



REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

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

Monday, May 12, 2025 at 7:00 PM

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 7:00PM. The meeting was called to order by the Honorable Mayor James W. Ford.

1a. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was presented by all in attendance and led by Mayor James W. Ford.

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

Those on Roll Call answering present were:

Alderman Lockett, Davis, Spivey, Edwards, Hutson and Mayor James W. Ford.

Also in attendance was City Treasurer Burris, the City Attorney and the Administrative Team

3. INVOCATION – CLERGY OR DESIGNEE

The invocation was shared by Pastor Vincent E. Lockett Jr.

4. JOURNAL PROCEEDINGS

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

- A. Approval - Regular Meeting Minutes of the City Council March 24, 2025**

Alderman Lockett moved for City Council approval of the Regular City Council Meeting of March 24, 2025. Second by Alderman Hutson. Discussion-None.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: 5 Alderman Lockett, Davis, Spivey, Edwards and Hutson
Nays: 0
Abstains: 0
Absent: 0

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

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

A. Approval - Removal of the FY 2025.2026 Draft Budget from the Table

Alderman Lockett moved for City Council approval to remove the FY 2025.2026 Draft Budget from the Table. Second by Alderman Davis. Discussion – None

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: 5 Alderman Lockett, Davis, Spivey, Edwards and Hutson
Nays: 0
Abstains: 0
Absent: 0

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

B. Approval - Public Hearing - FY 2025-2026 Budget

Alderman Lockett moved for City Council approval to open the floor for the Public Hearing for the FY 2025-2026 Budget. Second by – Alderman Davis. Discussion – None

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: 5 Alderman Lockett, Davis, Spivey, Edwards and Hutson
Nays: 0
Abstains: 0
Absent: 0

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

Public Hearing Portion

Hosea Gray, resident, of the third ward shared their \$7,000,000 in the water system improvement fee, their salaries, executive salaries are high, in 2021 there was \$119,000 for executive salaries and now in 2024 it starts at 136,000 and over the three years there was a 15% increase a \$5000 increase in the administrative budget period debt service has a revenue when did the revenue come from \$1 million in overtime with the Police Department where did this come from and with the legislative branch there will be a tax levy sent to the clerk's office.

Clifton Graham, resident, there was a \$2.5 loss retention. He was concerned regarding sales tax because of COVID. Why should we maintain this extra sales tax. Country Club Hills will be the highest sales tax in the Southland. No one of this is looking at the budget . Cannabis tax is \$16,000 and the city has a \$46 million debt. There's a \$773,000 transferred to the Park District for \$36,000 in programs. There's no line item in the budget for and life insurance for Alderman.

Alderman Lockett moved for City Council approval to close the floor to the Public Hearing. Second by Alderman Hutson. Discussions – None

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: 5 Alderman Lockett, Davis, Spivey, Edwards and Hutson
 Nays: 0
 Abstains: 0
 Absent: 0

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

C. Approval - An Ordinance adopting the FY 2025-2026 Annual Budget Commencing May 1, 2025 through April 30, 2026

Alderman Lockett moved for City Council approval to amend the Budget to include the Assistant Fire Chief. Second by Alderman Davis. Discussion – Alderman Davis shared this does not change the dollar amount.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: 5 Alderman Lockett, Davis, Spivey, Edwards and Hutson
 Nays: 0
 Abstains: 0
 Absent: 0

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

Alderman Lockett moved for City Council approval of An Ordinance adopting the FY 2025-2026 Annual Budget as Amended Commencing May 1, 2025 through April 30, 2026. Second by Alderman Davis. Discussion - Alderman Hutson shared for the next budget he would like to meet with all of the department heads prior to approval.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: 5 Alderman Lockett, Davis, Spivey, Edwards and Hutson
Nays: 0
Abstains: 0
Absent: 0

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

D. Approval - Accounts Payables as of May 12, 2025

Alderman Lockett moved for City Council approval of accounts payables in the amount of \$1,1163,199.18 as of May 12, 2025. Second by Alderman Davis. Discussion - none.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: 5 Alderman Lockett, Davis, Spivey, Edwards and Hutson
Nays: 0
Abstains: 0
Absent: 0

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

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

A. Approval - A Resolution seeking Rebuild Illinois Bond Funds for Road Improvements

Alderman Davis moved for City Council approval of a Resolution R-20-25 seeking Rebuild Illinois Bond Funds for Road Improvements in the amount of \$1,090,116.96. Second by, Alderman Lockett. Discussion – Alderman Davis shared information on the upcoming Branch Pick-up May 17th – May 19th.

