

**CITY OF COUNTRY CLUB HILLS
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL
March 28, 2016**

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 7:05 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. Attorney Jessie Outlaw served as parliamentarian.

Mayor Ford announced that the transfer of property from AMC to Marcus is in the process of being finalized with an anticipated closing before April 11, 2016. He commented that those individuals who have gone to the newly remodeled Marcus Theater in Chicago Heights have commented on the amenities.

3. **Journal of Proceedings**

- A. **1. Approval of Minutes -Regular City Council Meeting February 22, 2016**
2. Approval of Minutes - Administrative Meeting March 7, 2016
3. Special City Council Meeting - March 7, 2016

Alderman Lockett moved for Council approval of the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of February 22, 2016, the minutes of the Administrative Meeting of March 7, 2016 and the minutes of the Special City Council Meeting of March 7, 2016.. Second - Alderman Evans. Discussion -none. Motion to approve the minutes of the of the Regular City Council Meeting of February 22, 2016, the minutes of the Administrative Meeting of March 7, 2016 and the minutes of the Special City Council Meeting of March 7, 2016 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 January 31, 2016 citing bank balances and revenues and expenditures to date. She also gave a statement explaining the multiple responsibilities and roles of the position of City Treasure as delineated by City Ordinance and State Statute, including her positions on the Police Pension and Fire Pension boards. She stated that she takes all of her responsibilities very seriously, is available to answer any and all questions and questions in writing are preferred. She can be contacted at her email address - amartin@countryclubhills.org.

6. City Collector’s Report

City Collector, Deborah McIlvain gave the collectors report for the month ending February 29, 2016 noting revenues in the amount of \$3,159,033.85.

6. City Clerk’s Report

City Clerk, Deborah McIlvain, reminded everyone that permits and reservations for park facilities are being accepted at City Hall for the upcoming summer season.

7. Committee Reports

**I. Finance: Alderman Davis, Chairman
(Committee Meeting April 7, 2016 5:00 pm)**

A. Approval of Vouchers -March 28, 2016

Alderman Davis moved for Council approval of vouchers in the amount of \$1,944,048.63. Second - Alderman Lockett Discussion - It was explained that this included the A/P Disbursement Contracts, Expenses, Refunds, Payroll and the wire transfers for the theater. Alderman Davis stated that it is important that the wire transfer be approved before disbursement.

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

1 Nays Alderman Evans

Alderman Evans cast a no vote for the theater wire transfers.

0 Absent:

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

B. Approval - An Ordinance Declaring Certain City Owned Equipment Surplus and Authorizing Its Disposition (fire Equipment)

Alderman Davis moved for Council approval Ordinance No O-03-16, an Ordinance Declaring Certain City Owned Equipment Surplus and Authorizing Its Disposition (Fire Equipment).
Second - Alderman Lockett.. Discussion - It was explained that the vehicle in the ordinance was an ambulance and Mayor Ford explained that interested towns have been identified.

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 stated that a Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2016 at 5 pm.

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

A. Approval - An Ordinance Amending Various Sections of Article 14 “Board of Fire and Police Commissioners” of Chapter 3, “Appointed Position, City Administration and Commission “ of the City of Country Club Hills City Code

Alderman Evans moved for Council approval of OA-01-16, an Ordinance Amending Various Sections of Article 14 “Board of Fire and Police Commissioners” of Chapter 3, “Appointed Position, City Administration and Commission “ of the City of Country Club Hills City Code. Second - Alderman Lockett. Discussion - Alderman Spivey stated that he would be voting no after hearing the opinions of other attorneys and judges and citing a possible conflict of interest in the future. Mayor Ford explained that this amendment only affects the Police and Fire Commission . Alderman Lockett stated that these are volunteer positions and not paid positions.

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ROLL CALL VOTE 3 Ayes: Aldermen Lockett, Glispie and Evans.
2 Nays Aldermen Davis and Spivey.

0 Absent:

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

**III. Public Works and Utilities
(Committee Meeting TBA)**

**Alderman Glispie,
Chairman**

A. Approval - 2016/2017 Road Salt Order

Alderman Glispie moved for Council approval of the 2016-2017 Road Salt Order in the amount of 1500 tons. Second - Alderman Lockett. 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.

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

Alderman Spivey reported that things are moving forward for the Marcus theater. The new theater facility could mean up to 16 full time, 160 part time and 50 construction jobs for the community.

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

Alderman Lockett, Chairman

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

Alderman Lockett moved for Council approval of Ordinance No O-04-16, and Ordinance Repealing Ordinance No O-02-12. Second - Alderman Glispie. Discussion - it was explained that it had been requested that this ordinance be passed again. It was explained that there was a class action lawsuit filed by Ms. Bell stating that there had been inadequate discussion when this was first repealed in August 2015. City Attorney, John Murphey explained that the City has a \$100,000 deductible, that \$50,000 has been spent to date to defend this case and that the case has been dismissed with the plaintiff appealing. It was stated that copies of this proposed Ordinance are available on the table at the back of Council chambers.

.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

A. Approval - An Ordinance Declaring Certain City Owned Equipment Surplus and Authorizing Its Disposition (Theater Equipment)

Alderman Lockett moved for Council approval of Ordinance No O-05-16, an Ordinance Declaring Certain City Owned Equipment Surplus and Authorizing Its Disposition (Theater Equipment). Second - Alderman Glispie. Discussion - Alderman Lockett explained that the listed equipment was obsolete and Alderman Spivey explained that much of the listed equipment was remaining bits and pieces. This item was discussed at the Administrative Meeting and was recommended to the full Council for consideration.

