

**JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
MEETING, FEBRUARY 11, 2014**

**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 February 11, 2014.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

Roll Call indicates the following:

Present: 11 Vieyra, Bilotto, Donahue, Stone, Carr,  
Ostling, Pittman, Frausto, Thompson,  
Johanson, Hawley

Absent: 3 Rita, Johnson, Buckner

Present Also: Randy Heuser, City Clerk  
Patrick Ward, City Attorney  
Carmine Bilotto, City Treasurer

**JOURNAL OF PROCEEDING**

Moved by Ald. Carr, second by Ald. Bilotto the Journal of Proceedings of the Regular Meeting on January 28, 2014 is accepted as printed.

Upon a vote, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

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

Rachel Orozco of 11957 Longwood Drive invited everyone to attend the Black History Month Celebration that will be taking place on Friday, February 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the East Annex.

Willie Scott of 11917 Longwood Drive expressed his gratitude in the changes he has seen made in the city council and city. Mr. Scott thanked the Mayor for attending the Kwanzaa celebration. He also invited everyone to observe Black History Month in their own way.

Kevin Yates of 1520 Broadway Street asked what the citizens of Blue Island can do to provide momentum and support in order to get funding from state or federal to repair the bridges that are currently closed.

**REPORT OF CITY OFFICIALS**

**MAYOR:**

**Appointment of Deputy Chief Michael Cornell to the Police Pension Board**

**Recognition of JR Bramlett of Airline Towing**

The Mayor thanked JR Bramlet, President of Airline Towing, for the donation of equipment and salt, and their assistance with snow removal throughout Blue Island Streets and the removal of snow from the sidewalks of the 127th Street Bridge in Blue Island.

Jason Berry presented City of Blue Island scarves that came about as part of marketing effort to promote the City of Blue Island. They are available at the Rock Island Pub for \$30.

Mr. Berry explained the "We won" flyers seen around town. Voters selected to hear Blue Island's annexation story over Oak Park and Evanston.

The Mayor announced that scouts from the Chicago Fire show visited city hall and is hopeful the location will be used for an episode.

**BIDS:**

**No Bids.**

**CITY CLERK:**

**Motion by Ald. Johanson, second by Ald. Pittman to approve a request from American Legion Post 50 to hold their annual Poppy Days on Friday and Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014 with a rain date of May 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.**

Ayes: 11           Vieyra, Bilotto, Donahue, Stone, Carr,  
Ostling, Pittman, Frausto, Thompson,  
Johanson, Hawley

Nays: 0

Absent: 3           Rita, Johnson, Buckner

Abstain: 0

There being Eleven (11) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

**Motion by Ald. Frausto, second by Ald. Stone to approve a request from MetroSouth Park/St. Benedict Church to hold their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fundraiser “Run for your Life 5k/1 Mile Walk” on October 4, 2014 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

Ayes: 11           Vieyra, Bilotto, Donahue, Stone, Carr,  
Ostling, Pittman, Frausto, Thompson,  
Johanson, Hawley

Nays: 0

Absent: 3           Rita, Johnson, Buckner

Abstain: 0

There being Eleven (11) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

**Motion by Ald. Donahue, second by Ald. Carr to approve a request from Park Lawn to hold their annual Tag and Candy Day Fundraiser on Friday and Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> and April 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014 from 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. or dusk.**

On the Question: Ald. Stone asked if they are still not allowed to do 127<sup>th</sup> and Western.

She was answered that is remaining the same.

Ayes: 11 Vieyra, Bilotto, Donahue, Stone, Carr,  
Ostling, Pittman, Frausto, Thompson,  
Johanson, Hawley

Nays: 0

Absent: 3 Rita, Johnson, Buckner

Abstain: 0

There being Eleven (11) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

**CITY TREASURER:**

**Motion by Ald. Hawley, second by Ald. Carr to accept the Treasurer's Report for January 31, 2014 to be placed on file.**

Ayes: 11 Vieyra, Bilotto, Donahue, Stone, Carr,  
Ostling, Pittman, Frausto, Thompson,  
Johanson, Hawley

Nays: 0

Absent: 3 Rita, Johnson, Buckner

Abstain: 0

There being Eleven (11) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

**CITY ATTORNEY:**

**ORDINANCE. 2014-007**

**CITY OF BLUE ISLAND WATER AND SEWER RATE  
ORDINANCE.**

Motion by Ald. Johanson, second by Ald. Hawley to adopt.

