

**JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING  
JULY 8, 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 July 8, 2014.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

Roll Call indicates the following:

Present: 11 Ald. Thompson, Johanson, Hawley, Vieyra, Rita, Donahue, Stone, Carr, Ostling, Pittman, Frausto

Absent: 3 Ald. Buckner, Bilotto, Johnson

Present Also: Randy Heuser, City Clerk  
ShawnTe Raines, City Attorney  
Carmine Bilotto, City Treasurer

**JOURNAL OF PROCEEDING**

Moved by Ald. Rita, second by Ald. Hawley the Journal of Proceedings of the Public Hearing for the Second Amendment to TIF District #5 - June 10, 2014 is accepted as printed.

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 3 Buckner, Bilotto, Johnson

Abstain: 0

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

**Moved by Ald. Pittman, second by Ald. Carr the Journal of Proceedings of the Regular Meeting on June 24, 2014 is accepted as printed.**

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 3 Buckner, Bilotto, Johnson

Abstain: 0

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

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

Mark Kuehner, 2250 Orchard Street, requested that council move as quickly as possible to get Blue Island out of the JAWA. He also asked the City to not spend anymore more money on court proceedings regarding the lease at the Recreation Center and instead use that money to provide necessary upkeep at the center.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Kuehner for his comments.

Willie Scott, 11917 Longwood Dr, reiterated Mr. Kuehner's concerns. Mr. Scott requested that the City report the status at this time of the JAWA project. He encouraged council to consider bringing the Recreation up to date.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Scott for his comments.

Ms. Younger, 2067-2068 135<sup>th</sup> Place, expressed her concerns over ownership of the parking lot at this location.

The Mayor stated he would have someone take down Ms. Younger's contact information in order to address her concerns.

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Allan Stevo, 2324 Union Street, asked that a correction be made on the Journal of Proceedings for June 24, 2014 to include the writ of mandamus he asked the Mayor about.

The Mayor stated the correction would be made.

Mr. Stevo asked Attorney Raines that his request be satisfied. Mr. Stevo asked why the historical home at 2435 New St was torn down. He stated that it would be a good time for the City to ask them to build a parking lot in order to reduce parking congestion on New Street. He asked when the next JAWA meeting was and if the Mayor would be in attendance.

The Mayor stated nothing had been scheduled, but that he would be in attendance if it were scheduled.

Mr. Stevo asked how much of the \$75,000 grass cutting grant has been used for cutting grass, what company is cutting the grass, and how much are the administration fees.

The Mayor stated he would get Mr. Stevo the information.

Mr. Stevo asked if there would be a Treasurer's report given. He also asked for the city debt to be included in the Treasurer's report. Mr. Stevo asked if there was an arrest for the homicide at 2006 Union.

The Mayor stated he could not disclose that information; it is a pending investigation.

Mr. Stevo read a letter that Deputy Chief Cornell hand-delivered.

## REPORT OF CITY OFFICIALS

### MAYOR:

1. The Mayor announced Fire Chief Mark Luety will be retiring July 16, 2014. He congratulated Chief Luety on behalf of the staff and alderman for his 30 years of service, dedication, and for volunteering so many hours of his personal life to the City of Blue Island and surrounding communities.
2. Presentation of various Awards to Firefighters  
**Medal of Honor** – Lt. Joe Olson, Firefighter John McClement, and Fire Chief Jeff Kraft.  
**Unit Performance Award** – Firefighter Ken Dompeling, Firefighter Richard Reed, and Firefighter Harry O'Hagan  
**Gold Seal for Outstanding EMS Call** – Firefighter Larry Betscheider, Firefighter William Kirby, and Firefighter Dennis O'Connell

## 3. Presentation of various Awards to Police Officers

**Commendation for investigative contributions** - Corporal Chris Connors

**Unit Citation for Teamwork** – Sergeant Jamie Schultz, Officer Erick Stahmer, Officer Tim Sisk, Officer David Stone, Officer Dennis Sepessy, and Officer Anthony Cirullo

**Honorable Service Award** – Corporal Francisco Navarro, Officer Carlos Ortega, and Officer Lasalle King

**Gallantry Star** – Officer Jerry Colone

**Lifesaving Award** – Officer Bryan Holwell, Officer Sean Donica, and Officer Nick Babbit

**BIDS:**

No Bids.

