



AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
City Council of the City of Blue Island, Illinois
2434 Vermont Street
January 26, 2016 – 7:00 P.M.

City of Blue Island
13051 Greenwood Avenue
Blue Island, IL 60406
www.blueisland.org

Office of the Mayor
p (708) 597 8602
f (708) 597-1221

City Clerk
p (708) 597 8603
f (708) 396 7062

City Treasurer
p (708) 396 7067
f (708) 597 1807

Building & Zoning
p (708) 597 8606
f (708) 396 2686

**Community
Development**
p (708) 396 7037
f (708) 597 1221

**Community
Relations**
p (708) 396 7035
f (708) 597 1221

Senior Citizens
p (708) 396 7085
f (708) 396 7062

Finance
p (708) 396 7067
f (708) 597 1807

Water & Sewer
p (708) 597 8605
f (708) 396 7062

Public Works
3153 Wireton Road
Blue Island, IL 60406
p (708) 597 8604
f (708) 597 4260

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll Call**
4. **Presentation of Journal of Proceedings**
Motion to approve City Council Minutes from January 12, 2016
5. **Public Comment**
6. **Report of City Officials/Presentations/Resolutions**

Mayor: Resolution Honoring the Accomplishments of Mike Mech

Bids:

City Clerk:

City Treasurer:

City Attorney:
7. **Committee Reports**
 - a. Community Development Committee
 - b. Finance Committee
 1. Motion for Approval of Payroll – December 18, 2015 for \$374,314.80 and December 31, 2015 for \$413,939.21
 2. Motion for Approval of Accounts Payable – December 28, 2015 for \$540,871.65 and January 15, 2016 for \$439,402.71
 - c. Public Health and Safety Committee – Minutes from December 8, 2015
 - d. Municipal Services Committee
 - e. Judiciary Committee

8. **Aldermanic Announcements/Comments.**
 9. **Motion to Retire to Closed Session for consideration of:**
 - a. Discussion of Pending Litigation
 10. **Motion to Reconvene Regular Session**
 11. **Motion for Adjournment**
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**JOURNAL OF PROCEEDING OF THE MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2016**

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 January 12, 2016.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Roll Call indicates the following:

Present:	11	Ald. Ostling, Pittman, Frausto, Thompson, Johanson, Hawley, Vieyra, Bilotto, Donahue, Carr, Slattery
Absent:	3	Ald. Johnson, Poulos, Rita
Present Also:		Randy Heuser, City Clerk Patrick Ward, City Attorney Carmine Bilotto, City Treasurer

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDING

Moved by Ald. Pittman, second by Ald. Slattery the Journal of Proceedings of the Regular Meeting on December 8, 2015 is accepted as printed.

Ayes:	11	Ostling, Pittman, Frausto, Thompson, Johanson, Hawley, Vieyra, Bilotto, Donahue, Carr, Slattery
Nays:	0	
Absent:	3	Johnson, Poulos, Rita
Abstain:	0	

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

Regular Meeting – January 12, 2016

PUBLIC COMMENT

Allan Stevo, 2324 Union Street, stated it had been 35 days since the last council meeting. He asked how many aldermen had in their possession accounts payable and payroll; he wanted to be sure that they know what they were voting on. Mr. Stevo asked for the journal of proceedings and packet to be posted online not just the agenda. He respectfully requested Ald. Frausto to place him on the agenda for the next Judiciary Committee meeting.

REPORT OF CITY OFFICIALS

MAYOR:

Swearing in of Full Time Police Officer – Jeremy Rhodes

Presentation of Certificate to the City of Blue Island for being a Star Community.

Presentation on Passport Parking by Commander Sisk - Starting February 1, 2016 Passport Parking will be the new easy and convenient way to pay for parking in Blue Island using a mobile phone, tablet or computer. By April 1st, Passport Parking will replace old coin boxes at commuter train lots and streamline the process to sign up for overnight parking for visitors. Commuters will be able to purchase parking tokens until February 1 to be used by March 31.

