



**CITY OF COUNTRY CLUB HILLS
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL
Monday, March 9, 2020
7:00 pm
Meeting Minutes**

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 7:03pm 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:

Alderman Lockett, Davis, Glispie, Evans and Mayor Ford

Also present were: City Clerk, Patricia D. Hutson, City Treasurer Deborah McIlvain, Atty John Murphey, Parliamentarian Florence and Atty Tiffany Nelson-Jaworski.

ABSENT: Ald. Spivey

3. Invocation was presented by Leroy Barnes, resident of Country Club Hills.

4. Journal of Proceedings;

A. Approval of Minutes –

1. Regular City Council Meeting - February 24, 2020

Alderman Lockett moved for Council approval of the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting February 24, 2020. Second – Alderman Glispie. Discussion-None

Motion carried via voice vote and hereby made a part of the original journal of proceedings this date.

5. Communications and Reports by Mayor Ford:

Mayor Ford proceeded to share a You Tube Video on Census 2020 then shared the importance of the Census, everyone counts and how it impacts representation in Country Club Hills and the Southland.

A. Approval – Mack Bankruptcy Claim/IGA for Legal Representation

Mayor Ford asked Atty John Murphey to present the information. Atty Murphey shared information on the Mack Bankruptcy Claim. Mack Industry was a purchaser of distressed properties who would then rent the properties out or sell them in the Southland. Mack had several entities i.e. Mack Industries, Mack LLC, Mack II, Mack III etc. Mack is in bankruptcy and one of the principles of Mack is under other scrutiny. The Mack bankruptcy trustee has filed claims against individuals, corporations and municipal corporations claiming that money that Mack paid in connection with closings, inspections etc. were paid by municipalities should have been paid to the bankrupt Mack Estate. So Mack has filed massive claims against dozens of entities including several municipalities going back to Spring and Summer of 2019. Atty Murphey shared he does not handle bankruptcy law and over the last several months he negotiated on behalf of several municipalities in the area to defend these claims through the trustee. This agreement is a cost sharing agreement with Country Club Hills, Dolton, Hazel Crest and Glenwood to share the cost associated with the defense of these claims. This is the most cost effective way to defend the claims in bankruptcy court. Atty Murphey reiterated he is not a bankruptcy lawyer and in his opinion this does not appear to be a legitimate claim and is seeking a lot of money. The agreement includes a formula based on the percentage. The size of the claim is based on the overall percentage. Atty Murphey recommended the Council approve the IGA for legal representation. The Atty is Michael Desmond with the Figliulo Silverman Firm who does a great deal of bankruptcy work and comes highly recommended. Dolton, Glenwood and Hazel Crest has voted.

Ald. Glispie asked if they were contesting this and Atty Murphey explained that Mack is filing claims against municipalities and former employees that Mack paid them and they should not have paid them. This is a large claim that needs to be defended. By combining forces we should be able to effectively defend this at a fraction of the cost.

Mayor Ford opened the floor for any additional questions and there was no response.

Mayor Ford then asked for a motion. Alderman Lockett moved for Council approval of the Mack Bankruptcy Claims/IGA for Legal Representation. Second – Ald. Glispie.

Mayor Ford asked for a Roll Call.

ROLL CALL VOTE: **4 Ayes:** **Aldermen Lockett, Davis, Glispie, Evans**
 0 Nays:
 0 Abstains:
 1 Absent: **Alderman Spivey**

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

B. Approval – Subordination Agreement

Atty John Murphey shared this item is with our partner Logistics. This it is a form Logistics asked the city to sign. When we buy a house we take our a mortgage and the lender wants to be first in line and not to have any other claims that might arise interfere with the priority of the mortgage. This would only occur if Logistics would default on their loan which we do not anticipate it will. When Atty Murphey reviewed the document he could not recommend approval with the City in second place to receive monies in case of a default since then he negotiated the redevelopment agreement and requested the City is in first place to receive monies in case of default. The change was agreed upon and is on p.2. This has placed the city ahead of the mortgage. Ald. Lockett asked if there were any other Logistics entities and Atty Murphey responded, no.

Mayor Ford then asked for a motion. Alderman Lockett moved for Council approval of the Mack Bankruptcy Claims/IGA for Legal Representation. Second – Ald. Glispie.
Mayor Ford asked for a Roll Call.