**CITY CLERK:**

**Motion by Ald. Frausto, second by Ald. Pittman to approve a request from Rev. Robert Bond III of California Gardens Christian of Love Baptist Church to sponsor a Back-to-School Festival to be held on Saturday, August 9, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.**

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 3 Buckner, Bilotto, Johnson

Abstain: 0

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

**Motion by Ald. Rita, second by Ald. Donahue to approve a request from Wanda Blackman to have a Block Party on July 26, 2014 from 3:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. on 135<sup>th</sup> and Hoyne.**

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 3 Buckner, Bilotto, Johnson

Abstain: 0

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

**CITY TREASURER:**

Treasurer Bilotto announced the Financial Statement would be presented next council meeting. He gave a statement regarding JAWA and summarizing why it was not beneficial at this time for the City.

**Motion by Ald. Rita, second by Ald. Johanson to authorize the City Treasurer to withdraw from the JAWA and instruct the City Attorney to research any other legal resource.**

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 3 Buckner, Bilotto, Johnson

Abstain: 0

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

**CITY ATTORNEY:**

ORDINANCE NO. 2014-035

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT TO GEMUTLICHKEIT, LLC, D/B/A BLUE ISLAND BEER COMPANY, TO ALLOW FOR ARTISAN MANUFACTURING AT THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 13357 OLDE WESTERN AVENUE, BLUE ISLAND, ILLINOIS

ORDINANCE NO. 2014-036

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A PLAT OF SUBDIVISION AND GRANTING A VARIATION OF THE BLUE ISLAND ZONING ORDINANCE OF 1971 AS AMENDED FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2435 NEW STREET, BLUE ISLAND, ILLINOIS

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RESOLUTION NO. 2014-033      A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT RELATED TO THE ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES PROGRAM

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-034      A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT TO EXTEND THE GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE SERVICES CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF BLUE ISLAND AND SERVISCAPE, LLC.

**Motion by Ald. Pittman, second by Ald. Ostling to include the above stated items in the Consent Agenda.**

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

Nays:            0

Absent:          3            Buckner, Bilotto, Johnson

Abstain:        0

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

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

*Next Meeting – Wednesday, July 9, 2014, 7:00 – East Annex*

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

*Next Meeting – Tuesday, July 15, 2014, 6:30 – East Annex*

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

#### **Public Health & Safety Committee Report for the Meeting of July 2nd, 2014**

Present were Director John Rita, Deputy Police Chief Michael Cornell, Deputy Fire Chief James Klinker, Jim McGeever, Inspector Tom Mailhiot, Alderman Vieyra, Alderman Johanson, and myself. Also present were Mr. Allan Stevo, and Tracy Waters, a journalism student from Columbia. Absent were Alderman Johnson, and Alderman Buckner. The meeting was called to order at 7:15.

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## Public Health

Due to time constraints for Tom Mailhiot we reviewed the Monthly Inspection Report first. Twenty-two health inspections were done on businesses in the month of June. Mr. Mailhiot also explained the coding on his reports for the benefit of the aldermen. Ald. Vieyra asked about unlicensed businesses operating out of homes, or buildings occupied by other businesses. Director Rita spoke about the new local ordinance tickets being issued. Ald. Vieyra asked about the hours that Mr. Mailhiot works.

## Citizens Concerns

Mr. Allan Stevo had three questions: The first was concerning the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade, and why it was not being held on Western Ave. The second was concerning whether or not the Police Department has new detectives. The third was concerning a petition which is reportedly being circulated about the property at 12807 Gregory.

## Fire Department Report

The Fire Department had 323 calls in June, 208 were EMS calls  
179 Patients were treated  
157 Patients were transported  
51 Patients refused transport

They responded to 29 general fire alarms, and 32 minor fire alarms.

They responded to 21 auto aid calls, most calls were from Calumet Park.

They had 30 calls to man the station.

They received 3 mutual aid response call.

Calls of interest for June: An arson fire at 11953 Ann St., the resident has been charged. A dryer fire at Blue Kangaroo, 2106 Vermont St., storm calls on the night of 6/30 due to violent storms.

Medical Reimbursement Services for June \$27,475.85.

Fire Recovery collected \$348.00 in June.

## General

Deputy Chief Klinker spoke about the new fees being charged for false alarms.