BIDS:

No bids.

CITY CLERK:

No business.

CITY TREASURER:

Motion by Ald. Donahue, second by Ald. Carr to approve the Monthly Treasurer's Reports for the periods ending November 30 and December 31.

Ayes:	11	Ostling, Pittman, Frausto, Thompson, Johanson, Hawley, Vieyra, Bilotto, Donahue, Carr, Slattery
Nays:	0	
Absent:	3	Johnson, Poulos, Rita

Regular Meeting – January 12, 2016

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, January 13, 2015, 7:00 pm – East Annex.

Finance Committee – Ald. Rita, Chairman

Motion by Ald. Donahue, second by Ald. Hawley to approve Payroll for November 20, 2015 for \$336,494.19 and December 4, 2015 for \$361,359.56.

Ayes: 11 Ostling, Pittman, Frausto, Thompson,
Johanson, Hawley, Vieyra, Bilotto, Donahue,
Carr, Slattery

Nays: 0

Absent: 3 Johnson, Poulos, Rita

Abstain: 0

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

Motion by Ald. Donahue, second by Ald. Ostling to approve Accounts Payable for December 11, 2015 for \$509,621.09.

Ayes: 11 Ostling, Pittman, Frausto, Thompson,
Johanson, Hawley, Vieyra, Bilotto, Donahue,
Carr, Slattery

Nays: 0

Absent: 3 Johnson, Poulos, Rita

Regular Meeting – January 12, 2016

Abstain: 0

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

Next Meeting – Thursday, January 14, 2015, 5:30 pm – East Annex.

Public Health & Safety Committee – Ald. Carr, Chairman

Next Meeting – Tuesday, January 12, 2015, 6:00 – East Annex

Municipal Services Committee – Ald. Donahue, Chairman

Ald. Donahue gave an update on the Western Avenue Bridge. There are three phases: planning, engineering, and construction. Currently we are on phase two with phase three construction expected to start in Fall 2016. The proposed improvements include the superstructure replacement, removal and replacement of the existing light poles and any attached utilities, construction of new south abutment as well as repairing existing abutment. It is an IDOT project as the state of Illinois owns the bridge. Estimated cost of the project is 12 million at no cost to the city.

Next Meeting – Wednesday, January 13, 2015, 6:00 – East Annex

Judiciary Committee – Ald. Frausto, Chairman

Motion by Ald. Frausto, second by Ald. Johanson to approve Damage Claim 2015-2427.

Ayes: 11 Ostling, Pittman, Frausto, Thompson,
Johanson, Hawley, Vieyra, Bilotto, Donahue,
Carr, Slattery

Nays: 0

Absent: 3 Johnson, Poulos, Rita

Abstain: 0

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

Regular Meeting – January 12, 2016

Motion by Ald. Frausto, second by Ald. Bilotto to deny Damage Claims 2015-12247, 2015-12256 and 2015-12443.

Ayes: 11 Ostling, Pittman, Frausto, Thompson,
Johanson, Hawley, Vieyra, Bilotto, Donahue,
Carr, Slattery

Nays: 0

Absent: 3 Johnson, Poulos, Rita

Abstain: 0

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

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN CHAPTERS OF TITLE VII OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE CITY OF BLUE ISLAND, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Motion by Ald. Frausto, second by Ald. Vieyra to approve Ordinance.

Ayes: 11 Ostling, Pittman, Frausto, Thompson,
Johanson, Hawley, Vieyra, Bilotto, Donahue,
Carr, Slattery

Nays: 0

Absent: 3 Johnson, Poulos, Rita

Abstain: 0

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

Ald. Frausto thanked the council members and city clerk for their work on creating a new form available to seniors. It provides reduced water, sewer, and sanitation rates for seniors.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, January 19, 2015, 7:00 – East Annex

ALDERMANIC ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS

Ald. Pittman announced that Mission Covenant Church is having their Annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday from 7 am to noon.

