

**CITY OF COUNTRY CLUB HILLS
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL
September 25, 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, , Glispie, Evans and Spivey.

Alderman Davis arrived at 7:11pm and left at 7:39 pm because of a work commitment.

Alderman Lockett left at 8:25 pm because of an emergency.

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. Special Administrative Meeting - September 11, 2017

2. Regular City Council Meeting - September 11, 2017

Alderman Lockett moved for Council approval of the minutes of the Special Administrative Meeting of September 11, 2017 and the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of September 11, 2017. Second - Alderman Glispie. Discussion - none. Motion to approve the minutes of the Special Administrative Meeting of September 11, 2017 and the minutes of the regular City Council Meeting of September 11, 2017 Carried Via Voice Vote.

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

Mayor Ford announced that between 60 and 70 residents attended the property tax appeal seminar on September 19 and over 200 residents attended the Cook County Board of Review workshop on September 21, 2017. He also reminded everyone to be aware of a possible credit hacks through the recent Equifax data breach as over 143 million people had been affected. He stated that the basketball courts at Nob Hill had been vandalized as had some of the new park signage.

5. City Collector's Report

City Collector, Deborah McIlvain, gave the Collector's Report for the month ending August 31, 2017 citing revenues received in the various funds.

6. City Clerk's Report

City Clerk Deborah McIlvain, reminded everyone that the City's annual amusement carnival will be held Thursday September 28 through Sunday October 1 on the City Campus.

7. Committee Reports

**I. Finance: Alderman Lockett, Chairman
(Committee Meeting October 5, 2017 12:00 pm)**

A. Approval of Vouchers - September 25, 2017

Alderman Lockett moved for Council approval of vouchers in the amount of \$817,714.43. Second - Alderman Glispie. Discussion -none

ROLL CALL VOTE 4 Ayes: Aldermen Lockett, Glispie, Evans and Spivey.
0 Nays

1 Absent: Alderman Davis.

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

Alderman Lockett reminded everyone that the Finance Committee Meeting is scheduled for October 5, 2017 at 12 pm.

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

A. Approval - An Ordinance Requiring Newly Hired Police Officers to Repay the City for Certain Expenses in the Event of Certain Resignations

Alderman Glispie moved for Council approval of OA-09-17, An Ordinance Requiring Newly Hired Police Officers to Repay the City for Certain Expenses in the Event of Certain Resignations. Second - Alderman Lockett. Discussion - City Attorney, John Murphey explained that the amendment was discussed at the administrative meeting and the time was a 3 year period. Roll Call Vote with amended time at 3 years as follows:

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.

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

Alderman Davis stated that a committee meeting is scheduled for Monday October 2, 2017 at 5:30 pm.

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

A. Approval of Revision of Committees

Alderman Spivey moved for Council approval of Revision of Committees. Second - Alderman Evans. Discussion - City Attorney, John Murphey explained that an official ordinance amendment needed to be prepared and brought back to the Council before any action could be taken.

Alderman Spivey stated that a Shred event is scheduled for October 21, 2017 from 10 am to 1 pm at the theater pavilion and that an Economic Development & Planning, Zoning & Development Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday October 5, 2017 at 7 pm.

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

A. Approval - An Ordinance 4.3.06 - Employees and Personnel

Alderman Evans moved for Council approval of OA-10-17 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 4, Employee and Personnel Regulations Article 3 Classification of Positions Section 4.3.06 "Department Heads of the City of Country Club Hills Municipal Code. Second - Alderman Davis. Discussion - It was explained that this would require staff attendance at meetings and a minimum time frame for response to aldermanic requests.

Mayor Ford expressed concern that the Ordinance amendment had not been prepared by the City Attorney nor by the legislative attorney. Alderman Evans clarified that these changes would be for the Mayor to enforce. Judge Stuttley stated that the applicable list had been submitted and a request had been made for a meeting with Alderman Evans. Alderman Spivey stated that the staff liaison for his committee does not attend the meetings. Mayor Ford stated that communication works both ways. It was determined that this item would be tabled for further discussion and clarification.

Alderman Evans moved to table this item. Second - Alderman Glispie. Motion Carried Via Voice Vote.

B. Approval of Reassignment of City Council & City Administrative Meeting Agenda Creation to an Independent Source

Alderman Evans moved for Council approval of Reassignment of City Council and City Administrative Meeting Agenda Creation to an Independent Source. Second - Alderman Spivey. Discussion Mayor Ford stated that he felt this would not be a prudent use of taxpayers dollars. Aldermen Spivey and Evans stated that they had repeatedly been denied their requested items be placed on the agenda. Alderman Davis stated that the aldermen have followed the process and the time frame required and have still been denied or had items not placed properly on the agenda. The Mayor stated that the Clerk had volunteered to prepare the agenda and packets in the absence of a City Manager. Alderman Evans stated that despite her many years serving as clerk, the City Clerk was not doing the job properly and an independent source was needed.