Probationary Firefighter Matthew Stedman started June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and has been working day shift. He will start his regular shift work on Thursday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014 on Black Shift. Probationary Firefighter Harry O'Hagan started June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014. He has been assigned to Gold Shift. The next candidate is in the hiring process and will start as soon as he completes the necessary testing.  
Fill the Boot Drive for MDA dates are June 27<sup>th</sup>, July 11<sup>th</sup>, and August 15<sup>th</sup>.

Chief Luety's Retirement Open House is July 16<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at Station One.

## Maintenance

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Diversified Inspections tested all ladders including the Tower Ladder on the ladder truck per NFPA standards on June 27<sup>th</sup>. One 16' roof ladder from 2133 failed the test. Repair estimates are forthcoming.

Ambulance repairs: 2162 rear brakes/sway bar repaired in house, 2152 torque converter/flywheel issue repaired at Bill Kay, 2182 oil/smoking issue.

### **Training**

The training division has completed 406.00 hours of training for the month of June.

METRA Rail Emergency Preparedness classroom and hands on training was held for each shift.

Lt. Olson and Firefighter Abbatacola will be conducting the training for boat operations. Combined training sessions with the U.S.Coast Guard are scheduled for later in the month of July.

### **Grants**

No information has been received on the AFG grant for 2 new ambulances.

### **Police Department Report**

#### **Statement by Deputy Chief Cornell**

The Blue Island Police Department's philosophy has made a slow progressive change towards the community policing model. Our ultimate goal is to completely embrace the concept which is successful in communities where it is implemented. Community Policing Philosophy is simply resource and responsibility sharing that allows officers access to more resources to address underlying problems long term, instead of just resolving the problem on a call short term. Often times calls for service in a certain neighborhood or structure is a symptom of a greater problem. My goal is to give the officers the tools to address the underlying problem.

Over the course of the last year we have addressed issues such as senior citizens in need and hoarding issues. The Blue Island Police Department is now addressing many quality of life issues, such as building ordinances in an effort to beautify the community and address the poor image that is sometimes associated with certain neighborhoods. The Day Shift and later the afternoon shift will be working with the building department to address maintenance issues, scrapping and poor public sanitary conditions.

### **Reports**

The Police Department answered 2293 calls including 208 business premise checks. 100 liquor establishment checks were done.

### **Stats/Cases of Interest**

131 Alarm Calls (all unfounded)  
3 Armed Robberies  
3 Robberies  
7 Commercial Burglaries  
10 Residential Burglaries  
6 Shots Fired (1 unfounded)

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118 Domestic Disputes  
42 Foot Patrols in Residential Neighborhoods

Total money collected for the month of June \$27,102.18.

**Calls of Interest**

On June 16<sup>th</sup> Officers responded to a fight at Memorial Park.

On June 20<sup>th</sup> Officers responded to a residential burglary on the 12800 block of Winchester and the 13500 block of Chatham.

One June 22<sup>nd</sup> on the 2600 block of Cochran a victim had their cell phone stolen.

\*On June 25<sup>th</sup> Officers responded to 2006 Union for a gun-shot victim. The victim was rushed to Christ Hospital for treatment, where he later died. A person of interest has since been taken into custody.

On June 27<sup>th</sup> Officers responded to the 2700 block of Gruenwald for a shots fired call. A short time later a call was received of a gun-shot victim at MetroSouth Medical Center. The victim said that he and several other juveniles were playing with a gun in the basement of the residence.

On June 28<sup>th</sup> Officers responded to an Attempted Armed Robbery in the parking lot in the 12600 block of Fairview. The victim attempted to run and the offender stabbed the victim with possibly a screwdriver.

On June 28<sup>th</sup> Officers responded to a robbery in the area of 13667 Western. The victim stated that he was approached by 2 offenders on bicycles. One of the offender's took the victim's wallet.

\*On June 28<sup>th</sup> Officers responded to a gun-shot victim/Armed Robbery in the parking lot in the 2100 block of 119<sup>th</sup> Street. It should be noted that the victim was with a friend that later admitted they were buying drugs.

**Liquor Establishment Calls**

5 disturbance calls and 1 battery call were received in June on liquor establishments.

**Injuries**

Two full time Officers are off on extended leaves, one Officer is due to return in July.

**Training**

New part time Officers received training in radio procedures.

