

Regular Meeting – October 8, 2013

**JOURNAL OF PROCEEDING  
OF THE  
MEETING, OCTOBER 8, 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 October 8, 2013.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE****ROLL CALL**

Roll Call indicates the following:

Present: 13 Ald. Pittman, Johnson, Frausto, Thompson, Johanson, Buckner (7:05), Hawley, Vieyra, Rita, Donahue, Stone, Carr, Ostling

Absent: 1 Ald. Bilotto

Present Also: Randy Heuser, City Clerk  
ShawnTe Raines, City Attorney

**JOURNAL OF PROCEEDING**

Moved by Ald. Rita, second by Ald. Carr the Journal of Proceedings for the Regular Meeting on September 24, 2013 is accepted as printed.

Ayes: 12 Ald. Pittman, Johnson, Frausto, Thompson, Johanson, Hawley, Vieyra, Rita, Donahue, Stone, Carr, Ostling

Nays: 0

Absent: 2 Ald. Buckner, Bilotto

Abstain: 0

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

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

City Attorney Raines reminded citizens wishing to address the council about the purpose of city council meetings and the general procedures.

Perry Recker of 12602 Maple Ave invited everyone to attend an open meeting on Thursday, October 24, at the Blue Island Public Library. The Forestry Board will share what they have learned over the past three and a half years about the City and share ideas on how to make it more green.

Willie Scott of 11917 Longwood Drive asked for a response on the FOI request that was submitted last year.

The Mayor stated they have that documentation and will set up a meeting with Mr. Scott and the new human resources person.

Mr. Scott expressed his concerns over the Community Center in the California Gardens.

They Mayor that issue will be addressed with the City Attorney. Blue Island is responsible for that piece of property and is looking to make it useful for the community.

Doug Hoglund of 2440 Walter Zimny Drive in Posen wanted to thank Blue Island Police Department for their assistance last Friday when Posen experienced their first homicide in 10 years. He gave a special thanks to the first responding officers: Detective Delgadillo, Sergeant Haro, Detective Podbielniak, Detective Nedved, and Officer Colone.

Ald. Johnson thanked Chief Hoglund for his help in the California Gardens.

Carol DePace-Green of 2731 Orchard St expressed her concerns over JAWA.

Allan Stevo of 2324 Union had several inquiries about Accounts Payable for September 18, 2013. Mr. Stevo wanted to know why the following were paid out: Juan Quevedo for \$26,000; Law Offices Neville for \$7,000; The Spy Glass Group, LLC for \$18,000.

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The Mayor agreed to get him the information regarding all of those inquiries.

Mr. Stevo asked the Mayor if he could put a plan together to reduce the attorney expenses for the City and reduce law suits.

The Mayor stated they will look into that.

Mr. Stevo feels there should be an ordinance if the city council is changing its procedures.

The Mayor stated he will check if there needs to be an ordinance or not.

Mr. Stevo urged the Mayor to hire Blue Island residents.

Jude Coyle of 2537 120<sup>th</sup> Street requested donations for Angel's Touch. They need food, school supplies, and toys. Everyone is invited to the second annual Angel's Touch Benefit. It will be held on October 26 at Tenochtitlan from 4:00 pm to 8:00pm. Tickets are \$10 each and include one drink at the bar and an appetizer.

Tommy Brown of 6309 Virginia Lane in Matteson read a letter that he submitted to the City on August 15, 2013. The Tommy Brown Sports Association is willing to consider to continue operating the facility if the City is willing to fix all the repairs needed on the building and help with utilities such as gas, light, water, lawn care, and snow removal.

## REPORT OF CITY OFFICIALS

### Mayor

**Motion by Ald. Vieyra, second by Ald. Donahue to approve swearing in of two part time fire fighters.**

Upon a vote, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

**Motion by Ald. Stone, second by Ald. Carr to approve Calvary Chapel's annual "Hallelujah Night" on October 31<sup>st</sup> at 12640 Sacramento Ave from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm.**

Upon a vote, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

**Motion by Ald. Pittman, second by Ald. Frausto to approve 6-month pilot agreement with G-Pass technologies pending attorney review.**

On the question: Ald. Donahue felt there are a lot of risks, many unanswered questions, and that there are other alternatives for the city. He would not be supporting this and asked his fellow council members to not support it as well.

Attorney Raines gave clarification of what the pilot program is.

Ald. Frausto states he understand the skepticism about putting a device in one's home but thinks it is a tremendous opportunity and has a lot of potential. He strongly recommended the program.

