

**JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING
AUGUST 12, 2014**

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 August 12, 2014.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Roll Call indicates the following:

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

Absent: 3 Ald. Buckner, Pittman, Johnson

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

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDING

Moved by Ald. Rita, second by Ald. Carr the Journal of Proceedings of the Regular Meeting on July 22, 2014 is accepted as printed.

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 3 Buckner, Pittman, Johnson

Abstain: 0

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

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

Rachel Orozco, 11957 Longwood Drive, invited everyone who is having flooding problems to attend a meeting at Evangelical Community Church (2237 120th Street) on Thursday, August 14 at 7 p.m.

Allan Stevo, 2324 Union St, invited the Mayor to work with him in his quest for good, honest government in Blue Island. Mr. Stevo asked about last week's shootings and a follow up on the 2006 Union shooting.

The Mayor stated there were arrests and charges filed.

Mr. Stevo asked the Mayor if he had attended the JAWA meeting on July 31.

The Mayor stated he had not, but that the City Treasurer had.

Mr. Stevo asked if they voted to release Blue Island from JAWA.

The Mayor stated they did not have a quorum so nothing was done.

Mr. Stevo asked about HW Lochner Engineering; why there were no bids or other companies interviewed. He asked if it was because the engineering firm came through Bob Rita.

The Mayor stated that was done way before he took office.

Mr. Stevo asked how many city attorneys the city has.

The Mayor stated there is one law firm.

Mr. Stevo asked for the results of the forensic audit.

The Mayor stated they are still waiting on the results.

Mr. Stevo asked about a quid pro quo between the Mayor and Bob Rita.

REPORT OF CITY OFFICIALS

MAYOR:

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-035

A RESOLUTION HONORING CHARLES AND CORRINE MARTIN ON THE CELEBRATION OF THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY.

Richard Marston, PR consultant for the city, spoke about the future of the tv station. He introduced the new station manager, Lindsey. They will be working on realizing the vision the Mayor has for the tv station. The launch of the new tv station is scheduled for November 1, 2014.

BIDS: No Bids.

CITY CLERK: **Motion by Ald. Thompson, second by Ald. Johanson to approve a request from Norman Brown of Blue Station Apartments to have a Block Party on 122nd Street between Vincennes and Longwood on Friday and Saturday, August 15th and 16th from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.**

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 3 Buckner, Pittman, Johnson

Abstain: 0

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

Motion by Ald. Donahue, second by Ald. Rita to approve a request from Yolanda Ortiz to have a Block Party on Hoyne Avenue between New Street and York Street on Saturday, August 16th from 6:00 p.m. until 11:30 p.m.

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 3 Buckner, Pittman, Johnson

Abstain: 0

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

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CITY TREASURER: Motion by Ald. Hawley, second by Ald. Rita to approve the Financial Statement for the period ending July 31, 2014.

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 3 Buckner, Pittman, Johnson

Abstain: 0

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

CITY ATTORNEY: No business.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Development– Ald. Hawley, Chairman

Next Meeting – Wednesday, August 13, 2014, 7:00 – East Annex

Finance Committee – Ald. Rita, Chairman

Next Meeting – Tuesday, August 19, 2014, 6:30 – East Annex

Public Health & Safety Committee – Ald. Carr, Chairman

Public Health & Safety Committee Report for the Meeting of August 6th, 2014

Present were Director John Rita, Deputy Police Chief Michael Cornell, Fire Chief James Klinker, Jim McGeever, Alderman Vieyra, Alderman Johanson, and myself. Also present were Mr. Allan Stevo, Ms. Carol Greene and Alderman Marcia Stone. Absent were Alderman Johnson, and Alderman Buckner. The meeting was called to order at 7:00.

Citizens Concerns

Mr. Allan Stevo had three questions: The first was concerning the August 5th shooting at 125th and Western. The second was concerning the appointment of a Police Chief. The third was concerning a discussion which appeared on a internet message board.

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Fire Department Report

The Fire Department had 303 calls in July, 182 were EMS calls
156 Patients were treated
133 Patients were transported
49 Patients refused transport

They responded to 19 general fire alarms, and 30 minor fire alarms.

They responded to 32 auto aid calls, most calls were from Calumet Park.

They had 36 calls to man the station.

They received 4 mutual aid response call.

Calls of interest for June: A suicidal subject on the Western Avenue overpass on 7/16. Chief Klinker thanked the Police Department, particularly Officer Delgadillo for their assistance on this call.

