

**CITY OF COUNTRY CLUB HILLS  
REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
February 27, 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.

2a Invocation - the invocation as given by Father Martin Marren of St. Emeric Parish.

3. **Journal of Proceedings**

**A. Approval of Minutes**

**1. Administrative Meeting -February 6, 2017**

**2. Regular City Council Meeting - February 13, 2017**

Alderman Lockett moved for Council approval of the minutes of the Administrative Meeting of February 6, 2017 and the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of February 13, 2017. Second - Alderman Evans. Discussion - none. Motion to approve the minutes of the Administrative Meeting of February 6, 2017 and the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of February 13, 2017 Carried Via Voice Vote.

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

Items were discussed with leave of the body in the following order:

**C. Recognition - 2016 Holiday House Decorating Contest Winner**

Jennifer Braun-Denton and Helen McClelland of the Environmental Commission were introduced. They explained the parameters of the Holiday House Decorating Contest and presented monetary awards to the first and second place winners and to the city-wide winner of the contest. It was also stated that judges are needed for the beautification awards contest which is conducted as part of the Tree City USA participation.

**D. Recognition - Businesses of the Month - Applebee's, Frank N Lou's, El Cortez**

Tom Hill and Jennie Betton of the Economic Development Commission were introduced. Mr. Hill read the mission statement for the Commission and Ms. Betton explained the criteria to be chosen as a business of the month. Representatives from Frank N' Lous, Applebees, and El Cortez were presented with their certificates of recognition.

**A. Presentation - Marycrest/Castle Dargan Wetland Mitigation- Steve Amann, Baxter & Woodman**

Steve Amann, Baxter and Woodman was introduced. He addressed the Council and explained that the City had begun working with the Army Corps of Engineers to mitigate the situation regarding land fill in the Castle Dargan/Marycrest area. The situation had begun during the subdivision improvements in 2005 with a restoration and mitigation plan that was not continued by the City beginning in 2011. The item was sent to the Justice Department for legal action. Earlier this year, the Army Corps met with Mayor Ford and City staff and a potential solution which would not require legal action was decided upon. A field visit will take place prior to plan implementation. Alderman Lockett stated that an original fine of 1.2 million dollars had been assessed and that further investigation was need to determine liable parties.

**B. Approval - A Resolution Appointing City of Country Club Hills' Representatives to E-COM**

Alderman Lockett moved for Council approval of Resolution No R-01-17, Resolution Appointing City of Country Club Hills' Representatives for E-COM. Second - Alderman Glispie. 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.**

**5. City Collector's Report**

City Collector, Deborah McIlvain, gave the Collector's Report for the month ending January 31, 2017 citing revenue amounts deposited in each fund.

**6. City Clerk's Report**

City Clerk, Deborah McIlvain stated that applications for mail ballots for the Consolidated Election to be held on April 5, 2017 are available at City Hall and that early voting begins on March 20, 2017. Additional information can be obtained by calling her office.

**7. Committee Reports**

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

**A. Approval of Vouchers - February 27, 2017**

Alderman Davis moved for Council approval of vouchers in the amount of \$763,328.93. Second - Alderman Lockett. Discussion - Alderman Davis explained that this included Ap Contracts, Expenses, Refunds, Payroll AP, Fire Damage, and Theater Wires.

**ROLL CALL VOTE** 3 Ayes: Aldermen Lockett, Glispie, and Spivey.

2 Nays Aldermen Davis and Evans

Aldermen Davis and Evans cast a no vote for theater wires.

0 Absent:

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

**B. Approval - An Ordinance Amendment Amending Ordinance No. O-06-17 Adopting the Annual Budget for the Year Commencing May 1, 2016 and Ending April 30, 2017**

Alderman Davis stated that additional information regarding the dollar amounts and a detailed explanation had been requested following the Finance Committee Meeting of Thursday, February 23, 2017 and was not received until Monday afternoon. Fire Chief, Roger Agpawa explained that the 911 ETSB, along with a professional consultant, had spent 2 years investigating and providing for the transition to E-COM that will take place on March 7, 2017. The transition is mandated by the State and was a matter of public safety. Aldermen Evans and Davis both stated that they were not objecting to the matter of public safety, but to the lack of explanation and funding for items such as capital projects that were included in the ordinance amendment. Alderman Lockett moved for Council approval of ordinance amendment No

OA-02-17, An Ordinance Amendment Amending Ordinance NO O-06-17 Adopting the Annual Budget for the Year Commencing May 1, 2016 and Ending April 30, 2017. Second - Alderman Glispie.

**ROLL CALL VOTE** 3 Ayes: Aldermen Lockett, Glispie, and Spivey.

2 Nays Aldermen Davis and Evans

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 Thursday, March 9, 2017 at 5 pm.

