

**JOURNAL OF PROCEEDING
OF THE
MEETING, SEPTEMBER 10, 2013**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Blue Island was called to order by Mayor Vargas at 7:00 p.m. on September 10, 2013.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Roll Call indicates the following:

Present: 13 Ald. Carr, Ostling, Pittman, Johnson (7:15),
Frausto, Thompson, Johanson, Hawley,
Vieyra, Bilotto, Rita, Donahue, Stone.

Absent: 1 Ald. Buckner

Present Also: Randy Heuser, City Clerk
City Attorney, Carey Horvath

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDING

Moved by Ald. Hawley, second by Ald. Carr the Journal of Proceedings for the Regular Meeting on August 27, 2013 is accepted as printed.

Ayes: 13 Ald. Carr, Ostling, Pittman, Frausto,
Thompson, Johanson, Hawley, Vieyra,
Bilotto, Rita, Donahue, Stone.

Nays: 0

Absent: 2 Ald. Johnson, Buckner

Abstain: 0

There being Twelve (12) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

**CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL
REGARDING THIS EVENINGS BUSINESS**

Pam Frasor of 12034 Maple Avenue stated that it has come to her attention that there is a resident in Blue Island who is constantly questioning her pension status. She wants everyone to know that her pension follows the ordinance appropriately. She makes no more, no less than any other retiree. The second thing she brought up was the same resident accusing her of single handily closing down the bridges. The bridges were closed down by IDOT and the state of Illinois. Ms. Frasor stated when she was an elected official she had to take a lot of abuse, but she is now a private citizen. If he continues this, she will be seeking legal counsel.

Joanne Davis of 2945 Everett Street, a fifty year resident of Blue Island, stressed her concerns with the city cancelling senior activities. She asked for what other departments were they going to cancel everything like they did for the senior office.

Mayor Vargas stated the Worth Township and Calumet Township along with the City will be addressing senior issues.

Ms. Davis had concerns with bad weather wellness checks.

The Mayor stated that Officer Slattery does wellness checks.

Ms. Davis disagreed and asked again what other department was being cancelled.

Mayor Vargas referred her to the finance committee.

Ald. Rita replied that they did not cancel any other department.

Mayor Vargas stated that the senior office was being reorganized and that they are looking at every single department.

Ald. Johanson stressed that Officer Slattery is doing senior work. He commended Officer Slattery on the tremendous job he is doing for the seniors in the community. Ald. Johanson did not want Officer Slattery's name to be disparaged against this.

Ald. Johanson went on to say that the seniors are still being serviced and are not being neglected.

Ald. Rita stated that this summer Officer Slattery as well as Deputy Chief Cornell set up different areas of the city for the

seniors to come and sign up in case of emergency they would have all their information. They are going to try to do it again and get more advertisement out there.

Willie Scott of 11917 Longwood Drive asked the mayor to treat seniors as he would like to be treated as an old man. Mr. Scott stated that seniors be taken care of because they have taken care of Blue Island. Mr. Scott stated that he had submitted a FOI request in 2012 regarding hiring practices in Blue Island and had yet to hear a response from the Judiciary Committee or the Mayor. Mr. Scott understands that budget cuts must be made but felt that the Rec Center was built there to accommodate blacks in the California Gardens. He feels they still deserve the services of that Rec Center.

Apolonia Alvarado of 13434 Western Avenue expressed her concerns over issues at Olde Western and Greenwood that are not being resolved. She asked for better communication between the alderman and the people.

Mayor Vargas offered to set up a meeting with Ms. Alvarado.

Allan Stevo of 2324 Union Street asked what the basis for the Flores vs. Blue Island suit and the Metro South vs. Blue Island law suit were.

Mayor Vargas stated he could not discuss it because it was pending litigation.

Allan Stevo asked when a Police Chief would be appointed.

The Mayor stated it is still in discussion.

David Prater of 2804 142nd Place thanked the Mayor, Aldermen, and Public Works for the fantastic job they did at Deer Point. He stated that as long as the community and city officials stick together they can get things done. Mr. Prater gave a special thanks to Frank Berrini, Superintendent of Public Works, for the great job he is doing.

Allan Stevo asked the Mayor and City Council to spend money in the best way possible because it is limited.

Joanne Davis inquired about hiring of family members, where job opening are posted, and where salaries of city employees are posted.

