

**JOURNAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE BLUE ISLAND CITY  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 13, 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 6:05 p.m. on September 13, 2023.

2) **Pledge of Allegiance**

3) **Roll Call**

Roll Call indicates the following:

Present:	4	Carr, Johnson, Rita, McGee
Absent:	3	Roll, Montoya, Fahrenwald
Present Also:	5	Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, City Clerk Jairo Frausto, Treasurer Erin Blake, City Attorney Thomas Wogan, City Administrator Mark Patoska, Deputy City Administrator

4) **Presentation of Journal of Proceedings**

a. **Motion to approve the Minutes from the Committee of the Whole Meeting on August 9, 2023.**

**Motion by Alderman Carr, second by Alderman McGee to approve Minutes for the Committee of the Whole meeting on August 9, 2023.**

Ayes:	4	Carr, Johnson, Rita, McGee
Nays:	0	
Absent:	3	Roll, Montoya, Fahrenwald
Abstention:	0	

There being four (4) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

5) **Public Comment**

Allan Stevo, a Blue Island resident, thanked the City Council for all their work. He noted that the arrangement with Lakeshore, in his perspective, isn't working out so well. He proposed holding the administrative court hearings on Saturday so that people would not have to miss work. Also, he would prefer that code enforcement issue warnings before issuing citations.

6) **New Business**

No new business.

7) **Mayor's Report**

**a. Rental Fees at City Event Spaces.**

City Administrator, Thomas Wogan, indicated that he would be drafting an Ordinance for property rentals such as the John D. Recreation Center and the Meadows Golf Course, which currently have a semi-formal rental process. The City would like to establish residential and non-residential fees to make these locations a better asset to the community.

The Mayor stated that in the interim the City is not allowing rentals at either location.

**b. Tree Ordinance.**

City Attorney, Erin Blake, stated that the tree ordinance was drafted in conjunction with the Forestry Board and Mr. Schroeder, in addition to the Morton Arboretum. The ordinance satisfies the grant's standards and describes what the City will do with its trees moving forward. She noted that Alderman Fahrenwald sent an email because he was unable to attend the meeting and he wanted to address two points, including adding another sentence or paragraph about the economic benefits of trees, such as rainwater retention, reduced flooding, lower air conditioning costs, blocking ultraviolet light that reduces pavement life, increasing property values, and adding cleaner air, to the purpose and intent section. Second point, insert provisions for permitting to encourage retention of historic or legacy trees, through an incentive fee structure.

The Mayor stated that the City can check what other towns do if they have incentive fee structure for trees.

Alderman Rita was perplexed by Alderman Fahrenwald's suggestion. The Mayor stated if a homeowner has a tree on their property, the City cannot tell them what they can and cannot do if they choose to chop it down. They can, however, supply you with information about the benefits of having one and, through an incentive program, encourage you to keep the tree.

**c. Business License/Health Inspection Ordinance.**

The City Attorney, Erin Blake, stated that with the assistance of Ms. Wagner, the Health Inspector, the City is attempting to integrate their health inspections with business licensing. For instance, a business will pay for the annual health inspections at the same time as their annual business license. This will ensure that health inspections are carried out more frequently. This will also codify inspection costs, the frequency with which certain businesses must conduct health inspections, and the price of these inspections.

Alderman Rita asked how the fees were determined. The City Attorney, Erin Blake, stated Ms. Wagner did a comparable analysis and used her knowledge of the field.

Alderman McGee inquired if the comparable analysis were done with other surrounding municipalities.

**d. Retiree Health Insurance.**

The City Attorney, Erin Blake, indicated that this ordinance would combine all prior ordinances regarding retiree health insurance into one ordinance. The ordinance provides a complete summary of the existing laws.

**e. Mayor's Announcements/Comments.**

The Mayor expressed thanks for the Labor Day celebration.

The Mayor thanked City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, for all her work.

**8) City Clerk's Announcements/Reports/Comments**

**a. City Clerk's Announcements.**

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, notified everyone to save-the-date for the Community Health Fair on 10/7/23 at the John D. Rita Recreation Center from 10 am until 2 pm.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, notified everyone to save-the-date for Movie on the Green at The Meadows Golf Club at 7 pm on 10/7/23 on the driving range.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, invited everyone to the Blue Island Public Library Hispanic Heritage Celebration on 9/16/23, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in their parking lot.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, stated that the Eisenhower Alumni is having their annual golf outing at the Meadows Golf Course on 9/16/23.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, invited everyone to a Blue Mass at St. Mary Magdalen Church on 9/17/23 at 3 p.m. A blue mass commemorates first responders, as well as current and former members of the armed services. The mass is an occasion to commemorate and appreciate the men and women who put their lives in danger to protect their community.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, informed everyone about the Pentecostal Church's first year anniversary on 9/17/23 at 2:30 pm across from the Blue Island Public Library.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, informed everyone about the pet blessing at Mission Covenant Church on 9/17/23.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, notified the City Council that the Guildhaus is preparing a 5k run/walk on 9/24/23. They are falling short of their target; therefore, she invited everyone to participate.

The Mayor stated that the Guildhaus is undergoing a minor expansion and purchased the house next door.

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

**a. Attorney Announcements.**

No comment.

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

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

No comment.

**11) Aldermanic Announcements/Reports/Comments**

**a. Alderman Rita Report regarding parking restrictions in the Third Ward.**

Will be deferred until the next meeting.

**b. Aldermanic Announcements/Reports/Comments**

Alderman Johnson praised the fireworks over the Labor Day weekend and appreciated the funnel cake.

**12) 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.**

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

Ayes: 4 Carr, Johnson, Rita, McGee  
Nays: 0  
Absent: 3 Roll, Montoya, Fahrenwald  
Abstention: 0

There being four (4) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

**Motion by Alderman Rita, second by Alderman McGee to resume regular meeting.**

Ayes: 4 Carr, Johnson, Rita, McGee  
Nays: 0  
Absent: 3 Roll, Montoya, Fahrenwald  
Abstention: 0

There being four (4) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

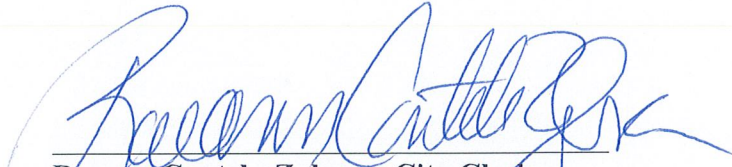
The Mayor stated that they discussed possible litigation.

**13) Motion for Adjournment**

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


Ayes: 4 Carr, Johnson, Rita, McGee  
Nays: 0  
Absent: 3 Roll, Montoya, Fahrenwald  
Abstention: 0

There being four (4) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.



Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, City Clerk

**APPROVED BY ME THIS  
11<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER 2023**



Fred Bilotto, Mayor