

**CITY OF COUNTRY CLUB HILLS
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL
August 14 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 Stuttley served as parliamentarian.

3. **Journal of Proceedings**

A. Approval of Minutes -

1. Administrative Meeting - July 17, 2017

2. Regular City Council Meeting - July 24, 2017

Alderman Lockett moved for Council approval of the minutes of the Administrative Meeting of July 17, 2017 and the minutes of Regular City Council Meeting of July 24, 2017. Second - Alderman Glispie. Discussion - none. Motion to approve the minutes of the Administrative Meeting of July 17, 2017 and the minutes of the regular City Council Meeting of July 24, 2017 Carried Via Voice Vote.

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

Mayor Ford stated that he had met earlier in the day with Prime Group and Capri Capital regarding a possible fulfillment center on the property at 167th And Cicero. He also stated that the progress of re-funding the bonds was progressing and will save the City approximately 2.1 million dollars over the life of the bonds.

5. **City Treasurer's Report**

City Treasurer Argie Johnson-Martin gave the Treasurer's Report for the month ending June 30, 2017. She cited current balances as of August 14, 2017 and stated that to date expenses had exceeded revenues for the current fiscal year. She reiterated that she is not a signatory on the City's checks and questioned whether the refunded bonds were to be signed by

her prior to issuance.

6. City Clerk's Report

City Clerk Deborah McIlvain, reminded everyone of the Back to School parade and event to be held on Saturday, August 19, 2017 beginning at 10:00 am with a parade on 183rd Street from Cicero to City Hall.

7. Committee Reports

**I. Finance: Alderman Lockett, Chairman
(Committee Meeting August 24, 2017 12:00 pm)**

A. Approval of Vouchers - August 14, 2017

Alderman Lockett moved for Council approval of vouchers in the amount of \$1,036,678.29. 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.

B. Approval - A Resolution Relating to Participation by Elected Officials in IMRF

Alderman Lockett moved for Council approval of Resolution No R-08-17, A Resolution Relating to Participation by Elected Officials in IMRF. Second - Alderman Glispie. Discussion - It was explained that this is a re-certification requirement from IMRF.

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.

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

No Report

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

A. Approval - Bid Recommendation - CDBG Project - Iroquois Paving

Alderman Davis moved for Council approval to award the CDBG Project Bid to Iroquois Paving in the amount of \$\$338,001.36. Second - Alderman Lockett. Discussion - This would allow for additional street repairs in specific areas of the City in addition to the \$20,000 set aside in each ward. An additional \$21,000 will be provided to complete the funding of the project.

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. Approval -Bid Recommendation - 2017/2018 Ditch Maintenance - Thornton Equipment

Alderman Davis moved for Council approval to award the 2017-2018 Ditch Maintenance Bid to Thornton Equipment in the amount of \$34, 125.00. Second - Alderman Lockett. Discussion -Bids were tabulated for the 2017-2018 Ditch Maintenance Program, The low bid was that of Thornton Equipment in the amount of \$34,125 (2.5% below the estimate of \$35,000.

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
Alderman Spivey, Chairman (TBA)**

Alderman Spivey stated that he would like to amend the agenda to discuss items that he felt were purposely not placed on the agenda by the City Clerk and that he has experienced this difficulty in the past. He stated that those businesses denied liquor licenses by the Liquor Commissioner could and should appeal to the State Board. He also explained that Heritage Plaza was auctioned on August 7, 2017 and it was hoped that the new owners would continue to work with the existing businesses.

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

Alderman Evans stated that she too, had experienced difficulty in getting items placed on the agenda and suggested that the duties be removed from the City Clerk and an outside source be hired to take care of the agenda. Alderman Lockett indicated that it is not the City Clerk's responsibility to produce the agenda, by ordinance it is the City Manager's responsibility and the City Clerk has filled in as there is no City Manager. Alderman Evans continued that there is no accountability on the part of City staff in providing information to the aldermen and that she has spent valuable time crafting ordinances to address these issues. She stated that she agrees with Alderman Spivey regarding video gaming and stated that it is not a liquor license issue but rather a video gaming issue. She provided a visual demonstration of video gaming revenue in surrounding communities and stated that she feels the City is losing a valuable revenue source. She also stated that there has been a significant loss in theater revenue, a \$100,000 payroll mistake, a part time employee overpaid by \$300, severe abuse of comp time and other personnel issues that are not addressed nor are any department heads being held accountable. She apologized to the businesses that are not receiving the liquor licenses they applied for.

