

**CITY OF COUNTRY CLUB HILLS
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL
September 14, 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, Peter Coblentz.

2a. The invocation was given by Alderman Anthony Davis.

3. **Journal of Proceedings:**

A. **Approval of Minutes**

1. **Regular City Council Meeting - August 24, 2015**

Alderman Lockett moved for Council approval of the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of August 24, 2015. Second - Alderman Evans. Discussion - none. Motion to approve the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of August 24, 2015 Carried Via Voice Vote.

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

Mayor Ford thanked everyone for their support of the elected officials and asked that everyone pull together and be unified for the good of the City. He explained that he has an open door policy and welcomes questions and concerns from residents. He stated that there are incorrect statements on Facebook - clarifying that he is not the same as the previous mayor and that property taxes are not affected by TIF expenditures. He explained that he felt the camera upgrade in Heritage plaza was a matter of public safety and that it would be counterproductive to assign police officers in a area where surveillance cameras were used.

A. **Approval - Rules for Compliance with Public Comment Requirements of the Illinois Open Meetings Act**

Alderman Lockett moved for Council approval of the Rules for Compliance with Public Comment Requirements of the Illinois Open Meetings Act. Second - Alderman Glispie. Discussion - Alderman Evans requested that section III(d) be amended to allow individuals to turn and face the audience when making general announcements. General discussion ensued and it was explained that the original motion needed to be voted upon and the Council could then entertain a motion to amend the Rules.

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.

Alderman Evans moved to amend the Rules for Compliance with Public Comment Requirements of the Illinois Open Meetings Act to allow individuals to turn and face the audience when making general announcements. Second - Alderman Davis.

ROLL CALL VOTE 2 Ayes: Aldermen Davis, and Evans.

3 Nays Aldermen Lockett, Glispie and Spivey.

0 Absent:

Motion Failed.

B. Approval - Security Cameras - Heritage Plaza

Alderman Lockett moved for Council approval of Security Cameras -Heritage Plaza. Second - Alderman Glispie. Discussion - Alderman Evans inquired as to when there had been discussion regarding these cameras. Mayor Ford explained that there had been a recent robbery, many of the existing cameras were not functioning properly, that these were a matter of public safety and cameras could be utilized in lieu of a police officer assignment. He stated that the Mayor was able to utilize TIF funds. Alderman Evans stated she was in agreement that it was a matter of public safety. Mayor Ford cited TIF dollars paid to many businesses. Alderman Evans stated that these were discussed at both the committee and administrative meetings. Alderman Lockett stated that he agreed that this was a matter of security and safety. Alderman Spivey stated that

he felt the cameras were needed. Alderman Davis stated he agreed with the need for cameras but felt that the Council was not following its own process. Alderman Lockett moved that this item be tabled for discussion at the Administrative Meeting. Second - Alderman Glispie. Motion Carried.

5. City Treasurer's Report - July 31, 2015

City Treasurer, Argie Johnson-Martin gave the qualified treasurer's report for the month ending July 31, 2015 citing year to date revenues and expenditures and stating that there were several unresolved report issues.

6. City Clerk's Report

No Report

7 Committee Reports

**I. Finance: Alderman Davis, Chairman
(Committee Meeting September 24, 2015 5:00 pm)**

A. Approval of Vouchers - September 14, 2015

Alderman Davis moved for Council approval of vouchers in the amount of \$735,215.96. Second - Alderman Lockett Discussion - It was explained that this included the A/P Disbursement Contracts, Expenses, Refunds, the Oak Lawn water bill, and Payroll AP. It was explained that the amount did not include Midwest Construction, Urban Communications, and Samsmith Masonry. Alderman Davis stated that the invoice for Samsmith Masonry was not received in a timely fashion. City Treasurer Johnson-Martin stated that she had not been included in the email for the invoice for Samsmith Masonry.

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 24, 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 with discussion of a proposed amendment to the liquor ordinance increasing the number of licence for restaurants, not increasing the number for liquor stores and providing for a BYOB license. Shed explained that the committee is currently discussing g the procedure for return of cash bonds. Mayor Fiord explained that there is an ordinance in place regarding the procedure for cash bonds

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

No Report

**IV. Economic Development, Planning, Zoning & Economic Development
(September 17, 2015 7: 00 pm)**

Alderman Spivey, Chairman

Alderman Spivey announced that a meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2015 at 7 pm. He also stated that Kenny's and Dusties, and Wireless Metro PC were both new businesses in the Country Club Hills Plaza.

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

Alderman Lockett stated that a committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 24, 2015 at 6 pm.

VI. Special Committee Theater of the Whole

Alderman Lockett stated that Construction of the new seating at the theater is progressing.

