

**JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING  
FEBRUARY 10, 2015**

**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 10, 2015.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

Roll Call indicates the following:

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

Absent:         3         Johnson, Thompson, Buckner

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

**JOURNAL OF PROCEEDING**

Moved by Ald. Stone, second by Ald. Pittman the Journal of Proceedings of the Regular Meeting on January 27, 2015 is accepted as printed.

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

Nays:         0

Absent:        3         Johnson, Thompson, Buckner

Abstain:       0

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

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

Robert Black, 12142 Artesian Ave, stated his displeasure with the plowing on his street.

Allan Stevo, 2324 Union Street, expressed his concerns regarding Walgreens closing, snow plowing, and the time limits on residents addressing the council. Mr. Stevo also asked when the forensic audit would be completed.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS****Community Development– Ald. Hawley, Chairman**

A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT STAFF ASSISTANCE SERVICES DELIVERED BY ENTERPRISE COMMUNITY PARTNERS FOR TOD IMPLEMENTATIONS.

**Moved by Ald. Hawley, second by Ald. Vieyra to approve.**

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 3 Johnson, Thompson, Buckner

Abstain: 0

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

**ORDINANCE 2015-008**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BLUE ISLAND, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, TO SET A DATE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE WESTERN AVENUE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT.

**Moved by Ald. Hawley, second by Ald. Bilotto to approve Ordinance 2015-008.**

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 3 Johnson, Thompson, Buckner

Regular Meeting – February 10, 2015

Abstain: 0

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

*Next Meeting – Tuesday, March 3, 2015, 7:30 – East Annex*

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

**Moved by Ald. Rita, second by Ald. Carr to approve Payroll for January 30, 2015 for \$339,292.18.**

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 3      Johnson, Thompson, Buckner

Abstain: 0

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

**Moved by Ald. Rita, second by Ald. Ostling to approve Accounts Payable for February 4, 2015 for \$477,869.33.**

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 3      Johnson, Thompson, Buckner

Abstain: 0

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

*Next Meeting – Tuesday, February 17, 2015, 7:00 – East Annex*

Regular Meeting – February 10, 2015

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

**Public Health & Safety Committee Report  
for the Meeting of February 4th, 2015**

Present were Director John Rita, Deputy Police Chief Michael Cornell, Fire Chief James Klinker, 911 Supervisor Jim McGeever, Chief Don Marchbanks, Alderman Leticia Vieyra, Alderman James Johanson, and myself. Also present were Alderman Marcia Stone. Absent were Alderman Buckner and Alderman Johnson. The meeting was called to order at 7:00.

**Citizens Concerns**

There were no citizens present.

**Fire Department Report**

The Fire Department had 292 calls in January, 202 were EMS calls  
165 Patients were treated  
148 Patients were transported  
53 Patients refused transport

They responded to 25 general fire alarms, and 20 minor fire alarms.

They responded to 20 auto aid calls, most calls were from Calumet Park.

They had 23 calls to man the station.

They received 2 mutual aid response calls. Both were ambulance calls.

Average response time was 5.6 minutes.

There were several fires in January, including a fence fire, kitchen fire, grease vent fire at McDonald's, a balcony fire, and one structure fire at 1933 Burr Oak Avenue.

The fire on 1933 Burr Oak Avenue was called in by a motorist passing by. He subsequently knocked on the apartment doors which resulted in about 25 people being evacuated safely. The City is looking to locate the man and give him a citizens award. The dispatchers also did an excellent job of coordinating the help needed.

Medical Reimbursement Services for January was \$34,961.63

Fire Recovery collected \$0.00 in the month of January. \$6200.00 in fees are still outstanding.

False Fire Alarm Fees Collected: \$0.00

**General**

Regular Meeting – February 10, 2015

Firefighter Richard Whitlock started Monday January 26, 2015. He is currently working day shift.

### **Maintenance**

The Illinois Department of Public Health will be coming out to inspect all the ambulances.

Ambulance 2162: The City Mechanic Tom Kissel replaced water pump, fan blade, serpentine belt and pulley for a total cost of \$226.19.

