

**CITY OF COUNTRY CLUB HILLS  
REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
April 25, 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 7:00 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, Evans, Glispie, 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.

3. **Journal of Proceedings**

- A. **1. Approval of Minutes -Administrative Meeting April 4, 2016**  
**2. Approval of Minutes - Regular City Council Meeting April 11, 2016**

Alderman Lockett moved for Council approval of the minutes of the Administrative Meeting of April 4, 2016 and the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of April 11, 2016.. Second - Alderman Glispie. Discussion -A correction to the date heading for the minutes of the Administrative Meeting of April 4, 2016 was noted by Alderman Evans. Motion to approve the minutes of the Administrative Meeting of April 4., 2016 (as corrected) and the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of April 11, 2016 Carried Via Voice Vote.

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

Mayor Ford announced that a signed sales contract was completed for the new Marcus Theater, the Outlet Mall is moving forward, and U.S. Representative Robin Kelly and Illinois State treasurer Michael Frerichs are conducting a meeting on the lower level of City Hall. He also announced that the Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall will be in Hazel Crest from May 5 to May 9, 2016

A. **Proclamation - April 29, 2016 as Arbor Day in Country Club Hills**

Mayor Ford stated that April 29, 2016 is being proclaimed as Arbor Day in the City of Country

City Council Meeting  
April 25, 2016  
Page

Club Hills

**5. City Collector's Report**

City Collector, Deborah McIlvain, gave the collectors report for the month ending March 31, 2016 citing revenues in the amount of \$7,187,626.19.

**6. City Clerk's Report**

City Clerk, Deborah McIlvain announced that the City's Memorial Day ceremony will be held on May 30, 2016.

Ralph Jenkins, Veterans Commission, addressed the Council and explained that the Viet Nam Veterans recognition, originally scheduled for April 16 has been rescheduled for May 30.

**7. Committee Reports**

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

**A. Approval of Vouchers -May 5, 2016**

Alderman Davis moved for Council approval of vouchers in the amount of \$1,448,244.49. Second - Alderman Lockett Discussion - It was explained that this included the A/P Disbursement, Contracts, Expenses, Refunds, Payroll, Theater wire transfer and the addition of vouchers for Midwest Services and those submitted by Alderman Spivey.

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

1 Nays Alderman Evans

Alderman Evans cast a no vote for Steven Amu.

0 Absent:

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

**B. Public Hearing - Proposed Budget Fiscal Year 2016-2017**

City Council Meeting  
April 25, 2016  
Page

Alderman Davis moved to open the floor to the public for the Public Hearing for the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017. Second - Alderman Lockett. Motion Carried via Voice Vote.

The following individuals addressed the Council

- Izella Rodgers, Country Club Hills stated that she felt the public hearing cannot be properly held as the budget is not yet completed and suggested an additional public hearing. She requested clarification on the line items for Liquor commissioner and the mentoring program.
- Leora Bell, Country Club Hills, requested clarification as to why the projected property tax revenue in the proposed budget is lower than the previous budget.
- Clifton Graham, Country Club Hills, expressed concern regarding the public hearing being held prior to the completion of the budget hearings. He commented on the dollar amount of the video gaming revenue, professional development and association memberships for the aldermen, the increase in the tax rebate dollar amount, the differentiation between the clerk and collector positions and the proposed new positions. He questioned the increase in overtime in the Police Department and increase in part-time in the Public Works department. He commented on miscellaneous operating expenditures in the Community Development and Boards and Commission line items. He requested clarification on the line items for government building maintenance and stated that the transportation department was duplicating services already available from Bremen and Rich Townships. He stated that he felt the salary for the part-time bus driver was excessive.
- Harry William Jones, Jr., Country Club Hills, addressed the Council and reminded all that this is the Mayor's budget, that the Mayor is responsible for its presentation and implementation. He stated he was disappointed as he was expecting a 20% reduction in the budget. He stated that the City cannot continue in a deficit spending mode and that monies should be saved. He stated that "wasted monies" were better spent on the residents and on housing issues as residents are losing their homes. He stated that this budget was no different from previous budgets and concluded by requesting that his water bill be adjusted as had those of other residents.
- Harry Evans, Country Club Hills, invited residents to attend the Park District meetings and commented on possible assistance for a youth basketball/mentoring program.

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

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

Alderman Evans stated that the committee will be considering an ordinance amendment concerning ambulance fees and collection.

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

Alderman Glispie announced that A Public Works Committee meeting will be held on May 2, 2016 at 5 pm.

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

Alderman Spivey reported that Marcus Theater is moving ahead with renovation plans and as more information becomes available he will report on the progress.