The Mayor, Ald. Johanson, and Ald. Thompson made it clear that they did not have any family members working for the city.

Seventh ward aldermen, Johanson and Thompson, thanked Public Works Superintendent Frank Berrini for his good work done on 119th Street. Also gave thanks to Mark Miller for his work.

Ald. Johnson voiced the complaints he received about the sound from the City Council. There was just music playing, no words.

City Clerk Randy Heusser stated they will follow up with Comcast.

REPORT OF CITY OFFICIALS

Mayor

Ald. Ostling wanted to know the chain of command in regards to the Building Department.

Mayor Vargas directed Ald. Ostling that Jason Berry is the person to contact.

Swearing in of Fire Chief Mark Luetz and Deputy Chief Klinker.

Appointment of Ken Pittman to the Municipal and Judiciary Committees.

Approval of professional services contract of Mark Kilgallon was tabled.

Ald. Johnson asked if they had considered having a forensic audit.

Mayor Vargas stated that they had and it had already been started.

Ald. Johnson asked the name of the firm.

Mayor Vargas stated it was the same firm they have been working with.

Motion by Ald. Donahue, second by Ald. Bilotto to approve the contract with John Kasperek Co., Inc., Certified Public Accountants.

Ayes: 13 Ald. Carr, Ostling, Pittman, Johnson,
Frausto, Thompson, Johanson, Hawley,
Vieyra, Bilotto, Rita, Donahue, Stone.

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 Ald. Buckner

Abstain: 0

There being Thirteen (13) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Ald. Johnson asked if there is any issue with the firm that presently represents the City of Blue Island and is the cost of the firm that wants to come in higher or lower than the firm we presently have.

Mayor Vargas stated there is no issue.

Ald. Stone had considerable questions about why they are not given adequate time to do research on this before a council meeting. She is concerned that other municipalities this law firm represents have had their fair share of legal problems which raises red flags. As an alderman it is her responsibility to represent not only her ward but the whole city with integrity and to the best of her abilities. She does not feel this appointment is in the best interest of her city.

Ald. Ostling expressed her concerns about city council's limited time and information for this appointment.

Motion by Ald. Rita, second by Ald. Johanson to approve Sanchez, Daniels & Hoffman, LLP & Shawnte Raines as city attorney.

Ayes: 10 Ald. Carr, Pittman, Frausto, Thompson,
Johanson, Hawley, Vieyra, Bilotto, Rita,
Donahue.

Nays: 3 Ald. Ostling, Johnson, Stone

Absent: 1 Ald. Buckner

Abstain: 0

TEN 10 1p

There being ~~Thirteen~~ (13) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Attorney Horvath addressed the city council, Mayor, audience, and residents to give thanks for the opportunity to represent them. He stated that hopefully at some point in time in the future they might have an opportunity to represent them again.

Ald. Donahue asked how long the extension would be for.

Nicholas Crite stated it would be 6 to 9 months based off of performance.

Ald. Rita asked how much it would cost the City.

Mr. Crite stated it would be of no cost to the City.

Ald. Johnson asked what seems to be the issue with completing this project.

Mr. Crite stated he doesn't foresee any more problems going forward.

Ald. Vieyra asked how this would affect the soccer fields.

The Mayor replied the soccer fields would not be touched.

Motion by Ald. Rita, second by Ald. Pittman to approve an extension of the agreement with Northlake and Associates (Darrick Scott) for the development of commercial property at 119th and Division.

Ayes: 13 Ald. Carr, Ostling, Pittman, Johnson, Frausto, Thompson, Johanson, Hawley, Vieyra, Bilotto, Rita, Donahue, Stone.

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 Ald. Buckner

Abstain: 0

There being Thirteen (13) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Regular Meeting – September 10, 2013

Motion by Ald. Stone, second by Ald. Johanson to approve a proclamation of September 20 as POW MIA Recognition Day.

Upon a vote, the Mayor declared the proclamation carried.

Motion by Ald. Vieyra, second by Ald. Johnson to approve a proclamation of the week of September 17 thru 23 as Constitution week.

Upon a vote, the Mayor declared the proclamation carried.

BIDS

No Bids.

