



**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL
MEETING
MINUTES**

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

Monday, February 23, 2026 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 7:03 PM. 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 Jr., Strothers and Mayor James W. Ford.

Alderman Spivey arrived at 7:06pm

Also in attendance were City Treasurer Burris, City Administrator Mitchell, and the Administrative Team.

3. INVOCATION – CLERGY OR DESIGNEE

The invocation was presented by Leroy Barnes, resident and Parks and Recs Commissioner.

4. JOURNAL PROCEEDINGS

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Approval - Regular Meeting Minutes of January 26, 2026 and February 9, 2026

Alderman Davis moved for City Council approval to of the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes January 26, 2026 and February 9. 2026. Second by Alderman Lockett Jr. Discussion – none.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ayes: 4 Alderman Davis, Hutson, Lockett Jr. and Strothers

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 1 Alderman Spivey

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

5. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS BY MAYOR JAMES W. FORD:

Mayor Ford shared information from the Country Club Hills Fire Department regarding roof top solar panels. The Fire Dept has determined that roof top solar panels have created a danger as the conductivity creates the danger of shocks. The Fire Department will be able to service properties with roof top solar panels. Mayor Ford then thanked Doreen Marlowe and all who assisted with the Black History Program including Pastor Rashaun Pitts the co-host and Tuskegee Airman Victor Crowell.

6. CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT - BRIAN D. MITCHELL

City Administrator Mitchell shared his appreciation to Doreen Marlowe on her hard work with the Black History Program. He also thanked the Elected Officials for coming out. He shared the event was a success and very well attended.

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

City Clerk Hutson shared as Black History Month, which is Federally recognized, is near its end let us be reminded that Black History Month is recognized every month. She then shared Black History Month stands on the shoulders of Black Women. Mary Church Terrell pushed for Douglas Day Celebrations in 1897 to honor Frederick Douglas. In Chicago Vivian G. Harsh, (Chicago Public Library's First African American Librarian in 1924)Vivian G. Harsh Research Collection lead one of the Nation's largest Black History Collections and held the Negro History week program. Elizabeth Coleman (First Female Black Woman to earn a Pilot's License). Madeline Stratton Morris created the first Black History curriculum for CPS in 1942. Clerk Hutson then shared a list of Pivotal Points in Black History. Red lining, Black Wall Street- 1921 Tulsa Massacre, Seneca Village now Central Park in New York, Edmund Pettis Bridge, Representative John Lewis" Good Trouble ", Underground Railroad, Brown vs Board of Education, Freedom Rider Miller

Green, March on Washington, President Barack Obama, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and, Rev. Jesse Jackson Senior. She then shared there were 2 Voter Registration Drives one in January and February 12th. She thanked Mike Kuta DPW, Dr. Booker IT, Anese, Juanita and Myra Deputy Registrars who volunteered. Lastly, she shared Early Voting begins March 2nd a list of locations are online and in the lobby of City Hall.

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

City Collector's Report as of January 31, 2026

Collector Hutson shared the revenue for the month of January 2026 was \$2,117,608.42 and if there were any questions to please let her know.

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

City Treasurer's Report as of January 31, 2026

Treasurer Burris shared the bank balance as of January 31st was \$19,682,745.38, the revenue collected in January was \$2,117,608.42, the disbursements were \$2,817,670.94 and the current bank balance is \$19,042,682.86.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance, Insurance, & Risk Management – Alderman Anthony J. Davis, Chairman
(Committee Meeting – February 23, 2026 6:15pm)

Approval - Accounts Payables as of February 23, 2026

Alderman Davis moved for City Council approval of Accounts Payables as of November 24, 2025 in the amount of \$368,071.10. Second by Alderman Hutson. Discussion - Alderman Hutson voted no for Sunset and Alex Plumbing and yes to all other items.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ayes: 5 Alderman Davis, Spivey, Hutson, Lockett Jr. and Strothers

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0

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

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

Alderman Hutson shared the Law and Ordinance Committee met last week and documents are in preparation by Attorney Murphey for an upcoming City Council meeting.

Public Works and Utilities – Alderman Vincent E. Lockett Jr., Chairman
(Committee Meeting – TBA)

Alderman Lockett Jr. shared he had no report at this time.

Economic Development & Planning, Zoning & Development – Alderman Ricardo D. Spivey,
Chairman
(Committee Meeting – March 11, 2026 at 7pm)

Alderman Spivey shared an Economic Development Committee meeting will be held March 11 at 7pm.

Education, Parks and Recs – Alderman Deidra N. Strothers, Chairman
(Committee Meeting – March 12th 4pm)

Alderman Strothers shared an Education Parks and Recs Committee Meeting will be held March 12th at 4pm.

11. MOTION TO OPEN THE FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC

Alderman Spivey moved for City Council approval to open the floor to the public. Second by Alderman Strothers. Discussion – None.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ayes: 5 Alderman Davis, Spivey, Hutson, Lockett Jr. and Strothers

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0

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

of Proceedings this date.

12. PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

Dionna with the Hillcrest Hawks H.S. Dance team came to thank everyone for their donations for the recent dance competition in Springfield.

Nadary Petrkah shared his mother owns several properties in Country Club Hills, one her tenants moved out and she is unable to rent her property due to the moratorium issued by the Mayor's Office. He came to ask the City Council for reconsideration per his meeting with Mayor Ford.

Clifton Graham, resident, asked if the Public Works Bid was held? Mayor responded yes it was.

13. MOTION TO CLOSE FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC

Alderman Strothers moved for City Council approval to close the floor to the public. Second by Alderman Spivey. Discussion – None.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ayes: 5 Alderman Davis, Spivey, Hutson, Lockett Jr. and Strothers

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0

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

of Proceedings this date.

14. ALDERMANIC REPORTS

Alderman Strothers shared the Education, Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting will take place on Thursday, March 12th 4pm at City Hall. She then shared her congratulations to the Hillcrest Hawks and the dance team on their many wins. Lastly, she shared Early voting has begun and she voted at Markham courthouse located 16501 Kedzie Ave.

Alderman Spivey shared his congratulations to the Hillcrest Hawks and thanked the Commissioners and Doreen for the Black History Program. Lastly, he then thanked Mike Kuta for restoring the lights in his ward and awaits the remaining lights to be repaired all due to the AT&T fiber optics program.

Mayor Ford then shared his frustration with AT&T as they have hired a vendor to install the fiber optic cables, and 7 city lights have been damaged, and they city will have to pay for repairs. He shared these are expensive repairs and he will require entities to register and post a bond before digging.

Alderman Davis asked for a moment of silence for an over 30-year resident Mr. Michel Lee Sr. Alderman Davis then recognized Mayor Ford as the First African American Mayor of the City of Country Club Hills. Alderman Davis then recognized his daughter Casey Davis as the first student-athlete in Roosevelt University's history to have their number retired. The two-time All-American and program's all-time leading scorer had her No. 15 retired in a ceremony February 22, 2025.

Alderman Lockett Jr. shared he held his first 2nd Ward meeting last week. Some of the concerns were regarding the installation date for speed bumps which will be mid to late April, Amphitheater which will be forthcoming BP Bike Path which is also forthcoming and will beautify the city and provide safety for bikers and walkers. Lastly, a 2nd Ward picnic which will also be held as the weather is permissible.

Alderman Hutson asked for a moment of Rose Marie Porche' a city employee who recently passed away. He then addressed Alderman Spivey's concern regarding AT&T. He shared he met one of the Directors with AT&T and he is willing to come in to meet regarding the program. Alderman Hutson thanked the Fire Department for their ongoing service provided through this incredible cold snap as they continue to fight fires in Country Club Hills. Alderman Hutson then thanked Dorren and all who assisted with the Black History Program. He encouraged everyone to continue to check on their family, friends and neighbors with the challenging weather conditions. Alderman Hutson then read bible verse I Peter 4:16. Lastly, Alderman Hutson shared if you see something say something. Please call the non-emergency line on 708-206-2889.

Mayor Ford then congratulated Treasurer Burris on the birth of his granddaughter.

Mayor Ford, Alderman Davis, Alderman Spivey, Alderman Hutson, Alderman Lockett Jr., Alderman Strothers, Treasurer Burris, Administrator Mitchell and City Clerk Hutson then read in succession a poem "The Strength of the African American Family" to close out the Celebration of Black History Month.

The Strength of the African American Family

Rooted deep in sacred soil,
Watered by tears that history could not destroy
The African American family stands—
Unbroken, unbowed and unafraid.

From cotton fields to college halls,
From whispered prayers to freedom calls,
We carried hope in calloused hands
And built our dreams with faith as mortar.

Grandmothers hum hymns in the kitchen light,
Seasoning wisdom into every bite.
Grandfathers speak in steady tones,
Planting courage in tender bones.

Mothers—soft but steel inside—
Hold the world with patient pride.
Fathers rise before the sun,
Teaching children how strength is done.

Children laugh like liberation songs,
Learning where their roots belong.
They wear their melanin like crowns,
Turning trials into stepping grounds.

We gather close in Sunday's best,
In church pews or at Sunday rest,
Where stories of struggle softly blend
With jokes that only kinfolk send.

We are rhythm, We are grace.
We are memory time can't erase.

Through every storm we testify—
Still we rise, still we try.
For in our blood runs legacy,
A tapestry of dignity.

The African American family—
Not perfect, but powerful and true—
A living testament of love
That keeps breaking through.

Amen

15. ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Spivey. moved for City Council adjournment. Second by Alderman Strothers. Discussion – None.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ayes: 5 Alderman Davis, Spivey, Hutson, Lockett Jr. and Strothers

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm

Respectfully submitted by

Patricia D. Hutson, City Clerk, RMC, CMC

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