



REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

4200 W 183rd St. Country Club Hills, IL 60478

Monday, October 11, 2021 at 7:00 PM

Pursuant to Governor Pritzker's ongoing Executive Orders Covid-19 Masks and Social Distancing are required for this in-person meeting. Also, be advised masks are required, seating is limited and building capacity orders will be followed and enforced.

1. CALL TO ORDER – JAMES W. FORD, MAYOR

A Regular Meeting of the City Council, City of Country Club Hills, Cook County, State of Illinois, was held in the City Hall, 4200 W. 183rd Street at 7:05p.m. The meeting was called to order by the Honorable James W. Ford, Mayor.

1a. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of allegiance was presented by all in attendance.

2. ROLL CALL – NINA GUZZO, RECORDING SECRETARY

Those on Roll Call answering present were:

Alderman Lockett, Alderman Davis, Alderman Edwards, Mayor Ford. Also present was City Administrator Carl Estelle and the Administrative Team.

Excused as absent – Alderman Spivey and Alderwoman Evans

3. INVOCATION – CLERGY OR DESIGNEE

Invocation was presented by Rev. Anthony Tiller Pastor of Jeremiah Ministries International of Country Club Hills.

4. JOURNAL PROCEEDINGS

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

A. Approval - Regular City Council Meeting Minutes 09.27.2021

Alderman Lockett moved for City Council approval of Regular Meeting Minutes 09.27.2021.
Second, Alderman Davis. Discussion – None.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3 Ayes: Alderman Lockett, Davis and Edwards

0 Nays:

0 Abstain:

2 Absent: Alderman Spivey and Alderwoman Evans

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

5. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS BY MAYOR FORD:

Mayor Ford announced a Town Hall Meeting will be held Wednesday October 13th 6:00pm at the Theater Pavilion regarding issued in the community. Residents will be able to attend in person and via Zoom.

6. CITY CLERK'S REPORT – PATRICIA D. HUTSON, CITY CLERK

Nina Guzzo shared information acknowledging National Hispanic Heritage Month and thanked all residents and employees of Hispanic descent for their continued contributions to the City of Country Club Hills. Nina also shared information on upcoming events i.e. Branch Pick-up October 16th (North of 183rd St) Street Sweeping October 18th (North of 183rd St), "Think Pink Day" is Friday October 22nd and we will Paint the City Pink to bring awareness to Breast Cancer as October is Breast Cancer Awareness month, October 30th 9am to 12noon - EDC Shred Day at the Theater Parking Lot, October 30th 4pm to 6pm Halloween Event at the Theater (East side in the Semi-circle) and Halloween Sunday October 31st - Trick or Treat Hours are 4pm to 7pm

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance, Insurance, & Risk Management – Alderman Lockett, Chairman
(Committee Meeting – TBA)

A. Approval - Vouchers as of 10.11.2021

Alderman Lockett moved for City Council approval of Vouchers in the amount of \$752,447.88 10.11.2021. Vouchers to be issued when monies are available. Second, Alderman Davis. Discussion – Alderman Davis shared his concern for vehicles included in the vouchers and lack of proper notification of the vehicles purchases to the council. Mayor Ford shared the three vehicles were ordered pre-Covid. Two vehicles were purchased from the Police DUI and siege funds and one vehicle is from a grant.

Alderman Davis then shared that does not equate the total amount because some monies are coming from the general fund and it would have been nice to reminder the aldermen when the recent Enterprise lease was signed because there may have been possibilities to get a better deal. Mayor Ford then shared that with the recent Enterprise lease those vehicles will not be available until mid 2022 and these vehicles will also be added through the lease program.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3 Ayes: Alderman Lockett, Davis and Edwards

0 Nays:

0 Abstain:

2 Absent: Alderman Spivey and Alderwoman Evans

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

Alderman Lockett shared he is gathering information on the insurance renewals and expects to have more information by November 1st and the renewals and due by December 31st.

Law, Ordinance, Government Operations & Contract – Alderwoman Evans, Chairman
(Committee Meeting – TBA)

No Report

Public Works and Utilities – Alderman Davis, Chairman
(Committee Meeting – TBA)

Alderman Davis shared the street lights will be installed soon at the 183rd Street & Pulaski. Alderman Davis also shared the Cap Court project has just begun and he anticipates relief for the residents in the area of 187th St.

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

No Report

Education, Parks & Recs – Alderman Edwards, Chairman
(Committee Meeting – TBA)

Alderman Edwards shared he met with Ald. Evans last week and he will speak with the Principal of Hillcrest and seniors and will also attend the Park District meeting Oct. 21st. Ald. then shared he has a law firm and a judge who will assist with Career Day.

8. MOTION TO OPEN THE FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC

Alderman Lockett moved for City Council approval to open the floor to the public. Second by Alderman Davis. Discussion – none.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3 Ayes: Alderman Lockett, Davis and Edwards

0 Nays:

0 Abstain:

2 Absent: Alderman Spivey and Alderwoman Evans

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

9. PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

Winston Drain, resident shared Ald. Evans had a town hall meeting and it was after the project was in place. He shared nowhere in America will a company come into a residential area where the owners are paying \$300,00 to \$500,00 for their homes and paying \$18,000 in taxes. He said Clayco has built and disrupt the community and he feels it's criminal. He shared residents were being overcharged on their water bills because they were using water to calm the dust down. Mr. Drain shared there are residents with respiratory problems, HVAC problems, children on the bus stop with dust blowing and he wants to know who is paying for the water they stole from the city. Mayor Ford shared the residents are not being charged for the water because there is a water meter attached to the hydrant. Mayor Ford asked Jerry Townsend, Special Projects to explain the metered water system. Mayor Ford then shared there have been five meetings since the conception of this project 2 years ago. Mayor Ford shared there was a Zoning Board meeting, a public hearing with the developer and other meetings were held as well. Jerry Townsend shared all water is being run through a hydrant meter to be billed as they have opened an account.