Ambulance 2182: Diesel smell in cab of unit. At Joe Rizza Ford.

Engine 2123: Out of service for front line Engine Air Brake Repairs (Certified Fleet)

### **Training**

The training division has completed 533.63 hours of training for the month of January.

No State Certification Tests were given this month.

The Air Packs are now officially in service.

### **Grants**

2014 AFG Grant – Application was sent in on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014. We have applied for two ambulances along with a micro grant request for Thermal Imaging Cameras and Multi-Gas Detectors.

Private Grant – A grant application was submitted through the Grants Coordinator for 2 Thermal Imaging Cameras, 3 Automatic External Defibrillators, and 3 Smoke Ejectors.

### **Police Department Report**

The Blue Island Police Department has begun Sex Offender Registration checks in the month of January. Police departments are required to follow up on the Sex Offenders in our jurisdiction only once a year. The Blue Island Police Department will do checks three times a year in an attempt to keep registered sex offenders in compliance. There are currently 23 registered sex offenders in Blue Island.

The Blue Island Police Department will begin checking vacant properties in the month of February. Vacant properties are often found unsecured and it attracts a criminal element to the community. Officers are working with the building department to keep vacant properties from becoming a bigger problem by constantly monitoring the properties. In October the Police department checked approximately 200 properties and found several that were unsecured.

Regular Meeting – February 10, 2015

The Police Department answered 2113 calls including 271 business premise checks, 92 were liquor establishment checks.

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

167 Alarm Calls (all unfounded)  
2 Armed Robberies  
2 Burglaries  
6 Residential Burglaries (3 unfounded)  
8 Shots Fired (4 unfounded)  
99 Domestic Disputes  
311 Traffic Stops

Total money collected for the month of January \$37,880.06

19,200 miles patrolled.

### **Calls of Interest**

On January 21<sup>st</sup> three young looking offenders walked into Discount Tobacco at 11925 Western. One of the offenders displayed a dark colored gun and demanded the cashier to open the cash register. The cashier opened the register and the offenders took approximately \$400.00 and fled.

On January 24<sup>th</sup> two victims were walking in the area of the 12700 block of Hoyne. The two victims walked by a car and noticed the two vehicle occupants exit the vehicle. The victims turned onto Oak Street and the offenders ran into the alley and began to shoot. Both the victims and the offenders know each other.

### **Liquor Establishment Calls**

1 suicidal subject, 1 subject removal, 1 fight were received in January on liquor establishments.

### **Training**

January 26-28: Officer Padron attended SSERT Training, which included one day for sniper training.

January 22-23: Deputy Chief Cornell and Commander Sisk attended a refresher on Internal Affairs Investigations.

January 24-25 Range Qualifications were well attended as 33 officers qualified during the two four range sessions.

Candidates: Detective Nedved and Officer Donica both indicated that they wish to become range instructors. Both received recommendations from Assistant Range Master Sepessy.

Regular Meeting – February 10, 2015

Officer Strezo completed the 40 hour Sokolov Field Training Course in late December and began his first field training assignment on January 24<sup>th</sup>.

Officer Murray is scheduled to attend the 40 hour Sokolov Field Training Course in June of 2015.

### **Use of Force Reviews**

Use of Force Reviews for incidents that occurred on 11/7/14, 11/17/14 and 1/4/15 were forwarded to Deputy Chief Cornell for review.

Use of Force Reviews from 11/23/14 and 1/25/15 are pending.

### **Internal Investigations**

The review of the suspicious subjects call responded to by Officer Colone was completed. All actions taken by the officers and supervisor involved were deemed to be appropriate.

### **OSHA**

An inspection was conducted by an OSHA Safety Inspector on 1/30/15. Minor violations were found. There were no serious violations warranting any fines.

### **Community Policing Unit (CPU)**

CPU answered several calls regarding seniors.

The final form for the Calumet Township/City of Blue Island Adult Protective Services Committee was finished and presented.

CPU and METRA taught Operation Life Saver at Paul Revere, Lincoln, and Whittier Schools.

CPU answered several calls by area grade schools regarding child abuse and behavioral issues.