CITY CLERK

Motion by Ald. Vieyra, second by Ald. Bilotto to approve a request form St. Benedict School to host a “Run For Your Life 5K Run/Walk on October 5, 2013 starting at 8:00 am at MetroSouth Park/St. Benedict on York Street between Gregory and Western. (Previously approved on June 27, 2012)

Ayes: 13 Ald. Carr, Ostling, Pittman, Johnson,
Frausto, Thompson, Johanson, Hawley,
Vieyra, Bilotto, Rita, Donahue, Stone.

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 Ald. Buckner

Abstain: 0

There being Thirteen (13) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Motion by Ald. Ostling, second by Ald. Stone to approve a request from Veterans Memorial Middle School to hold their 6th annual Walk-a-Thon on September 27, 2013. The street and alley closures would be from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. (Greenwood Avenue, 123rd Street, Maple Avenue and Grunewald).

Ayes: 13 Ald. Carr, Ostling, Pittman, Johnson,

Frausto, Thompson, Johanson, Hawley,
Vieyra, Bilotto, Rita, Donahue, Stone.

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 Ald. Buckner

Abstain: 0

There being Thirteen (13) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Motion by Ald. Carr, second by Ald. Hawley to approve a request from Boy Scout Troop 788 to hold a community wide Paper Drive in the parking lot next to Christ Memorial Church on September 28, 2013 between the hours of 8:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Ayes: 13 Ald. Carr, Ostling, Pittman, Johnson,
Frausto, Thompson, Johanson, Hawley,
Vieyra, Bilotto, Rita, Donahue, Stone.

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 Ald. Buckner

Abstain: 0

There being Thirteen (13) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Motion by Ald. Donahue, second by Ald. Rita to approve a request from Misericordia for their Jelly Belly Candy Days Fundraiser on April 25th and 26th of 2014.

Ayes: 13 Ald. Carr, Ostling, Pittman, Johnson,
Frausto, Thompson, Johanson, Hawley,
Vieyra, Bilotto, Rita, Donahue, Stone.

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 Ald. Buckner

Abstain: 0

Regular Meeting – September 10, 2013

There being Thirteen (13) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

CITY TREASURER

No Business.

CITY ATTORNEY

No Business.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Development – Ald. Hawley, Chairman

Ald. Hawley stated that there was a special meeting of the community development committee to discuss the business application. He will email out more details about that instead of reading through all of the discussion.

Ald. Frausto added that the topic of the Olde Western business sign was also discussed.

Next Meeting – Wednesday, September 11, 2013, 7:00 pm – East Annex.

Finance Committee – Ald. Rita, Chairman

PAYROLL

Motion by Ald. Rita, second by Ald. Donahue to approve Payroll Payable for August 28, 2013 for Gross - \$398,168.13 and a Net - \$239,008.84.

Ayes: 13 Ald. Carr, Ostling, Pittman, Johnson,
Frausto, Thompson, Johanson, Hawley,
Vieyra, Bilotto, Rita, Donahue, Stone.

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 Ald. Buckner

Abstain: 0

There being Thirteen (13) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Regular Meeting – September 10, 2013

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Motion by Ald. Rita, second by Ald. Johnson to approve Accounts Payable for August 21, 2013 for \$205,180.59.

Ayes: 13 Ald. Carr, Ostling, Pittman, Johnson, Frausto, Thompson, Johanson, Hawley, Vieyra, Bilotto, Rita, Donahue, Stone.

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 Ald. Buckner

Abstain: 0

There being Thirteen (13) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Director Terry Sullivan as well as Finance Director Mat Anastasia and Treasurer Carmine Bilotto explained a new professional services contract for Mark Kilgallon who will create a Human Resource Department for non-union personnel as well as a procedural manual which will also create employee accountability which the City has never implemented with the previous administration. After discussion and upon their recommendation it was authorized by Alderman Tom Hawley and 2nd by Alderman Kevin Donahue. Voice vote with all in favor. **I'd like to put that in the form of a motion to accept the Professional Services Contract for Mark G. Kilgallon.**

Director Terry Sullivan and Treasurer Carmine Bilotto explained a Personal Service Contract with John Kasperek, certified public accountant. Who will assist the city and finance department in financial and accounting issues as well as with the levy which we will begin to work on in October. Mr. Kasperek assisted the finance committee giving a financial snapshot of the city during appropriations. After discussion and upon their recommendation it was authorized by Alderman Nancy Thompson and 2nd by Alderman Kevin Donahue. Voice vote with all in favor. **I'd like to put that in the form of a motion to accept the Paradigm Computer Contract.**

Also, discussion of the Brownfield Grant regarding consulting fees and TIF 4. Mat Anastasia will email invoices. Further discussion for our next meeting with Jodi Prout, Nicholas Crite and Mark Miller.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, September 17, 2013, 7:00 pm – East Annex

Public Health & Safety Committee – Ald. Carr, Chairman**Special Presentation by Agostino Korkis**

Agostino Korkis presented information about the GPass program and handed our folders containing the information to those present. A question and answer period followed.

