

**CITY OF COUNTRY CLUB HILLS  
REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
August 24, 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 7:03 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 Father Marren.

3. **Journal of Proceedings:**

A. **Approval of Minutes**

1. **Regular City Council Meeting - August 10, 2015**

Alderman Evans moved for Council approval of the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of August 10, 2015. Second - Alderman Davis. Discussion - none. Motion to approve the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of August 10, 2015 Carried Via Voice Vote.

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

Mayor Ford reminded everyone that the street repair program is a 2 or 3 phase program with an estimated cost of approximately 6 million dollars. He explained that phase 1, at a cost of approximately 2 million, is currently in progress with a goal of completion before the cold weather sets in. He explained that the planters at Heritage Plaza are being removed and resurfacing work is currently underway. He concluded by stating that the carnival will be held this coming weekend on the City campus and invited all to attend.

5. **City Collectors Report**

City Collector Deborah McIlvain, gave the Collector's Report for the month ending July 31, 2015 citing revenue received in each of the funds.

**6. City Clerk's Report**

City Clerk, Deborah McIlvain, announced that the City wide blood drive will be held on September 12 at the Fire Station on 175<sup>th</sup> Street. Mayor Ford also commented on the importance of blood donation and the benefits to the residents of Country Club Hills.

**7 Committee Reports**

**I. Finance: Alderman Davis, Chairman**  
**(Committee Meeting September 10, 2015 5:00 pm)**

**A. Approval of Vouchers - August 24, 2015**

Alderman Davis moved for Council approval of vouchers in the amount of \$385,374.56. Second - Alderman Lockett Discussion - It was explained that this included the A/P Disbursement, Payroll AP, the Oak Lawn water bill and the re-issue of a check.

**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 September 10, 2015 at 5 pm.

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

Alderman Evans announced that a Law, Ordinance and Government Operations Committee Meeting will be held on September 10 at 6 pm.

**III. Public Works and Utilities Alderman Glispie,**  
**Chairman**  
**(Committee Meeting September 8, 2015 5 pm)**

**A. Approval - Recommendation - FY 2015/16 Water Meter Procurement and Installation**

Alderman Glispie moved for Council approval of the Recommendation - FY 2015/16 Water Meter Procurement and Installation. Second - Alderman Spivey. Discussion - clarification was provided as to the warranty being extended and this item being in the budget. Alderman Lockett moved to table this item. Second - Alderman Evans. Motion to table carried via voice vote.

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

**Alderman Spivey, Chairman**

Alderman Spivey announced that a meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2015 at 7 pm.

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

**A. Approval - An Ordinance Repealing Ordinance No. O-02-12**

Alderman Lockett moved for Council approval of Ordinance No. O-11-15, an Ordinance Repealing Ordinance No O-02-12. 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.**

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

No Report

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

The following individuals addressed the Council:

- Leora Bell, Country Club Hills, distributed documents to the Council that she had prepared explaining the reasons for property tax increases in Country Club Hills and a chart with elected officials salary comparison data. She stated that an increase in the City's levy would be disastrous and that elected officials salaries need to be addressed no later than 6 months before the next election
- Tom Melton, Country Club Hills, addressed the Council and stated that he agreed with Ms. Bell and that Country Club Hills aldermen were the highest paid. He stated that the aldermen need to take action or the citizens will bring forth a referendum
- Hosea Gray, Country Club Hills, stated that he believes there is confusion regarding TIF district parameters and eligible TIF expenditures. He stated there will be a public hearing on September 24 regarding Park District programs/issues and that the \$64,000 monthly payment from the Park District to the City does not go to help the parks. He concluded by stating that the person in charge of Financed should be certified by the GFOA.
- Ralph Tolbert, Country Club Hills, addressed the Council and stated that he was disturbed by his treatment at the last City Council meeting and the Mayor's attempt to have him removed from the meeting, that the right of freedom of speech was at issue, that residents have the right to speak more than once at a meeting, that the City Attorney places the City in a position of liability and that he will be filing a complaint against John Murphey regarding his law license. He also stated that he had submitted a FOIA for the audio and video of the Council meeting of August 10, 2015 and was told that there was no audio. He thanked Adleman Evans for her efforts. He questioned the restriction on TIF funds and the transfer/borrowing of monies from the water fund to the general fund. He stated that TIF monies should be used in blighted areas and the theater is not in a blighted area. He concluded by stating that the 2 million dollars for additional seats was only an excuse to party.
- Darryl Ginton, Country Club Hills, requested clarification from Alderman Glispie regarding the need and the installation of additional water meters as had been discussed at an Administrative Meeting.
- Ballard Powell, Country Club Hills, stated that he was concerned after an incident destroyed the vehicle of a member of his family, stated that information regarding crime in the City was not being disseminated properly and that the public needs to be made more aware of all crime issues.
- Ralph Tolbert, Country Club Hills, stated that the installation of new water meters will increase water bills by 10% and will read "air" as it moved through the meter.
- Harry Evans, Country Club Hills, stated that he is a Park Board Commissioner and invited the public to attend Park Board meetings. He stated that Alderman Evans regularly addresses crime issues at her meetings.
- Linda Zidrich, Country Club Hills, addressed the Council and stated that she is the chairman of the Blood Commission and that donors are desperately needed at the blood drive. She explained that everyone can donate, not just Country Club Hills residents and that a minimum number of donors is needed in order to continue to have blood drives in

