

**CITY OF COUNTRY CLUB HILLS  
REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
August 10, 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 7:01 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 Pastor Blackmon.

3. **Journal of Proceedings:**

A. **Approval of Minutes**

1. **Administrative Meeting - July 20, 2015**

2. **Regular City Council Meeting - July 27, 2015**

Alderman Lockett moved for Council approval of the minutes of the Administrative Meeting of July 20, 2015 and the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of July 27, 2015. Second - Alderman Davis. Discussion - none. Motion to approve the minutes of the Administrative Meeting of July 20, 2015 and the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of July 27, 2015 Carried Via Voice Vote.

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

Mayor Ford welcomed everyone to the meeting, stated that the multi cultural festival held on Saturday was a successful event and that he looked forward to even greater participation next year. He also announced that the City had received a proposal for a possible grocer/market in the Cooper's Grove facility and he has forwarded the proposal to the City Attorney for review and then be forwarded to EDC.

5. **City Treasurer's Report - June 30, 2015**

City Treasurer Argie Johnson-Martin, gave the qualified Treasurer's Report for the month ending June 30, 2015 citing fund balances, revenues and expenditures. She also announced that residential property taxes can be appealed on-line with Cook County at the website for the Cook County Board of Review.

**6. City Clerk's Report**

City Clerk, Deborah McIlvain, announced that the annual Back to School Parade will be held on Saturday, August 15 with staging beginning at 9 am and the parade beginning at 10.

**7 Committee Reports**

**I. Finance: Alderman Davis, Chairman  
(Committee Meeting August 20, 2015 5:00 pm)**

**A. Approval of Vouchers - August 10, 2015**

Alderman Davis moved for Council approval of vouchers in the amount of \$437,652.76. Second - Alderman Lockett Discussion - It was explained that this included the A/P Disbursement and Payroll AP.

**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 Authorizing the Temporary Transfer From the City's Water and Sewer Fund to the City's General Fund**

Alderman Davis moved for Council approval of Ordinance No. O-10-15, an Ordinance Authorizing the Temporary Transfer From the City's Water and Sewer Fund to the City's General Fund. Second - Alderman Lockett. Discussion - It was explained that this transfer would be used for street repairs and would be paid back within 2 years.

**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.**

Alderman Davis announced that a Finance Committee Meeting will be held on August 20, 2015 at 5 pm.

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

Alderman Evans announced that a Law, Ordinance and Government Operations Committee Meeting was held earlier in the evening and that there had been good discussion regarding the liquor license ordinance. She also stated that there was discussion regarding fishing rules, regulations and permit fees, and a discussion of grilling in front of residences.

**III. Public Works and Utilities Alderman Glispie, Chairman  
(Committee Meeting TBA)**

**A. Approval - 2015 City Wide Street Resurfacing Program**

Alderman Glispie moved for Council approval of the 2015 City Wide Street Resurfacing Program. Second - Alderman Lockett. Discussion - it was explained that this would provide for repairs/replacement of those streets within the City in most need of attention.

**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**

Alderman Spivey announced that a meeting is scheduled for August 20, 2015 at 7 pm. He also stated that Dusties, ATI Physical Therapy and Cooking Canvas are new businesses that will be opening soon in Country Club Hills

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

Alderman Lockett announced that a committee meeting will be held on August 20, 2015 at 6:00 pm

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

**A. Approval - SmoothChicago.com as Management Company for the Country Club Hills Outdoor Theater Pending Contract Approval**

Alderman Lockett moved for Council approval of SmoothChicago.com as Management Company for the Country Club Hills Outdoor Theater Pending Contract Approval. Second -Alderman Davis. Discussion - It was explained that this entity would provide management services for the theater pending contract review and approval.

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

0 Nays

1 Abstain: Alderman Evans

0 Absent:

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

**B. Approval of Construction of Additional Seating for Country Club Hills Outdoor Theater**

Alderman Lockett moved for approval of the construction of additional seating for Country Club Hills Outdoor theater. Second -Alderman GLispie. Discussion - It was explained that this would provide additional hard seats through TIF funds prior to the re=opening of the theater.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**3 Ayes: Aldermen Lockett, Glispie, and Spivey.

0 Absent:

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

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:

- Ralph Tolbert, Country Club Hills, stated that he felt the Council was not listening to the residents regarding cuts to the budget and that the City Attorney is only present to tell the aldermen that they are not at fault for any increase in property taxes. He stated that the number of foreclosures will result in less people to tax and a higher multiplier. He stated that the budget is twice as much as previous budgets, that Alderman Evans was tactful in describing the possibility of making tough decisions but that real cuts and scaling down must be done. He stated that Mayor Ford is going to bankrupt the City and that full-time employees should be replaced by part-time employees and contractors.
- Dwyer Williams, Country Club Hills, addressed the Council and stated that cuts should begin at the top. He stated that at previous meetings, Alderman Lockett had not been in support of additional theater seating and questioned his current support.
- Hosea Gray, Country Club Hills, addressed the Council and inquired as to the proposed tax structure for Coopers Grove and asked if the residents would be able to comment on the proposal. He inquired as to the price and services in the SmoothChicagao.com contract and wondered if it was available for public review. He requested clarification of the funds transfer from the water fund to the general fund and stated that he thought MFT monies were to be used for street repairs. He concluded by stating that professionals are needed to run the theater and that a Theater Commission member had mentioned corporate sponsors.