Chief Klinker also mentioned the odor investigations at 3301 Wireton Road on 7/17 and 7/25. It was determined that the natural gas smell was originating from NuStar Energy.

Medical Reimbursement Services for July \$48,304.74

Fire Recovery collected \$348.00 in July.

General

Chief Luety's retired effective July 17th.

Probationary Firefighter Martin Kaplnek started July 28th, 2014 and has been working day shift. He will be assigned to shift after his 4 weeks of daily training. Probationary Firefighter Adam Marcolini has resigned to take a job on the Cicero Fire Department effective August 8th, 2014. Firefighter Dennis O'Connell has resigned to take a job on the Chicago Fire Department effective August 1st, 2014. The Fire Department is currently processing two new full time Firefighters.

The final Fill the Boot Drive for MDA date is August 15th.

The Fire Department's 135th will be celebrated on September 4th.

The St. Benedict's Charity Softball Game has been rescheduled for September 20th at Hart Park.

Maintenance

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The current situation with our ambulances is critical. At one point with two ambulances down, the Fire Department was forced to load EMS equipment onto a fire truck in order to respond to a call.

Director John Rita talked about how dire the ambulance situation is.

There are numerous ongoing vehicle maintenance issues. The Fire Department is currently tracking down parts for vehicles and prioritizing items for repair. Tom Kissell, Bob Athans and Marks from Public Works have been very helpful in repairing Fire Department vehicles.

Training

The training division has completed 563.00 hours of training for the month of July.

U.S.Coast Guard conducted training for boat operations on July 30th and 31st along with our crews at Fays Point Marina.

Grants

The AFG grant for 2 new ambulances was rejected.

Air Pack Grant update. We still have not received the approval from NIOSH.

Bunk Room has been remodeled with grant money from the Illinois Department of Commerce.

Small Equipment Grant will be applied for.

Police Department Report

Statement by Deputy Chief Cornell

The Blue Island Police Department saw a decrease in manpower due to retirements and injuries over the course of the last two years. That being said, the Blue Island Police Department has continued to do an admirable job by being more efficient and utilizing our resources more effectively to meet the needs of our citizens and keeping them safe.

The Police Department remains vigilant to trends in crime, crime rates and the impact it has on the City. We keep the elected officials informed of the trends so they can be aware of what is going on in their ward as well as the city.

Recently, the Blue Island Police Department was denied a grant that was based on crime statistics decrease. I felt this was a good thing and to keep you informed of how we are really doing, I compared statistics from January 1, 2014 to July 31, 2014 to the same months in the preceding year and here is what I found:

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Armed Robberies/Robberies are down 9%, Battery (not including domestic) down 35%, Burglary/Residential Burglary down 16%, Criminal Defacement (graffiti) down 66%, Aggravated Battery down 22%.

The Deputy Chief thanked all the Officers for during an outstanding job.

It is important to note that calls for service have gone up, partly because of the increased community services we are providing as part of our changing philosophy from traditional policing to community policing. Some of the new responsibilities now include senior services, business checks, walking a beat and Officers addressing quality of life issues program.

The quality of life program began as a way to change the perception of the City. The conception of this program resulted from complaints that were brought to the City's attention after problems festered and became big or troublesome. In an effort to address the quality of life problems when they are small and manageable, Officers that are already patrolling the streets were given a short course on building codes.

Reports

The Police Department answered 2200 calls including 208 business premise checks, 104 domestic disputes, and 100 liquor establishment checks were done.

Stats/Cases of Interest

109 Alarm Calls (all unfounded)
4 Armed Robberies (1 unfounded)
3 Robberies
8 Commercial Burglaries (2 unfounded)
20 Residential Burglaries (2 unfounded)
13 Shots Fired (8 unfounded)
104 Domestic Disputes
10 Foot Patrols in Residential Neighborhoods

Total money collected for the month of July \$28,750.31.

Calls of Interest

On July 1st Officers responded to a burglary in progress at Radio Shack, 12125 Western. Two Officers were injured in pursuit of the subject.

On July 9th Officers responded to an armed robbery at the Dollar Tree on Ashland. This case is under investigation.

On July 12th Officers responded to a shots fired call near 142nd and California. It was learned that people were in the area picking up what was believed to be drugs at the time of the incident.