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

No Report

**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 stated that the grocery store will be coming to Cooper's Grove as soon as the store's financing is in order, Heritage Plaza is near full occupancy and he thanked the Economic Development Commission for all of the assistance they provide for him.

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

Alderman Lockett stated that applications for staff for summer camp should be available on the City's website in mid-March.

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

The following individuals addressed the Council:

· Ronald Cope, Attorney for Harvey Wientraub (Owner of Harvey's Corner) addressed the Council and requested their support in the form of a resolution asking School District 160

and School District 227 for property tax abatement assistance. He stated that the business is in danger of closing without the assistance.

- Leora Bell, Country Club Hills, addressed the Council and supplied Alderman Evans with a copy of 725ILCS167 regarding drone usage. She stated that the City needs to adopt an ordinance regarding both public and private use of drones.
- Carol Davis, Country Club Hills, thanked Alderman Lockett for not supporting the tax incentive for the grocery store and stated that she felt the incentives would be funding generational debt. She suggested a town hall meeting for those living in Bremen Township.
- Hosea Gray, Country Club Hills, inquired as to whether the City had any standing regarding the 1.2 million in wetlands mitigation. He stated that monies should be given back for the schools and not for what he suggested was malfeasance. He asked if the credit cards were being used again for this theater season and questioned many of the charges.
- Dwyer Williams, Country Club Hills, asked the Treasurer if she was aware of the many financial issues being discussed, stated that arguments for public safety were always given as a scare tactic, that the wire transfers for the theater should stop and that 144 homes in Country Club Hills have not paid their property taxes. He concluded by stating that the City should not spend money that it does not have.
- Leon Williams, Country Club Hills, stated that the 911 issue had been discussed for 2 years, that Marklham had received a 2 year extension regarding their changeover and would be going with another company, not E-COM. (Cal Com) and that the operating cost is not the only cost to consider.
- Ben Johnson, Country Club Hills, addressed the Council, explained that he was the president of the Chamber of Commerce and stated that it was the Chamber's mission to promote and foster business growth and development and was looking forward to additional events and activities.

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 the police department was involved in the necessary training classes for drone usage, that Baxter and Woodman will do what is in the best interest of the City regarding the wetlands mitigation, that he was looking forward to the new grocery store and that all of the monies spent for the theater were within the budget and that corporate sponsorship would be appreciated.
- Alderman Evans congratulated the Holiday House Decorating Contest winners and the businesses of the month. She mentioned the house fire on Cedar and stated that the family was looking to live in the area until their home was repaired. She stated that she was concerned about privacy issues with drone usage. She stated that the theater credit card was paid to date and had no balance. She stated that some of the wire transfers for the theater represented 25% and some represented 50% of the monies due the artists. She stated that she felt a town hall meeting was an excellent idea.
- Alderman Glispie stated that street light outages, potholes, and water main breaks

should be called in to Eric DiSanto and/or the non-emergency number at the Police Department. He stated that concerns could also be addressed to him by calling his cell at 955-3114 and that grandstanding was not necessary.

Alderman Lockett stated that he did not support the 75% incentive for the grocery store but did support the store and hoped that the 75% did not become a trend. He reminded everyone that real estate tax bills are due March 1, 2017. He offered condolences to the Richardson, Nesbit and Nelson families and reminded all that applications for summer camp staff will be available mid-March. He stated that the Black History program was excellent and concluded by stating that Markham had received their extension regarding 911 and would be moving within 90 days.

Alderman Davis offered congratulations to the businesses of the month and the winners of the Holiday House Decorating Contest. He further explained that budget revisions should be made and additional information was necessary and that he cannot continue to vote without the proper information and without line items properly funded. He added that the Councils should offer their support to Harvey's Corner, that once an item is laid on the table there is to be no further discussion, and that the theater cannot be operated as it was in the past, especially regarding riders and credit cards.

Mayor Ford stated that the City is trying to be innovative regarding the theater and that ticket sales last season were \$550,000 with an expense budget of \$766,000 and that the riders had been given to the attorney for review. He stated that anyone needing any additional information can contact the Mayor's office directly.

Mayor Ford stated that he encourages a spirit of teamwork in his administration; however, there seems to be a spirit of divide and conquer in the community with individuals who do not want to see success and do not want to see the success of an African American Mayor.

Alderman Spivey stated that Nina (in the Finance Department) emailed to him copies of the contracts and riders when he had requested them from her.

Alderman Davis stated that he had requested copies of contracts from the Mayor around 9 pm on Thursday evening and had not received a timely response.

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 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted  
Deborah M. McIlvain, City Clerk