

**JOURNAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE BLUE ISLAND CITY
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
MARCH 15, 2023**

1) Call to Order

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the City of Blue Island was called to order by Mayor Bilotto at 6:00 p.m. on March 15, 2023.

2) Pledge of Allegiance

3) Roll Call

Roll Call indicates the following:

| | | |
|---------------|---|---|
| Present: | 6 | Johnson, Fahrenwald, Rita (6:12 pm), McGee, Carr, Roll |
| Absent: | 1 | Montoya |
| Present Also: | 4 | Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, City Clerk Erin Blake, City Attorney Thomas Wogan, City Administrator Mark Patoska, Deputy City Administrator |

4) Presentation of Journal of Proceedings

Motion by Alderman Fahrenwald, second by Alderman McGee to approve the Committee of the Whole meeting Minutes of February 15, 2023.

| | | |
|-------------|---|--|
| Ayes: | 5 | Johnson, Fahrenwald, McGee, Carr, Roll |
| Nays: | 0 | |
| Absent: | 2 | Rita (6:12 pm), Montoya |
| Abstention: | 0 | |

There being five (5) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

5) Public Comment

A Blue Island resident inquired about the new columns at the Clerk's office, the signature on the treasurer's reports, and the future of the old hospital.

6) **New Business**

No comment.

7) **Mayor's Report**

a. **Fire Museum.**

The Historical Society and the City have had an agreement since 2017 to build a Fire Museum across from the Fire Department. Before construction can begin this summer, the historic city project will be put out to bid. They had previously held several fundraising events, such as a pancake breakfast, but had stopped due to Covid. The agreement would need to be updated, especially since it occurred before most of the current council was present. The attorney must determine whether an amendment to the "MOU" will require a resolution. The City also received a State of Illinois grant for the project with the assistance of Bob Rita and Emil Jones.

b. **Ordinance 2023-___: An Ordinance of the City of Blue Island, Cook County, Illinois, Amending Title IX ("General Regulations"), Chapter 95 ("Nuisances") of the Code of Blue Island.**

The Mayor stated that there is nothing in the City Code regarding light nuisances which prohibits the City from policing complaints relating to them. Therefore, the ordinance proposed would address light nuisance issues.

Alderman Fahrenwald stated that he likes the idea; but that the language is too general and he would like it to be more specific.

c. **Ordinance 2023-___: An Ordinance of the City of Blue Island, Cook County, Illinois, Amending Title III ("Administration"), Chapter 39 ("Fee and Fine Schedule") of the Code of Blue Island.**

The Mayor stated that the Public Works Superintendent and the Building Commissioner have reported that the City's fees to turn on and off water are very low when compared to other municipalities.

Public Works Superintendent, Michael Shroeder, stated that if a house is in foreclosure or vacant, the water is turned off. Public Works is then required to enter the house and turn on the water meter when sold. In addition, the Public Works Department also receives calls from homes that require water shut off when they experience frozen pipes due to the cold weather. Currently, Public Works is unable to charge for after-hours, weekends, or holidays, which are significant costs to the City.

Alderman Rita inquired as to the significance of working without a permit or without an authorized contractor. Public Works Superintendent, Michael Shroeder, stated that every time someone performs work in the City, they require a permit. By law,

everybody who touches the City's water supply must be licensed and be known to the City. The contractors must have insurance and a license. Alderman Rita stated that in her personal opinion these fees seemed quite high.

- d. Ordinance 2023-__ : An Ordinance of the City of Blue Island, Cook County, Illinois, Amending Title V ("Public Works"), Chapter 52 ("Water and Sewers") of the Code of Blue Island.**

Public Works Superintendent, Michael Shroeder, stated that this ordinance would require anyone performing plumbing work in the City to be licensed.

- e. Ordinance 2023-__ : An Ordinance of the City of Blue Island, Cook County, Illinois, Amending Title IX "General Regulations," Chapter 111 "Alcoholic Liquor" of the Code of Blue Island, Illinois.**

The Mayor stated this ordinance cleans up language.

- f. Ordinance 2023-__ : An Ordinance of the City of Blue Island, Cook County, Illinois Authorizing a Collective Bargaining Agreement By and Between the City of Blue Island and Metropolitan Alliance of Police, Chapter #535 Representing the Police Clerks.**

No comment.

