

**JOURNAL OF PROCEEDING
OF THE
MEETING, NOVEMBER 12, 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 November 12, 2013.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Roll Call indicates the following:

Present: 14 Ald. Frausto, Thompson, Johanson, Buckner, Hawley, Vieyra, Bilotto, Rita, Donahue, Stone, Carr, Ostling, Pittman, Johnson

Absent: 0

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 for the Regular Meeting on October 22, 2013 is accepted as printed.

Ayes: 14 Ald. Frausto, Thompson, Johanson, Buckner, Hawley, Vieyra, Bilotto, Rita, Donahue, Stone, Carr, Ostling, Pittman, Johnson

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

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

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

Joan Davis of 2945 Everett protested a high water bill she received.

Several people expressed the importance of the Recreation Center to the community and their concerns for its future including: Mark Kuehner of 2250 Orchard St, Willie Scott of 11917 Longwood Dr, Pastor Samuel L. Day Jr, Marcus Day of 2801 142nd Place, Bertha Olaiwumi of 3032 W. 140th St, Ronald Young of 12440 Maple, Donna Lee of 2957 142nd Place,

The pastor of Brother Life Christian Center offered to partner with the City of Blue Island to keep valuable programs in the Rec Center.

The Mayor responded that they are looking to address the issue as soon as possible and it is a priority.

Denise Jackson of 13020 Honore expressed her concerns over a problem with drug use in her building.

Jane Healy of 12056 Maple Ave was pleased to see things being put up on the agenda and encouraged the need to maximize active transportation through out Blue Island.

Allan Stevo of 2324 Union St asked when he would receive the written legal opinion he requested last council meeting. Mr. Stevo also asked when a police chief would be appointed.

The Mayor responded they are working on it. As far as the police chief, the City is still reviewing its financial situation.

Mr. Stevo asked about lawsuits that could not be discussed because they were pending litigation.

REPORT OF CITY OFFICIALS**Mayor****State of the City – Mayor Vargas**

The Mayor presented the dire financial situation the City of Blue Island is currently in. They will be taking drastic actions in order to find a solution to this financial debacle. One of the biggest expenses is payroll related to benefits such as IMRF, pensions, and health insurance. Employees received a letter stating that they will be looking at potential furloughs and possible layoffs to get through the financial crisis.

Planning Update – Jason Berry

Mr. Berry gave an update on the different planning projects going on in the City.

Ald. Johnson asked what kind of businesses that will be coming will be bringing in jobs.

Mr. Berry replied there are two approaches: one is to try to get involvement in contracts like at Fay's point there will certain number of jobs. Another way to encourage job growth is to encourage Blue Island businesses to buy from other Blue Island businesses.

Jen-Care Presentation

Jen-Care is a specialized primary care center for seniors (65 and over) who are moderate to low income with and have chronic illnesses. They are looking to build their state of the art facility in the old Kline's building.

Fire Prevention Week Poster Winners

Winners of the poster contest (Mercado & Healy) were presented with certificates and informed that they would be picked up in a fire truck the following morning and given a ride to school.

BIDS

No Bids.

CITY CLERK**El Humanitario Award**

Clerk Heuser congratulated the Mayor for receiving the Humanitario Award. Last month, surrounded by friends, family, aldermen, and several council members, the Mayor Domingo Vargas was honored by Alvarez because of his commitment to the legal profession and dedication to the Hispanic American community.

Motion by Ald. Johanson, second by Ald. Johnson to approve a request from Neighborhood Watch Group #37 to use the East Annex for Black History Month celebration on February 21, 2014 from 6:30pm – 11:00 pm.

Upon a vote, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Ald. Carr invited the public to attend St. Joseph's and St. Aiden's Episcopal Church gift drive that it is holding on December 8th starting at 4:00 pm.

Ald. Rita is collecting breakfast cereal for Angel's Touch up until November 30th.

Ald. Johanson announced that Evangelical Community Church is celebrating their 90th anniversary that weekend and wished them the very best.

CITY TREASURER

Motion by Ald. Donahue, second by Ald. Carr to accept the Treasure's Report for October 31, 2013 to be placed on file.