On the question: Ald. Donahue stated that he supports the increase but thought the way it was gone about was wrong. He hopes in the future things of this magnitude will be dealt with differently.

Ayes: 11           Vieyra, Bilotto, Donahue, Stone, Carr,  
Ostling, Pittman, Frausto, Thompson,  
Johanson, Hawley

Nays: 0

Absent: 3           Rita, Johnson, Buckner

Abstain: 0

There being Eleven (11) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

**ORDINANCE. 2014-008**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING EXECUTION AND PROVIDING FOR TERMS OF A CODE RED NEXT SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK, LLC FOR THE PROVISION OF EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SERVICES.**

Motion by Ald. Bilotto, second by Ald. Donahue to adopt.

On the question: Ald. Stone asked if residents were going to have to register and when would this be taking effect.

John Rita stated that Code Red would allow them to contact all residents in town by telephone, text, and email. It allows for emergency and non-emergency notifications. They would start with a database that already exists in 911 center and would also link it on the website so any resident can go on and register. Once the contract is finalized, it would go in effect in no more than a couple weeks.

Ald. Frasuto thinks it is a great service that could be benefited from, but was concerned about the cost and spending at this time.

Ald. Johanson thinks that there will be many efficiencies that will offset the cost.

Ald. Thompson asked how many other municipalities use this system.

Deputy Chief Cornell answered that over 50 in Cook County use it.

Ayes: 10 Vieyra, Bilotto, Donahue, Stone, Carr, Ostling, Pittman, Thompson, Johanson, Hawley

Nays: 0

Absent: 3 Rita, Johnson, Buckner

Abstain: 0

Present: 1 Frausto

There being Ten (10) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Community Development – Ald. Hawley, Chairman**

No Report.

Next Meeting – Wednesday, February 12, 2014, 7:00 pm – East Annex.

### **Finance Committee – Ald. Rita, Chairman**

#### Finance Committee Meeting Minutes 2-4-14

The meeting was called to order Tuesday, February 4, 2014 at 6:43 p.m. in the East Annex of City Hall, 2434 Vermont Street, Blue Island, Illinois with proper public notice given. Roll call taken of the committee with Alderman Tom Hawley, Alderman Nancy Thompson and Alderman Kevin Donahue present. Alderman Chrissy Buckner absent. Also present were Finance Director Matt Anastasia and Director John D. Rita, Jr.

Accounts Payable for February 5, 2014 in the amount of \$498,717.03 authorized by Alderman Tom Hawley and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Nancy Thompson and a voice vote with all in favor to approve. Motion carried.

Payroll for January 31, 2014 with a motion to authorize by Alderman Tom Hawley and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Kevin Donahue and a voice vote with all in favor to approve the total payroll liability in the amount of \$355,792.20  
Motion carried.

A motion by Alderman Nancy Thompson and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Tom Hawley to authorize CodeRED NEXT Emergency Communications Network Service Agreement. Voice vote with all in favor. Motion carried.

Further discussion regarding the vehicle sticker software program with 3<sup>rd</sup> Millennium. No action taken.

Discussion regarding the Motorola 911 Maintenance Agreement. No action taken.

