



REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

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

Monday, March 14, 2022 at 7:00 PM

In light of the recently lifted COVID restrictions the City of Country Club Hills does not have any protocols in place requiring facial masks. Please be advised temperature checks are required for admittance.

1a. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of allegiance was presented by all in attendance and lead by Mayor Ford.

1. INVOCATION – CLERGY OR DESIGNEE

Invocation was presented by Pastor Peter Dorn of the St. John Lutheran Church and School of Country Club Hills who prayed for peace in our world and prayed for our first responders, soldiers, Ukraine, Russia, the council and the city.

2. 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 7:06p.m. The meeting was called to order by the Honorable James W. Ford, Mayor

3. ROLL CALL – PATRICIA D. HUTSON, CITY CLERK

Those on Roll Call answering present were:

Alderman Lockett, Alderwoman Evans, Alderman Spivey, Alderman Edwards and Mayor Ford. Also present were City Administrator Carl Estelle and the Administrative Team.

Excused as Absent – Alderman Davis

4. JOURNAL PROCEEDINGS

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

A. Approval - Regular City Council Meeting Minutes 02.28.2022

Alderman Lockett moved for City Council approval of the 02.28.2022 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes. Second, Alderwoman Evans. Discussion – Alderman Edwards shared there meeting minutes reflected 19,500 residents and it should have read 19,500 Mayors. Clerk Hutson acknowledged their previous discussion and agreed the change will be made to the meeting minutes.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: 4 Alderman Lockett, Evans, Spivey and Edwards

Nays: 0

Abstains: 0

Absent: 1 Alderman Davis

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 asked Interim Fire Chief Hullinger to come before the City Council to share information on the collaborative diversity program between the Country Club Hills Fire Department and Prairie State College. Mayor Ford also shared in the southland there have been challenges in hiring minorities for the Fire Department. Mayor Ford shared that Prairie State College has established a program and Chief Hullinger will tell everyone what she is doing to bridge the gap in diversity with the Fire Department to acquire qualified minority participants. Chief Hullinger shared systemically nationwide and locally there is a shortage of qualified firefighters, paramedics and EMT's. There is a problem with recruitment and retention also focusing on minorities. It is the goal of the Country Club Hills Fire Department to recruit, and train interested minority candidates who are interested minority candidates in Country Club Hills and underserved and at risk communities in the southland and to Chicago. Country Club Hills has partnered with Prairie State College to help support a statewide grant called the Workforce Equity Initiative (WEI) Program. The program focuses on expanding opportunities for minorities. Through the WEI program the books and the tuition, books and lab fees are all paid for through Prairie State College. Prairie State College is continuously working to secure grant money to grow this program. There is a recruitment camp that will be coning in June for High school seniors or above at an employable age. At the camp candidates will be placed in gear, they will be exposed to the city's burn tower facility and a they will be exposed to EMS because requirements are for Firefighter/EMT or Firefighter/Paramedic. Prairie State has secured great funding for this program as they continue to secure additional funding to again grow this wonderful program. Chief Hullinger then shared an impactful letter from a recent participant/graduate. She shared she was hopeful this letter would reflect the success and warrants the continuation and support of this program. The letter began with thanks and appreciation to Chief Hullinger for the opportunity to be a candidate and participate with this program to benefit the Country Club Hills Fire Department as a student with Prairie State College. The letter shared the program was challenging yet rewarding and shared a clear behind the scenes view of actual professionals. The letter went on to say the personal stories, sharing of extensive knowledge and mentorship from the firefighters gave them a view to appreciate the brotherhood and its' bond. The letter continued to share the door reaching, the ladder utilization, pulling hoses, treating

victims and extinguishing fires were valuable lessons that will be carried on forever. The graduate again shared their appreciation from the Country Club Hills Fire Department. Lastly, the letter shared thank you is insufficient to express their gratitude as other departments turn the individual down and Country Club Hills took a chance, welcomed and allowed the graduate in. The graduate will continue their hard work and diligence to make Chief Hullinger and the department proud of their decision. The graduate also shared these experiences are lifelong and greatly appreciates this program. Alderman Lockett asked if there was an age limit. Chief Hullinger shared they will take high school seniors but it can be challenging due to the night time class hours and weekend requirements. Chief shared the maximum age would be 35 because you can't of department testing. Alderman Spivey asked to reiterate high school senior to age 35 and Chief confirmed. Chief Hullinger also shared she would like to include giving those under the age of high school seniors exposure to the profession. Mayor Ford shared this individual lives in the city of Country Club Hills and Chief Hullinger confirmed yes and graduated with high honors. Alderman Spivey shared maybe one day we can have him come before the city council. Chief Hullinger then shared information on a program that whereas the individual will go to the fire academy, graduate then go to EMT or go to EMT, graduate and go to the fire academy which will make students employable to departments in two semesters. Alderman Lockett inquired about the fire explorer cadet program. Chief shared it was a boy scout program that was challenging due to staffing problems and she may revisit it in the future.

