheriff as the City's Inspector General. Second - Alderman Davis. Discussion - none.

**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. City Events Update - JoAnn Wade**

Jo Ann Wade announced the following:  
8/1 City Wide Garage Sale  
8/1 Mary Smith Brain Tumor Fun Run/Walk  
8/15 Back to School Parade  
8/8 Multicultural Festival

Multicultural Festival volunteers were introduced and invited everyone to attend the multicultural festival and experience the variety of foods, music, dance and artisans.

**D. Presentation- Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, Ben Ritter, Shelley Ritter and Jack Levitt**

Ben Ritter, Shelley Ritter and Jack Levitt of the local chapter of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago presented stuffed animals called Buddy Bears to the Country Club Hills Police and Fire Departments to help provide comfort to residents during times of trauma. Mayor Ford commented on the importance of the project.

**5. City Collector’s Report**

City Collector, Deborah McIlvain, gave the Collector’s Report for the month ending June 30, 2015 citing revenue collected and specific fund revenues received.

**6. City Clerk’s Report**

No Report

**7 Committee Reports**

**I. Finance: Alderman Davis, Chairman  
(Committee Meeting August 6, 2015 5:00 pm)**

**A. Approval of Vouchers - July 27, 2015**

Alderman Davis moved for Council approval of vouchers in the amount of \$895,455.87. Second - Alderman Lockett Discussion - It was explained that this included the A/P Disbursement, Payroll AP, BP fuel bill, Village of Oak Lawn, Mayor/Council luncheon, and AFLAC..

**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.**

**B. Approval - an Ordinance Adopting the Annual Budget for the Year Commencing May 1, 2015 and Ending April 30, 2016**

Alderman Davis moved for Council approval of Ordinance No. O-08-15, and Ordinance Adopting the Annual Budget fo the Year Commencing May 1, 2015 and Ending April 30, 2016. Second - Alderman Lockett. Discussion - It was explained that this is a balanced budget after many hours of discussion. Alderman Davis provided a summary of various restricted and unrestricted funds totaling \$41, 986,086.

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

1 Nays Alderman Evans

0 Absent:

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

**II. Law, Ordinance, Government Operations & Contract Compliance (TBA) Alderman Evans, Chairman**

**A. Approval -An Ordinance Providing for the Granting of a Class B Liquor License (Subject to Fulfillment of License Requirements) for Club Sugar Hill, 18221 Crawford, Pursuant to Chapter 13 of the City of Country Club Hills Municipal Code**

Alderman Evans moved for Council approval of Ordinance No O-09-15 , an Ordinance Providing for the Granting of a Class B Liquor License (Subject to Fulfillment of License Requirements) for Club Sugar Hill, 18221 Crawford, Pursuant to Chapter 13 of the City of Country Club Hills Municipal Code. Second - Alderman Lockett.. Discussion - it was explained that this establishment would be occupying the facility formerly occupied by Revelations.

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

1 Nays Alderman Davis

0 Absent:

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

Alderman Evans announced that a Law, Ordinance and Government Operations Committee Meeting is scheduled for August 10, 2015 at 6:00 pm.

**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 a meeting is scheduled for August 7, 2015 at 7 pm.

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

No Report

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

No Report

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

The following individuals public addressed the Council:

- Karen Peterson, Country Club Hills, addressed the Council and questioned the commitment of 2 million dollars to the theater that is not yet fully paid for and had operated at a loss. She suggested sponsors. She expressed concern regarding the property tax rate of Country Club Hills in comparison to other municipalities.
- Tom Melton, Country Club Hills requested justification for the cost of living raises received by the aldermen, as they are part-time.
- Dwayne Williams, Country Club Hills, suggested that the Council “go back to the drawing board” regarding the 2015/16 budget and also stated that the streets should be repaired before any monies are allocated to the theater.
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Alderman Lockett moved that the floor be closed to the public. Second - Alderman Davis.  
Motion Carried Via Voice Vote.

**9. Aldermen’s Reports**

- Alderman Spivey thanked everyone for attending the meeting, stated that he will be meeting with residents of the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward and stated residents are concerned about motorists speeding in residential areas.
- Alderman Evans explained that she had cast a no vote for the budget because the budget will not provide any relief for the residents, revenues are constantly being exceeded by expenditures, and that the budget is heavily tied to salaries and union contracts suggesting that difficult conversations need to be conducted. She stated that the TIF is s a form of tax, questioned as to whether the theater will be properly managed and stated that the actual revenues and expenditures from previous year’s theater operation are unclear. She stated that the streets are in need of attention but finances need to be verified and addressed. She concluded by stating that the aldermen can do more regarding their salaries and that the aldermen should lead by example.
- Alderman Glispie stated that the City will be requesting from MWRD/Sanitary District, through the SSMMA a 5 year extension regarding the salting compliance requirements.

He requested that all residents assist in helping to keep the City moving forward and that all should contribute by maintaining properties and sidewalks and curbs. He stated that the theater is the City's responsibility and it should be given a chance to succeed.

- Alderman Lockett thanked everyone for their attendance and stated that everyone worked diligently on the budget and that participation from the residents was made available through the public portion of the committee meetings and through the budget public hearing. He explained that the transportation line items have been moved to a transportation specific budget, that the theater must be given the opportunity to make money and that the Council is looking to make the theater succeed through possible naming rights and sponsorships. He explained that the aldermanic portion represents 1.3% of the entire budget and that the union contracts were negotiated in previous years.
- Alderman Davis congratulated the newly appointed commission members and cited the hard work and efforts exhibited by the theater commission. He suggested better attendance by residents at committee meetings where input could be provided. He explained that only one raise had been given in the new budget that was not contract related, stated that GW and Associates had provided the necessary information to confidently pass the budget, that all aldermen's opinions were taken into consideration at the budget meetings with a consensus being achieved, that collective bargaining agreement salaries were high; however, starting salaries have been lowered. He explained, to provide transparency, that Capital projects were in the budget, should the revenues become available. He announced that a 5<sup>th</sup> Ward meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 28 at 7 pm in the lower level of City Hall. He stated that Cornertstone Church will conduct their monthly food pantry on Friday July 31 from 10 am to noon. He concluded that aldermanic salaries are set by ordinance and that these can be reviewed prior to the next election.

City Attorney, John Murphey reiterated that the City Council has not raised the tax levy in several years, that the budget passed earlier in the meeting will not raise the tax levy and that it is anticipated that the levy will not be raised when addressed again in December 2015.

Mayor Ford stated that it had been incorrectly reported on the internet that the Mayor had agreed to buy an elderly gentlemen's home at the last Council meeting. He stated that, in actuality, the City had agreed to accept a cash bond for the property.

Mayor Ford stated that we can be our own worse enemies and asked that he be given a chance to run and manage the City. He asked that everyone work with him and beside him and stop printing untruths.

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 7:55

Respectfully submitted  
Deborah M. McIlvain, City Clerk