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

1 Nays Alderman Lockett

0 Absent:

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

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

The following individuals addressed the Council:

- Ralph Tolbert, Country Club Hills, addressed the Council and stated that taxes are too high, that Mayor Ford always voted with former Mayor Welch when he (Ford) was an alderman for many years and that the theater is used for partying. A heated discussion ensued.
- Jessie Delouche, Country Club Hills, addressed the Council and commented on a stop sign in the middle of 169th Street and Briargate, her vehicle being towed from her driveway and the need for customer service issues to be addressed by staff at City Hall.
- Tania Wheeler, Country Club Hills, addressed the Council and stated that she was appalled with the management style, disappointed with the Mayor's demeanor and body language and had problems with her water bill.
- Andrea Johnson (and an unidentified lady) addressed the Council and stated that they were from the Nob Hill area and were concerned about the most recent gunfire issue and wanted to know what had occurred and what is being done to address the issue.
- An unidentified lady addressed the Council, stated that she was a resident of the

Tierra Grande area and requested additional information on the vandalism of the basketball courts, recent gunfire, and theft of delivered packages. She wanted to know what type of vouchers were approved at the City Council meeting (she was told the vouchers were accounts payable). She stated that street lights that had been reported out were still not repaired and wanted to know if the City was enforcing the dog waste collection ordinance.

- Harry Evans, Country Club Hills, addressed the Council and stated that the agenda had not been properly posted, that he felt there had been an increase in traffic accidents at the intersection of 183rd and Cicero since the installation of red-light cameras and was requesting that a timer for second countdown be installed. He stated that the water bills and taxes are too high. He continued by stating that he felt the Mayor was disrespectful and rude, that there should be caution regarding the land bank issue and that there is a problem with the response times and dispatch of first responders.
- Leon Williams, Country Club Hills, addressed the Council and stated that there should not be two different sets of rules for those volunteering to complete a task and those paid to do so - that the rules still need to be followed. He stated that the response time when calling 911 is “lengthy” and needs to be addressed.
- Izella Rogers, Country Club Hills stated that a referendum had been passed initiating term limits. She stated that the minutes of the meeting should reflect her request that an Ordinance still needs to be adopted by the City Council affirming the passage of the referendum as she feels it is required by State statute and that both Attorney Murphey and Judge Stuttley have been hired by the City and the City Council and should do their best for their client.
- Clifton Graham, Country Club Hills, stated that taxes need to be reduced and that a leadership role is needed to stop the tax increases. He thanked Alderman Spivey for reaching out.
- Hosea Gray, Country Club Hills, addressed the Council and requested clarification on the incentive agreement for Tucker Development and its relationship to the 2005 agreement, that the theater has lost 1 million dollars and the Park District will be discussing refinancing their bond at the October 19 meeting.

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

Police Chief William Jones addressed the Council and explained that representatives from ECOM have indicated that the response time has not increased. He also stated that several people, from Chicago and Hazel Crest, are in custody in relation to the shootings.

9. Aldermen’s Reports

- Alderman Spivey stated that he will be attending the HBCU event on September 30, and that a 4th Ward meeting will be held on October 12 at the Fire Station. He continued that he appreciated Chief Jones’ notifications to him, street lights

are usually repaired on Thursdays and that the Economic Development Commission and Committee are pursuing businesses for the Outlet Mall property.

- Alderman Evans stated that customer responses at City Hall are discourteous, that elected official information is no longer on the City's website, that perception is reality regarding police response times as she has often experienced a lengthy response from the police and that she does not want a spreadsheet reporting response times but an actual report as she feels that spreadsheets can be altered. She stated that the City's website is only about 50% adequate according to an Illinois public policy organization, that the non-emergency number at the police department is not answered, or not working. She continued that there had been an offer to purchase the theater however it was not sufficient enough. She stated that she felt there was no leadership and that the Mayor's body language was indicative of such, that questions from residents regarding water bills went straight to voice mail, that the red light cameras were not for safety but for revenue and suggested a referendum against them. She stated that the Park District is a flow through shell game for money, that Alderman Spivey and EDC had no liaison at their meetings and that it was difficult to obtain information for the residents in her Ward. She stated that she uses a spreadsheet to track requests made to her and her responses.
- Alderman Glispie thanked the residents for coming out as a group for the tax appeal and board of review seminars. He stated that he can be reached at 708-955-3114 with questions and concerns. He asked that residents contact City Hall regarding street light outages. He concluded by stating that the theater is here to stay and the City will continue to make it viable.

Mayor Ford stated that the theater is making progress citing losses in 2011 of \$716,283; in 2012 of \$755,893; in 2013 of \$959,115 and being within budget this past season. He stated that Payless Shoe Store had closed because of bankruptcy on the corporate level (with a replacement tenant in the works) and that a possible presentation to Amazon was the responsibility of the landowners - Prime, Daud, and the Gatlings. He stated that the vandalism issues had occurred at Nob Hill Park. He requested that facts should be researched when speaking at City Council meetings, that he had been an alderman for 9 years (not 12) prior to being elected Mayor. He stated that he felt there was no effort at teamwork on the dais this evening. He requested that residents be aware of trash in their neighborhoods and assist with pick up. He suggested that facts be checked as he did not always vote with the former Mayor. (Comments were made by Ralph Tolbert from the audience and he was escorted from Council Chambers.) He clarified that the land bank was intended to be for purchase by homeowners, not occupied by renters. Mayor Ford reminded all that the tax levy has not been raised in 6 years and suggested attendance at the board meetings of other taxing bodies. He explained that no ordinance is necessary regarding the term limit referendum. Mayor Ford explained that sometimes street light repair can be delayed due to electrical problems with the light poles. He concluded by reiterating that the day to day operations of the Park District became part of the City in 2006 because of their debt and

no longer being in a position to operate programs.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted
Deborah M. McIlvain, City Clerk