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

City Clerk Hutson shared a reminder about the Rich Township Senior Luncheon Thursday March 17th from 12pm to 2pm, pre-registration is required and flyers are in the lobby. Clerk Hutson also shared license plate sticker renewals are available online and the current stickers do not have expiration dates or individual identifiers at this time due to software issues from the Secretary of State's Officer.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

A. Approval - Vouchers as of 03.14.2022

Alderman Lockett moved for City Council approval of vouchers in the amount of \$618,854.08 when funds are available. Second, Alderwoman Evans. Discussion – None.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: 4 Alderman Lockett, Evans, Spivey and Edwards

Nays: 0

Abstains: 0

Absent: 1 Alderman Davis

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

B. Approval - Purchase of a 2021 and a 2022 Ford Escape for the Police Department

Alderman Lockett moved for City Council approval to purchase a 2021 and a 2022 Ford Escape for the Police Department. Seconded by Alderman Spivey. Discussion – None.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: 4 Alderman Lockett, Evans, Spivey and Edwards

Nays: 0

Abstains: 0

Absent: 1 Alderman Davis

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

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

Alderwoman Evans shared she will hold her next meeting Thursday April 7th at 5:30pm

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

A. Approval - To Move Forward With The Grant Funded Water SCADA Improvements Phase 2 Project

Alderman Lockett moved for City Council approval to Move Forward With the Grant Funded Water SCADA Improvements Phase 2 Project. Seconded, Alderwoman Evans. Discussion – None.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: 4 Alderman Lockett, Evans, Spivey and Edwards

Nays: 0

Abstains: 0

Absent: 1 Alderman Davis

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

B. Approval - 2022 CDBG Resolution and Certification

Alderman Lockett moved for City Council approval to Move Forward With the Grant Funded Water SCADA Improvements Phase 2 Project. Seconded, Alderwoman Evans. Discussion – None.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: 4 Alderman Lockett, Evans, Spivey and Edwards

Nays: 0

Abstains: 0

Absent: 1 Alderman Davis

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

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

A. Approval - The Cubes Project Plat of Easement & Dedication

Alderman Spivey moved for City Council approval of the Cubes Project of Easement and Dedication Certificate. Second, Alderman Lockett. Discussion – None.

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

Alderman Edwards shared he will hold his committee meeting Thursday April 7th at 5:00pm and he recently met with SD#228 and is working on the Career Day format.

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 Spivey. Discussion – none.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: 4 Alderman Lockett, Evans, Spivey and Edwards

Nays: 0

Abstains: 0

Absent: 1 Alderman Davis

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

9. PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

There were no members of the public body requesting to be recognized or speak during the open floor portion.

10. MOTION TO CLOSE FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: 4 Alderman Lockett, Evans, Spivey and Edwards

Nays: 0

Abstains: 0

Absent: 1 Alderman Davis

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

11. ALDERMANIC REPORTS

Alderman Lockett asked everyone to pray for our youth. He shared there was a mom who was recently killed when her 3 year old found a gun in the car. He shared juveniles are out of hand and need help. He then shared there were 5 youth who were picked up earlier today after a carjacking on 167th St. and unfortunately they're probably at home by now.

Alderwoman Evans did not have a report

Alderman Spivey shared he will work with Public Works to address the numerous potholes and street lights that are out in the 4th Ward.

Alderman Edwards shared Youth Baseball registration is in progress along with other youth activities. He shared there are flyers in the lobby and information on the city website.

Mayor Ford then shared the basketball rims will be up next month and the city looks forward to opening the new Country Club Hills Resource Center on Cicero and Flossmoor in the coming month. The Resource Center will be available for senior services and family events.

12. ADJOURNMENT

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: 4 Alderman Lockett, Evans, Spivey and Edwards

Nays: 0

Abstains: 0

Absent: 1 Alderman Davis

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

The Meeting adjourned at 7:21pm

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia D. Hutson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Patricia" being more prominent and the last name "Hutson" following in a similar style.

Patricia D. Hutson, City Clerk