

**JOURNAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE BLUE ISLAND CITY
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
JUNE 14, 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 6:01 p.m. on June 14, 2023.

2) **Pledge of Allegiance**

3) **Roll Call**

Roll Call indicates the following:

Present:	6	Carr, Roll (6:04 pm), Johnson (6:07 pm), Montoya, Fahrenwald, McGee
Absent:	1	Rita
Present Also:	4	Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, City Clerk Matthew Welch, City Attorney Thomas Wogan, City Administrator Mark Patoska, Deputy City Administrator

4) **Presentation of Journal of Proceedings**

a. No Committee of the Whole Meeting in May 2023.

5) **Public Comment**

No public comment.

6) **New Business**

No new business.

7) **Mayor's Report**

a. **Special Use and Parking Variance – Blue Island's Bodega, Inc. (2218 Desplaines Street).**

The Mayor stated there is a change in name and ownership and an application to zoning to include off-street parking.

b. Special Use and Two Sign Variances – TLC Learning Center (2844 W. 127th Street).

The Mayor stated this Property applied for a special use and sign variances.

c. Amendment to Chapter 72.03 of the City Code relating to Parking Vehicles for Sale.

The Mayor stated this amendment would prohibit residents from placing “sale” signs on a vehicle parked on the street, public parkway or private property.

The Mayor also noted Alderman Roll’s attendance.

d. Proposed Renovations for John D. Rita Recreation Center.

City Administrator, Thomas Wogan, reported that they had received two proposals for the playground renovations at the John D. Rita Recreation Center. He noted that the City could lower the cost by handling some of the work inhouse; but he advises hiring a company to handle the full installation. He also noted that the appropriation includes a line item for this improvement.

The Mayor noted Alderman Johnson’s attendance.

e. Commercial Insurance Proposal – Meadows Golf Club of Blue Island.

City Administrator, Thomas Wogan, stated that the City now has a quote for insurance for the Meadows. The commercial insurance has \$2 million dollar general coverage and \$1 million dollar liquor liability. This cost has been appropriated.

Alderman Fahrenwald thanked Thomas Wogan for getting this done. He asked if a better level of protection might be obtained. City Administrator, Thomas Wogan, indicated that the City should wait until the following year to negotiate pricing, once the City and insurance company have a better idea of coverage issues.

Alderman Johnson thanked Thomas Wogan as well.

f. P & W Golf Supply, LLC Quote for Golf Course Equipment.

No comment.

g. Amendment to Chapter 121 of the City Code regarding Commercial and Charitable Solicitation.

The Mayor stated that police union was soliciting companies in the City asking for money/donations and currently there was nothing in the code to regulate that

solicitation. A lot of concerned businesses called the City asking if this was a scam. Therefore, the City would like to amend the Code to ensure regulation of the same.

Alderman Fahrenwald stated it is a good idea; but didn't see fees/permits and how long solicitors should be permitted to solicit. City Attorney, Matthew Welch, stated he will have Erin Blake follow up.

Alderman Johnson remarked that he believed something was in place in the Code already to regulate solicitors. The Mayor stated that there was but that it was insufficient.

Alderman Roll questioned as to whether they were making phone calls. The Mayor said that they are making both phone calls and in-person visits.

h. Litter Issues at Thornton's Gas Station. Redevelopment Agreement, Section V(D) and XV.

The City Attorney, Matthew Welch, stated that the owner should have a lifelong obligation to maintain the property. He noted that the City should give Thornton's notification that if there are many code infractions, there are consequences.

Alderman Fahrenwald noted that if they do not comply, they have 30 days to clean, which is only a temporary solution.

The City Attorney, Matthew Welch, agreed that the City would be required to give Thornton's 30 days to clean up; but noted that there was no reason the City couldn't pursue its nuisance ordinance. He also noted that it is not uncommon to suspend or revoke their business license if City Code is not being followed.

Alderman Roll stated they can create another financial tier to keep track.

The Mayor asked City Attorney if they can charge higher than \$750 for the municipal code citations. City Attorney, Matthew Welch, stated that the Illinois code does not allow it; however, the City can add the cost of enforcement onto the fine.

The Mayor claimed that both Dollar Tree and Family Dollar have made repeated payments as specified by the Building Department and that it is more convenient for them to pay than comply.

i. Roof/Window Bids.

