



REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

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

Monday, June 23, 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 7:06PM. 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 Davis, Spivey, Hutson, Lockett, Strothers 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 Lelewellyn Dixon of Jubilee Faith Community Church, 17450 Crawford.

4. JOURNAL PROCEEDINGS

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Approval - Administrative Meeting Minutes of the City Council for May 22 2025

Approval - Regular Meeting Minutes of the City Council for June 9, 2025

Alderman Davis moved for City Council approval of an Administrative City Council Meeting May 22, 2025 and Regular City Council Meeting Minutes June 9, 2025. Second, Alderman Spivey. Discussion-None.

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.

5. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS BY MAYOR FORD:

Presentation of a Resolution Honoring Carmen Lemons of Lem's BBQ on the Occasion of Receiving the 2025 James Beard Award

Mayor Ford shared congratulations to longtime resident of the 5th Ward Carmen Lemons owner of Lem's BBQ a staple in the City of Chicago's southside for the family's service over many years for receiving the prestigious 2025 James Beard Award which is a high achieving honor in the restaurant industry. Mayor Ford then introduced Alderman Anthony Davis who continued to congratulate Mrs. Lemons and shared the accolades of Lem's and its' history with all who were in attendance. Alderman Davis read the following article:

The James Beard Awards committee bestowed an America's Classics Award on South Side icon and trailblazer in Chicago barbecue, Lem's Bar-B-Q, today — cementing its status nationally as a cultural touchstone.

The restaurant institution was established by brothers Myles and Bruce Lemons in 1954, and James B. Lemons in 1968, who created what are arguably Chicago's most famous rib tips, slathered in an equally coveted secret recipe, smoky, tangy vinegar sauce. Lem's also uses another Chicago-style barbecue approach: an aquarium smoker, fed with hickory wood and charcoal to give the restaurant's rib tips, and hot links their flavor.

"Signature flavors, a lasting legacy, and a deep commitment to their community are what make Lem's Bar-B-Q truly special," the committee writes in a release. "For over seven decades, Lem's has not only served an iconic barbecue but also built a reputation for excellence and service that has stood the test of time."

City Clerk Patricia D. Hutson then read and presented a Resolution to Ms. Lemons from Mayor Ford and the City Council in celebration. Congratulations were shared by all in attendance and photographs were taken with Mayor Ford and the City Council.

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

Clerk Hutson shared a clarification with meeting minutes that were mentioned during the public forum that may have been missing. She shared the meeting schedule for April 14th had been rescheduled and all meeting minutes were up to date on the website.

7. CITY COLLECTOR'S REPORT – PATRICIA D. HUTSON, CITY COLLECTOR

City Collector's Report as of May 31, 2025

City Collector Patricia D. Hutson shared the Collector's Report was in the Aldermen's packets and if there were any questions to please let her know.

8. CITY TREASURER'S REPORT – STEVEN R. BURRIS, CITY TREASURER

City Treasurer's Report as of May 31, 2025

City Treasurer Steven R. Burris shared the monthly balance as of May 31st was \$21,779,854.76. He then shared the revenue collected with \$2,468,185.76., he then shared the disbursements were \$2,654,215.40. And lastly, the current bank balance was \$21,593,825.12. Treasurer Burris then shared per question from a member of the public body at the last City Council Meeting the balance of the Water System Improvement Fee was asked and per his FOIA the balance is \$661,844.68.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Approval - Accounts Payables as of June 23, 2025

Alderman Davis moved of City Council approval of accounts payables as of June 23rd, 2025 in the amount of. \$650,854.84. Second by. Alderman Spivey. Discussions - none.

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.

Approval - To enter into a Service Agreement with Revize Web Services for the purpose of web development of the City's website.

Alderman Davis moved of City Council approval to enter into a Service Agreement with Revize Web Services for the purpose of web development of the City's website. Second by. Alderman Hutson. Discussions – Ald. Davis shared the website has been in need of revisions and the first year is \$28,275.00, and the annual hosting fee will be \$9,425.00. Alderman Strothers inquired as to the dates on p. 33 which listed the same date twice. Alderman Davis shared that he was certain that was a typo and it will be corrected.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: 4 Alderman Davis, Spivey, Hutson and Lockett

Nays: 0

Abstains: 1 Alderman Strothers

Absent: 0

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

Law, Ordinance, Government Operations & Contract – Alderman Hutson, Chairman
(Committee Meeting – TBA)

Alderman Hutson shared all committee members for the Law and Ordinance Committee have received their packets in preparation for a law and ordinance meeting, which is scheduled for Thursday at 7:00pm regarding various Ordinance Amendments..

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

Approval - Bid for Fertilization & Weed Control

Alderman Lockett moved for City Council approval of the successful Bidder “From the Ground Up” for Fertilization and Weed Control. Second by Alderman Hutson. Discussions- None

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.