the future.

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 stated that he had been out in the neighborhood over the weekend and had spoken with many residents and their families. He announced the streets that are in the process of being resurfaced in Ward 4 including 189<sup>th</sup> and Cypress, 189<sup>th</sup> and Maple, 190<sup>th</sup> Place and Cypress, Cedar from 187 to 189 and portions of Maple. He concluded by stating that he is looking forward to the upcoming carnival.
- Alderman Evans announced that the following streets are scheduled for repair: 176<sup>th</sup> Street, 181<sup>st</sup> Place, 182<sup>nd</sup> Place, 182<sup>nd</sup> Street, Baker, Anthony, Mary Ann, Patrick, Mulberry, and Thomas Lane. She explained that she has had several presentations regarding crime and crime prevention at her town hall meetings, that there is an increased Police presence in Fawn Ridge, and that she will continue to focus on crime and crime issue. She stated that the crime blotter is available on the police website. She explained that residents can sign up for text alerts by texting 72727 to Third Ward News. She concluded by stating the water meters were updated and exchanged at no cost to the City.
- Alderman Glispie stated that the City is in the process of installing new water meters throughout the City and that the new meters will not result in water bill increases but more accurate water readings. He stated that residents throughout ward 1 continue to strive to improve their properties and he encouraged participation by all, renters and homeowners alike. He concluded by stating that a Public Works Committee Meeting is scheduled for September 8, 2015 at 5 pm.
- Alderman Lockett thanked everyone for their attendance, stated that it was a great decision to borrow money from ourselves, interest free, for street repairs, and that the City is utilizing a licensed certified CPA firm. He stated that after 28 years it is time for the City to utilize TIF funds as the theater belongs to all of the City and needs completion with additional seats. He explained that the ordinance that was repealed was the tax rebate ordinance from 2012 and that the City owed 6.5 million dollars to Cook County and could not afford the rebate at that time. He stated that the new water meters will be more accurate as they are state of the art equipment. He explained that crime is everywhere but that the Country Club Hills Police Department is very responsive and often there is more crime during the summer months. He reminded everyone to be mindful of the children returning to school.
- Alderman Davis thanked everyone for their attendance and assistance with the Ward 5 picnic, especially the police and fire departments. He stated that he has addressed specific crime issues at his ward meetings. He complimented the committee that chaired the Mayor's event. He stated that orange street signs in Ward 5 were indicative of street

repairs. He explained that it is in the best interest of the City to borrow from itself and also to utilize TIF funds before they are no longer available. He concluded by stating that the Council has placed a moratorium on water rate increases this year.

Mayor Ford explained that he did not attempt to have Ralph Tolbert removed from the last City Council meeting. He also stated that the DVD that was provided through the FOIA included sound (audio) and that what was said regarding the audio was a misstatement. He stated that everyone should tell the truth.

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 8:04

Respectfully submitted  
Deborah M. McIlvain, City Clerk