ROLL CALL VOTE: **4 Ayes:** **Aldermen Lockett, Davis, Glispie, Evans**
 0 Nays:
 0 Abstains:
 1 Absent: **Alderman Spivey**

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

6. **City Clerk’s Report** – City Clerk Hutson shared information from SD#228 on a collaboration program with the Chicago Automobile Trade Association offering great opportunities for students to become skilled trade workers. Clerk Hutson announced information on the Spring Fling April 4th. Clerk Hutson shared information that every month is Black History month and black history is a celebration and embracement of diversity. Clerk Hutson shared historical voting information i.e. Lyndon B. Johnson and reminded everyone of pending Primary Election. CCHPD has a Police

Academy scheduled for April and shared a Black History Fact that Freedom Rider Miller Green is a resident of the City of Country Club Hills and the Honorable James W. Ford is the first African American Mayor of the City of Country Club Hills.

7. Committee Reports

E. Approval – General Obligating Refunding Bond Ordinance

Alderman Lockett moved for Council approval of the General Obligating Refund Bond Ordinance. Second – Ald. Glispie. Discussion – Ald. Lockett shared the city is looking to recall bonds at a better rate which will save tax payer dollars hundreds of thousands of dollars by refinancing. The city is not extending the date they are trying to get a better rate. Ald. Davis shared the city is extending the bonds by (2) years and asked Mr. Kim to confirm and share highlights with the residents via the microphone. Mr. Kim shared if the rates come down the city may extend by (1) year. In aggregate there may be a \$200,000 to \$300,000 savings over the life of the bond. The bond is structured with the bulk of the savings occurring in 2022 and 2023 which coincide with the payments the city has to make in light of the Fire Fighter’s lawsuit. The lawsuit will increase the city’s budget and the debt service payment is scheduled to come down to give the city a little relief during those years. This is why the bonds will have to be extended by a maximum of (2) years. This was the sacrifice to allow budgetary flexibility for the city.

Mayor Ford asked for a Roll Call.

ROLL CALL VOTE: **4 Ayes:** **Aldermen Lockett, Davis, Glispie, Evans**
0 Nays:
0 Abstains:
1 Absent: **Alderman Spivey**

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

D. Approval – Line of Credit

Alderman Lockett moved for Council approval of the Line of Credit. Seconded – Ald. Glispie. Discussion:

Ald. Davis shared during the last finance meeting there was a question of what defines an emergency and he has concerns regarding outlined procedures for the use of the funds. Ald. Davis wanted to be sure the usage of the funds will come back to the City Council for approval because nothing was discussed or agreed upon. He also shared Ald. Evans had some unanswered questions regarding what defines an emergency as well. Mayor Ford responded to

Ald. Davis that emergencies will be defined by the Finance Committee and then it will move forward to the City Council for approval and staff cannot use the funds without approval.

Mayor shared all of these terms can be added to the Ordinance. Atty Murphey shared this is an agreement with First Midwest Bank subject that no draw against the line of credit can be issued without Council approval as a condition of the motion. Ald. Davis reiterated that he would like to see the conditions of the use spelled out. Atty Murphey shared the Council will include the additional verbiage for conditions and circumstances and then council can move forward for approval. Usually something like this would be used for a sudden need for funds such as the time of the year problem. Atty Murphey explained this can be issued to include council approval with conditions in place first. Ald. Evans shared she asked what defined an emergency during the Finance meeting and would like to see that clearly established before the line of credit is approved. During the previous Finance committee meeting the Finance Director said the line of credit was up for approval to get it not to use it. She questioned why we would get it if we are not going to use it. Ald. Lockett explained the purpose for getting it is when the city is in need i.e. when the tax revenue has not come in as discussed in previous Finance meetings. This will allow the city to pay bills until tax dollars come in. Ald. Lockett reiterated approval will enable the city to have the funds if needed as previously discussed in several Finance Committee meetings. We have an agreement to add to the language that the Finance Committee will deem what is considered as an emergency and then the item will go to the Council for approval. The line of credit is good to have if we need it and it was also discussed as we refinance the bonds having this was helpful for the bond ratings. Ald. Evans preferred to see a clear establishment in place before the line of credit moved forward for approval because financial matters sometimes change. Ald. Evans would also like to see the non-uses of the funds clarified as well. Ald. Evans shared she wanted to be sure no theater emergencies would be a part of the use of the funds. Ald. Lockett reiterated the line will have to be approved by the Finance Committee before it comes to the City Council. Ald. Evans agreed somewhat but preferred to see this in writing. Ald. Lockett shared this can be placed in the motion. Parliamentarian Florence clarified for the conditions to be imposed there needs to be a superseding motion to clearly articulate what the conditions are and then a motion to approve. There has to be a motion to approve the conditions and then a motion to approve the line of credit. Mayor Ford shared we will restate the motion according to the parliamentarian.