CPU received several public nuisance complaints regarding the condition of various properties.

### **911 Center**

The 911 Center received 12,248 calls in January.

One full timer accepted a position to become a Police Officer.

2015 Illinois Commerce Commission Report will be submitted once Blue Island 911 ETSB is appointed.

Regular Meeting – February 10, 2015

Phase II Wireless- Supervisor McGeever is currently working with Verizon Wireless to receive Phase II information. This will give the latitude and longitude on the caller.

Supervisor McGeever and a dispatcher will be attending the Text to 911 Webinar on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015.

### **BIEMA**

In the month of January, BIEMA assisted with the fire on 127<sup>th</sup> St. They are also working to become NIMS compliant. They will be looking at ways to protect our local waterways. BIEMA continues to have problems with a shortage of equipment.

### **Monthly Health and Sanitation Report**

In the month of January 23 Health and Sanitation Inspections were done. Domino's Pizza was given a warning for not having a person certified with an Illinois Food and Sanitation license on site at all times.

### **Aldermen's Concerns**

There was a lengthy discussion of the safety issues caused by the snow storm of February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015. Sidewalk shoveling, snow plowing, ruts in the streets, residents shoveling snow out into the streets, garbage pickup, use of public lots for parking during plowing, snow routes, and even/odd parking ordinance were discussed.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Our next regular meeting will be March 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the East Annex.

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

*Next Meeting – Wednesday, March 4, 2015, 7:00 – East Annex*

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

*Next Meeting – Wednesday, February 11, 2015, 7:00 – East Annex*

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

*Next Meeting – Tuesday, February 17, 2015, 6:00 – East Annex*

**REPORT OF CITY OFFICIALS****MAYOR:**

The Mayor thanked everyone for their support on the passing of his uncle.

**BIDS:**

No bids.

**CITY CLERK:**

**Moved by Ald. Johanson, second by Ald. Pittman to approve a request from the Blue Island American Legion Post 50 to have their annual Poppy Days on Friday and Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015 with rain dates of May 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015.**

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 3      Johnson, Thompson, Buckner

Abstain: 0

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

**Moved by Ald. Stone, second by Ald. Hawley to approve a request from Misericordia to have their annual Jelly Belly Candy Days on Friday and Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015.**

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 3      Johnson, Thompson, Buckner

Abstain: 0

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

**CITY TREASURER:**

**Motion by Ald. Donahue, second by Ald. Rita to accept the Financial Statement for the period ending January 31, 2015.**

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 3      Johnson, Thompson, Buckner

Abstain: 0

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

**CITY ATTORNEY:**

No business.

**ALDERMANIC ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS:** Ald. Stone stated that it had been decided, based on a technicality, that she would not be allowed on the ballot to run for reelection in April as Alderman of the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward. She stated she has served the people of Blue Island and the residents of the fourth ward for almost twenty years and has always put the city and its residents as her first priority when voting on issues. She urged the citizens of Blue Island to get involved and pay attention to what is going on. She thanked everyone who has ever helped in all her years of service.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**Motion by Ald. Bilotto, second by Ald. Rita to go into Executive Session.**

Upon a vote, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

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

S  
I

Regular Meeting – February 10, 2015

**REGULAR MEETING****Motion by Ald. Hawley, second by Ald. Bilotto to reconvene Regular Meeting.**

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 3      Johnson, Thompson, Buckner

Abstain: 0

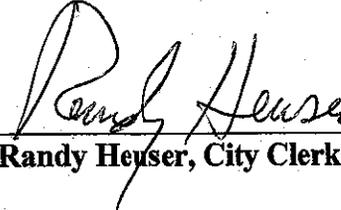
There being Eleven (11) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

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

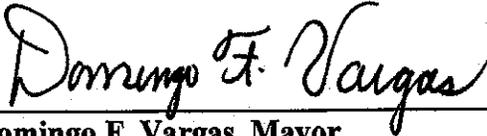
Upon a vote, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the City Council is scheduled for February 24, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

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

APPROVED BY ME THIS  
24<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2015.

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