Ayes: 14 Ald. Frausto, Thompson, Johanson, Buckner,
Hawley, Vieyra, Bilotto, Rita, Donahue,
Stone, Carr, Ostling, Pittman, Johnson

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

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

CITY ATTORNEY

Attorney Raines suggested that the two motions on the agenda be included in the consent agenda.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Development – Ald. Hawley, Chairman

No Report.

Next Meeting – Wednesday, November 13, 2013, 7:00 pm – East Annex.

Finance Committee – Ald. Rita, Chairman

The meeting was called to order Tuesday, November 5, 2013.

Present: Ald. Hawley, Ald. Thompson, and Ald. Donahue.

Absent: Ald. Cheatle

Also Present: Treasurer Bilotto, Finance Supervisor Matt Anastasia, Director Terry Sullivan, Director John Rita, Ald. Carr, and Ald. Johnson

Accounts Payable for November 3, 2013 in the amount of \$604,266.49 was authorized by Ald. Hawley, second by Ald. Thompson and a voice vote with all in favor to approve. Motion carried.

A motion to send a Resolution to the city council which I previously asked for regarding the previous administration's corporate inter-fund borrowing was made by Ald. Donahue, second by Ald. Hawley. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Matt Anastasia announced and explained the 2013 Tax Levy in the amount of \$6,933,846.99 which is a 4.9% increase. A motion to authorize by Ald. Hawley, second by Ald. Donahue. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, November 19, 2013, 7:00 pm – East Annex

Public Health & Safety Committee – Ald. Carr, Chairman

The meeting was called to order Wednesday, November 6th.

Present were Director John Rita, Fire Chief Mark Luety, Deputy Chief Michael Cornell, Deputy Fire Chief James Klinker, Alderman Johanson, Alderman Vieyra, Alderman Johnson, and myself. Absent was Alderman Buckner. Also present were Alderman Marcia Stone, Fire Lieutenant Tom Zielinski, and Firefighter Adam Zielinski.

Citizens Concerns

A business owner from Olde Western Avenue came to address the issues they are having with the Island Bar and Grill, located at 13414 Olde Western Avenue.

A resident from Lincoln Street came to address issues that they are having with a neighbor.

Fire Department Grievance

Firefighter and President of Local 3547 Adam Staszewski presented the argument for payment of Firefighter David Haywood's reimbursement for classes taken, which had previously been denied.

Director John Rita and Fire Chief Mark Luety presented the argument for denying the grievance.

Presentation by Director John Rita for new Police Department position

Director John Rita presented the case for creating the appointed position of a Patrol Commander in the Police Department. The function of this office would be to review use of force incidents.

Fire Department Report

The Fire Department had 286 emergency calls in October, 193 were EMS calls
173 Patients were treated

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154 Patients were transported
40 Patients refused transport

They responded to 22 general fire alarms, and 21 minor fire alarms.

They responded to 25 auto aid calls.

They had 18 calls to man the firehouses.

They responded to 6 mutual aid calls.

There was one garage fire at 2415 Birdsall, the cause is undetermined.

The Fire Department collected \$26,116.56 in the month of October, net of the collection fees.

Marine II has been taken out of the water for the season. Fire Engine #2133 will be sent out for repairs and preventative maintenance work next week.

The training division has completed 481.25 hours of training for the month of October. Deputy Fire Chief Jim Klinker, and Lieutenant Tony Kunz attended a seminar presented by Blue Card Command. They will be presenting this information to all the members of the department in training sessions.

Two new part-time firefighters, Tim Wopinek and Demetrius Nolan were sworn in at the City Council meeting on October 8th, 2013.

The Civil Service Commission has completed all the testing process for the position of entry level Firefighter and Lieutenant. At present we have two full time Firefighter positions open, one Lieutenant's position, and the Fire Prevention Officer position, which is going to arbitration.

The new SCBA air compressor was delivered Friday, November 1st and is in service. We are still waiting on the standard for certification and approval before we will receive the new Air Packs which were also included in this grant.