Ald. Lockett moved for Council approval of the line of credit only to be used for emergency purposes and must be approved by the Finance Committee and then the Council as a whole. Mayor Ford shared when the Finance Committee meet they will determine the list of conditions. Atty Murphey agreed this is the best way to manage this, having the Finance Committee clarify the terms of use for the line of credit. Ald. Evans asked for clarity from the parliamentarian. Parliamentarian Florence restated how the motion works. Second- Ald. Glispie.

ROLL CALL VOTE: **3 Ayes:** **Aldermen Lockett, Glispie, Mayor Ford**
 2 Nays: **Alderman Davis, Evans**
 0 Abstains:
 1 Absent: **Alderman Spivey**

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

Parliamentarian Florence shared Mayor Ford's vote does not count because he is not an Alderman. She stated (3) of the (5) Aldermen need to vote. Atty Murphey shared there is a disagreement on this. Atty Nelson-Jaworski stated it's (2) to (1). Parliamentarian stated the item is continued until there is a majority vote of Aldermen to vote. **Ald. Evans made a motion to table. Second- Ald. Davis.** Mayor Ford asked Parliamentarian Florence to explain why he was not able to break a tie. Parliamentarian Florence explained there are (5) Aldermen and the law requires the majority of the Aldermen to vote on this matter and the Mayor is not an Alderman and cannot break the tie. Atty Murphey shared he has written an opinion to the contrary and Council should vote and we'll sort thing out. Atty Nelson-Jawaorski shared she has written an opinion contrary to Atty Murphey's written opinion that cites the law. There was continued conversation between the attorneys and Mayor Ford. Atty Nelson-Jaworski cited and shared Illinois Code section 3.1.40-40 of the Illinois Municipal Code. She shared under section 3.1.40-30 the Mayor is allowed to break a tie. Atty Nelson-Jaworski continued to share when the Mayor can break a tie and does not include passing an Ordinance, liability is placed upon the city or when an expenditure of money is made. Mayor Ford and Parliamentarian Florence shared there is currently a motion to table. Ald. Lockett asked if the Council was going to do the work of the people or not.

ROLL CALL VOTE: **2 Ayes:** **Aldermen Davis, Evans**
 3 Nays: **Alderman Lockett, Glispie, Mayor Ford**
 0 Abstains:
 1 Absent: **Alderman Spivey**

Atty Murphey shared this is why the State Law provides that the Mayor votes when the vote of the Aldermen results in a tie. He then shared State Law and the city code is very clear the Mayor's opportunity to vote is when there is a tie. Parliamentarian Florence shared in this situation when it's a tie to table the Mayor can vote.

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

Per Parliamentarian Florence this motion failed and no decision can be made on it. Atty Murphey stated the motion passed with the Mayor's vote. There was a continuous exchange of conversation with Atty Murphey, Parliamentarian Florence, Mayor Ford and Atty Nelson-Jaworski. Atty Murphey shared the Mayor voted and if there is a legal question that will be addressed at a later time. Atty Nelson-Jaworski shared the Council

should wait for (2) weeks when the full council is present to address all of these items when the council member who is not here because of a medical condition returns. Mayor Ford reminded everyone to please ask to be recognized before speaking.

A. Approval – Vouchers – February 24, 2020

B. Approval – Vouchers – March 9, 2020

Alderman Lockett moved for Council approval of Vouchers for February 24th and March 9th in the amount of \$1,118,908.98. Second – Ald. Davis.

Mayor Ford asked for a Roll Call.

ROLL CALL VOTE: **4 Ayes:** **Aldermen Lockett, Davis, Glispie, Evans**
0 Nays:
0 Abstains:
1 Absent: **Alderman Spivey**

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

C. Approval – Theater License Agreement

Alderman Lockett moved for Council approval of the Theater License Agreement. Second-Ald. Glispie. Mayor Ford clarified this agreement is for (1) year per request of an Alderman. The agreement will be reviewed and discussed at the end of this year to see if the city will continue for 2021 and 2022. Atty Murphey shared the licensee has put up \$85,000.00 to book a couple of acts while looking at (11) events.

