

**CITY OF COUNTRY CLUB HILLS
SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL
Friday, June 10, 2011
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm**

1. A special 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.

2. **THOSE ON ROLL CALL ANSWERING PRESENT WERE:**

Aldermen Hutson, Comein, Singleton, Lockett, Martin, Ford, Burris , Edwards, Williams and Davis constituting a quorum of the City Council.

Also present were: Deborah McIlvain, City Clerk/Collector and Rhonda Williams, City Treasurer.

Absent were: Mayor Welch and Henrietta Turner, City Manager.

Alderman Martin moved for Council approval to name Alderman Singleton as Mayor Pro Temp. Second - Alderman Edwards. Motion Carried Via Voice Vote.

Items were acted upon in the following order:

3. **Further Discussion - 2011/2012 FY Proposed Budget**

General discussion ensued regarding the budget. Alderman Burris indicated that as of 6/7/11 the budget was “almost final” and included \$50,000 for legal services for the City Council.

Alderman Williams suggested that the position of special event assistant be moved back to the theater budget.

Alderman Williams moved for Council approval of the appointment of Alderman Davis as chairman of the Theater Committee and Aldermen Lockett and Williams as committee members. Second - Alderman Lockett. Discussion- it was determined that there is no City ordinance or policy prohibiting aldermen from the same ward serving on the same committee. Motion Carried Via Voice Vote. Alderman Williams stated that the theater staff would report to the aldermanic committee, which would provide oversight.

Discussion continued regarding the position of inspector general within the proposed budget.

Various comments were made regarding the position's salary, chain of command (reporting to Director of Public Safety, Mayor or City Manager) and the need for such a position. City Attorney, John Murphey suggested that the position either be eliminated or restructured. Alderman Ford moved that the discussion of the position of Inspector General be tabled to committee. Second - Alderman Comein.

ROLL CALL VOTE 9 Ayes: Aldermen Hutson, Singleton, Lockett, Martin, Ford, Burris, Edwards, Williams and Davis.

1 Nays: Alderman Comein

0 Absent:

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

Alderman Burris moved for Council approval of the City Treasurer Surety Bond. Second - Alderman Lockett.

ROLL CALL VOTE 9 Ayes: Aldermen Hutson, Comein, Singleton, Lockett, Martin, Ford, Burris, Williams and Davis.

1 Nays Alderman Edwards

0 Absent:

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

Discussion continued regarding the dollar amount for youth programming/mentoring. Alderman Singleton stated that she was in favor of the program; however, the youth mentoring program is a 501c3 organization and should not accept city funds. Alderman Ford explained that the program helps many children from Country Club Hills and works to keep youth from serious trouble. Alderman Hutson stated that the program is "much needed" and the suggestion was made that

the monies be left in the budget pending a determination from the City Attorney regarding the 501c3 issue.

Mention was made that the dollars saved in the budget will be shifted to increase the residential property tax rebate an additional 1.5 million dollars, providing for an additional rebate each year. Alderman Comein raised a point of order and stated that proof of property tax payment was needed in order to process a rebate. Alderman Lockett moved for Council approval of an additional property tax rebate to residents. Second - Alderman Burris.

ROLL CALL VOTE 10 Ayes: Aldermen Hutson, Comein,
Singleton, Lockett, Martin, Ford,
Burris, Edwards, Williams and
Davis.

0 Nays

0 Absent:

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

Discussion continued regarding theater contracts, riders and the status of the booking agent. It was determined that the City Attorney, John Murphey would determine the validity of the booking agent's contract. Alderman Hutson commented on the dollar amount for fountain maintenance and Alderman Ford suggested that water and pop at the theater be sold separately from the liquor to avoid long lines.

Discussion continued regarding employment opportunities, especially for 14, 15 and 16 year old individuals. Alderman Edwards suggested putting monies for a program to be run by the Chief of Police for those under 16 (etiquette, sign language, etc.) with a stipend type payment. Alderman Burris suggested the creation of a line item for a youth jobs program in the amount of \$50,000, with Alderman Williams second. Alderman Williams also suggested that an ad-hoc committee be created to oversee and monitor the summer jobs programs.

Alderman Burris explained that the revised budget will be returning 2 million dollars to the residents.

4. Consideration of Motion to Reduce Administrative Spending Authority Without Council Approval

Discussion ensued with Alderman Comein stating that the previous limit of \$10,000 had been increased to \$25,000, and with the limit lowered to \$5,000, the bid process could delay possible emergency repairs. It was determined that the limit should be lowered to \$10,000 and any emergencies would be handled as they arise. Alderman Martin moved for Council approval to reduce administrative spending authority without Council approval from \$25,000 to \$10,000. Second - Alderman Lockett.