The Fire Department will be receiving twenty-two new radios from the FEMA Radio Grant within the next several weeks. Blue Island FD and Alsip FD will be the first two departments to receive and test the new radios for the MABAS division.

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The Fire Department will be submitting applications for two ambulances through the FEMA Assistance to Fire Fighter's Grant. Each ambulance would cost between \$160,000.00 and \$170,000.00. The City would have to match 10% of the cost if we are awarded the grant.

Fire Chief Luety discussed a new Auto Aid agreement with the Alsip Fire Department.

Fire Prevention Week

Fire Prevention Week was October 6th through October 12th. This year's theme was Kitchen Fire Safety. During the week, open house and tours were held at both fire stations. Presentations were made on Kitchen Fire Safety. The Fire Department also conducted a poster contest with all the grade schools and the winner will be presented at the City Council meeting of November 12th.

Police Department Report

The Police Department patrolled 16,452 miles for the month of October. 3010 calls answered.

525 Parking Citations
370 Moving Citations
225 Traffic Stops
5 Felonies
36 Misdemeanors
19 Warrant Arrests
22 Local Ordinance Violations (admin towing fees)
49 Vehicles Impounded

Total Fees Collected: \$40,698.92

Detective Division

29 Case Assignments in October
25 Cases closed
11 Cases pending apprehension
24 Cases pending lab
109 Open cases
5 Warrant Cases

Training/Seminars Attended

Detective Nedved attended a one week Juvenile Specialist School. He is now a State Certified Juvenile Specialist.

Detective Murray attended a one week Gang Specialist School. He is now a State Certified Gang Specialist.

Sergeant Podbielniak, Detective Nedved and Detective Delgadillo all attended a two day Lead Homicide Conference. This is part of a mandatory continual education required to maintain Lead Homicide Investigator Status.

Sergeant Podbielniak and Detective Nedved attended the 8 Hour Rapid Deployment Class.

Aldermen Concerns

Alderman Vieyra expressed concern over juveniles presenting themselves as collecting money for the Untouchables, when no fundraising efforts are currently in effect. She also expressed concern over traffic problems around MetroSouth Medical Center.

Alderman Johnson expressed concern over the Rec Center still being closed. It would not be available for use if a public emergency occurred.

Closed Door Session

The committee went into closed door session to discuss the Fire Department grievance.

Next Meeting – Wednesday, December 4th at 7:00 in the East Annex.

Municipal Services Committee – Ald. Johanson, Chairman

The Special Meeting was called to order Thursday, November 7th.

Present: Ald. Donahue, Ald. Stone, Ald. Pittman, Ald. Frausto, Ald. Johanson, Treasurer Bilotto, Ald. Thompson, Water Superintendent Houlf, Director Rita, Mark Miller, Jason Berry, Theresa Malysa, John Malysa, and Ald. Frausto.

The Municipal Services Committee approved and agrees to send to the Judiciary Committee to rescind no parking ordinance on Vincennes from 123rd St to 121st St to add on street parking near the Blue Station Apartment Complex. Motion by Ald. Donahue, second by Ald. Stone.

No action was taken on the honorary street naming ordinance due to a lack of a second motion to adopt. Item declared tabled until next regular Municipal Services Committee.

Water Director Robert Houlf updated the committee on a high water billing for a resident at 12621 Artesian. Some plumbing issues were identified. The resident was not present, but issue will be addressed in executive session.

John and Theresa Malysa presented their appeal in regard to a sewer collapse issue at the properties at 12827-12833 Irving Ave. Their thought is that the collapse may have occurred during the street repairs that the city had done. Water Superintendent Houlf presented the history of the issue that dates back to former Superintendent Joe Werner and has been re-evaluated since. The property owner has received a bid of about \$8000. The city provided the name of a plumbing company that quoted a price not to exceed \$3,500. Matter will be addressed in executive session and a determination made to John Malysa within 5-10 days.

Two appeals were discussed in the executive session.