The Mayor reported that the roof and windows in City Hall and the East Annex are well past life expectancy; but if the East Annex is removed from the equation, everything in City Hall could be remediated this year. Last year, the fire and police departments, as well as the police garage, were completed. All three bidders were contacted to confirm that the amounts remained the same.

j. Engineering projects and projected costs.

The Mayor noted that in preparation for the Street Program, the City has been televising the sewers and have been requiring cleaning, sewer excavations, open pit excavation, or opening roadways in specific portions, as shown on the location map in red, green, and blue.

The Mayor stated that 99% of alleyways lack curvature, sewer, or concrete construction, all of which must be completed. In addition, streets that have not been completed in the last ten years will be included in the 5-10 year plan. The greater the amount, the better the deal.

The Mayor noted that currently, only the worst streets and alleys will be done, which will lead to a broader discussion and a return to maintenance such as crack filling and sealing up until November.

The Mayor mentioned that he is anticipating 2024/2025 to push off unfinished sewer construction and estimating three to four years on how much to spend on streets. A lot of things are simple to correct; however, more information will be provided during the meeting next month.

k. Mayor's Announcements/Comments.

The Mayor noted that IDOT verbally authorized everything for Olde Western; however, written clearance is still pending. He hopes to complete Phase 1 by the fall. Because of lighting delays, that may be pushed back to the spring. In addition, 75 trees will be planted, the most ever planted. Currently, there is no concern about phase 2 and 3 since there is funding for it; but it is taking quite some time for IDOT to process the permits.

The Mayor stated the LED lights project is going to start soon.

8) City Clerk's Announcements/Reports/Comments

a. City Clerk's Announcements.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, invited everyone to attend the Mission Covenant Church Father's Day service dinner on 6/18/23 from 10:30 until 11:30 am.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, informed the City Council that the Pentecostal Church is having family youth night on 6/19/23 at 7 pm.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, informed the City Council that the Meadows Golf Course is offering Junior Golf on Tuesdays.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, informed the City Council that the Mission Covenant Church is having their motorcycle blessing on 6/25/23 at 10:30 am.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, informed everyone that the City is sponsoring a Community Garage Sale this year on the first weekend of August. Sign up is to be completed by 6/26/23 at the Clerk's office.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, announced that TGIF started with music in the park, vendors, and a farmers' market.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, encouraged residents to set 7/1/23 aside for Fireworks at the Falls. There will be food, crafts, inflatables, music, and beer garden from 4 pm until 10 pm.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, informed the City Council that vehicle city stickers are on sale.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, notified the City Council that the Guildhaus and the City will help sponsor a 5k run/walk on September 24, 2023.

The Mayor indicated that he met with two potential businesses. One of them made an offer to Mario's Tacos, which he believes is a good fit because it is a chain from the north side.

9) **City's Attorney's Report**

a. **Attorney Announcements.**

No comment.

10) **City Administrator's Announcements/Reports/Comments**

a. **City Administrator's Announcements/Comments**

City Administrator, Thomas Wogan, stated he had an expenditure report for the Counsel. In addition, the Building Code hearing docket for 6/28/23 contained 36 double sided pages and was completed by Jason Slattery and Jason Kennedy.

Alderman McGee inquired as to whether or not the building department would be receiving tablets. City Administrator, Thomas Wogan, informed the City Council that they are moving forward to putting tablets in place for the Building Department that will make the Department more efficient.

Alderman Fahrenwald asked whether the report might be broken down by ward. Thom as Wogan, the City Administrator, remarked that the program was never designed to be

divided on political boundaries; yet, it is a very reasonable request and a highly sophisticated reporting; so he would look into the same.

City Administrator, Thomas Wogan, introduced Michael Powers as the new department head of Golf Meadows.

Michael Powers informed City Council that he was born and raised in Blue Island, graduated from Eisenhower High School, and attended IL State University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in Recreational Park Administration because he aspired to be a Park Director. He worked for the Blue Island Park District, where he served on the board and as President. He received his master's degree and worked alongside State Senator Patrick O'Malley. He also worked at Veterans School and was the Regional Manager for Cook IL Corp school buses, where he handled over 200 people. He is excited to work with everyone and make a substantial amount of revenue at the golf course. He is open to any and all recommendations.

11) Aldermanic Announcements/Reports/Comments

a. Aldermanic Announcements/Reports/Comments

No comments.

13) Motion for Adjournment

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

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

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

Fred Bilotto, Mayor

**APPROVED BY ME THIS
20TH DAY OF JULY 2023**

Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, City Clerk