**Miscellaneous**

Deputy Chief Cornell applied for the COPS Hiring Grant, which will allow Blue Island to hire officers. This is a 25% matching grant.

Officer Slattery is working on the Boot Program with parking tickets.

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Deputy Chief Cornell reminded people to sign up for Code Red. Residents can sign up on the City website.

### **Upcoming Events**

July 10<sup>th</sup> there will be a Ceremonial Intergovernmental Agreement signing at 11:00 am at the Calumet Park Senior Center with Riverdale, Calumet Park and Calumet Township that will allow us to share resources to address senior issues through the TRIAD program.

Both Deputy Chief Klinker and Deputy Chief Cornell mentioned the Benefit Softball Game between the Police and Fire Departments. There seems to be some dispute as to who will win. Come watch for yourself, July 12<sup>th</sup>, at Hart Park at 7:00 pm.

August 5<sup>th</sup> will be National Night Out.

### **911 Center**

The 911 Center received 13,783 calls in June. Calls are slightly down from last year.

Jim McGeever supplied the Committee with a detailed time line of the storm on Monday June 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **BIEMA**

We did not receive a report from BIEMA. However Ald. Vieyra, Ald. Johanson, and Jim McGeever highly praised the effort that was put out by these volunteers the night of the storm, Monday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, and the help with downed wires and trees that night and the following day.

### **Aldermen's Concerns**

Ald. Vieyra expressed concern about low hanging wires on Irving near the hospital.

Ald. Vieyra expressed concern about various properties that are falling into disrepair, and work being done without permits.

Ald. Johanson expressed concern about burned and collapsed garages.

Ald. Johanson expressed concern about the City phone system after the storm.

Ald. Johanson expressed concern about mosquito abatement.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Our next regular meeting is August 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 in the East Annex.

Respectfully submitted,  
Candace Carr  
4<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman

*Next Meeting – Wednesday, August 6, 2014, 7:00 – East Annex*

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

*Next Meeting – Monday, July 7, 2014, 6:30 – East Annex*

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

*Next Meeting – Tuesday, July 15, 2014, 6:00 – East Annex*

**MOTIONS**

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

1. Approval of Payroll – June 20, 2014 for \$361,613.47
2. Approval of Accounts Payable – July 2, 2014 for \$728,217.81
3. Committee Reports and Recommendations as presented
4. An Ordinance of the City of Blue Island, Cook County, Illinois, Amending a Tax Increment Redevelopment Plan and Redevelopment Project for the Second Amendment to the TIF #5 Redevelopment Project Area.
5. An Ordinance of the City of Blue Island, Cook County, Illinois Amending the TIF #5 Redevelopment Project Area (Second Amendment to TIF #5) of said City Redevelopment Project Area Pursuant to the Tax Increment Allocation Redevelopment Act.
6. An Ordinance of the City of Blue Island, Cook County, Illinois, Confirming Tax Increment Allocation Financing for Second Amendment to the TIF #5 Redevelopment Project Area.
7. An Ordinance Regulating Signs in the City of Blue Island
8. Ordinance 2014-35
9. Ordinance 2014-36
10. Resolution 2014-33
11. Resolution 2014-34

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 3 Buckner, Bilotto, Johnson

Abstain: 0

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

Ald. Donahue announced that Calumet Township is hosting Movie in the Park on Saturday. It is a free event and the Lego movie will be showing.

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Ald. Frausto mentioned the good work with the update to the website.

Ald. Pittman asked about branches being picked up.

Ald. Stone stated that she had several resident concerns about calling the Water Department and not being able to get anyone.

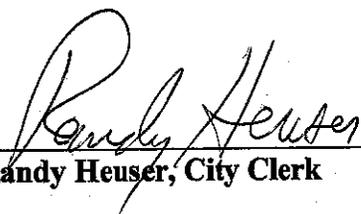
**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Ald. Pittman, second by Ald. Rita to adjourn the meeting.**

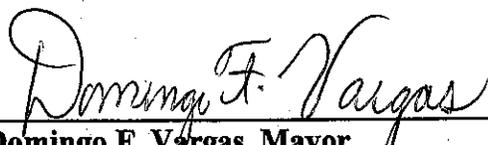
Upon a vote, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the City Council is scheduled for  
July 22, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

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

**APPROVED BY ME THIS  
22<sup>ND</sup> DAY OF JULY, 2014.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Domingo F. Vargas, Mayor