Motion to adjourn made by Kevin Donahue and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Nancy Thompson. Voice vote with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, February 18, 2014, 7:00 – East Annex

**Public Health & Safety Committee – Ald. Carr, Chairman**

Public Health & Safety Committee Report  
for the Meeting of February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Present were Director John Rita, Fire Chief Mark Luety, Deputy Police Chief Michael Cornell, Deputy Fire Chief James Klinker, Elderly Service Officer Jason Slattery, Don Marchbanks (7:30), Alderman Vieyra, Alderman Johanson, Alderman Johnson (7:15), and myself. Absent was Alderman Buckner. Also present were Fire Lieutenant Tom Zielinski and Firefighter William Kirby. The meeting was called to order at 7:05.

**Citizens Concerns**

No citizens were present.

**Fire Department Report**

The Fire Department had 353 emergency calls in January, 222 were EMS calls

- 191 Patients were treated
- 184 Patients were transported
- 35 Patients refused transport

They responded to 28 general fire alarms, and 26 minor fire alarms.

They responded to 27 auto aid calls.

They had 43 calls to man the firehouses.

They received 7 mutual aid calls.

There were no major events for the month of January

The Fire Department collected \$30,991.06 in Medical Reimbursements in the month of January.

### **General**

Chief Luety commended the members of the Fire Department for working so hard in the extreme weather conditions.

During some of the severe cold weather days, the department responded to numerous calls for frozen sprinkler system pipes that burst and a few frozen domestic water pipes. Extra manpower was utilized for 9.6 extra days due to the extreme snow amounts and cold weather.

Fire Recovery Inc. the new billing service that the fire department will be using for specialized billing service, is close to being in service. Paul Hollock the IT tech is finishing up a few programming issues that need to be completed which should be completed by February 7<sup>th</sup>.

Four new interns from Moraine Valley Community College Fire Science program started January 20<sup>th</sup>. They will be working at Station #1 for several days per week until the end of school semester in May. This is the third class from the college that we have hosted as interns to complete their hands-on training time to receive their degree and State Fire Marshal's Office Certification as Basic Firefighter.

Chief Luety will be attending a MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) conference February 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> in Springfield, IL. He will be representing the City of Blue Island and MABAS Division 22 at the conference as the Fire Service Intelligence Officer for our division. The division is covering the cost of the conference and they are also covering the cost to send two 911 dispatchers to a separate dispatch section also being held at the conference.

Request for payment of the semi-annual intergovernmental agreement with the Southwest Hazardous Materials Response Team for \$750.00.

This goes for training and equipment. Motion made by Alderman Johanson to approve, second by Alderman Vieyra. Motion was passed unanimously. Invoice will be forwarded to the Finance Committee.

### **Maintenance**

Engine 2133 was out of service for several days to replace a pump air switch on the dash panel and replaced pump air seals on the fire pump. Ambulance 2182 had the rear brakes replaced and an oil leak from the engine repaired. The repairs were performed in house. Ambulance 2152 had a bad water pump that was also replaced in-house. A total of 11 hours for in-house maintenance, repairs and documentation was performed by Lieutenant Kunz on various equipment.

### **Training**

The training division has completed 446.68 hours of training for the month of January. Lieutenant Olson has organized the training schedule for the next six months. The department will also be conducting joint training with our Auto Aid Departments including both day and night drills. The Fire Department will be hosting a class on Firefighter Situational Awareness on Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. This is a new class presented by Cook County Department of Home Land Security, and will be open to any MABAS division members in Northern Illinois.

### **Grants**

The department is still waiting for the portable radios and computers from the radio grant from the division and has not received any further word on the air packs from the air pack grant. No word has been received on the Safer Grant for staffing of new Firefighters.

### **Staffing**

Firefighter Duffy has passed his probation and will be getting his letter on Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **Statement by Director John Rita**

Director John Rita thanked the Fire Department for the outstanding job they have been doing working with outdated equipment and dealing with the excessive snowfall.

This sentiment was echoed by other members of the committee.

### **Statement by Chief Luety**

Fire Chief Luety thanked Deputy Chief Klinker for filling in at the Fire Station while the Chief was on medical leave.

**Presentation by Officer Slattery re: Adult Protective Services**

Elderly Service Officer Jason Slattery gave a presentation regarding a proposal for the creation of the Calumet Township Adult Protective Services Committee and the Triad/SALT program.

