

**JOURNAL OF PROCEEDING OF THE MEETING
DECEMBER 12, 2017**

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 December 12, 2017.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Roll Call indicates the following:

Present: 14 Ald. Poulos, Johnson, Frausto, Bilotto, Vieyra, Rita, Donahue,
Hawley, Fahrenwald, Ostling, Thompson, Carr, Pittman, Slattery

Absent: 0

Present Also: Randy Heuser, City Clerk
Cary Horvath, City Attorney
Carmine Bilotto, City Treasurer

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

Motion by Ald. Johnson, second by Ald. Vieyra to approve the Journal of Proceedings of the Regular Meeting from November 28, 2017.

Ayes: 14 Poulos, Johnson, Frausto, Bilotto, Vieyra,
Rita, Donahue, Hawley, Fahrenwald, Ostling,
Thompson, Carr, Pittman, Slattery

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

There being Fourteen (14) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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Ken Dompeling, Palos Heights, asked why there were two false statements made regarding his application for the Fire Chief position.

Rachel Orozco, 11957 Longwood Drive, announced Black Culture Night will be held on Friday, February 16th at the East Annex. There will be dinner from 6 – 7 p.m. and the program will follow from 7 – 9 p.m.

Dan McLaughlin, 3500 Burr Oak Avenue, purchased the old G&W Electric Company property. They plan to renovate, lease and occupy the building. They will be looking to get a 6(b) tax abatement and help with permits.

David Helsely, 12760 Francisco Avenue, asked the mayor to explain the Cermak Foods deal falling through.

REPORT OF CITY OFFICIALS**MAYOR:****Presentation of 2016 Audit**

Motion by Ald. Poulos, second by Ald. Johnson to approve the cancellation of the December 26, 2017 City Council Meeting.

Ayes:	12	Poulos, Johnson, Frausto, Bilotto, Vieyra, Rita, Hawley, Fahrenwald, Ostling, Thompson, Carr, Pittman
Nays:	2	Donahue, Slattery
Absent:	0	
Abstain:	0	

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

Mayor's Announcements: Sandy May is in the hospital suffering from heart problems. She thanked everyone for their thoughts and prayers. The Mayor had her information for anyone who would like to visit her. There will be a Rock Around the Clock held on New Years Eve. St. Benedicts requested permission to hold a public nativity display at the park on Saturday, December 23. He requested a police officer to block traffic. The event will be finished by 8:30 p.m.

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CITY CLERK:

Motion by Ald. Donahue, second by Ald. Bilotto to approve a request from Park Lawn to have their annual Tag and Candy Day Fundraiser on Friday & Saturday, March 30th and 31st and Friday & Saturday, April 20th and 21st, 2018 from 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. or dusk.

Ayes: 14 Poulos, Johnson, Frausto, Bilotto, Vieyra,
Rita, Donahue, Hawley, Fahrenwald, Ostling,
Thompson, Carr, Pittman, Slattery

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

There being Fourteen (14) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Motion by Ald. Rita, second by Ald. Pittman to approve a request from Misericordia for their annual JellyBelly Candy Days on Friday and Saturday, April 27th and 28th, 2018.

Ayes: 13 Poulos, Johnson, Frausto, Vieyra, Rita,
Donahue, Hawley, Fahrenwald, Ostling,
Thompson, Carr, Pittman, Slattery

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 Bilotto

Abstain: 0

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

BIDS:

No bids.

CITY TREASURER:

Motion by Ald. Ostling, second by Ald. Donahue to approve the Monthly Treasurer's Report for the period ending on November 30, 2017.

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Ayes: 13 Poulos, Johnson, Frausto, Bilotto, Vieyra,
Rita, Donahue, Hawley, Fahrenwald, Ostling,
Carr, Pittman, Slattery

Nays: 1 Thompson

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

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

CITY ATTORNEY:

No business.

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

Next Meeting – Thursday, January 4, 2018, 7:00 p.m. – East Annex

Finance Committee – Ald. Ostling, Chairman

AN ORDINANCE LEVYING TAXES FOR THE CITY OF BLUE ISLAND FOR THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2017 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2017.