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, addressed the Council and stated that the City was in violation of the Open Meetings Act when the action was taken to repeal Ordinance No. O-02-12 as she felt the public was not duly informed, that the City is in violation of its own rules by not providing copies of all pending ordinances at a meeting, and questioned why the Council does not correct erroneous statements made by residents at City Council meetings.
- Myra Stennis, Country Club Hills, stated that there are individuals hanging around at the Mobil Station at 183rd & Pulaski and requested additional police attention.
- Izella Rogers, Country Club Hills, stated that she had thought things were going to improve and there would be additional transparency (but was disappointed), that procedures are in place and were ignored regarding the cameras and that the current Mayor is displaying the same behavior as the previous mayor. (Mayor Ford stated that he had notified the aldermen regarding the security cameras 4 days prior to the meeting. She stated that the City is in violation of the Open Meetings Act by not airing the public portion of meetings on Channel 4 and it is a deterrent to new businesses. She stated that the Council should address the issue of high taxes, the discussion process does not involve only emails, but requires public discussion and she questioned the use of common sense and a sense of righteousness.
- Coach Les Harrison, Country Club Hills, addressed the Council and thanked them for a job well done, and especially offered thanks to Alderman Spivey for bringing the 4th Ward together.
- John Edwards, Country Club Hills, invited all to the School District 160 Foundation talent show on October 3, 2015 from 3 to 6 pm.
- Harry Evans, Country Club Hills, addressed the Council and stated that it was not true that the cameras were not installed at Heritage Plaza. He invited all to attend the Park District Board Meeting where there will be discussion regarding the intergovernmental agreement.
- A resident of Ward 2 inquired as to the progress of street maintenance and resurfacing in Ward 2 and stated that the parks should remain open after dusk
- Ralph Tolbert, Country Club Hills, addressed the Council and asked who decided to cut the public portion from the Council meeting broadcast and that it requires a majority vote of the Council to allow an individual to speak a second time. He stated that the TIF expenditures were in violation when spent on theater seating and stated that the City is not following process for bids.
- Dwyer Williams, Country Club Hills, addressed the Council and stated that felt the Mayor was being disrespectful, that an independent timekeeper is needed, the administration has not changed, the election was over in April and that there are still questions regarding the 6.5 million.
- Karen Peterson, Country Club Hills announced the Chamber of Commerce fundraiser to be held with partial benefits going to Ronald McDonald House. Tickets are \$20. She also stated that she felt it is a violation of 1st amendment rights by not airing the public portion of the meeting broadcast on Channel 4.
- Clifton Graham, Country Club Hills, stated that he has been attending commission meetings and that the theater commission was unaware of the management team that will be handling the theater and felt they should have been involved in the selection process.

He also stated that the Housing Authority meeting had been cancelled.

- Corey Baker, stated that he had posted a cash bond and that he was told the deadline had passed for a refund of the bond. Alderman Lockett stated that he should address his concerns to Charles Dryer after the meeting.
- Charles Hill, Country Club Hills, stated that he felt \$52,000 for cameras paid for by the City was not necessary and that as a homeowner, he had purchased his own security camera.
- Ralph Tolbert stood to address the Council a second time. Mayor Ford stated that the rules require a motion to allow Tolbert to speak. Alderman Evans moved for Council approval for Ralph Tolbert to speak for an additional 2 minutes. Motion failed for lack of a second.
- Bonnie Jones, Country Club Hills, addressed the Council and stated that a fundraiser is being held for the Explorer Program with a roller skating party at Rich City Skate on Saturday for \$10. Proceeds will benefit the program

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

9. Aldermen's Reports

- Alderman Davis stated that there had been many good comments but also much incorrect information expressed at the meeting. He explained that the theater seats do qualify for TIF expenditures and provides for the City to invest in itself, that the cameras at Heritage Plaza are replacement cameras, that the TIF has expired and the monies need to be used, and that the forensic audit was complete and protocol had been followed.
- Alderman Lockett thanked everyone for their attendance, stated that the theater commission is not a decision making body but rather an advisory body, was unsure as to where the theater is in Dolton, that parks are always closed from dusk to dawn for safety and security reasons and that the cameras are important for security. He stated to Mayor Ford that he (Lockett) felt that the Mayor was doing a great job, was nothing like the former Mayor and was moving the City forward.
- Alderman Glispie stated that the street construction is complete in Ward 1 with some portions to be finalized, that the pavement in Heritage Plaza was well underway. He thanked the residents of Ward 1 and the residents of the City for their efforts in property maintenance and beautification.
- Alderman Evans stated that she will attend as many of the upcoming events to support the youth as she can, that she felt that the cameras were a needed security item but that proper procedure needs to be followed, that she felt that property violations were issued without proper notice, that the Housing Authority needs to address the land bank issue as it needs to be properly vetted to avoid eminent domain issues. She explained that monies from the water fund can be used for infrastructure repair and invited all to attend the Park District Board Meeting on September 24, at 6 pm. She concluded by welcoming Kyle Walker, a student from Marian, on his return from China.
- Alderman Spivey stated the he felt everyone was putting forth effort and doing a great job, He announced that he will be taking 50 students from Southwood on a fields trip. He

stated that has heard from seniors who are in need of assistance with finds and that perhaps the City should investigate a handyman service program

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 8:27

Respectfully submitted
Deborah M. McIlvain, City Clerk