Approval - Bids for Aquatic Weed & Algae Control

Alderman Lockett moved for City Council approval of the successful Bidder "From the Ground Up" for Aquatic Weed and Algae Control. Second by Alderman Hutson. Discussions- None

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.

Approval - Bid for Wetland/Pond Maintenance

Alderman Lockett moved for City Council approval of the successful Bidder "Property Management Group" for Wetland/Pond Maintenance. Second by Alderman Hutson. Discussions- None

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

Alderman Lockett moved for City Council approval to table the Janitorial Bids at this time. Second by Alderman Spivey. Discussion – none

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

Approval - Janitorial Bids for City Hall, Theater Green Room and Amphitheater

Approval - Janitorial Bids for Country Club Hills Police Department

Approval - Janitorial Bids for Community Recreation Center and the Ford Resource Center

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

No Report

Education, Parks and Recs – Alderman Strothers, Chairman
(Committee Meeting – TBA)

Alderman Strothers shared the Education Parks and Recs Committee will meet Wednesday July 9, 2025 at 7pm.

10. MOTION TO OPEN THE FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC

Alderman Hutson moved for City Council approval to open the floor to the public. Second by Alderman Spivey. 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.

11. PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

Geraldine Butler shared her concerns regarding a concrete slab in her backyard, which she was told needs to be 10 by 12. She put in a request. And left messages. Regarding this matter. She also shared that she would like to see more gospel concerts such as Marvin Sapp. The mayor responded and asked her to please share those recommendations.

Nancy Switzer. Shared she apologized to Clerk Hutson. She then proceeded to ask how the three bids control the weeds. She hopes there are no herbicides and shared that this item was tabled last month. Period. She then proceeded to talk about the wetlands. Lastly she asked if the EPA had been contacted.

Phyllis Mitchell shared her concerns about stray cats that were on her roof. She wants to know if there's anything that can be done about it. She was told they were put out to control mice and snakes. She then was told to use vinegar, tobacco or coyote urine and none of them worked. Mayor Ford then responded we'll try to get an answer to your questions. She then proceeded to direct her questions to Alderman's Strothers regarding the cats.

Harry Jones, Jr. shared his concern about the speed bumps and asked why it's so difficult to put them down in time before Memorial Day and then pull them up before Halloween. He shared speeding is a terrible in Country Club Hills and he wanted to know how the PD can control this. Lastly, he shared he's not looking for reinforcement, but he would like to see DPW address this along with the Police Department.

Ralph Bellamy shared the city offers free transit service for seniors in collaboration with Rich Township. He then asked how many people knew about the program. Four people raised their hands. He then the transportation is offered for medical and shopping.

12. MOTION TO CLOSE FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC

Alderman Hutson moved for City Council approval to close the floor to the public. Second by Alderman Spivey. 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.

13. ALDERMANIC REPORTS

Alderman Hutson. Thank the Police Department for the invitation to participate in the annual Torch Run for which the temperature was 95° last Tuesday. He shared he had a great time with the officers and enjoyed participating. He then shared the 3rd Ward meeting will be held Wednesday at 7:00pm at City Hall. Next, he shared Thursday, the Law and Ordinance Committee will meet at City Hall at 7:00pm. He then shared Bible verse Matthew 5:3. Lastly he shared, if you see something, say something dial the non-emergency Police Department number at 708-206-2889.

Alderman Lockett thanked all the residents of the 2nd Ward for electing him. He then asked everyone to check on your neighbors and friends and reiterated as Alderman Hutson said, if you see something, say something and please report it. Lastly, he shared. A reminder of the \$2000 fine for illegal fireworks and the city will have fireworks on July 4th at the Amphitheater, where the gates will open at 6:00 PM and the fireworks will begin at dusk.

Alderman Davis acknowledged Alderman Lockett's presence in the audience and shared how he misses his humor. He then shared to Mr. Jones he too has asked for the speed bumps as he's received numerous texts regarding that along with speeding on 186th St. He shared he advised the Police Chief and Public Works as well. Lastly, he shared he will continue to advocate for more speed bumps and hopes that people will slow down.

Alderman Spivey thanked everyone for coming out. He then thanked the Public Works department for putting the speed bumps out and he will continue to speak with them regarding more speed bumps.

Alderman Struthers shared the Police Department is a 24hr cooling station and thanked residents for electing her.

Mayor Ford then shared. Information regarding the transportation. He said there are two vans and the city entered into an intergovernmental agreement with Rich Township for the last two years. He would like people to please utilize these services.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Davis moved for adjournment. Second by Alderman Spivey. 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.

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia D. Hutson", written in a cursive style.

Respectfully submitted by,

Patricia D. Hutson, City Clerk, RMC, CMC