Harry Williams Jones Jr., resident shared the city is in crisis because the Mayor has a convicted felon that has three full time jobs. He shared he FOIA'd an event at the theatre from May 8th and the response was there were no documents responsive to the request. Mr. Jones shared Alderman Lockett and Mayor Ford were in attendance and Ald. Lockett wore a white tux. Ald. Lockett shared no, it was pink and yes I was there. He shared a copy of ticket#322 and somebody stole the money. He then shared dysfunctional government and then asked the Alderman about his colleague who worked three full time jobs and mentioned Markham and a janitorial service. Mr. Jones shared there is political cronyism. He shared there is \$30million that

comes through the city to one bank with no interest paid. Mr. Jones said the Town Hall meeting should be the resignation of the Mayor.

Zachary Dumas, resident shared he is still concerned about the CUBE, Logistics building, and asked if Mayor met with the project manager or address the issues from the last meeting. He also shared when they started moving dirt and there was no meter for about a week. He said he spoke with one of the workers on the project and there was dialogue about the project and the workers left when he asked why they were talking to residents now after this has been going on for quite some time. Mr. Dumas shared he was at the meeting with developer and it was held in the smaller room with little opportunity for residents to ask questions. He felt it was already a done deal and if it had been in the larger room it would have made a difference. Mr. Dumas then shared information should have been shared better via water bills. He asked if there is going to be a meeting to address residents concerns. Mr. Dumas then asked for something to be done about the Red light cameras.

Maddie Bogan, resident shared she was here when the city met with the developers and residents were told nothing was going to happen without notification and she came home one day and trees were cut down. Mr. Bogan asked for responses to residents' concerns from the developer.

Maletta Harris, resident shared she has lived here 6 years and has notice the uptake in criminal activity. There was a drive by shooting on her block and the crime scene was not taped off immediately. She said she doesn't see the police presence she would expect. Tuesday night there was another shooting and she thought tonight was the Town Hall meeting. Mayor Ford shared the Town Hall meeting will be Wednesday.

Leroy Barnes, resident shared there were three things that come out with the recent meeting with Ald. Evans. He shared this was her first meeting and residents have concerns and would like to meet with the developers, the Mayor and the Ald. Mr. Barnes when they were building the subdivision the developer provided funding relief for residents as well as HVAC filtration for residents. Mr. Barnes also shared Clayco is a financially established company and it shouldn't be a problem for them to come before the residents to address their concerns. Mr. Barnes then shared the information in the water bills is very helpful and proper notification is beneficial. Mayor Ford shared the meeting are posted on the website.

10. MOTION TO CLOSE FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC

Alderman Lockett moved for City Council approval to close the floor to the public. Second by Alderman Davis. Discussion – none.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3 Ayes: Alderman Lockett, Davis and Edwards

0 Nays:

0 Abstain:

2 Absent: Alderman Spivey and Alderwoman Evans

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

11. ALDERMANIC REPORTS

Alderman Davis- no report

Lockett shared the May 8th concert as brought forth by Harry Jones was a city event and all aldermen received 50 to 100 tickets free. It was a Mother's Day concert event as the pandemic was easing up, "Shinning Star" performed for free and performed at the July 4th event free as well. There was no money to be made because it was free. Mayor Ford asked about \$30million and Ald. Davis and Lockett explained it was about the budget. Alderman Lockett shared Roger Agpawa came to CCHills and saved the residents over \$482,000. He is back and serves as Director for Public Works and Assistant Fire Chief. Ald. Lockett shared yes, he has a contract with Markham 8 years before he was Mayor and he has been his friend for 40 years. Ald. Lockett then shared with the recent shootings in CCHills there have been multiple shootings in other municipalities the southland by people who come to the towns that we need to get out of out our town. He shared this is another reason the city is monitoring the rental program.

Alderman Edwards shared if it was so free the City Council should have had their names on the flyers, notification should have been done via water bills, decisions should have been made by all members not just two. He asked for emergency work on potholes and street repairs. He also shared he was disappointed with the park building at the football stadium. He then shared he was with Ald. Evans during the meeting and he saw great concern with the development and certain concessions should have been put in place. He would like something in writing regarding street repairs. He has been waiting for a list.

Mayor Ford shared he has heard a lot of complaints from residents and the EPA has not found the issues brought forth by the residents. Mayor asked for professional certifications made regarding the HVAC, pool concerns etc. He shared there is no asbestos in the soil per the EPA. Mayor Ford continued to share information and was interrupted and some were asked to leave the meeting.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Lockett moved for adjournment. Second, Alderman Spivey. Discussion – none.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3 Ayes: Alderman Lockett, Davis and Alderman Edwards

0 Nays:

0 Abstain:

2 Absent: Alderman Spivey and Alderwoman Evans

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

The Meeting adjourned at 7:48pm

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia D. Hutson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Patricia D. Hutson, City Clerk

Nina Guzzo, Recording Secretary