

**JOURNAL OF PROCEEDING  
OF THE  
MEETING, DECEMBER 10, 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 December 10, 2013.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

Roll Call indicates the following:

Present: 10 Ald. Johanson, Buckner, Hawley, Vieyra,  
Donahue, Stone, Carr, Ostling, Pittman,  
Frausto

Absent: 4 Ald. Bilotto, Rita, Johnson, Thompson

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

**JOURNAL OF PROCEEDING**

Moved by Ald. Hawley, second by Ald. Pittman the Journal of Proceedings of the Regular Meeting on November 26, 2013 is accepted as printed.

Ayes: 10 Ald. Johanson, Buckner, Hawley, Vieyra,  
Donahue, Stone, Carr, Ostling, Pittman,  
Frausto

Nays: 0

Absent: 4 Ald. Bilotto, Rita, Johnson, Thompson

Abstain: 0

There being Ten (10) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

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

Joan Davis of 2945 Everett spoke about the item on the agenda regarding forgiving the debt owed to the water fund. She also expresses concern over jobs that were eliminated.

Father Reinhart of Saint Joseph Saint Aiden Episcopal Church thanked the Mayor, members of the city council, and residents for the help they gave for their annual Survival Gear Drive for Homeless Veterans.

Willie Scott of 11917 Longwood Dr. invited residents to a presentation of Kwanzaa at the Library on Monday, December 16 at 7:00 pm. He also requested a response for a FOI for the NAACP.

Becky Denny of 2638 Union St expressed her concerns over Blue Island losing its feel of comfort, trust, and loyalty. She feels that some of the decisions being made are going to and have already caused a rift in the community.

Allan Stevo of 2324 Union St spoke about: the raising of the 2013/2014 Tax Levy Ordinance by 4.9% (the maximum it can be raised without a public hearing), the water fund, the lease at 2403 Vermont St, the way the minutes are being done, when the next Jawa meeting is, and when a Police Chief will be appointed.

Marcia Heuser of 11907 Greenwood Ave spoke about the dire financial situation the city is in that caused the hard decision that city officials and city council made. She encouraged everyone to show Blue Island merchants how much we appreciate them and invest in town in order to help restore positions and bring back city government to what it should be.

**REPORT OF CITY OFFICIALS****Mayor**

The Mayor proclaimed December 3, 2013 as International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

**BIDS**

No Bids

**CITY CLERK**

No Business.

**CITY TREASURER**

**Motion by Ald. Stone, second by Ald. Donahue to accept the Treasurer's Report for November 30, 2013 to be placed on file.**

Ayes: 10 Ald. Johanson, Buckner, Hawley, Vieyra,  
Donahue, Stone, Carr, Ostling, Pittman,  
Frausto

Nays: 0

Absent: 4 Ald. Bilotto, Rita, Johnson, Thompson

Abstain: 0

There being Ten (10) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

**Motion by Ald. Hawley, second by Ald. Johanson to approve Financial Audit as presented by Seldon Fox, LTD for the period covering May 1, 2012 – April 30, 2013.**

Ayes: 10 Ald. Johanson, Buckner, Hawley, Vieyra,  
Donahue, Stone, Carr, Ostling, Pittman,  
Frausto

Nays: 0

Absent: 4 Ald. Bilotto, Rita, Johnson, Thompson

Abstain: 0

There being Ten (10) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

**CITY ATTORNEY****An ordinance authorizing the Issuance of Tax Anticipation Warrants of the City of Blue Island, Cook County Illinois, and Providing the Details of Such Warrants, and Related Matters.**

Motion by Ald. Hawley, second by Ald. Donahue to adopt.

Ayes: 10 Ald. Johanson, Buckner, Hawley, Vieyra,  
Donahue, Stone, Carr, Ostling, Pittman,  
Frausto

Nays: 0

Absent: 4 Ald. Bilotto, Rita, Johnson, Thompson

Abstain: 0

There being Ten (10) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

\*\* Amendment per Ald. Stone's request: Donation from Alpha Iota to Angel's Touch in the amount of \$100.00

**A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Lease of Public Property Near 2403 West Vermont Street, City of Blue Island, County of Cook, Illinois.**

Motion by Ald. Donahue, second by Ald. Pittman to adopt.