This would encompass 33 communities and 6 townships. The Committee has been in place for about one month.

**Police Department Report**

The Police Department patrolled 14,737 miles for the month of January. 2049 calls answered.

619 Parking Citations

321 Moving Citations

158 Traffic Stops

24 Felonies

30 Misdemeanors

12 Warrant Arrests

54 Local Ordinance Violations (equipment violations, seatbelts)

100 Vehicles Impounded

Total Fees Collected: \$49,208.34

**Stats/Cases of Interest**

2 Armed Robberies

1 Aggravated Robbery

3 Reports of Battery

23 Reports of Domestic Battery

6 Burglaries

1 Aggravated Assault

15 Thefts

6 Damage to Property

20 Hit and Run Accidents

**December Detective Report**

32 Cases were assigned

8 Burglaries

24 Other Cases

59 Cases were cleared

16 Larcenies  
43 Other Cases

### **Snow Routes**

The Police Department continues to assist Public Works in clearing designated snow routes after the several snow storms we have experienced.

### **Western Avenue Patrol**

Starting February 10<sup>th</sup> the Police Department will start the Western Avenue Patrol. These will be staffed by Part Time Officers on weekends. They will be assigned to problem areas where complaints are already being registered. These patrols will continue through the summer.

### **Code Red EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION**

Code Red EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION program has been approved by the Finance Committee, and will be up and running shortly. Citizens will be able register their cell phone numbers or emails and be alerted in case of a local emergency in their neighborhood or on their block.

### **Safety Education Alliance of America**

The Safety Education Alliance of America will be sending out flyers asking for donations on behalf of the Police Department. This is a legitimate organization, donations fund materials for school age children and special events.

### **Aldermanic Meetings**

Director John Rita and Deputy Chief Michael Cornell would like to meet with all the Aldermen to discuss issues and concerns they may have in their wards. Please contact them to make an appointment.

### **Well Being Checks**

The Police Department continues to do well-being checks. If a citizen wishes to be added to the well-being checklist they should contact the Police Department.

### **Facebook account**

The Police Department Facebook has 350 followers and reaches approximately 20,000 people a week.

### **Safe Park Zone**

Alderman Carr presented information regarding Safe Park Zones

### **BIEMA**

Don Marchbanks gave a brief report of BIEMA activities for the month of January. They assisted with the Rock Around the Clock Ball Drop, road closures due to accidents and downed power lines. The membership is now up to 14. 20 hours of training in January. Close to 100 hours in maintenance and repairs of equipment.

### **Aldermen's Concerns**

Aldermen expressed gratitude to Police and Fire Departments and Public Works for all the extra work put in due to the snow

Motion to adjourn by Alderman Johnson, second by Alderman Vieyra.

Next Meeting – Wednesday, March 5, 2014, 7:30 – East Annex

### **Municipal Services Committee – Ald. Johanson, Chairman**

No Report.

Ald. Johanson echoed gratitude and thanks towards JR Airline Towing and his team.

Next Meeting – Monday, February 10, 2014, 6:30 – East Annex

### **Judiciary Committee – Ald. Ostling, Chairman**

Judiciary was scheduled to meet on Feb. 3, 2014. Due to lack of quorum no meeting was held. Insurance loss disbursement for Feb. 3, 2014 all work man comp claims total \$4,368.71.

Ald. Ostling made a request to the committee to please call or email her if they cannot attend the meeting so she can reschedule it.

Next Meeting – Monday, March 3, 2014, 6:00 – East Annex

### **Committee Restructuring Sub-Committee**

Committee Restructuring Sub-Committee Report  
for Meeting on February 3, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

Present: Aldermen Hawley, Ostling, Carr, Johanson and Rita

Also Present: Dir. John Rita, City Clerk Heuser and City Treasurer Bilotto

Alderman Hawley opened the meeting describing what the purpose of this Sub-Committee was to be. The purpose is to come up with a plan for what things should go through Committee, what the Committees roles are and how they should be structured.