The Mayor stressed that this is only a pilot program.

Ayes:	11	Ald. Pittman, Johnson, Frausto, Thompson, Buckner, Hawley, Vieyra, Rita, Stone, Carr, Ostling
Nays:	2	Ald. Johanson, Donahue
Absent:	1	Ald. Bilotto
Abstain:	0	

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

**Motion by Ald. Rita, second by Ald. Pittman to approve appointment of Mack. E Galvan as Director of Municipal Services.**

Ayes:	11	Ald. Pittman, Johnson, Frausto, Thompson, Johanson, Hawley, Vieyra, Rita, Donahue, Carr, Ostling
Nays:	2	Ald. Buckner, Stone

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Absent: 1 Ald. Bilotto

Abstain: 0

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

**Sandra Wilkes, Executive Director of Community Relations and Marketing at Metro South Medical Center, gave presentation regarding Affordable Care Act.**

**BIDS**

No Bids.

**CITY CLERK**

No Business.

**CITY TREASURER**

No Business.

**CITY ATTORNEY**

No Business.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

No Report.

Next Meeting – Thursday, October 17, 2013, 7:00 pm – East Annex.

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

Betty Harmeyer discussed implementing a lower fee for the room rental contract for the golf course as well as the golf fee for employees v. nonemployees to attract more business. She researched a few facilities in the area and is still in the process of gathering more info. Director John Rita added by lowering the amount in the long run it would bring in more revenue. Ms. Harmeyer has many fresh ideas to attract business year around especially for the holidays.

Mayor Vargas promoted the G-Pass Program and discussed the benefits of initiating a pilot program in Blue Island such as bringing jobs to the community. Clerk Heuser agreed that a six month trial of 50 homes, 10 businesses and 10 cars would be a feasible initial start. Augustino Korkif estimated that in the long run it would save Blue Island millions of dollars as well as generating revenue. After a long discussion and many questions a motion was made by Alderman Tom Hawley and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Nancy Thompson to pass this to Judiciary to initiate a six month pilot program with no cost to the City of Blue Island. Voice Vote with all in favor.

Matt Anastasia explained the benefits of applying for an American Express card which is offered to municipalities. The card would be used solely for the purpose of paying the city's water bill which is approximately 2.4 million dollars a year. The city would receive points which we would in turn be able to use to purchase a variety of necessities such as salt for the streets. A motion was made by Alderman Nancy Thompson and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Tom Hawley to authorize Mat Anastasia to apply for an American Express card which will be restricted for the sole purpose of payment of the City of Blue Island water bill to Chicago.

Director Terry Sullivan briefed us regarding bids for tree removal at several locations with Barnes being the lowest at \$4,300. Motion by Alderman Tom Hawley 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Nancy Thompson to authorize payment to Barnes for \$4,300 for tree removal services. Voice Vote all in favor.

A motion was made by by Alderman Nancy Thompson and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Tom Hawley to authorize payment on an invoice for winter foliage in the amount of \$1,500 to Christine Webber Landscapes. Voice Vote all in favor.

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**PAYROLL**

**Motion by Ald. Rita, second by Ald. Johnson to approve Payroll Payable for September 27, 2013 for Gross - \$379,944.41 and a Net - \$221,716.01.**

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 Ald. Bilotto

Abstain: 0

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

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

**Motion by Ald. Rita, second by Ald. Donahue to approve Accounts Payable for October 2, 2013 for \$623,506.38**

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 Ald. Bilotto

Abstain: 0

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

Next Meeting – Tuesday, October 15, 2013, 7:00 pm – East Annex

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

There were no citizens present.

### **Fire Department Report**

The Fire Department had 254 emergency calls in September, 178 were EMS calls

161 Patients were treated

140 Patients were transported

38 Patients refused transport

They responded to 14 general fire alarms, and 13 minor fire alarms.

They responded to 25 auto aid calls.

They had 20 calls to man the firehouses.

They responded to 4 mutual aid calls.

There were no major incidents involving the Fire Department in the City.

The Fire Department collected \$23,004.40 in the month of September, net of the collection fees.

The Fire Department has exhausted the maintenance budget for this fiscal year, and has submitted a report of preventative maintenance and further repairs on equipment to the Finance Committee.

The training division has completed 428.59 hours of training for the month of September. Firefighter Bethscheider went to a special Haz Mat Training on sheltering in Hazardous Material incidents.

The department has two Firefighter positions that are open due to one Firefighter going on a disability retirement, and Deputy Chief Klinker's promotion. The Civil Service Commission gave a full time entry level written and physical agility test on Saturday, September 21, 2013.