Ayes: 10 Ald. Johanson, Buckner, Hawley, Vieyra,  
Donahue, Stone, Ostling, Pittman, Frausto

Nays: 1 Ald. Carr

Absent: 4 Ald. Bilotto, Rita, Johnson, Thompson

Abstain: 0

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

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**An Ordinance Authorizing the Application of Certain Surplus Funds and Forgiving the Debt Owed to the Water Fund by the General Corporate Fund for the City of Blue Island, County of Cook, State of Illinois.**

Motion by Ald. Johanson, second by Ald. Hawley to adopt.

Ayes: 10      Ald. Johanson, Buckner, Hawley, Vieyra,  
Donahue, Stone, Carr, Ostling, Pittman,  
Frausto

Nays: 0

Absent: 4      Ald. Bilotto, Rita, Johnson, Thompson

Abstain: 0

There being Ten (10) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

**A Resolution Authorizing Selection and Retention of a Part Time Independent Contractor to Perform Payroll Functions for the City of Blue Island, County of Cook, Illinois and Authorizing the Execution of a Contractual Agreement to Effectuate the Same.**

**A Resolution Authorizing Selection and Retention of a Human Resources Management Consultant to Perform Certain Functions for the City of Blue Island and Authorizing the Execution of a Contractual Agreement to Effectuate the Same.**

**A Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Blue Island Police Department and Police Department Commander.**

Motion by Ald. Pittman, second by Ald. Carr to include the three items in the Consent Agenda.

Ayes: 9      Ald. Johanson, Buckner, Hawley, Vieyra,  
Donahue, Carr, Ostling, Pittman, Frausto

Nays: 1      Ald. Stone

Absent: 4      Ald. Bilotto, Rita, Johnson, Thompson

Abstain: 0

There were Nine (9) Affirmative Votes out of 10.

City Attorney stated that the vote needs to be unanimous in order for it to pass to be added to the Consent Agenda. Since the vote was not unanimous, the items will not be added to the Consent Agenda and must be voted on individually.

**A Resolution Authorizing Selection and Retention of a Part Time Independent Contractor to Perform Payroll Functions for the City of Blue Island, County of Cook, Illinois and Authorizing the Execution of a Contractual Agreement to Effectuate the Same.**

Motion by Ald. Carr, second by Ald. Hawley to adopt.

Ayes: 9           Ald. Johanson, Buckner, Hawley, Vieyra,  
                          Donahue, Carr, Ostling, Pittman, Frausto

Nays: 1           Ald. Stone

Absent: 4         Ald. Bilotto, Rita, Johnson, Thompson

Abstain: 0

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

**A Resolution Authorizing Selection and Retention of a Human Resources Management Consultant to Perform Certain Functions for the City of Blue Island and Authorizing the Execution of a Contractual Agreement to Effectuate the Same.**

Motion by Ald. Frausto, second by Ald. Hawley to adopt.

Ayes: 8           Ald. Johanson, Hawley, Vieyra, Donahue,  
                          Carr, Ostling, Pittman, Frausto

Nays: 2           Ald. Buckner, Stone

Absent: 4         Ald. Bilotto, Rita, Johnson, Thompson

Abstain: 0

There being Eight (8) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

**A Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Blue Island Police Department and Police Department Commander.**

Motion by Ald. Carr, second by Ald. Pittman to adopt.

Ayes: 10 Ald. Johanson, Buckner, Hawley, Vieyra,  
Donahue, Stone, Carr, Ostling, Pittman,  
Frausto

Nays: 0

Absent: 4 Ald. Bilotto, Rita, Johnson, Thompson

Abstain: 0

There being Ten (10) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

No Report.

Next Meeting – Wednesday, December 11, 2013, 7:00 pm – East Annex.

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

Present: Alderman Donahue, Hawley, Thompson

Absent: Alderman Buckner and Rita

Also Present: Finance Supervisor Matt Anastasia and City  
Treasurer Carmine Bilotto

The Accounts Payable for December 4, 2013 was reviewed with Finance Supervisor Anastasia. It was moved by Ald. Donahue and seconded by Ald. Thompson to authorize Accounts Payable in the amount of \$455,689.70. Motion passed.

Payroll for November 22, 2013 was reviewed. Overtime was up due to two different overnight water main problems, but payroll continues to remain low. It was moved by Ald.

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Thompson and seconded by Ald. Donahue to approve a total Payroll Liability of \$372,513.46. Motion passed.