Motion by Ald. Hawley, second by Ald. Fahrenwald to approve the amendment to reduce the levy for the police pension fund from \$1,994,401 to \$1,808,215, to reduce the levy for the fire pension fund from \$1,223,468 to \$1,177,555, to increase the levy for police protection from \$849,180 to \$1,035,594, and to increase the levy for fire protection tax from \$766,783 to \$812,696. Total levy would still remain the same.

Ayes: 6 Johnson, Vieyra, Hawley, Fahrenwald,
Ostling, Thompson

Nays: 7 Frausto, Bilotto, Rita, Donahue, Carr,
Pittman, Slattery

Absent: 0

Abstain: 1 Poulos

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There being Six (6) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion failed.

Motion by Ald. Ostling, second by Ald. Fahrenwald to approve the original ordinance levying taxes for the City of Blue Island.

Ayes: 9 Poulos, Frausto, Bilotto, Rita, Donahue
Fahrenwald, Carr, Pittman, Slattery

Nays: 5 Johnson, Vieyra, Hawley, Ostling,
Thompson,

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

There being Nine (9) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Motion by Ald. Ostling, second by Ald. Rita to approve reducing the permit fee for Moraine Valley Community College from \$88,720.00 to \$44,360.00.

Ayes: 13 Poulos, Johnson, Frausto, Bilotto, Vieyra,
Rita, Donahue, Hawley, Fahrenwald, Ostling,
Thompson, Carr, Pittman

Nays: 1 Slattery

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

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

Motion by Ald. Ostling, second by Ald. Rita to approve Payroll for December 1, 2017 for \$369,411.87.

Ayes: 13 Poulos, Frausto, Bilotto, Vieyra, Rita,
Donahue, Hawley, Fahrenwald, Ostling,
Thompson, Carr, Pittman, Slattery

Nays: 1 Johnson

Absent: 0

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Abstain: 0

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

Motion by Ald. Ostling, second by Ald. Hawley to approve Accounts Payable for December 6, 2017 for \$389,672.27.

Ayes: 12 Poulos, Johnson, Frausto, Vieyra, Rita,
Hawley, Fahrenwald, Ostling, Thompson,
Carr, Pittman, Slattery

Nays: 1 Donahue

Absent: 0

Abstain: 1 Bilotto

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

Motion by Ald. Ostling, second by Ald. Donahue to approve a Resolution of the City of Blue Island, Cook County Illinois supporting the Renewal of a Class 6B Real Estate Tax Assessment Classification for 12949 California Avenue (Garetto Brothers Holdings)

Ayes: 12 Poulos, Johnson, Frausto, Bilotto, Vieyra,
Rita, Donahue, Hawley, Ostling, Carr,
Pittman, Slattery

Nays: 2 Fahrenwald, Thompson

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

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

Motion by Ald. Ostling, second by Ald. Vieyra to approve the Chem Check Asbestos Inspection, 2427 W. 127th Street estimated at \$2000.00.

Ayes: 14 Poulos, Johnson, Frausto, Bilotto, Vieyra,
Rita, Donahue, Hawley, Fahrenwald, Ostling,
Thompson, Carr, Pittman, Slattery

Nays: 0

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Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

There being Fourteen (14) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, December 19, 2017, 7:00 p.m. – East Annex

Public Health & Safety Committee – Ald. Carr, Chairman

Alderman Carr read an email from Ken Dompling into the record:

Mayor Vargas,

I have just viewed the last City Council meeting where you made an appointment of Fire Chief. During Attorney Horvath's reading of the requirement's, as put forth on the City's website, I do have one of the requirements that would allow me to apply for the position of Fire Chief stated as "10 years of service". Although several applicants may have had more qualifications on paper than I, per the state statute that was on your website, I still qualified for an interview.

Furthermore, I did turn the application through email 16 days ahead of the cutoff date. Maybe you should look at my original email which is at the bottom of this page dated Nov 1, 2017. Also, I gave a copy of my resume to your secretary days prior to the cutoff date.

I'm glad the City appointed who they felt was the best candidate the position, however, I do not appreciate in front of the entire council, a fabrication of the truth as far as when I turned my application and that I was not qualified to even turn in an application. Those false statements that were made in front of the council, challenges my credibility. which I do not appreciate. Also, I am disappointed with your communication process as you cannot cordially respond to my email.