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

Alderman Lockett reported that negotiations are still underway for the various Collective Bargaining Agreements.

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

It was announced that a free event will be held at the outdoor theater on May 28, that the theater will open on June 11 with a benefit concert for Tim Jones, and that the Police Chief had returned to work.

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

The following individuals addressed the Council:

City Council Meeting  
April 25, 2016  
Page

- Izella Rodgers, Country Club Hills, inquired as to the time for the benefit concert for Tim Jones and for the free public event. The time provided was from 3 - 10 pm.
- Harry William Jones, Jr. Country Club Hills, asked that Alderman Davis bring forward the ordinance amendment addressing the issue of compensation for elected officials.
- Hosea Gray, Country Club Hills, requested clarification on the Class 8 incentive for Marcus Theater as he stated that a facility had to be vacant for 2 years, commented that the budget is the same very year, stated that he will be issuing a newsletter regarding the administrative and regular meetings of the City Council, and stated that he is working on an issue regarding the Open Meetings Act. He concluded by commenting on programming and revenue from the Park District.
- Harry Evans, Park District Commissioner, requested that the residents get involved with the Parks and Recreation programming and attend park Board meetings as the discussion regarding the intergovernmental agreement was to begin soon.
- Chastity Williams, Country Club Hills, stated that she was studying government in school and requested the Public Works Committee Meeting agenda.

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 his Ward 4 meeting last week was well attended, requested that residents be mindful of their speed when driving through the neighborhoods and announced that he will be hosting a bowling outing for Meadowview students. He stated that Mary Ann Hopkins is coordinating a Mother's Day banquet and Meadowview will be hosting a 5 K event on May 20.
- Alderman Evans stated that the proposed ambulance service fee increase will not affect the residents of Country Club Hills and said she agreed that there was still much discussion to be had regarding the budget. She stated that there were reductions in department budgets due to establishment of new line items for municipal building maintenance and that a better job in reductions could be done. She stated that she did not support the Land Bank but that additional monies should be placed in the budget for housing programs. She explained that the City had given its "blessing" to the Class 8 request for Marcus Theater and offered kudos to Mr. Gray regarding his newsletter. She stated that she would be willing to be a mentor to Ms. Williams if requested.
- Alderman Glispie stated that branch pick up will be May 14 South of 183<sup>rd</sup> Street and May 21 North of 183<sup>rd</sup> Street with street sweeping to follow. He stated that the agenda for the Public Works Committee Meeting has not yet been established.
- Alderman Lockett stated that the property tax revenue in the budget had been previously overstated, the liquor commissioned salary had been previously cut, cuts had been made to the mentoring program, membership in the SSMMA was based on the City's population, the collector's pay was cut 3 years ago and that the garbage contract had been out to bid and was only increasing 9.80 over a three year period. He stated that uniform allowances are part of the collective bargaining agreements, Aldermen's expenses have been cut in each of the past budgets and that a driveway was much

City Council Meeting  
April 25, 2016  
Page

needed at the new fire station. He thanked Deputy Chief Kopec for securing a \$294,000 grant for the Fire Department, requested a moment of silence for Prince, and stated that he was rooting for the Blackhawks.

- Alderman Davis stated that he appreciated the comments on the budget before the final draft is assembled and that the process needs to move forward. He stated that the elected official compensation ordinance can be looked at again, that substantial cuts have been made to the proposed budget and that new bond payments are forthcoming. He stated that no new incentives had been given as all business must be conducted in public and nothing has come forward.
- Alderman Spivey stated that a Class 8 from Cook County is valid for 12 years and applies to the Marcus theater, not the City's outdoor theater. He stated that his newsletter had recently been distributed.

Mayor Ford stated that there seems to be a considerable amount of miscommunication and that everyone should be "singing the same song". He stated that progress had been made by reducing the number of aldermen from 10 to 5, there are no additional qualifying candidates for longevity, that the mentoring program and the liquor commission program were not part of his salary as mayor and that he was serving as Mayor, not for financial reasons, but to make the City better. He asked that all of the elected officials help by moving the City forward. He stated that building maintenance costs were allocated to each department's budget, that the \$70,000 for part time bus drivers was for several drivers, not one driver and that he had an open door policy and invited all to come to City Hall and speak with him.

City attorney, John Murphey stated that the Class 8 application for the Marcus Theater had been approved by Cook County, that video gaming revenue could be found on the Illinois Gaming Board's website.

Mayor Ford suggested that residents also attend the School Board meetings in Country Club Hills as residents paid property taxes to those taxing bodies also.

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 8:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted  
Deborah M. McIlvain, City Clerk