

These minutes were approved at the 3/15/10 City Council meeting with no changes.

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO – 475 Main Street

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting

March 1, 2010

**1. Call to Order.** Mayor Michael B. Kwasman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.** Terry Owens, President, Veterans Memorial, Inc., DuPage County, led all in the pledge of allegiance.

**3. Invocation.** The City Clerk gave the invocation in honor of local heroes.

**4. Roll Call and Establishment of a Quorum.** Roll call found Aldermen James E. Beifuss, Jr., James Smith, Ruben Pineda, Sandy Dimas, Alan Murphy, John C. Smith, Joey Gianforte, Nanette B. Connelly, Rebecca Stout, Nicholas Dzierzanowski, and Matt Fuesting present. Aldermen Lori J. Chassee, H. Ronald Monroe, and Russell Radkiewicz were absent. The Mayor announced a quorum.

City Clerk Nancy M. Smith and City Treasurer Donald F. Earley were also present. .

Also in attendance were City Attorney Patrick K. Bond, City Administrator Michael L. Guttman, Marketing and Communications Coordinator Rosemary Mackey, and Krista Coltrin, also with Marketing and Communications. From the Police Department were Chief of Police Donald Goncher, Deputy Chiefs Mike Uplegger and Laz Perez, Sergeants Stephen Laub, Eric Shipman, and Mike Zepeda, and Officers Edward Berg, Dan Herbert, Don Landbo, Jeff Moos, Waylon Potts, Adam Reavley, Rick Sauseda, Joseph Stewart, and Justin Wienrank

**5. Public Participation.**

**B. Proclamation – Honoring Officer Joseph Stewart.** The Mayor called upon Chief Goncher who presented a commendation to Officer Stewart. Chief Goncher read the Commendation of Ribbon (copy attached). He also stated that Sergeant Eric Shipman and Officer Antonio Reyes aided Officer Stewart and they would also receive letters of commendation.

**A. Proclamation – Honoring Sergeant Patrick Henning.** Alderman Pineda read the Narrative for the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for Sergeant Patrick C. Henning (copy attached), which was met with a standing ovation from the crowded audience. There would be several more standing ovations during the evening.

The Mayor recognized Dirk Enger, DuPage County District 6 representative. Mr. Enger thanked, on behalf of the County and for all families, the Mayor and Aldermen for being a part of this special event for these two special people. He quoted George Washington regarding the willingness of the young to serve in any war as proportional to how they saw the previous warriors treated. Mr. Enger said on behalf of himself, being an ironworker, and the ironworkers who built the Twin Towers that were attacked, he presented a special pin to Sergeant Henning that shows the Twin Towers. They are a symbol of the United States.

The Mayor recognized Jim Zay, DuPage County District 6 representative, who said it is an honor to have these heroes in our community. He said everyday our local heroes put their lives on the line. Mr. Zay expressed gratitude and thanks to both Sergeant Henning and Officer Stewart so that his sons can wake up with safety.

The Mayor recognized Lieutenant Colonel Bob Larson, Milton Township. LTC Larson said they are brothers-in-arms, including Officer Stewart. LTC Larson said when someone puts on a uniform, they are signing a blank check, up to and including, their own life. They have done this for each of us. He said he has twenty years of service with a desk job, and serves in the company of heroes. It is an honor to make sure that our forces are being taken care of. Next week he will leave to make out wills for 150 service people going to Afghanistan. He said he is proud to serve. Cynics should hang out with the service people.

The Mayor asked if anyone from the Legion and VFW wished to speak. Chuck Scheckel, Chaplain of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts in West Chicago, said the older veterans had their time and place and we have all learned that we need people just like this (our current heroes) all the time.

At the Mayor's request, the City Clerk read the Proclamation (copy attached) honoring Sergeant Patrick Henning. Sergeant Henning thanked the whole town and those who came out to City Hall.

Officer Stewart thanked everyone who showed up and for the recognition.

The Mayor showed his interest in law enforcement personnel when he got involved with the Police Referendum a few years back and later when he became a member of the Merit Commission for the Sheriff. He read parts of the April 2003 speech by Henry P. Henson and Kevin L. Livingston regarding how police officers are disliked until they are needed. They undergo extensive training, hardships, and act in many roles (lawyer, doctor, counselor, social worker, security specialist, mediator, and negotiator) and face dangerous situations. Because of that, the Mayor wished to thank Officer Stewart and all of the West Chicago police force.

The Mayor also provided his comments (Item 12), about honoring a young man tonight who gallantly served his country in a far off land. He was trained to fight, to defend, and also protect those who could not protect themselves. This is special because there is no training manual that the government has to offer that prepared this young man for his heroic deeds. These lessons cannot be learned in school, in church, or from buddies or brothers and sisters. The Mayor told Sergeant Henning that he is being honored this evening because he is a hero, a West Chicago Hero, and thanks are given to the Lord that he is home safe. He also expressed appreciation for the neighbors who came to share this moment. The Mayor honored Sergeant Henning's parents for giving him heart and teaching him to help someone who could not do for themselves. If medals could be given to parents, they earned Good Conduct medals while Sergeant Henning was growing up, Purple Hearts for every broken heart they had over a disappointment or the Silver Star for Valor when they kissed him good-bye and sent him off to war. But, by the look on their faces and to have them feel their son in their arms again, the Mayor said if he could, he would give them the Congressional Medal of Honor from our grateful City and he stood to honor them also.

