

**JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPECIAL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 27, 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The special meeting of the City Council of the City of Blue Island was called to order by Mayor Vargas at 7:00 p.m. on September 27, 2017.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

Roll Call indicates the following:

Present: 12 Ald. Thompson, Carr, Pittman, Slattery, Bilotto, Vieyra, Rita, Donahue, Hawley, Fahrenwald, Ostling, Frausto (7:06)

Absent: 2 Poulos, Johnson

Present Also: Randy Heuser, City Clerk  
Carmine Bilotto, City Treasurer

**MAYOR**

Mayor Vargas announced that the purpose of this special meeting was to hear a presentation of the water rate analysis and called Dave Meyers, CPA consultant to make his presentation.

Mr. Meyers addressed the City Council stating that the Water fund is woefully underfunded. Pointing out that our infrastructure is old and we do not have the cash reserves to cover repairs. Over the last 10 years, we have not raised our water rates to cover inflationary costs of salaries and supplies. If we had kept up with the rates the City of Chicago passed along to us, our rate would be \$10.82 today.

An analysis of water rates in the surrounding communities showed that Blue Island's water rate is well below average. Mr. Meyer showed several water projects that are likely to be needed in the near future totaling over \$8,000,000.

If no increase is made, we will be spending in excess of \$600,000 per year more than we take in.

Several Increase scenarios were presented:

A 12% increase would make the water fund break even

Special Meeting – September 27, 2017

An 18% increase would yield about \$225,000 per year  
A 24% increase would yield about \$500,000 per year  
A 30% increase would yield about \$800,000 per year  
A 30% increase in water and a 30% sewer rate would yield about 1,300,000 per year.

Several scenarios of how this would affect individual water bills was shown – Assuming usage of 6,000 gallons per month, bills would increase anywhere from \$6 - \$15 keeping a 20% sewer rate.

Aldermen asked the Mayor which increase he would propose, he suggested that 18% would be his choice, but not 30%.

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

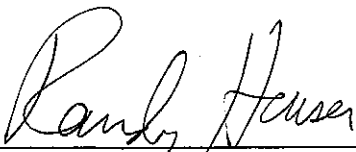
There were several citizens expressing concern about how this increase would impact them as well as the businesses in town.

**ADJOURNMENT**

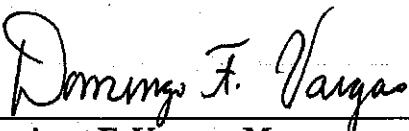
**Motion by Ald. Pittman, second by Ald. Donahue to adjourn the meeting.**

Upon a vote, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Randy Heuser, City Clerk

**APPROVED BY ME THIS  
24<sup>th</sup> Day of October 2017.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Domingo F. Vargas, Mayor