Finance Supervisor Anastasia reported that he has completed negotiations with ADP to reduce our fees paid for processing payroll. He has gotten an agreement reducing our annual grand totals from \$70,510.85 to \$42,171.39, a total annual savings of \$28,339.45. In addition, there will be no increase next year and only a 1% (as opposed to the current 3% we have been experiencing) increase in years 2 and 3. Thank you to Finance Supervisor Anastasia for his work in getting this agreement worked out for over a 40% reduction in our Payroll Processing costs.

Finance Supervisor Anastasia also presented the terms for the Allied Flex Plan Run-Out Agreement. The City of Blue Island has terminated the plan as of December 31, 2013. There were only 6 employees participating and the fees and extra time of administering for that few of employees was deemed not worth it. Their fee is \$525 to administer the closing of the City's Flex Plan with Allied. This is for the 90 day period between December 31, 2013 and March 31, 2014 during which participating employees will need to withdraw their money from the Plan.

There were a total of seven quotes received for the repair of the old Water Tower Roof. The area is currently used for storage for the Fire Department, including the new equipment that was purchased. After review of all of the bids, Treasurer Bilotto recommended Durable Roofing Co. to do the work. Given the materials that will be used and the labor to do it, theirs was the best. The City has received a grant that will cover the entire cost of the repair. It was moved by Ald. Donahue and seconded by Ald. Thompson to approve the contract not to exceed a total of \$7,000. Motion passed.

There being no further business, it was moved by Ald. Thompson and seconded by Ald. Donahue to adjourn. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, December 17, 2013, 7:00 pm – East Annex

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



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Present were Fire Chief Mark Luety, Deputy Police Chief Michael Cornell, Deputy Fire Chief James Klinker, Fire Lieutenant Tom Zielinski, Alderman Johanson, Alderman Vieyra, Alderman Johnson, and myself. Absent was Alderman Buckner. Also present was Leslie Phemister of the Active Transportation Alliance. The meeting was called to order at 7:15.

#### **Citizens Concerns**

Leslie Phemister of the Active Transportation Alliance spoke to us about grants available for education and enforcement of stopping for pedestrians in cross walks and the use of cell phones while driving in school zones.

#### **Fire Department Report**

The Fire Department had 283 emergency calls in November, 189 were EMS calls

155 Patients were treated

137 Patients were transported

52 Patients refused transport

They responded to 25 general fire alarms, and 18 minor fire alarms.

They responded to 22 auto aid calls.

They had 27 calls to man the firehouses.

They received 2 mutual aid calls, and responded to one.

There were no large scale incidents.

The average response time from call to patient contact was 4.76 minutes.

#### **Maintenance**

Ambulance #2152 had a starter go out and it was replaced in house by Lt. Kunz. Numerous other small maintenance issues were made in house.

The Fire Department received a used Striker Stretcher that is in almost new condition from the Palos Heights Fire Department after they received a grant for new stretchers. The cost of this stretcher new is \$5,454.00. Palos Heights Fire Chief Tim Sarge has been sent a thank you letter.

#### **Training**

The training division has completed 525.25 hours of training for the month of November. The training hours also included a special EMS lecture from Dr. Erickson of MetroSouth Medical Center on heart attacks and treatments that the department hosted at the East Annex for all of MABAS 22 departments.

**Manpower**

The Fire Department is own three full time Firefighters at this time. Firefighter Pat Faragoi resigned as of November 16<sup>th</sup> and Firefighter Adam VanEvery will be leaving the department at the end of this month. Both Firefighters were hired by other Fire Departments. After Firefighter VanEvery leaves this month, we will be down four full time Firefighters. The Civil Service Commission has just finished finalizing a list to be posted. Firefighter Joe Olson was promoted from Firefighter to Lieutenant last month.

**Grants**

The new radios from the radio grant will be delivered in the next few weeks and the Fire Department is still waiting on the certification on the Air Packs from NIOSH to manufacture and deliver the Air Packs.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant for two new ambulances will be submitted by December 6<sup>th</sup> and we are hopeful and waiting on the award of the SAFER Grant for six new Firefighters.

A \$25,000.00 Grant for infrastructure was received and the roof on top of the old water tower at Station #1 will be repaired along with possible upgrades of replacing the old floor and carpet in the bunk room and day room.

**Police Department Report**

The Police Department patrolled 18,543 miles for the month of November. 2200 calls answered.