Regular Meeting – January 12, 2016

Ald. Donahue thanked the public works and water department for their work on snow removal and keeping streets clear.

Ald. Pittman asked that the sidewalks on 127th Street bridge be cleared.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Upon a vote, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the City Council is scheduled for January 26, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Randy Heuser, City Clerk

**APPROVED BY ME THIS
26TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2016.**

Domingo Vargas, Mayor

**THE CITY OF BLUE ISLAND
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**RESOLUTION
NUMBER 2016-001**

**A RESOLUTION HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND
LEGACY OF MIKE MECH, THE BUNGALOW CHEF.**

**DOMINGO F. VARGAS, Mayor
Randy Heuser, City Clerk**

**1st Ward TOM HAWLEY
2nd Ward LETICIA VIEYRA
3rd Ward NANCY RITA
4th Ward CANDACE CARR
5th Ward JANICE OSTLING
6th Ward DEXTER JOHNSON
7th Ward NANCY THOMPSON**

**GEORGE POULOS
FRED BILOTTO
KEVIN DONAHUE
ALECIA SLATTERY
KENNETH PITTMAN
JAIRO FRAUSTO
JAMES JOHANSON**

Aldermen

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-001

**A RESOLUTION HONORING THE
ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND LEGACY OF MIKE MECH,
THE BUNGALOW CHEF**

WHEREAS, Born and raised in Blue Island, his family dates back to the 1860's; and

WHEREAS, like many true Blue Islanders, he boomeranged back after a 20 year stint living in Chicago. Mike's professional career has crossed over into many different avenues in the food business; and

WHEREAS, A trained chef, chocolatier and business developer for the famed House of Fine Chocolates, research and development chef for HJ. Heinz, and sales and marketing for Appetizer and Inc., and other gourmet companies. Currently he is a Sales Director, and selling chef for Cuisine Innovations, the largest privately owned company of its kind in the country, based in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, His love of Blue Island "His Mayberry and Bedford Falls" is evident in his ongoing involvement in the Community Garden, cooking classes for children, library cooking classes, hosts numerous food pantry drives for Lutheran Charities and, for the last 5 years provides Thanksgiving meals to our Police force and Christmas Day dinners to our Fireman; and

WHEREAS, Mike's involvements include lifetime member of the Blue Island Historical Society and of the First Evangelical Lutheran Church which currently he is on the call committee, and the cemetery board; and

WHEREAS, He was past board member for the Blue Island Chamber of Commerce and for the Blue Island Preservation Council; and

WHEREAS, Contributor to Who's Hungry Magazine, Forum and other publications and to The Food Channel, EHow video channels and, as firm supporter of Shop Local, he filmed City events and interviewed local businesses for the City of Blue Island; and

WHEREAS, Created a chocolate fundraiser for Old Bess, Bungalow Chef, Recipe Revival Blog, and now The Bungalow Kitchen. Filmed over 40 shorts of Bungalow Chef for BITV and held a fundraiser luncheon for the Blue Island Historical Society. "Buffets, Bungalows and Blue Island!" and the Bungalow was opened up for the 2014 Blue Island House Walk; and

WHEREAS, Brought public television Ask this OLD HOUSE to Blue Island and assisted in numerous political campaigns; and

WHEREAS, Mike has a just ask drive and passion for Blue Island, following in his Father's "Lou Mech's" footsteps as "Mr. Blue Island!" The Bungalow Chef:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Blue Island, County of Cook and State of Illinois, do hereby acknowledge the selfless efforts of Mike Mech, The Bungalow Chef to ensue noble acts of kindness, tutelage, and sharing delicious recipes for all people of the United States.

ADOPTED this 26th day of January, 2016, pursuant to a roll call as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT	PRESENT	ABSTAIN
Alderman HAWLEY					
Alderman POULOS					
Alderman VIEYRA					
Alderman BILOTTO					
Alderman RITA					
Alderman DONAHUE					
Alderman CARR					
Alderman SLATTERY					
Alderman OSTLING					
Alderman PITTMAN					
Alderman JOHNSON					
Alderman FRAUSTO					
Alderman THOMPSON					
Alderman JOHANSON					
Mayor DOMINGO F. VARGAS					
TOTAL					

APPROVED: this 26th day of January, 2016.