Citizens Concerns

There were no citizens present.

Fire Department Report

The Fire Department had 324 emergency calls in August, 234 were EMS calls

234 Patients were treated

191 Patients were transported

43 Patients refused transport

They responded 24 times to assist other towns.

They had 33 calls to man the firehouses.

The fire department responded to 17 fire alarms which were assisted by other towns.

Other responses:

4 calls for downed power lines

4 calls to reset the fire alarm panel

1 trouble alarm

1 call for carbon monoxide alarms

4 calls for natural gas odors

1 garbage can fire

1 detector activated by a smoke machine

1 call for railroad ties burning

1 car fire

Engine 2013 was returned to service after maintenance work and passing pump test.

Truck 2014 was sent out for a hydraulic piston repair.

The water tower storeroom was repainted and new electric wiring was installed for the new compressor system.

One kitchen fire safety class was presented for 53 seniors at the Senior Suites on Ashland Avenue.

“Old Bess” was on display for the last two “Cruise Nights” of August.

For the month of August most Firefighters received approximately 20 hours of training.

In July, the Committee approved a schedule of increased fees for the Fire Department, which was forwarded to the Judiciary Committee for review. The Judiciary Committee has requested that these increases be approved by Director John Rita before any action is taken. I have forwarded Director Rita a copy of the email outlining the fees.

The FEMA Radio Grant Fundraiser exceeded the goal for money raised. 22 radios and 2 computer systems were ordered on August 30th.

Chief Luety has submitted an application for a SAFER Grant for six new firemen for two years. This would be 100% coverage of salaries for two years.

Director Rita and Chief Luety discussed stationing an on-duty ambulance at District 218 for football games in lieu of an off-duty ambulance at a higher rate. There are six home games scheduled for this season.

Fire Chief Vrshek retired.

Deputy Fire Chief Luety was promoted to Fire Chief.

Lieutenant Klinker was promoted to Deputy Chief.

Police Department Report

The Police Department patrolled 25,024 miles for the month of August. 2850 calls answered.

509 Parking Citations

505 Moving Citations

345 Traffic Stops

13 Felonies

64 Misdemeanors

11 Warrant Arrests

64 Local Ordinance Violations (admin towing fees)

61 Vehicles Impounded

Total Fees Collected: \$50,967.12

Director Rita and Deputy Chief Comell have met with Posen, Midlothian and Calumet Park in regards to the dispatching service in an effort to build a better working relationship with these communities.

Regular Meeting – September 10, 2013

City Clerk Randy Heusser and Director Rita met with School District 218 to renegotiate the pay of the School Resource Officer.

The Police Department met with District 130 to address problems surrounding schools.

Director John Rita and Deputy Chief Cornell will be interviewing this week to fill the part time dispatch positions.

Six part time officers began the part time academy on Saturday, August 24th.

The Police Department has been reviewing the attendance policy to cut down on unnecessary absenteeism.

Deputy Chief Cornell met with St. Benedicts and the Blue Island Park District to prepare for the 5K race on Saturday, October 5th.

Director Rita and Deputy Chief Cornell met with AFSCME and have taken steps to reduce clerical staff overtime.

The boot program will officially begin soon. The letters notifying the violators were sent out. The worst offenders will be targeted first.

The information regarding the increase in the fine for violation of the Handicapped Ticket Ordinance to \$350.00 was brought before the Judiciary Committee for amendment to the current Ordinance.

Deputy Chief Cornell contacted Lieutenant Rafferty Gang Unit for help with a program to address the number of robberies occurring.

Alderman Concerns

Alderman Johnson expressed concern that the youth in the California Gardens area are lacking guidance and a place to go now that the Rec Center is closed. He has been discussing possible options with Bob Manthei from the Blue Island Park District.