ROLL CALL VOTE 9 Ayes: Aldermen Hutson, Singleton, Lockett,
Martin, Ford, Burriss, Edwards, Williams and
Davis.

1 Nays: Alderman Comein

0 Absent:

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

5. Consideration of Motion to Request Proposals to Conduct Special Audit of City Funds

General discussion ensued. A motion was made to allow the City Treasurer to address the Council. City Treasurer, Rhonda Williams explained the request for proposals being made for a special audit to verify and validate account balances, receipts, and accounts receivable and payable. Alderman Burriss moved for Council approval to request proposals to conduct a special audit of City funds. Second - Alderman Lockett. Motion Carried Via Voice Vote.

6. Discussion of Establishing a Policy for Allocation of City Hall Space to Various Elected Officials

General discussion ensued. Alderman Martin Moved for Council approval establishing the policy that the Mayor, Clerk and Treasurer, in order, will select their office space on the main level of City Hall. Second - Alderman Williams. Motion Carried Via Voice Vote.

7. Approval of City Wide Hiring Freeze

Discussion ensued with the possibility of amending the ordinance regarding the police and fire

departments. City Attorney, John Murphey explained the process for requesting and receiving approval of additional staff, including police and fire personnel.

Alderman Martin moved for Council approval of Ordinance No O-06-11, An Ordinance Declaring a City-Wide Hiring Freeze. Second - Alderman Lockett.

ROLL CALL VOTE 7 Ayes: Aldermen Singleton, Lockett, Martin, Burris, Edwards, Williams and Davis.

3 Nays: Aldermen Hutson, Comein, and Ford.

0 Absent:

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

8. Approval of Separation of the City Clerk and Collector Position

General discussion ensued with comments being made regarding the positions being tied together for over 55 years. Clarification was requested regarding the wording of the State statutes regarding the position of collector. It was explained that any change in the collector position could not become effective until the new fiscal year and the lack of the budget being approved in a timely fashion does not affect the fiscal year. Alderman Singleton moved that this item be tabled. Second - Alderman Ford. Motion Carried via Voice Vote.

9. Approval of the Cancellation of All City Credit Cards Except the Mayor of Country Club Hills

General discussion ensued regarding the amount of monies spent on various City credit cards. A motion was made by Alderman Burris to authorize the cancellation of all City credit cards, except the Mayor's, and to have the Mayor's card held by the City Treasurer. Second - Alderman Lockett. Motion Carried Via Voice Vote.

10. Approval of 2011/2012 City of Country Club Hills Budget

Alderman Burris explained that many meetings had been held during the past 4 weeks, several positions are being eliminated and 1.5 million dollars is being put back into the rebate

program, and that the Council will be considering work performance based enhancements into staff salaries. Alderman Lockett commented that he was proud of a budget that is returning monies to the residents and thanked those that attended the budget meetings. Alderman Martin stated that every line item had been reviewed in the best interests of the the residents. Alderman Davis stated that this would send a message to employees regarding wasteful spending and that the Council will continue to review “fat, ineffective” positions. Alderman Comein raised a point of order and stated that this evening’s meeting had been posted to be held from 7-9 pm and that the current time was past 9 pm, suggesting that the Council should adjourn. Alderman Burris moved for Council approval of Ordinance No. O-07-11, as amended, an Ordinance Adopting the Annual Budget for the Year Commencing May 1, 2011 and Ending April 30, 2012. Second Alderman Martin.

ROLL CALL VOTE 7 Ayes: Aldermen Singleton, Lockett, Martin, Burris, Edwards, Williams and Davis.

1 Nays: Alderman Comein.

2 Abstain: Aldermen Hutson and Ford.

0 Absent:

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

City Attorney, John Murphey explained the mayoral veto process and that the earliest opportunity for the veto would be June 27 with an override of 7 votes needed on July 11, 2011. The action of the Council is not final until the process is complete. It was determined that those employees affected would be placed on administrative leave with pay until a finalization of the budget was achieved. Alderman Williams moved for Council approval to have the Inspector General collect all city property and vehicles from those placed on administrative leave. Second - Alderman Martin. Motion Carried Via Voice Vote.

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

The following individuals addressed the Council:

M. Michael Williams, 4820 West 181st Street, addressed the Council and questioned the need for the AAPTSD veterans group and their use of office space at City Hall.

Ralph Tolbert, 17750 Winston Drive, addressed the Council and thanked them for providing tax relief to the residents.

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

11. Adjournment

A motion was made by Alderman Comein to adjourn,. Second - Alderman Burris.
Motion Carried Via Voice Vote.

Meeting adjourned at 9:29pm.

Deborah M. McIlvain, City Clerk