Discussion-Ald. Davis asked if this would affect the tax liability for the city. Atty Murphey shared this is not a property interest this is a license with a limited right to use the space. For example this is a ticket to a baseball game whereas you can sit in this chair until Mr. Davis's crew begins to clean. Then he shared the city is not obligated until the licensee provides adequate insurance which is due by May 1st. The agreement calls for revenue sharing and allocating with a (1) year per Ald. Spivey. Ald. Davis asked about splitting the losses and Mayor shared the Finance Director will set up a separate account. Atty Murphey then shared this arrangement is not a guarantee there will be a profit. The licensee is at risk as much as the city is and all are hopeful for a profit. Ald. Lockett reiterated he requested the licensee to put monies up front to show interest with their \$85,000.00. Atty Murphey then shared the agreement requires the licensee to put \$260,000 minus what has been spent by May 1st. Mayor Ford shared this is the first time anyone has made an investment in an agreement to run the theater and hopes this will alleviate the tax burden for the tax payers. Mayor Ford shared the city has the theater, can't get rid of it, owe bonds on it and are to refinance those bonds. The

theater costs millions of dollars years ago and now we are left to pay the bonds. We don't want to have to pay bonds and then have to use taxpayer dollars for the operation. This is why we were looking for investors to put money up front in hope we can turn the theater around. Atty Murphey shared Atty Nelson-Jaworski had a good point in section 1. a of the document states the city will primarily operate as a Saturday venue. He also included the city will retain the right to use the venue on Saturdays when it isn't booked. Mayor Ford shared the city has scheduled events as well. Commissioner Donna Miller has a Youth Day event scheduled for June 6th possibly Chance the Rapper with a producer from New York. Also, August 8th we will have a Jamaican Fest. Atty Nelson-Jaworski asked Atty Murphey about inserting an indemnification clause in the agreement. Atty Murphey shared the J&J Group is a Limited Liability and does not see the need for an indemnification clause because having comprehensive insurance is the most important item. Atty Nelson-Jaworski, Atty Murphey and Mayor Ford shared ongoing discussions.

Mayor Ford asked for a Roll Call.

ROLL CALL VOTE: **3 Ayes:** **Aldermen Lockett, Glispie, Mayor Ford**
2 Nays: **Alderman Davis, Evans**
0 Abstains:
1 Absent: **Alderman Spivey**

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

Parliamentarian Florence called for a point of order and shared this is the same issue as before regarding the need for major of the Aldermen to vote. Atty Murphey shared yes this is the same issue and he is not referring to her opinion as his opinion is this is a valid vote. Atty Murphey and Parliamentarian Florence had further discussion and Parliamentarian Florence recommended the vote to be tabled until all (5) Aldermen were available to vote. Ald. Lockett stated it was too late to table because the vote has been taken. Parliamentarian Florence stated the vote was taken and it failed because it was tied. Mayor Ford stated it did not fail then he and Ald. Evans had ongoing conversation regarding the vote. Ald. Lockett shared he was ending his report and can move on.

II. Law, Ordinance, Government Operations & Alderman Glispie, Chairman

Contract Compliance

(Committee Meeting TBA)

No Report

III. Public Works and Utilities Alderman Davis. Chairman

(Committee Meeting TBA)

A. Approval – CDBG Resolution

Alderman Davis motioned for a 2020 CDBG Resolution for the Annual grant for pavement resurfacing for \$400,000 to cover 6,680 ft of road resurfacing per County requirements of low to moderate boundaries. Ald. Davis shared areas throughout the city that will be repaired with the grant. Second- Ald. Lockett. Discussion: Ald. Glispie asked for clarity for 175th Pl and Ald. Davis shared he did not have the exact boundaries but information will be shared when the final proposal is complete. Ald. Davis also shared during the next Public Works meeting he will have a pavement assessment software program to identify streets in need of repair.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 4 Ayes: Aldermen Lockett, Davis, Glispie, Evans
0 Nays:
0 Abstains:
1 Absent: Alderman Spivey

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

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

A. Presentation of Business of the Month Award – This item has been postponed for a late date.
No Report

V. Insurance, Risk Management and Personnel Alderwoman Evans, Chairman
(Committee Meeting TBA)

No Report

8. Motion to Open the Floor to the Public

Alderman Lockett moved for Council approval to Open the Floor to the Public. Second-Alderman Glispie.

Motion carried via voice vote and hereby made a part of the original journal of proceedings this date.