Mayor Ford stated that the Aldermen had voted for the number of licensees, not the parties to whom the licenses should be issued. He stated that he feels the issue is not just a liquor license but the issue of gambling.

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

The following individuals addressed the Council:

Harry Evans, Country Club Hills, addressed the Council and stated that he felt having the Finance committee meeting at noon instead of in the evening was not fair to the residents. He requested additional CSO's at the parks as they have seen an increase in use. He stated that he was not treated well by the police when exiting the concert last Saturday evening and was treated in an abusive

manner.

- Carol Davis, Country Club Hills, stated that she does not agree with any additional liquor and gaming licenses and that the local businesses should focus more on jobs.
- Dwyer Williams, Country Club Hills stated that he also felt that the Finance Committee meeting should not be held at 12 noon and requested that committee agendas be posted on the marquee. He inquired as to who is responsible for the electric bill for the large sign on I-80 and suggested wasted money should be put into roads and streets.
- James Herman, Country Club Hills, requested that the ditch behind his house be cleared as there is debris, that his driveway has been torn up by the snow plows and his sidewalk is in need of repair.
- Monica Jackson, Ribs and Soul BBQ owner, addressed the Council and stated that she will be appealing her liquor license to the State Board. She stated that she is a homeowner here in Country Club Hills and has invested many dollars in the renovation of her restaurant and is looking forward to successful business continuation.
- Lou Kinella, Frank N Lou's, addressed the Council and stated that he had been in business for over 14 years here in Country Club Hills and was hoping the addition of video gaming would improve his business.
- Clifton Graham, Country Club Hills, addressed the Council and stated that he was encouraging economic development through the NAACP and the Chamber of Commerce and additional ideas are needed. He stated that the Chamber of Commerce has not received their funds, property taxes are too high, the area is over assessed and that he will be filing a class action lawsuit against the Cook County Assessor.
- Ms. Moore, Country Club Hills, stated that everyone should work together and there should not be dissension among the ranks.
- Zachary Dumas, Country Club Hills, requested clarification on why he feels that his water has doubled and that there seems to be a problem that cannot be solved.
- Izella Rogers, Country Club Hills, stated that having a meeting at noon so that employees can attend is irresponsible as aldermen 's first responsibility is to the residents.. She continued that there is a problem with the City Clerk posting items on the website in a timely fashion and that her responsibility should be to the City Council,.

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Mayor Ford stated that the posting issue has been addressed and the problem had nothing to do with the City Clerk.

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

9. Aldermen's Reports

- Alderman Davis stated that there is a contractor to address the problem with the ditch behind the resident's house. He stated that the agendas are the aldermen's agendas, not the Mayor's and items should be placed on the agenda as requested. He stated that the Council is getting along.

- Alderman Lockett stated that the City of Country Club Hills is safe, clean and has no corruption, the high taxes are because of the former Mayor, the Mayors of the South Suburban region are fighting the high property taxes and other Cook County taxes, the City's insurance cost have decreased and that the City is moving in the right direction.
- Alderman Glispie asked that maintenance and lawn issues be addressed by both owners and renters and reminded everyone that compliance is preferred.
- Alderman Evans stated that those businesses not issued liquor license should appeal the decision to the State Board but should get the denial in writing and be certified letter from the City. She suggested that less money be spent on the theater and more on the streets. She stated that the Council gets along and that she feels the problem is with the City leadership and a lack of transparency and accountability citing many mistakes and "atrocities." She again stated that the agendas are not posted in a timely fashion and that she had predicted over 4 years ago that there would not be an outlet mall. She suggested that Mr. Dumas check his water bill as she feels there are many "loopholes" in the water department.
- Alderman Spivey stated that he and the Economic Development Commission have worked hard to bring businesses to Country Club Hills and have not just focused on liquor and gambling as previously suggested. He reiterated his concern regarding agenda items and stated that the aldermen need to be respected. He concluded by thanking everyone who attended and sponsored his basketball outing for the 4th Ward held in Wulf Park.

Mayor Ford stated that he has no City Manager, as the previous administration had. He explained that the Outlet Mall land is not owned by the City and therefore cannot develop it. The City did enact a TIF to assist with possible development. He explained that both deals for a possible grocery store fell through because the developer could not procure financing. He stated that 2.7 million has been put into streets over the last 2 years. He continued that he feels the City is looking great but could always improve. He asked that residents meet landscaping standards and monitor trash as we all work to get things done.

- 10.** 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 8:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted
Deborah M. McIlvain, City Clerk