I would hope that you could professionally answer this email so we can clear this up.

She also read an email from Jim Klinker:

FOR THE RECORD: *I do not have a "man to man" agreement to transition the new chief as the mayor said multiple times. At one time, back on October 2nd when I informed the mayor I was retiring I offered to help the new guy after I left and he had any questions. I assumed there would be at least a week or so of overlap and that I wouldn't be showing the guy everything on my own time. I didn't hear anymore from the mayor until October 25th when I met with the Mayor, Director Rita and Attorney Horvath to discuss my replacement and the process the City was going to take.*

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I went home and thought about the lack of transition as nothing was being done. It really bothered me and still does that there was no provision for a transition. I take great pride in MY department and thought there needed to be some transition, especially since negotiations and appropriations are coming up quickly. The Fire Chief plays an important role in Public Safety and someone needed to be Incident Command in the event of an emergency. I proposed a plan to the Mayor and Director Rita on separate occasions. The plan was for me to stay until February 28, 2018 to train the new guy and help with appropriations and negotiations in exchange for a pay raise after the first of the year. The purpose of this raise was to counteract the loss in future pension increase I would incur by staying after November 30, 2017. This raise would have cost the city less than \$1,350 total for the months of January and February.

I ran this plan past Director Rita on October 27th. He thought it was a good plan that would be beneficial to the both parties. I then attempted to contact the Mayor since he didn't respond to the text I sent him and Director Rita asking to meet with them again about my proposal. That text was sent October 26th. Director Rita is the only one who responded. After the weekend I contacted Marisol and asked for an appointment with the mayor. She called back and set it up for October 31 at 1PM in the Mayor's Office.

I explained my proposal to the Mayor and he stated he thought it was a good idea. He appeared relieved that I was willing to stay and help out. He stated he had to run it by the City Attorney and would get back to me. I informed him that I needed to apply for my pension on Thursday November 16, 2017 if my idea wasn't acceptable. He said he would get back to me at "the beginning of next week" (November 5th-11th). I then stated that after the end of February if the new guy had any further questions he could just call me and I would be glad to help. This meeting like the one in which I gave my retirement notice lasted all of about 4 minutes.

I waited patiently and never heard from him again. I tried contacting him via text and was never answered. Finally after another email, I was eventually contact by Cary Horvath around the end of "next week" and discussed my proposal with him. He sent Leslie Kennedy to see me on Monday November 13, 2017. She had some crazy idea about me retiring on the 30th and getting reappointed on December 4th, staying until the end of February, which she thought would somehow increase my salary. FYI, it would not. She asked me to contact our pension attorney to see if this plan would work. I did and it would not and I let her know that. She also had an idea about creating a position as Fire Department Administrator and paying me until the end of February. She stated I could be a "double dipper" and collect a pension as well as a salary. After I informed her that I would not do that as I don't want my name dragged through the mud as a double dipper at the end of what I consider a stellar career, she said she would keep working on ideas and get back to me. She stated that due to the current city council she didn't think would approve a pay raise, but yet she offered to create an entire new position? Doesn't make sense to me. Besides, if I wanted to work until the end of February I would have put my papers in then. Her plans would have created a financial loss for me due to a delayed pension start. I love this department and this town but I am not willing to take a personal financial loss because the City couldn't figure out how to replace me in a timely manner.

On Tuesday November 14th there were numerous emails between myself and Leslie Kennedy regarding her ideas. She did not seem to grasp what I was saying. The mayor and Cary Horvath were both cc'd on ALL of those emails.

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Again I patiently waited. On Thursday I texted the mayor and told him I would be filing my paperwork at the 4 PM pension meeting. I offered to meet with him again before then to try and figure something out. I emailed the same message to him, Cary Horvath and Leslie Kennedy. Surprise, surprise the mayor NEVER responded. Finally at 1108 AM I received an email from Cary Horvath telling me I should probably just put in my pension application. He went on to say they would keep working on it and sorry for the confusion. I filed my application and was NEVER contacted again by any of them. So the Mayor must have assumed that I was willing to stay and help with the transition since, other than the meeting on October 25th, we only spoke together for less than 8 minutes total regarding my departure and replacement since early October when I gave notice to him.