602 Parking Citations

398 Moving Citations

223 Traffic Stops

20 Felonies

53 Misdemeanors

10 Warrant Arrests

45 Local Ordinance Violations (admin towing fees)

51 Vehicles Impounded

Total Fees Collected: \$35,962.67

**Grants**

During the Thanksgiving holiday, the National Highway Safety Institute gave the City of Blue Island money in the form of the STEP Grant. The grant pays Officers overtime to patrol the streets and write traffic citations for safety belt violations. On November

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27<sup>th</sup> there was a roadside safety check at 127<sup>th</sup> and Kedzie. The safety check point was a success. 20 citations were issued. There will be another safety checkpoint before Christmas or before New Year's Eve.

#### **Manpower**

While doing an efficiency assessment of the Police Department Director John Rita and Deputy Chief Michael Cornell looked at pay scales for part time employees. A revised pay scale was put into place.

Part time dispatchers will be paid as follows:

\$10/hour while training.

\$12/hour when the dispatcher is able to show he/she is proficient and is able to continue in the program.

\$14/hour upon completion of training.

Part time officers will be paid as follows:

\$10/hour. The officer is only able to help with special assignments.

\$11/hour. After completing front desk training/live scan fingerprinting/station duty training.

\$12/hour. After the officer is trained to use the radio properly and displays enough knowledge to be able to handle walk and talk assignments, prisoner watch assignments, etc.

\$13/hour. After completion of the Field Training program and he/she can patrol the street without supervision.

There was one applicant for the Commander's position, Sergeant Kevin Sisk. Approval of Sgt. Sisk was motioned by Alderman Johnson, seconded by Alderman Vieyra. A voice vote was taken, and the appointment was approved unanimously.

#### **Events**

Upcoming events are the Christmas Light Parade on December 7<sup>th</sup>, and Rock Around the Clock on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Aldermen Concerns**

Alderman Dexter Johnson asked if we had enough men on duty at any given time to man the ladder truck if needed. Deputy Chief Klinker explained that if it was needed, we can call for assistance from other communities.

Alderman Dexter Johnson asked if the Police and Fire Departments would participate in Kids and Cops Day this summer.

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Alderman Johanson brought up the traffic problems in the alley off of the 2400 block of Walnut.

Motion to adjourn by Alderman Johanson, second by Alderman Johnson.

Next Meeting – Wednesday, January 8, 2013, 7:30 – East Annex

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

No Report.

Next Meeting – Monday, December 9 2013, 6:30 – East Annex

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

Next Meeting – Monday, January 6, 2013, 6:00 – East Annex

**NEW BUSINESS**

Committee Organization – Ald. Hawley

Ald. Hawley suggested putting together a sub-committee of the committee chairs to look at the structure of the committees how things should move from the committees and into city council.

**Motion by Ald. Frausto, second by Ald. Ostling to table an Ordinance Regulating the Issuance of Business Licenses and Establishing the Procedures and Terms of Issuance.**

Upon a vote, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

**MOTIONS**

**Motion by Ald. Ostling, second by Ald. Donahue to approve the Consent Agenda which includes Payroll for 11/22/13 in the amount of \$371,243.19, Accounts Payable for 12/4/13 in the amount of \$455,468.79, Committee Reports as presented, Approval of Ordinances Restricting a Portion of a Certain Street for Handicapped Parking Only within the City of Blue Island, County of Cook, State of Illinois, and providing Penalties for the Violation Thereof, and An Ordinance Requiring Vehicular**

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**Traffic to Stop at Certain Locations within the City of Blue Island, County of Cook, State of Illinois and Providing Penalties for the Violation thereof.**

Ayes: 10 Ald. Johanson, Buckner, Hawley, Vieyra, Donahue, Stone, Carr, Ostling, Pittman, Frausto

Nays: 0

Absent: 4 Ald. Bilotto, Rita, Johnson, Thompson

Abstain: 0

There being Ten (10) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Ald. Stone wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

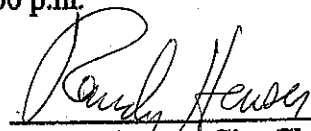
Ald. Hawley thanked Rita Pacyga for her work on putting together the parade and everyone who helped execute it.

**ADJOURNMENT**

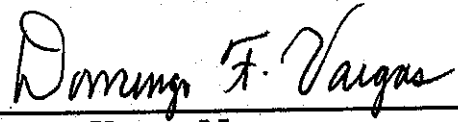
Motion by Ald. Pittman, second by Ald. Carr to adjourn the meeting.

Upon a vote, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

The next regular meeting of the City Council is scheduled for January 14, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

  
Randy Heuser, City Clerk

APPROVED BY ME THIS  
13<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER, 2013.

  
Domingo Vargas, Mayor