A heated discussion ensued between the Mayor and Ralph Tolbert as Tolbert attempted to address the Council a second time. City Attorney, John Murphey explained that the Council meeting is chaired and run by the Mayor and that the aldermen can motion to allow additional time for the public to speak. Alderman Evans moved for Council approval to allow Tolbert an additional 2 minutes to speak. Motion Failed For Lack of Second.

- Daryl Ginton, Country Club Hills, addressed the Council and stated that election promises had not been fulfilled and that appears that the City is back to business as usual, that there should have been a reduction by percentage of expenses in the budget, that part-time employees make good sense, that the City is regressing and that the City needs a balanced budget.
- Jerrell Thomas, Country Club Hills stated that the Council is “kicking the can down the

road” and the residents are not happy with the current budget, that the Council should not have added seats to the theater but addressed the businesses in the City and that this was reminiscent of the previous administration.

- Freda McArthur, Country Club Hills, stated that she wished there could be a revision of the budget as she understood the process undertaken by the Council, having previously served as an alderman. She requested support for the School District 160 Education Foundation in their upcoming fund-raising efforts.
- Ms. Rogers, Country Club Hills, stated that Attorney Murphey had clarified the process and time limits for the public to address the Council at a meeting held in April of 2011

A heated discussion again ensued with Ralph Tolbert attempting to speak to the Council without proper procedure.

- Tom Melton, Country Club Hills, addressed the Council and stated that he felt the residents were ignored regarding the budget and that the aldermen should lead by example regarding their pay increases. He stated that the budget is the Mayor’s to manage, the aldermen voted for the budget and that a more positive attitude should be presented.
- Patricia, Country Club Hills stated that she stopped coming to City Council meetings in the past because of the chaos, but has returned because of a new Council. She stated that taxes are too high and questioned why the theater was not enclosed so as to be used year round.
- Randy, Country Club Hills, stated that he pays \$14,000 in property taxes, and that he felt the presence of the previous administration was still evident. He stated that the unrest felt in other cities was coming to Chicago and there was injustice. He said he felt public figures should be paid reasonably for their work and that the elected officials need to work with the people.

Mayor Ford stated that he was working with the people and was interrupted by individuals speaking out of turn.

- Cheryl Davis, Country Club Hills addressed the Council and inquired as to the mowing and maintenance of the prairie type area along Lavergne.
- Johnnie, Country Club Hills, addressed the Council and stated that not everyone’s property taxes had increased and that taxes can be appealed. He explained that he believes ministers get a reduction in property taxes and that not all properties are foreclosures; many are abandoned.
- Ralph Tolbert, Country Club Hills addressed the Council and stated that the Council is not listening to the public and showed no concern for residents needs and opinions. He continued in a heated fashion.

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

## 9. Aldermen's Reports

- Alderman Davis stated that everyone has a mortgage, that the Council had worked together and that many of the budget problems began in 2007 and that the aldermen will continue to work together. He explained that each of the aldermen had reviewed the streets in their respective wards for repairs and that the transfer of funds allowed for additional repairs to be addressed. The transfer will not affect property taxes and the moratorium provided for no increase in the water rates. He stated that the details for theater management will be worked out with SmoothChicago, that the Mayor manages the budget and will do so efficiently, that a purchase order system will be used, and that the budget has not increased. He concluded by announcing the 5<sup>th</sup> Ward picnic will be held on August 22, 2015 from noon to 4 pm at Cypress Park.
- Alderman Lockett explained that TIF funds can only be used in TIF districts, that the Council did listen to the public: the streets will be fixed. He explained that he supported the additional theater seats because the former administration had projected a cost of almost 3 million and the cost was reduced to 1.7. He explained that the City wide picnic was a success and suggested a BBQ cook off be added next year. He stated that the multi cultural fest was very well done and reminded everyone of the back to school parade and school supply give away on Saturday, August 22, 2015.
- Alderman Glispie stated that the focus on the theater is not as a party opportunity but as an opportunity to make money for the City. He stated that monies had been saved by reducing the number of aldermen. He concluded by stating that parents should be allowed to be parents.
- Alderman Evans stated that she did not support additional theater seating as she felt the management company should provide an analysis prior to adding seats and that the company selected to install the seating may not be as presented. She stated that taxes are a regional issue, not just a Country Club Hills issue, that the streets do need repair and that it is better to pay ourselves back than to owe monies through bonds. She stated that the operation of the theater is a funding/fiscal issue that needs to be resolved.
- Alderman Spivey stated that the multi cultural festival was a success and invited all to participate in the back to school parade. He stated that he felt the demeanor and behavior at this evening's meeting was out of control, embarrassing and disrespectful and that the residents should allow the meeting to flow little more. He asked that the residents give the Mayor and Council an opportunity and he felt some of the comments were unacceptable.

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Lockett. Second - Alderman Davis. 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