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*On July 14th Officers Chickerillo and Cirullo were on Tactical patrol in the area of 127th and Honore. The Officers saw a group of young men that they believed may be involved in auto thefts in the area. They stopped the three individuals and one of the offenders dropped a firearm behind a car and attempted to run. The Officers did an excellent job in apprehending the offender.

*On July 26th Officers were called to a Fight/Aggravated Battery at Gayla's Saloon, 13312 S Olde Western. This incident is being investigated by Cook County Sheriff's Department.

Liquor Establishment Calls

5 disturbance calls, 2 subject removals and 1 suspicious person call were received in July on liquor establishments.

Injuries

Two full time Officers are off on extended leaves. A total of five full time Officers were off for most of the month of July.

Miscellaneous

In an effort to better serve our community, the Police Department has reached out to Father Ken Carlson of St. Benedict's Church and asked him to be a Public Safety Chaplain. This is an unpaid position.

Events

National Night Out on August 5th was a big success.

August 16th will be the Movie in the Park at the Father Sylvester Field.

August 23rd a health fair will be held in the East Annex.

September 7th the Active Transportation Alliance will be holding the Four Star Bike and Chow. We can expect about 500 cyclists riding through the City at various times.

September 20th will be the St. Benedict's Charity Softball Game at Hart Park.

September 27th will be the BBQ in the Park at Memorial Park.

911 Center

The 911 Center received 13,934 calls in July. Committees are being formed in Springfield to help 911 centers deal with emergency text messages.

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Jim McGeever supplied the Committee with a detailed time line of the armed robbery at the Dollar Tree.

There was a discussion about signups for Code Red, and the possibility of going through the schools.

BIEMA

We did not receive a report from BIEMA.

Aldermen's Concerns

Ald. Johanson asked about the money lost when a new Firefighter leaves to another Fire Department

Ald. Vieyra expressed concern about various liquor establishments.

Citizen Comments

Carol Greene asked about whether or not bonfires are allowed within the City limits. She reported graffiti on the large FOR SALE sign on Orchard.

Mr. Stevo asked if the Dollar Store has security cameras.

Ms. Greene asked if Blue Island had infrared equipment for the Police Department.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Our next regular meeting is August 3rd at 7:00 in the East Annex.

Respectfully submitted,
Candace Carr
4th Ward Alderman

Next Meeting – Wednesday, September 3, 2014, 7:00 – East Annex

Municipal Services Committee – Ald. Johanson, Chairman

Next Meeting – Monday, September 10, 2014, 6:30 – East Annex

Judiciary Committee – Ald. Ostling, Chairman

Next Meeting – Tuesday, August 19, 2014, 6:00 – East Annex

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CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Ald. Rita, second by Ald. Hawley to go into Closed Session.

Upon a vote, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

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

The regular meeting of the City Council was reconvened at 8:07 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

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

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:

1. Approval of Payroll – July 18, 2014 for \$376,620.21 and August 1, 2014 for \$378,934.95
2. Approval of Accounts Payable – August 6, 2014 for \$631,539.49
3. Committee Reports and Recommendations as presented
4. Motion to approve letter of engagement with Alexeychuk & Company for Accounting and auditing services
5. Motion to approve settlement of Workers Compensation Claim No. 13 WC 027834, on terms as discussed in closed session.
6. Ordinance Governing Employee and Retiree Contributions and Rescinding Certain Ordinances
7. A Resolution Authorizing Execution of Intergovernmental Agreements Governing the Cal-Sag Historic Waterways Enterprise Zone and Zone Administration

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 3 Buckner, Pittman, Johnson

Abstain: 0

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

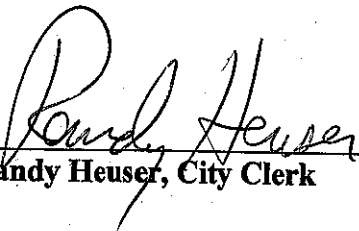
ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ald. Hawley, second by Ald. Donahue to adjourn the meeting.

Upon a vote, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

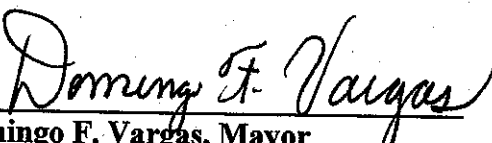
The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the City Council is scheduled for
August 26, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.



Randy Heuser, City Clerk

APPROVED BY ME THIS
26TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2014.



Domingo F. Vargas, Mayor

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