9. Public Portion of Meeting

- Dwight Taylor, resident with the Evangelism of Grace. Mr. Taylor shared Census mailings will go out this week and the online portal will be available this week. He stressed the importance of Census 2020 participation. Evangelism of Grace will hold a meeting April 14th at the Grande Prairie Library 6:30pm Census 2020 and voter registration. Also, March 28th at Brothers Keepers Community Outreach church on Lincoln Hwy. A meeting will be held in cooperation with Robin Kelly's Office on the viability of a 3rd Airport in the Southland.
- Leroy Barnes, resident. Mr. Barnes has concerns as he has attended several council meetings. Unfortunately the last meeting halted during the discussion of salary range and (2) Aldermen left the meeting. If there are issues or concerns with articles or laws he understands there may be a difference of opinion and would like to see in writing the document that clarifies whether the Mayor can vote to break a tie. Mr. Barnes shared the tax payers pay the Aldermen to do a job and he would like to see that done and not have Aldermen walkout. Walking out does not resolve the issue. Mr. Barnes then shared we cannot wait for an Alderman because there is no guarantee of when he or she will attend a City Council Meeting. Business needs to be conducted with those in attendance and then questioned if there is a system setup for a proxy vote. Mr. Barnes shared the city should not be at a standstill because of one vote. He reminded the Aldermen and the Mayor that they work for the residents. As the Mayor shared at the last meeting if the city does not put a plan in place and address the salaries all of this will be on the tax payers backs.
- Josea Gray, resident. Mr. Gray asked if there will be a public hearing for the 2021 budget. He agreed the idea of having someone come in as an investor for the theater is a great way to handle this and it should have been done (15) years ago. If this had been done the city wouldn't have lost (15) million dollars of taxpayer dollars. Mr. Gray asked if the Logi Park will start the project and stop using it as a parking lot for their equipment. Mr. Gray asked if the city will stop the use of Red light cameras as other municipalities have and put the money into an account to rebate back to the residents. He also suggested a referendum to put the rebate in place. Mr. Gray stated the \$750,000 line of credit was needed because \$250,000 to \$1,000,000.00 was borrowed from the budget for the theater. He disagreed with the line of credit with no rules in place. Mr. Gray wanted to know how much the theater license will cost and how does the line of credit connect with the bond? Mr. Gray wanted to know how much will the bankruptcy lawsuit with Mack cost the city.
- Clifton Graham, resident. Mr. Graham asked about the bond maturity. Is there an early payoff fee? He commended the Mayor on securing \$250,000.00 to start the theater. Mr. Graham shared he believes the city is breaking the law with the Mayor breaking the tie. He would like to know what other items have had voting ties broken by Mayors and how can those items be revisited.

10. Alderman Lockett moved for Council approval to Close the Floor to the Public. Second-Alderman Glispie.

Motion carried via voice vote and hereby made a part of the original journal of proceedings this date.

11. Aldermanic Reports

- Alderman Davis shared Aldermen are elected to be fiduciaries over the finance. He shared residents are not always aware of everything that goes on. He shared there is a contradiction we are asking for \$750,000.00 line of credit and the general fund has been going down over the last (3) years where the city is \$800,000.00 in the hole. He showed the audience the memo that was given to authorize the line of credit had no details. Alderman Davis shared he cannot in good conscience agree to handle business this way. He asked the audience if they would consider this if it were their home? Alderman Davis then stated he has always been a proponent of the theater, the city has never turned a profit and agrees we need to do something different. He agrees with the additional events mentioned by the Mayor and stated they have nothing to do with the contract. The current contract is with a promoter who had an unsuccessful show last year. He knows the intricacies of planning for the theater. He stated this is March and the city is looking at salary freezes, financial crunches the city is looking at a loss for the theater season before it begins. He has not received any detailed information on the theater such as acts, advertisers etc. He shared he will continue to fight for the residents and do what is right. Alderman Davis shared the Mack Industry lawsuit is asking for \$302,000.00 with the city paying 31%. Alderman Davis is uncomfortable because of a Smooth Chicago deal a few years ago where they promoter said they didn't want to get paid and they were paid.
- Alderman Lockett thanked everyone for coming out to the Black History play at Hillcrest H.S. and complimented the entire cast on a job well done.
- Alderman Glispie thanked everyone for their thoughts. He shared the line of credit will have to be approved by the City Council after prior approval by the Finance Committee. He encouraged the City Council to work with the Mayor and each other to make the Country Club Hills a successful city. Arguing back and forth does not accomplish anything instead of making things happen for the city.
- Alderwoman Evans agreed with Mr. Graham on a good fight and that is the elected officials are here to fight on behalf of the residents. She stated residents do not know about some of the behind the scenes things that happen. There are times as Alderman where things are not pretty nor polite. She shared Aldermen are here to speak up on behalf of the residents, challenge each other and ask common sense questions. She read IL65-IL5/3.1-40.40 is the law regarding the Mayor's vote on breaking a tie for an odd board. Ald. Evans was offended that the city legislative Atty would