- g. Special Use – Perfect Reflections Daycare, LLC.**

Community Development Manager, Howard Coppari, stated this location used to be a daycare center. A block separates Alisha Battle's home from the establishment. The PBZA went smoothly, but the PZBA did set six requirements for the parking lot at daycare: 1) the parking lot needs to be cleaned up, stripped; have handicapped signage; be fully illuminated at night; have proper signage throughout; and be painted with arrows. He also noted that depending on what the Illinois Department of Children Family Services determines, the Daycare will have 40 kids and four classrooms, but they must first receive city approval.

- h. Cable Television Franchise Agreement by and between the City of Blue Island and Comcast of Illinois/Indiana, LLC.**

The City Attorney, Erin Blake, stated that is a renewal agreement.

- i. Historical Preservation Color Limitations.**

The Mayor announced that the City Code would be updated to require certain color schemes for homes in the historic district. But, the Historical Preservation Commission failed to reach a consensus on appropriate/desired colors. He asked the Aldermen to think about the same. Community Development Manager, Howard

Coppari, stated that R. Vasilenko is the liaison between the Historical Preservation and he cannot speak on the color conversations.

j. Potential Fence Restrictions.

Community Development Manager, Howard Coppari, stated that the new ordinance being proposed to the PZBA would not allow fences to be placed in front of houses and would require particular styling for fences throughout the City. The idea for managing the installation of fences included Alderman Fahrenwald, Chairman of the PBZA, David Johnson, Land Use Attorney, Ryan Morton, and Howard. He noted that if City residents are going from a chain link fence to a wood fence, they would need to apply for a permit.

Alderman Fahrenwald expressed gratitude for Howard's assistance with this ordinance. He noted that this new system would provide the homeowner with the option to achieve the fencing they want.

k. Mayor's Announcements/Comments.

No comments.

8) City Clerk's Announcements/Reports/Comments

a. City Clerk's Announcements.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, informed the City Council that the Lighthouse would hold a food distribution in collaboration with the Bedrock Foundation on 3/18/23 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, informed the City Council that the Dixmoor Community Center will host a resume updating and interview skills session on 3/22/23 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, invited everyone to attend District 218 Trivia fundraiser on 3/17/23 at Incarnation Church.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, told the City Council that the Best of Blue Island Awards Dinner Banquet will be held by the Chamber of Commerce on March 18, 2023, at 6 p.m. at the Lyric Theater.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, notified the City Council that the Blue Island American Legion Post 50 will be having their annual "Poppy Days" sale on 5/19 and 5/20.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, notified the City Council that the 4th Ward Neighborhood Watch meeting will be held on Wednesday, 3/22/23 at 7 p.m. at the East Annex.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, informed City Council that the Blue Island Park District will host a number of Easter activities. Pizza with the Easter Bunny will take place on March 25, an outdoor flashlight Easter egg search will take place on April 3, and an Easter egg hunt at Memorial Park will take place on April 8.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, informed City Council that on 3/29/23 there will be an indoor flashlight egg hunt at Eagles.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, suggested that everyone mark their calendars for Mai Fest on May 13, 2023 from 12 – 5 pm., which will feature several vendors.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, informed the City Council that the Clerk's office is accepting applications until 4/1/23 for Hometown Heroes.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, reminded everyone that the Community Cleanup will be on April 29, 2023. She noted that the City is currently looking for volunteers and sponsors and that Alderman Roll just signed up.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, invited everyone to the Flower Sale and Chalk Walk on 5/20/23 and 6/3/23 at York and Western.

9) City's Attorney's Report

a. Attorney Announcements.

None.

10) City Administrator's Announcements/Reports/Comments

a. City Administrator's Announcements/Comments

No comment.

b. Appropriations

City Administrator, Thomas Wogan, indicated Alderman Roll created a model of the data utilized by the City for its appropriation draft.

Alderman Roll stated that the model is a visual representation to help everyone understand the City's actual expenses and the differences between the current and past year. He noted that the largest funds are: the general fund, which includes the Fire Department's ALS project, Public Works' street resurfacing project, streetlight project, garbage/recycling

contract, and individual account line items (seen in blue in the bar graph); but that overall there was only an appropriated \$47,000 increase.