City Attorney Raines put together a packet of information including how four other communities in the area have their committees set up, a memorandum about committees in municipal government in general, and a draft of a revision of the Committee Ordinance using the current structure as a basis. The end result from these meetings will be a recommendation made to the Mayor with an Ordinance setting up the Committees and how things should move through City Council. He will make the final determination as to whether or not to implement the changes and bring the Ordinance to the Council for approval.

The purpose of Committees in general was discussed. Things should be brought to Committees with discussion and support for the decisions that are being made or need to be made. The idea of the Committees is to do the research and make a recommendation to the full Council through their reports for their approval.

Discussion about how things are happening currently and initial discussions about what could possibly change. How do things get assigned to a Committee? How does it happen? How do we want it to happen?

Judiciary Committee is concerned that there is no one from the City to Report to the Committee. It was discussed that the City Attorney should be present at the Judiciary Committee meetings to explain Ordinances and other items brought to the Judiciary Committee.

The other ordinances from other communities were reviewed. It was noted that the Committees from Olympia Fields review and prepare the budgets for the various Departments. That way the committees for the Departments that report to them that know the most about what is happening in those Departments have input in developing the budgets/appropriations.

It was discussed that all Aldermen should receive all agendas for the Committee meetings. That way, if there is something on the agenda and an Alderman has something they would like to add to the meeting or have an opinion on it, they can try to attend the meeting or get something to the chair to present their ideas. Agenda structure was also discussed. There should be Old Business and New Business sections. Some discussion about whether you a committee could act on New Business during the meeting. Also, discussed Finance Committee being a 'gate-keeper' for all things financial.

The thought of having each department in the City report to some Committee was also discussed. This would mean the heads of those Departments would go to the appropriate Committee and present a report of what their Department is doing.

The Committee will review further ideas at the next meeting. The next meeting was set for 7 pm on Monday, February 24, 2014 in the East Annex Conference Room.

It was moved by Ald. Carr and seconded by Ald. Ostling to adjourn. All in favor and the meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Next Meeting – Monday, February 24, 2014, 7:00 – East Annex

## MOTIONS

**Motion by Ald. Frausto, second by Ald. Hawley to approve the Consent Agenda which includes:**

- 1. Payroll for January 31, 2014 in the amount of \$355,792.20**
- 2. Accounts Payable for February 5, 2014 in the amount of \$498,717.03**
- 3. Committee Reports and Recommendations as presented**

Ayes: 11      Vieyra, Bilotto, Donahue, Stone, Carr,  
Ostling, Pittman, Frausto, Thompson,  
Johanson, Hawley

Nays: 0

Absent: 3      Rita, Johnson, Buckner

Abstain: 0

There being Eleven (11) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

**CLOSED SESSION**

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

Upon a vote, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

\*\*\*\*\*CLOSED SESSION\*\*\*\*\*

**REGULAR MEETING**

Motion by Ald. Johanson, second by Ald. Pittman to reconvene Regular Meeting.

Ayes: 11      Vieyra, Bilotto, Donahue, Stone, Carr,  
Ostling, Pittman, Frausto, Thompson,  
Johanson, Hawley

Nays: 0

Absent: 3      Rita, Johnson, Buckner

Abstain: 0

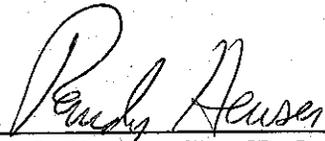
There being Eleven (11) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

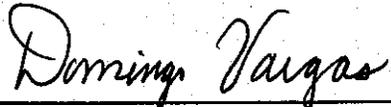
Motion by Ald. Bilotto, second by Ald. Pittman to adjourn the meeting.

Upon a vote, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

The next regular meeting of the City Council is scheduled for  
February 25, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Randy Heuser, City Clerk

APPROVED BY ME THIS  
21<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2014.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Domingo Vargas, Mayor