Next Meeting – Wednesday, October 2, 2013 - 7:00 pm – East Annex.

Municipal Services Committee – Ald. Johanson, Chairman

Next Meeting – Monday, September 16, 2013, 6:30 pm – Meadows Golf Course

Judiciary Committee – Ald. Ostling, Chairman

Augustino Korkis gave a presentation on GPass technology solutions Inc. GPass is designed for Government use only it is a real time communication revenue collection & reporting system.

Insurance Loss Disbursement all workman comp claims amounting to \$4377.85

Committee approved 4 ordinances that were sent from & approved by Municipal Service Committee. Stop sign changed to 4way stop at Seeley & Market motion by Ald. Bilotto 2nd by Stone. I'd like to make a motion to counsel to draft an ordinance.

Motion by Ald. Ostling, second by Ald. Stone to approve an ordinance to be drafted.

Ayes: 13 Ald. Carr, Ostling, Pittman, Johnson,
Frausto, Thompson, Johanson, Hawley,
Vieyra, Bilotto, Rita, Donahue, Stone.

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 Ald. Buckner

Abstain: 0

There being Thirteen (13) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Change Chicago St from Broadway to Market one way south bound & make east side of Chicago St no parking zone motion by Ald. Stone 2nd by Bilotto. I'd like to make a motion to counsel to draft an ordinance.

Motion by Ald. Ostling, second by Ald. Stone to approve an ordinance to be drafted.

Ayes: 13 Ald. Carr, Ostling, Pittman, Johnson,
Frausto, Thompson, Johanson, Hawley,
Vieyra, Bilotto, Rita, Donahue, Stone.

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 Ald. Buckner

Abstain: 0

There being Thirteen (13) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Oak & Wood St 3way stop to add one stop sign southbound on Wood making this intersection a 4 way stop motion by Ald. Bilotto 2nd by Frausto. I'd like to make a motion to counsel to draft an ordinance.

Motion by Ald. Ostling, second by Ald. Rita to approve an ordinance to be drafted.

Ayes: 13 Ald. Carr, Ostling, Pittman, Johnson,
Frausto, Thompson, Johanson, Hawley, Vieyra,
Bilotto, Rita, Donahue, Stone.

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 Ald. Buckner

Abstain: 0

There being Thirteen (13) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Rescind handicap parking at 2208 W 123rd motion by Ald. Stone 2nd by Frausto. I'd like to make a motion to counsel to draft an ordinance.

Motion by Ald. Ostling, second by Ald. Stone to approve an ordinance to be drafted.

Ayes: 13 Ald. Carr, Ostling, Pittman, Johnson,
Frausto, Thompson, Johanson, Hawley,
Vieyra, Bilotto, Rita, Donahue, Stone.

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 Ald. Buckner

Abstain: 0

There being Thirteen (13) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Public works will change handicap parking signs to reflect new ordinance raising fine from \$250.00 to \$350.00 for violation.

Ald. Frausto suggested that Committee look into honorary street signs for special residents to honor their achievements by naming a street after them.

No further business meeting adjourned.

Next meeting – Monday, October 7, 2013, 6:00 pm – East Annex

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Ald. Carr, second by Ald. Hawley to go into Executive Session.

Upon a vote, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

*****CLOSED SESSION*****

REGULAR MEETING

Motion by Ald. Vieyra, second by Ald. Ostling to reconvene Regular Meeting.

Ayes: 13 Ald. Carr, Ostling, Pittman, Johnson, Frausto, Thompson, Johanson, Hawley, Vieyra, Bilotto, Rita, Donahue, Stone.

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 Ald. Buckner

Abstain: 0

There being Thirteen (13) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

No action needed in closed Session.

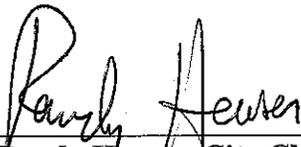
ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ald. Rita, second by Ald. Carr to adjourn the meeting.

Upon a vote, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

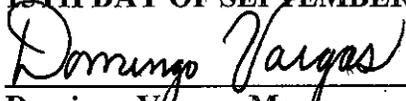
The next regular meeting of the City Council is scheduled for September 24, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Regular Meeting – September 10, 2013



Randy Heuser, City Clerk

**APPROVED BY ME THIS
13TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2013.**



Domingo Vargas, Mayor