.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.

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Alderman Lockett moved to open the floor to the public. Second - Alderman Glispie.

Motion Carried Via Voice Vote.

The following individuals addressed the Council:

- Pamela Menzies, Country Club Hills, addressed the Council and stated that she does not feel that businesses should get a tax break while homeowners such as herself are losing their homes because of the high property taxes. Mayor Ford explained that the Class 8 tax incentive was given by Cook County, not the City of Country Club Hills.
- Cedric Bell addressed the Council and stated that he had submitted a contract to perform the electrical work at the outdoor theater for the upcoming season and has yet to be told if his contract was accepted.
- Juanita Jordan, member of the School District 144 School Board, addressed the Council and stated that she was there representing the United Negro College Fund. She wanted to know if the UNCF would be able to solicit funds at the theater this season. Mayor Ford assured her that the relationship will continue.
- Leon Williams, Country Club Hills, inquired as to a budget for the theater separate from the general fund, asked if new theater equipment would be purchased from the general fund, stated that he was confused as to the monies he felt the Mayor was spending and stated that there is still fighting among members of the City Council.
- Clifton Graham, Country Club Hills, offered congratulations on the re-opening of the theater, hoped there will be discussion regarding reduction in property taxes, inquired as to the length of time in which the City has had a 3 million dollar deficit, requested explanations from those aldermen that voted for the Fire and Police Commission Ordinance Amendment and wanted to know the reasoning behind a \$100,000 deductible for the City.
- Harry Evans, Country Club Hills stated that high property taxes are a South Suburban regional issue, not just a Country Club Hills issue.
- Randy, Country Club Hills, stated that he pays property taxes in excess of \$14,000 and has received a bill for additional taxes of \$3500. He stated that the Mayor's job was to bring businesses and tax relief to the community and that he thought things would have improved after the election last year but he feels that the City is still in serious trouble. Mayor Ford suggested he address his property tax issue to Cook County.

Alderman Evans moved for Council approval to allow Leon Williams an additional 3 minutes of time. Second - Alderman Davis. Motion Carried Via Voice Vote.

- Leon Williams, Country Club Hills, commented that Alderman Lockett had stated at the last administrative meeting that the Council was more transparent than ever. He stated that he (Williams) felt transparency was still an issue when the treasurer did not know

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there were 2 parts to each wire transfer for the theater.

Debbie Gray, Country Club Hills, stated that she was a concerned resident, thought that the theater was a good idea, inquired as to a budget for the theater and the City, inquired as to insurance reserves and monies set aside, and stated that the parks are one of the valuable assets to communities in the south suburbs.

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

9. Aldermen's Reports

Alderman Spivey stated that it is important that opinions are expressed and stated that the City Council is working hard to bring businesses to the City; however, the process takes time. He stated that everyone should pay attention to spring cleanup and that he will be scheduling a Ward 4 meeting for sometime in the second week of April.

Alderman Evans stated that she voted against the wire transfers for the theater as she feels there should be an enterprise fund. She stated that home rule allows the City to make changes to the Police and Fire commission and that people can make their own decisions. She said that the Class 8 being solely from Cook County was a "half-truth" as that the City's blessing was needed to move it to County. She stated that the problems in the South Suburbs were a case of classic gentrification and that the "politicians are in the pockets of people". She concluded by stating that Culvers in Matteson is hosting a benefit on Thursday for Officer Tim Jones.

Alderman Glispie stated that he had discussed the property tax issues with his residents and had explained the Class 8 tax incentive as being from Cook County. He concluded by reminding everyone that he has a Public Works Committee meeting on April 4 at 5 pm.

Alderman Lockett requested a moment of silence for Officer Jones. He stated that he feels that Mayor Ford and the aldermen are more transparent than any administration in the past, that the City is openly moving forward, that the wire transfer approved this evening would take place tomorrow. He also explained that the Ordinance amendment was only for changes in the Police and Fire Commission. He suggested that those residents with property tax issues contact Cook County to appeal, that the City has not raised the levy since 2011, that the City needs to try and make the outdoor theater a success and that hopefully things will turn in a positive direction.

Alderman Davis announced a Food Drive at Cornerstone Church on Tuesday from 10 am. He stated that he felt a precedent had now been set regarding commission membership with the change to the Fire and Police Commission. He explained that an enterprise fund has been established for the outdoor theater but that he feels there is a lack of information regarding a true budget for the theater and requested an update on the theater be provided. He agreed that property taxes are high but suggested that much work has been done to not increase the levy and to properly manage the budget. He

suggested a Strategic Plan and stated that the City's budget is available on the City's website. He congratulated Judge Outlaw on his election to the Circuit Court.

Mayor Ford stated that he has accomplished much in the past year and there is much more to accomplish, the theater is an enterprise fund with a separate line item in the new budget which should be available on April 7. He reiterated that the levy has not increased in many years, we have to work together as a team, unify, work together and support each other.

City Attorney, John Murphey stated that there is a very interesting article in the Chicago Tribune regarding housing and property values in the South Suburban region. He explained that taxes have not been raised but the tax base has shrunk by approximately 50% affecting the amount of taxes paid by each resident and business. He explained that the most positive result can be achieved by retaining new businesses and fostering new businesses in the area.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:24

Respectfully submitted
Deborah M. McIlvain, City Clerk