

**CITY OF COUNTRY CLUB HILLS
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL
January 23, 2017**

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, Glispie, Evans and Spivey.

Also present were: City Clerk, Deborah McIlvain, City Treasurer Argie Johnson-Martin, and City Attorney John Murphey. Judge Michael Stuttley served as parliamentarian.

3. **Journal of Proceedings**

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular City Council Meeting -December 12, 2016

Alderman Lockett moved for Council approval of the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of January 9, 2017. Second - Alderman Glispie. Discussion - none. Motion to approve the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of January 23, 2017 Carried Via Voice Vote.

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

A. Presentation - Fire Department FEMA Grant Award

Fire Chief Agpawa, Deputy Chief Kopec, and Assistant Chief Hullinger presented the City with 2 checks in the amount of \$492,579 and \$223,429 on behalf of US representative Robin Kelly. These monies will provide additional staffing and for the purchase of new airpacks. The old equipment will be donated to another fire department. A short demonstration on the use of the airpacks was given. Mayor Ford thanked the Fire Department for all of their hard work.

5. **City Collector's Report**

City Collector, Deborah McIlvain, gave the collector's report for the month ending December 31, 2016 citing revenues deposited into the various city funds.

6. City Clerk's Report

No Report

7. Committee Reports

**I. Finance: Alderman Davis, Chairman
(Committee Meeting February 9, 2017 5:00 pm)**

A. Approval of Vouchers - January 23, 2017

Alderman Davis moved for Council approval of vouchers in the amount of \$542,799.11. Second - Alderman Lockett. Discussion - It was explained that this included Ap Contracts, Expenses, Refunds , Payroll AP and a wire transfer for a theater performance.

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,. Discussion - Rescind City Credit Cards

Alderman Davis moved for Council approval to rescind city credit cards. Mayor Ford asked that this item be tabled to provide him the opportunity to gather data for a response. Alderman Lockett moved to table this item. Second - Alderman Glispie. Roll Call Vote on motion to table:

ROLL CALL VOTE 3Ayes: Aldermen Lockett, Glispie, and Mayor Ford

2 Nays Aldermen Davis and Evans

1 Abstain Alderman Spivey

0 Absent:

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

Alderman Davis reminded everyone of the Finance Committee Meeting scheduled for February 9, 2017 at 5 pm.

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

Alderman Evans announced a committee meeting on February 9, 2017 at 6:00 pm.

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

No Report

IV. Economic Development, Planning, Zoning & Economic Development Alderman Spivey, Chairman (Committee Meeting TBA)

Alderman Spivey announced a committee meeting on February 16, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

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

No Report

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

The following individuals addressed the Council:

- Hosea Gray, Country Club Hills requested clarification on City revenues and incentives for the Fresh Market. He suggested that the City could have a better budget.
- Dwyer Williams, Country Club Hills, stated that the monies spent on the theater could have easily been used to repair all of the City streets, especially 6 streets in Ward 1 and 6 streets in Ward 2. He stated that Alderman Lockett had said that all of the streets in Ward 2 were in "good shape."
- Jerrell Thomas, Country Club Hills, requested clarification on the theater budget that he thought was passed two weeks ago, the credit card issue, stated that taxes are too high, and that the residents would prefer restaurants as economic development.
- Leora Bell, County Club Hills, addressed the Council and wanted to know if the special meeting of the city council had been posted through text alert and requested a recap of what had transpired at the meeting.
- Harry Evans, Country Club Hills, stated that the Council is responsible for the credit

cards and they have not reviewed any of the transactions.

- Trina Ruffin, Country Club Hills, asked why the City had 2 Fire Departments that did not seem to be staffed and why the stores across from Heritage Health Foods were empty.
- Leon Williams, Country Club Hills, stated that towns that have trains running through them usually have more than one fire station and that Country Club Hills does not need two stations as we have no train. He asked Adleman Spivey for his understanding of “excessive spending” on credit cards.

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

Mayor Ford asked The Fire Chief to address the questions about the fire stations. Chief Agpawa explained the 2 stations are used to reduce response time affording a greater opportunity to provide life safety, that both stations are manned and fully staffed and that the department is one of the best in the South Cook County region.

9. Aldermen’s Reports

- Alderman Spivey announced a Ward 4 meeting on February 9, 2017. He stated that he was concerned about possible excessive credit card spending but would like to gather all of the necessary facts before making a decision. He stated there should be no personal agenda, that all should be working for the betterment of the city, that the streets and the theater should be addressed and that all should work to move the City forward.
- Alderman Evans stated that the agreement with Farmers Fresh Market would provide an affordable experience. She demonstrated the mathematical provisions of the 75% sales tax rebate and stated that the City would be supporting the Cook County Class 8 application and a potential liquor license. She stated that Mariano’s was not interested in coming to Country Club Hills. She concluded by citing month by month charges, late fees and due dates for the credit card, offering documentation and stating that most items have not been authorized. She stated that she thought the card was supposed to be used for recurring charges only.
- Alderman Glispie stated that he appreciated everyone’s comments and questions, stated that good followers make good leaders, and encouraged everyone to keep the City beautiful.
- Alderman Lockett stated that he was willing to share a voice mail from his phone indicating that Mariano’s is interested in Country Club Hills. He stated that much of the theater discussion should have occurred long ago; however, he does not sit and watch shows at the theater but rather helps staff during the performances. He stated that he was not supportive of the deal for the grocery store as the stores’ location in Harvey was not doing well and was in the process of closing. He said that he had never said that all of the streets in Ward 2 were in good condition. He concluded by offering condolences to Mr. Jones upon the passing of his wife.
- Alderman Davis stated that he felt that Alderman Evans had described the credit card issue very well. He stated that he was a proponent of the theater but that riders, hotel fees, monthly late fees and charges for office supplies were not acceptable. He stated that personal items should not be allowed and riders need to be reviewed by the Council

and attorneys.

Mayor Ford stated that losses at the theater have decreased steadily and that the theater is moving in the right direction with anticipated increases in theater sponsorships this year. He stated that the addition of the Atrium Banquet facility will make Heritage Plaza almost 100% occupied and thanked the City Council for its efforts to bring in new business.

Mayor Ford Issued his veto of Ordinance NO. O-01-17 "An Ordinance Authorizing an Economic Incentive Agreement (Former Eagle Grocery Store)". He stated that he had recently received information about the financial condition of the operator and wanted to investigate the issue further.

Alderman Evans asked if the Council could vote on the veto., City Attorney John Murphey stated that the Council would have the opportunity to override the veto at the next regular City Council Meeting.

Mayor Ford requested a motion to move to executive session to discuss a specific personnel issue.

Alderman Evans moved for Council approval to move to executive session, not to return, to discuss a specific personnel issue. Second - Alderman Glispie.

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.

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted
Deborah M. McIlvain, City Clerk