**MAYOR OF THE CITY OF BLUE ISLAND,
COUNTY OF COOK AND STATE OF ILLINOIS**

ATTESTED and **Filed** in my office this
26th day of January, 2016.

CITY CLERK

Randy Heuser, City Clerk

Carmine Bilotto, City Treasurer

Tom Hawley, Alderman

George Poulos, Alderman

Leticia Vieyra, Alderman

Fred Bilotto, Alderman

Nancy Rita, Alderman

Kevin Donahue, Alderman

Candace Carr, Alderman

Alecia Slattery, Alderman

Janice Ostling, Alderman

Kenneth Pittman, Alderman

Dexter Johnson, Alderman

Jairo Frausto, Alderman

Nancy L. Thompson, Alderman

James Johanson, Alderman

**Public Health & Safety Committee Report
for the Meeting of December 8th, 2015**

Present were Chief James Klinker, Deputy Chief Michael Cornell, Supervisor Jim McGeever, Alderman Nancy Thompson, Alderman James Johanson, Alderman George Poulos, Alderman Dexter Johnson, and myself. Absent were Director John Rita and Don Marchbanks. Mr. Allan Stevo was present as a citizen. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes

Motion by Alderman Thompson, second by Adlerman Poulos, all in favor, motion carried.

Citizens' Concerns

Mr. Allan Stevo asked if the Chairman could read his (Stevo's) concerns from the previous meeting. Mr. Stevo asked if there was shooting recently in Blue Island on Walnut Street. The Deputy Chief answered that there was not, often the Police Department receives shots fired calls which are unfounded. Mr. Stevo asked for the status on the shootings on Western Avenue last summer. Mr. Stevo asked if the police officer that was arrested was on paid leave. No, he is not. Mr. Stevo asked if the Police and Fire Departments have overspent their budgets.

Fire Department Report

The Fire Department had 271 calls in November, 185 were EMS calls
151 Patients were treated
139 Patients were transported
46 Patients refused transport

They responded to 17 general fire alarms, and 23 minor fire alarms.

They responded to 34 auto aid calls, most calls were from Calumet Park.

They had 11 calls to man the station.

They received 1 mutual aid response call.

Average response time was 5.6 minutes.

Medical Reimbursement Services for November was \$45,155.28

Fire Recovery paid \$0.00 in November.

False Fire Alarms Fees collected in November \$200.00

During the month of November the Fire Department was called out on one care fire, two stove fires, one structure fire, and one dryer fire at Blue Kangaroo.

General

Firefighter Pinnick passed his Probation.

The annual service testing of all ladders was completed.

The Fire Department performed an evacuation drill at MetroSouth Medical Center.

New ambulance 2152 passed Safety Lane and IDPH Inspection and was placed in service.

The Emergency Vehicle Blessing by Father Ken Carlson took place November 24, 2015. The blessing included the new ambulance, a new police cruiser, and a new BIHSEMA vehicle.

Firefighters McClement and Duffy completed the Fire Inspector Class

Maintenance

Ambulance 2162: New tire: \$146.72

Fire Prevention

Lt. Olson inspected 8 fire alarm systems, 1 sprinkler systems, 7 annual inspections, and 7 license inspections during the month of November.

Training

The training division has completed 502.5 hours of training for the month of November.

Grants

2015 AFG Grant – Sean Halloran is assisting with the 2015 AFG Grant Application.

Private Grant – A grant application was submitted through the Grants Coordinator for 2 Thermal Imaging Cameras, 3 Automatic External Defibrillators, and 3 Smoke Ejectors. No response yet.