City Administrator, Thomas Wogan, praised Alderman Roll for organizing everything and expressed gratitude for the time and money saved as a result of his efforts. He highlighted that if the City wants to appoint a financial director and the Council agrees, there would be funds available.

Alderman Roll informed the Council that anyone that would like to spend time with him to review the model and go over the data could let him know and he would be available.

Alderman Carr questioned why the building department's salaries are so high. Thomas Wogan, the City Administrator, summarized the Department's hiring and noted that more work is being completed and some inspectors, who have not gotten much of a raise, were given higher salaries to keep them motivated.

Alderman Roll noted that he has been working on a more comprehensive data model that suits the city's budget for elected officials and, eventually, for public viewing for greater openness for the next year. Alderman Rita inquired about the cost of having this prototype created, and Alderman Roll stated that it would range between \$800 and \$3,000 every month, depending on the data.

Alderman Fahrenwald congratulated everyone for compiling the data and expressed enthusiasm for its accessibility; nevertheless, the salaries in the building department as well as the information on the fire department caught his attention. He was interested in knowing the price in actual dollars of the ALS transition. Thomas Wogan, the City Administrator, replied that ALS would be put in place in June and that he would work with Lauren, Mark, and Chief Haywood to supply those precise sums to City Council.

Alderman Fahrenwald remarked that while he does support the appropriation, he has some issues the golf course. Specifically, he noted that liability insurance is not carried by the golf facility, and if the golf course does not have insurance, he may not be able to vote in favor of the appropriation.

Thomas Wogan, the City Administrator, said that because the search for liability insurance for the City has been a lengthy process, he hopes to be able to offer City Council an update regarding insurance proposals soon.

Alderman Johnson thanked them for their efforts and requested that he be kept informed about the golf course.

Alderman Rita said she thought that City Council would go through the appropriations line-by-line and that the figures seemed a little ballooned. She noted that in the past, when handling prior appropriations, the City had contingency lines because the Aldermen wanted to get closer to a specific figure for each line item.

11) Aldermanic Announcements/Reports/Comments

a. Aldermanic Announcements/Reports/Comments

No comments.

12) Executive Session.

Adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) to discuss litigation that has been filed and is pending before a court or an administrative tribunal and actions of probable or imminent litigation, to discuss collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees, pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2), and to discuss the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired, pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5).

Motion by Alderman Rita, second by Alderman Roll to go into Executive Session.

| | | |
|-------------|---|--|
| Ayes: | 6 | Johnson, Fahrenwald, Rita, McGee, Carr, Roll |
| Nays: | 0 | |
| Absent: | 1 | Montoya |
| Abstention: | 0 | |

There being six (6) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Motion by Alderman Roll, second by Alderman Fahrenwald to resume regular meeting.

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|-------------|---|--|
| Ayes: | 6 | Johnson, Fahrenwald, Rita, McGee, Carr, Roll |
| Nays: | 0 | |
| Absent: | 1 | Montoya |
| Abstention: | 0 | |

There being six (6) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

The Mayor stated that they discussed possible workers compensation litigation.

13) Motion for Adjournment

Motion by Alderman Fahrenwald, second by Alderman Johnson to adjourn the regular meeting.

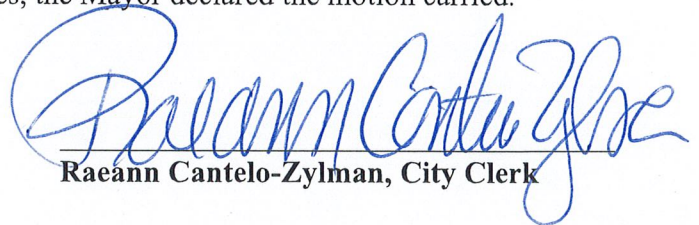
Ayes: 6 Johnson, Fahrenwald, Rita, McGee, Carr, Roll

Nays: 0

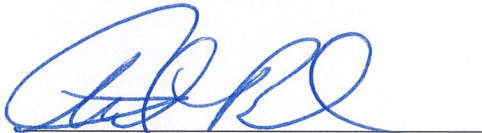
Absent: 1 Montoya

Abstention: 0

There being six (6) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.


Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, City Clerk

**APPROVED BY ME THIS
12TH DAY OF APRIL 2023**


Fred Bilotto, Mayor