The Fire Department is hiring two new part-time Firefighters that conducted a five month internship with the department last year through Moraine Valley Community College. This will increase the number of part-time Firefighters to eleven.

The opening for the Fire Prevention Officer position is in litigation and grievance letters have been addressed with the union.



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Chief Luety has submitted an application for a SAFER Grant for six new firemen for two years. We are awaiting word on this grant.

The Fire Department is waiting for the shipment of the new compressor, and a final clearance from NIOSH on the standard 2013 before they can order the Air Packs.

Fire Prevention Week is October 6<sup>th</sup> through October 12<sup>th</sup>. This year's theme is Kitchen Fire Safety. The Fire Department is conducting a poster contest with all the grade schools and the winner will be presented at a City Council meeting.

The Fire Department will welcome any guest this week between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. and take them on a tour of the Fire Station.

**Police Department Report**

The Police Department patrolled 15,580 miles for the month of September. 2386 calls answered.

553 Parking Citations  
400 Moving Citations  
228 Traffic Stops  
15 Felonies  
61 Misdemeanors  
19 Warrant Arrests  
43 Local Ordinance Violations (admin towing fees)  
48 Vehicles Impounded

Total Fees Collected: \$55,023.84

**Detective Division**

55 Case Assignments in August  
33 Cases closed  
11 Cases pending apprehension  
21 Cases pending lab  
94 Open cases  
6 Warrant Cases

Deputy Chief Cornell presented an Incident Comparison report for the year to date for the years 2013 and 2012.

The Boot Ordinance will be amended on October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The first boot should go on a short time after that. Part time officers will be used to boot and tow the parking violators.

The next part-time academy begins January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The Police Department is asking to hire 10 part-time officers. It has been posted on the Blue Island Police Department website that applications are being accepted.

Deputy Chief Cornell is currently researching the expenses involved with the city's animal control service.

Sergeant Sisk is revamping the training/range program to make it more cost effective.

There will be a 911 meeting on October 17, 2014 at 2:30 p.m. at the East Annex with Posen, Midlothian, and Calumet Park.

There will be the following personnel changes in the next two weeks: Corporal Connors will go to the Detective Division from the day shift. Officer Cirullo will be reassigned to the afternoon shift in patrol from the detective division. Officer Slattery will be moved to the day shift from the afternoon shift to resume his Elderly Service duties. Officer Miller will be reassigned to the midnight shift from the day shift. Corporal Rzab will be moved to the day shift from the midnight shift.

Director John Rita and Deputy Chief Cornell met with School District 218 to discuss safety issues.

Fire Chief Luety and Deputy Chief Cornell met with Cook County Department of Public Health to discuss mass vaccinations in case of a health emergency.

Deputy Chief Cornell met with Robert Dolesky of the Illinois Comptroller's office to discuss the changes to the debt recovery program.

Director Rita and Deputy Chief Cornell spoke to a group of 75 seniors at the Calumet Township Senior Center about safety.

Elderly Service Officer Slattery spoke to a group of seniors about safety at First Lutheran Church on September 18<sup>th</sup>.

Deputy Chief Cornell, Fire Chief Luety, and Deputy Chief Klinker met with MetroSouth Medical Center to discuss/update their response to bomb threats.

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The Police Department assisted with the Run for Your Life 5K run at St. Benedicts.

There will be a special meeting of the Public Health and Safety Committee on October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013, in regards to an AFSCME grievance.

**Aldermen Concerns**

Alderman Vieyra expressed concern over the number of pit bulls currently residing in Blue Island.

Next Meeting – November 6, 2013 - 7:00 pm – East Annex.

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

No Report.

Next Meeting – Monday, October 14, 2013, 6:30 pm – East Annex.

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

No Report.

Ald. Donahue gave thanks to everyone who participated in the 5K.

**CLOSED SESSION**

There was no need to go into closed session.

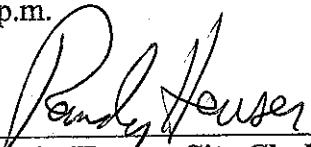
**ADJOURNMENT**

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

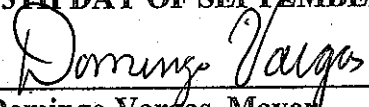
Upon a vote, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Regular Meeting – October 8, 2013

The next regular meeting of the City Council is scheduled for  
October 22, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

  
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Randy Heuser, City Clerk

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

  
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Domingo Vargas, Mayor