IDPH EMS Grant - AED's

Police Department

As of December 1st, Commander Sisk was assigned to the 911 Center to help Supervisor McGeever update the training manuals and operating procedures. Dispatchers will be getting on the job training more frequently.

The Police Department answered 2307 calls including 701 business premise checks, 154 were liquor establishment checks.

Stats/Cases of Interest

110 Alarm Calls (all unfounded)

2 Attempted Robberies

2 Robberies

6 Residential Burglaries

4 Shots Fired (4 unfounded)

99 Domestic Disputes

288 Traffic Stops

Total money collected for the month of November \$43,850.27

17,466 miles patrolled.

Calls of Interest

On November 9, 2015 at 2023 hours, two people walking through the parking lot at United Liquors where approached by two offenders. One of the offenders approached with a gun and demanded "everything they got." The victims told the offenders "Look around, there are cameras everywhere." The offenders looked up and then fled the area. The case is being investigated.

On November 24, 2015 at 1810 hours Officers responded to Radio Shack to a Hold Up Alarm call. Upon arrival, Officers learned that the store employee pushed the alarm because two suspicious people walked into the store, one of which appeared to be concealing a gun.

Upon arrival, the employee pointed out the suspicious persons. Officers approached the subjects and one of the subjects attempted to hide a toy gun on the shelves. The other offender was handcuffed for safety, at which time Officers recovered a gun in his pocket.

Both offenders were taken into custody and interviewed. Both offenders admitted they were going to rob the Radio Shack. They were charged with attempted Armed Robbery. In addition to our charges, both offenders were charged by other agencies.

Liquor Establishment Calls

There were one intoxicated subject call, one neighbor complaint call, two subject removal calls, two disturbance calls and one criminal damage to property call.

Training

Officer John McSweeney and Part-time Officer Andrew Martino attended an eight hour training course of Strategies and Tactics of Patrol Stops at Clarendon Hills Police Department.

Corporals Frank Navarro and Bernadine Rzab attended an eight hour training course of Juvenile Interrogation and Delinquency updates at Tinley Park Police Department.

Officer Erick Stahmer attended a Train the Trainer course at the Bolingbrook Police Department.

Community Policing Unit (CPU)

The Community Policing Unit completed lockdown drills at all the schools except Whittier which is scheduled in December.

The Community Policing Unit assisted Probationary Recruit Jeremy Rhodes with implementation into the Academy.

The Community Policing Unit responded to several calls regarding hospitalized seniors who needed assistance from family members.

The Community Policing Unit was requested to do a wellbeing check on a Lincoln student. It was determined that the Juvenile is residing outside the geographical limits of District 130.

The Community Policing Unit assisted the Building Department with an aggressive campaign to enforce all applicable building codes. They are currently working in the 7th Ward.

Events

The Fill-a-Cruiser Food Drive for Angel's Touch was held on December 5th, as was the Christmas Light Parade. Both were a success.

Rock Around the Clock will be held on December 31st, starting at 11:30 pm.

A Police Exam will be held January 9th. Applications are being taken until December 28th. This will be for a full time Officer.

911 Center

In November, the 911 Center answered a total of 7248 calls. Three dispatchers are currently in training.

Code Red Calls were sent concerning the Division Street Bridge closure and repair.

Commander Sisk is working with Supervisor McGeever on a 911 Center Manual.

BIEMA

No report.

Monthly Health and Sanitation Report

In the month of November 21 Health and Sanitation Inspections were done. International Hair Studio was closed due to licensing problems. Several businesses that may be operating illegally within the city limits are being monitored.

Aldermen's Concerns

Alderman Thompson again requested patrols on Longwood.

Alderman Johnson asked that the Police and Fire Departments keep a lookout for grants to be used in the California Gardens area.

Alderman Johnson asked about Discrimination and Sensitivity Training.

Alderman Johnson asked about a Police/Fire Cadet Program for the area youth.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

Our next regular meeting will be January 12th, at 6:00 pm in the East Annex.

Respectfully submitted,
Candace Carr
4th Ward Alderman