6. MOTION TO OPEN THE FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC

Alderman Edwards moved for City Council approval to open the floor to the public. Second by Alderman Hutson. Discussions – None

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: 5 Alderman Lockett, Davis, Spivey, Edwards and Hutson
Nays: 0
Abstains: 0
Absent: 0

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

7. PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

Hosea Gray, resident asked if this budget is going downtown with the amendments included.

Clifton Graham, resident, shared 6 Police Officers are paid less than the CSO's at \$40,000. He then asked why invest \$800,000 in the CRC and \$10,000 in activities exist. He then asked why the events coordinator made \$90,000? He then shared the theater has 1.5 million and not generating anything where are the items for health and life insurance?

J'Arnay Harris spoke on behalf of Cook County Commissioner McCaskill of the 5th District. She shared she would like to assist in any way possible with the city of Country Club Hills.

Sequoia Williams, resident, encouraged all to attend the SD #160 Board Meeting May 20th on behalf of children.

Nancy Switzer, resident, asked what the Events Coordinator does?

Curtis Harris, resident, shared his appreciation for the extraordinary service rendered to him by the Country Club Hills Fire Department as he was recently in need of their services.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: 5 Alderman Lockett, Davis, Spivey, Edwards and Hutson
Nays: 0
Abstains: 0
Absent: 0

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

8. MOTION TO CLOSE FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC

Alderman Hutson moved for City Council approval to close the floor to the public. Second by Alderman Davis. Discussions – None

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: 5 Alderman Lockett, Davis, Spivey, Edwards and Hutson
Nays: 0
Abstains: 0
Absent: 0

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

9. MAYORAL PRESENTATION

Mayor Ford presented in appreciation plaque to Alderman Vincent Lockett of the 2nd Ward and thanked him for his 20 years of service with perfect attendance for Council meetings. Mayor Ford then thanked and recognized Alderman John Edwards for his years of service and dedication to the 1st Ward with a plaque as well. Alderman Lockett shared his appreciation and thanked the residents for allowing him to serve. Alderman Edwards thanked the residents for allowing him to serve as well he shared that he was an over 40-year resident and he over his term he raised \$7,500 for students including 30 gift cards for school districts 144, 160, 228 and 227. Mayor Ford then noted a break in the meeting as all were directed to the council chambers for the 2025 Election Certification Swearing in Ceremonies as the business portion was held on the lower level of City Hall.

10. SWEARING - IN CEREMONY

Mayor Ford thanked everyone for their patience and congratulated all of the Re-Elected and Newly Elected Officials who were certified by the Office of the Cook County Clerk.

City Clerk Patricia D. Hutson called for each Ward in order and elected official by name as they were sworn in and presented with their Official Certification from the Office of the Cook County Clerk along with a Certification issued by the City of Country Club Hills. Preceding Judges Swearing – In the Oath of Offices were Honorable Judge Michael Stutley, Honorable Judge Tracie Porter, Honorable Judge Rivanda Doss and Honorable Judge E. Kennet Wright Jr.

1st Ward Alderman - Newly Elected Deidra N. Strothers

2nd Ward Alderman – Newly Elected Vincent E. Lockett Jr.

3rd Ward Alderman – Re-Elected Tyrone K. Hutson

4th Ward Alderman – Re-Elected Ricardo D. Spivey

5th Ward Alderman – Re-Elected Anthony J. Davis

Jennifer Braun-Denton Park Board Commissioner

Leroy C. Barnes Jr. Park Board Commissioner

As the Elected Officials were sworn in they proceeded to take their seats on the diocese.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Davis moved for adjournment. Second by Alderman Spivey. Discussion – None

Clerk Hutson called for Roll Call as Lockett, Davis, Spivey, Strothers and Hutson and was corrected by Alderman Hutson that the call was out of order and not by seniority. Clerk Hutson then recalled the vote as follows:

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: 5 Alderman Davis, Spivey, Hutson, Lockett and Strothers

Nays: 0

Abstains: 0

Absent: 0

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia D. Hutson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning.

Respectfully submitted by,

Patricia D. Hutson, City Clerk, RMC, CMC