The Municipal Services Committee has reviewed an appeal by a resident of an unusually high water billing and recommends/authorizes the City Clerk to remove the sewer and sanitary charges from the 9/28/13 billing to the resident at 12626 Artesian, therefore making the amount due \$398.12 that is to be made in six equal monthly payments of \$66.36. Motion by Ald. Stone, second by Ald. Johnson.

Municipal Services Committee rejected the appeal, will suggest the property owner contact several other area plumbers for a more competitive pricing. The city will open the street and repave the street as a means to help minimize the cost. Offer extended is good for only the next 90 days. Motion by Ald. Johnson, second by Ald. Donahue.

Ald. Johnson thanked Mario Gomez and asked for him to be able to go into the Recreation Center and see what is going on in there.

Ald. Rita thanked Frank Berrini for his help in the 3rd ward. She also reminded residents to put leaves on the parkway not on the street.

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Ald. Buckner thanked Deputy Chief Cornell for the terrific job he and his department did on Halloween. Also, Ald. Buckner asked that the current administration stop looking at the negative of the old administration and look towards the future.

Judiciary Committee – Ald. Ostling, Chairman

The meeting was called to order on Monday, November 4th.
Present: Ald. Ostling, Stone, Bilotto, Pittman, and Frausto
Also present: Director Rita, Treasurer Bilotto, and Attorney Sullivan

Insurance loss and medical reimbursement

One claim due to ambulance hitting side mirror of a car on 10-21-2013 resident requesting \$278.00 to repair damage. Motion to approve by Ald. Stone, second by Ald. Pittman. Motion passed.

Handicap parking sign for 2153 121st Street was tabled due to lack of paper work. Motion to table by Ald. Stone, second by Ald. Frausto. Motion passed.

Rescind handicap parking signs at 12750 Francisco & 2456 Grove motion by Ald. Stone, second by Ald. Bilotto. Motion passed.

Committee discussed a noise or nuisance ordinance. Director John Rita suggested a nuisance ordinance if police are called to a residence more than once because loud music persists they should be fined due to repetitive calls losing time for the officer. Attorney Sullivan is looking into an ordinance for this.

Motion by Ald. Ostling, second by Ald. Bilotto to have a lawyer draft an ordinance for handicap parking at 2252 Collins.

Upon a vote, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Motion by Ald. Ostling, second by Ald. Frausto to make an amendment on ordinance 13219 B7 permit parking to read no parking on south side from Old Western to Ann St.

Location: 135th Street

Upon a vote, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Next Meeting – Monday, December 2, 2013, 6:00 pm – East Annex

MOTIONS

Motion by Ald. Ostling, second by Ald. Johnson to include under the Consent Agenda the committee reports as presented, the Cal Sag Trail IDOT agreement, IDC renewal agreement, Payroll for 10/25/13 in the amount of \$379,109.92, and Accounts Payable for 11/03/13 in the amount of \$604,266.49.

Upon a vote, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Motion by Ald. Donahue, second by Ald. Hawley to approve the Consent Agenda.

Ayes: 14 Ald. Frausto, Thompson, Johanson, Buckner, Hawley, Vieyra, Bilotto, Rita, Donahue, Stone, Carr, Ostling, Pittman.

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

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

CLOSED SESSION

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

Upon a vote, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

*****CLOSED SESSION*****

REGULAR MEETING

Motion by Ald. Frausto, second by Ald. Ostling to reconvene Regular Meeting.

Ayes: 14 Ald. Frausto, Thompson, Johanson, Buckner, Hawley, Vieyra, Bilotto, Rita, Donahue, Stone, Carr, Ostling, Pittman.

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Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

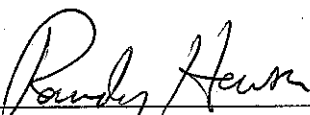
There being Fourteen (14) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ald. Stone, second by Ald. Johnson to adjourn the meeting.

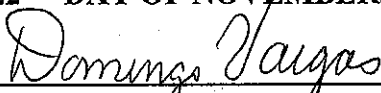
Upon a vote, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

The next regular meeting of the City Council is scheduled for November 26, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.



Randy Heuser, City Clerk

**APPROVED BY ME THIS
22ND DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2013.**



Domingo Vargas, Mayor