All I was looking for was an answer to my proposal. If it wasn't going to happen, someone could have told me without my waiting and what seemed like badgering to get an answer. Sorry for the long explanation but this is part of the reason I was so aggravated at the council meeting.

The other reason is that the Mayor and the interview committee all knew that Christina Walsh did not meet the minimum qualifications and was still interviewed. I received her resume via email from Marisol around 758 AM on Monday the 20th, the date of her scheduled interview. I reviewed it as I had done the others and I Responded ALL at 1235 PM that she did not meet the degree requirement and stated we shouldn't waste our time interviewing a candidate that could not hold the position by law. This email went to the entire interview committee. Marisol responded that "We are aware of the qualifications and the lawyer suggested that we proceed with the interview anyway."

So, not only did the Mayor mislead the City Council last Tuesday, so did the City Attorney. And Ken Dompling did meet the minimum requirements of the statute, something else the Attorney misled the council on. I wasn't aware of Ken's application until the night of the council meeting.

In closing, It's been a great career and I am truly honored to have worked for the citizens for over 32 years. It's sad that my departure has to be clouded by untruths spoken by the Mayor and City Attorney, both people that should represent the citizens as well. I am a big proponent on honesty and telling the truth and It has been my experience that if someone lies once they will continue to lie. Good luck on the City Council and thanks for working to make my hometown a better place. I'm around town and can explain this more if you would like, let me know.

Attorney Horvath asked Alderman Carr if she listened to the advice he gave her in an email to not act on reappointments of Police Commanders.

Municipal Services Committee – Ald. Rita, Chairman

ORDINANCES RESTRICTING PORTIONS OF CERTAIN STREETS FOR HANDICAPPED PARKING ONLY AT 2634 122ND STREET, 2127 CANAL STREET AND 2307 CANAL STREET WITHIN THE CITY OF BLUE ISLAND, COUNTY OF COOK, STATE OF ILLINOIS AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF.

Regular Meeting -- December 12, 2017

Motion by Ald. Rita, second by Ald. Donahue to approve Ordinances.

Ayes: 14 Poulos, Johnson, Frausto, Bilotto, Vieyra,
Rita, Donahue, Hawley, Fahrenwald, Ostling,
Thompson, Carr, Pittman

Nays: 1 Slattery

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

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

A RESOLUTION FOR MAINTENANCE WORK ON STATE OF ILLINOIS FACILITIES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (IDOT).

Motion by Ald. Rita, second by Ald. Donahue to approve the Resolution.

Ayes: 14 Poulos, Johnson, Frausto, Bilotto, Vieyra,
Rita, Donahue, Hawley, Fahrenwald, Ostling,
Thompson, Carr, Pittman

Nays: 1 Slattery

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

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

Next Meeting – Tuesday, January 23, 2018, 6:00 p.m. – East Annex

Judiciary Committee – Ald. Fahrenwald, Chairman

Motion by Ald. Fahrenwald, second by Ald. Bilotto approving Ordinances designating the following addresses as Historic Landmarks: 2547 Walnut Street, 12846 Maple Avenue, and 12914 Elm Street.

Ayes: 14 Poulos, Johnson, Frausto, Bilotto, Vieyra,
Rita, Donahue, Hawley, Fahrenwald, Ostling,
Thompson, Carr, Pittman, Slattery

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Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

There being Fourteen (14) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Next Meeting -- Monday, December 18, 2017, 6:00 p.m. – East Annex

ALDERMANIC ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS

City Treasurer asked for clarification regarding being given corporate authority over payroll and accounts payable.

It was recommended that a city council meeting be scheduled for December 19th immediately after the finance committee meeting to approve payroll and accounts payable.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Upon a vote, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

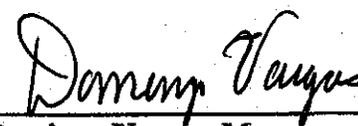
The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the City Council is scheduled for January 9, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.



Randy Heuser, City Clerk

**APPROVED BY ME THIS
9TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2017.**



Domingo Vargas, Mayor