recommend lawsuits. She shared the city received money twice a year and agreed money does get tight. Ald. Evans shared the city needs to better manage monies instead of the following; the (11) million dollar Firefighter lawsuit will impact the city's budget for many years. There was back and forth conversation between Ald. Evans, Ald. Lockett and Mayor Ford. Ald. Evans shared there was \$80,000 paid to arrange acts that was never recovered. She also stated there was a \$16,000.00 loan to an employee, a \$65,000.00 Com-Ed bill, a fired employee who arbitrated and returned costing the city \$65,000.00, overpayments to employees, general fund balance is negative \$800,000 a low bond rating which is BBB (1) above junk status, no money in the water system improvement fee account, employees without benefits are a few of the things going on with the city. Ald. Lockett shared Ald. Evans is the Chair of that Committee and it was her responsibility to inform the Aldermen of lawsuit statuses. Ald. Lockett and Ald. Evans continued to have back and forth conversation. She encouraged the audience to pull Freedom of Information inquiries and ask questions. Ald. Evans does not want to have discussion about the theater while the city is looking to make salary cuts and freezing salaries. There are still costs associated with the theater and doubts the licensee will split any losses with the city. Ald. Evans encouraged the audience to attend other meetings. Ald. Evans stated the lack of funds is due to mismanagement. Ald. Evans responded there is an early payment penalty for the bonds. She has not heard anything about the 2021 budget as the Finance Director is now a new Finance Director in Long Beach and may not be concerned about Country Club Hills.

- Mayor Ford shared everyone has to tell the truth and be accountable when making statements. Mayor shared all are paying into the water fund because in 2024 the city will have to pay \$4,000,000.00 to Oak Lawn along with Olympia Fields and Matteson to purchase water from a supplier. The previous administration was presented with a bill after infrastructure improvements and opted out of paying and now the city is faced with paying the previous and current monies. The city does have a separate account in preparation for the payment. Treasurer Deborah McIlvain confirmed there is \$1,400,000.00 in the account in the form of a T-Bond. Mayor shared the previously made statement is not correct. Mayor Ford shared the line of credit under the previous administration was \$6,000,000.00 which was used and repaid under his administration. During the last audit yes there was a deficit of \$800,000.00. When he was elected into office the city owed \$6,500,000.00 and over the last (5) years that amount has been paid back. Mayor shared there has been progress in his (5) years. Mayor shared that Country Club Hills has not been in the news for negativity as under the previous administration. He shared the Finance Director who is now in Long Beach has done a great job and is continuing to complete projects. Mayor shared he is confident the city will find the right person to complete the job in the finance department. The Mayor encouraged working together for a better Country Club Hills. He shared his salary was not the incentive to become Mayor. He stated he is here to protect the taxpayers and wants to work with the Aldermen and would like to see togetherness as a predominately African American Municipality. Mayor shared he wants to work together. He recently asked Ald. Davis if he would like to be the City Manager. Mayor reminded everyone voting has started, super Tuesday is coming and don't forget Census 2020. Mayor Ford shared the next City Council Meeting will be held March 23rd at 7:00pm.

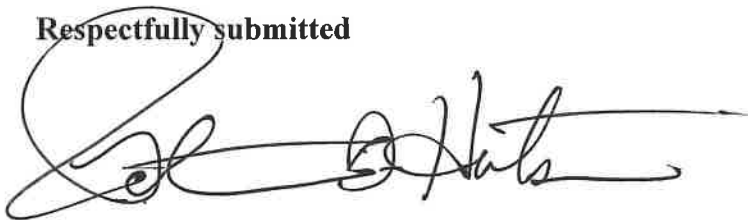
12. Adjournment

Mayor Ford asked for a Motion to adjourn.

Ald Lockett motioned for adjournment. Second- Ald. Glispie.

Meeting adjourned at 8:31pm

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia D. Hutson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and "H".

Patricia D. Hutson, City Clerk