The following person spoke during regular public participation:

1) John Kruser, CableCom, said he has the tape of the Heritage Days Fest and Parade. This is the last parade where Mayor Kwasman was a sponsor. The Heritage Days Fest will be shown at 6:30 pm on Tuesday and Thursday, followed at 7:00 pm by the Parade.

## **6. Correspondence and Announcements.**

Alderman Connelly announced that the Lion's Club would be having their Pancake Breakfast on Sunday at the Middle School from 7:00 am to noon. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Police Officer Waylon Potts said the West Chicago Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 85 would be sponsoring a St. Baldrick's fundraiser on Sunday, March 21, 2010, at Hawthorne's Backyard from 2:00 – 5:00 pm. The St. Baldrick's Foundation is an organization dedicated to childhood cancer research. Both the West Chicago Police Department and West Chicago Fire Protection District will enter teams where the members get their heads shaved. Donations or pledges can be made in advance or at the event.

**Upcoming Meetings.** The Mayor announced the following meetings.

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| - March 2, 2010 | Plan Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals (cancelled) |
| - March 4, 2010 | Infrastructure Committee                            |
| - March 8, 2010 | Development Committee (cancelled)                   |

**7. Corporate Disbursement Report.** Alderman Connelly made a motion, seconded by Alderman Pineda, to approve the March 1, 2010, Corporate Disbursement Report in the amount of \$ 497,636.14. Voting Yea: Aldermen Beifuss, James Smith, Pineda, Dimas, John Smith, Gianforte, Connelly, Stout, Dzierzanowski, and Fuesting. Voting Nay: 0. Alderman Murphy abstained. Motion carried.

## **8. Consent Agenda – Consideration of an Omnibus Vote.**

- \* **Development Committee:** No report
- \* **Infrastructure Committee:** No report
- \* **Public Affairs Committee:** No report
- \* **Finance Committee:** No report
- \* **Items Not Sent to Committee:** The Mayor read and explained the following items:

**A. Approve – City Council Meeting Minutes of February 15, 2010**

**B. Approve** – Use of City’s Rights-of-Way; Street Closures for Main and Galena; Closure of City Hall Parking Lot as a Possible Location for a Car Display; Use of Public Rights-of-Way for Posting of Signs Promoting the West Chicago Garden Club Annual Plant Sale; and In-Kind Services for the 2010 Blooming Fest – Scheduled for Saturday, May 15, 2010

**C. Approve** – Use of City’s Rights-of-Way; In-Kind Services; and Event Route for St. Andrews Church Procession – Stations of the Cross – Scheduled for Friday, April 2, 2010

**D. Approve** – General Mill’s Request for Commemorative Banner Display on Main Street for its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Doing Business in West Chicago and In-Kind Services

**E. Ordinance 10-O-0040** – An Ordinance Granting a Deviation for Slope Grading at 479 W. Forest Avenue – Pioneer Park

**F. Ordinance 10-O-0042** – An Ordinance of the City of West Chicago, DuPage County, Illinois, Ascertaining the Prevailing Rate of Wages for Laborers, Mechanics and Other Workers Employed in Public Works for the City of West Chicago

Alderman Murphy made a motion, seconded by Alderman Stout, to adopt those items on the consent agenda. Voting Yea: Aldermen Beifuss, James Smith, Pineda, Dimas, Murphy, John Smith, Gianforte, Connelly, Stout, Dzierzanowski, and Fuesting. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

#### **9. Reports by Committees.**

**A. Ordinance No. 10-O-0041** – For Consideration of Adoption an Ordinance Providing for the Issuance of One or More Series of General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2010, in an Aggregate Amount Not to Exceed \$ 15,295.000.00

Alderman Beifuss made a motion, seconded by Alderman Connelly, to approve Ordinance No. 10-O-0041. During discussion, Treasurer Earley explained that the basic idea of refinancing these bonds is to keep the water rates low. Voting Yea: Aldermen Beifuss, James Smith, Pineda, Dimas, Murphy, John Smith, Gianforte, Connelly, Stout, Dzierzanowski, and Fuesting. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

**10. Unfinished Business.** None

**11. New Business.** None

**12. Mayor’s Comments.** The Mayor’s comments were stated previously.

**13. Executive Session.** At 7:41 pm, Alderman Stout made a motion, seconded by Alderman Gianforte, to adjourn into executive session to discuss land acquisition [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5) (6)] and Review of Official Record [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21)]. Voting Yea: Aldermen Beifuss, James Smith, Pineda, Dimas, Murphy, John Smith, Gianforte, Connelly, Stout, Dzierzanowski, and Fuesting. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried. Minutes for the executive session are filed separately.

**14. Items to be Referred for Final Action from Executive Session.** Not applicable.

**15. Adjournment.** See above.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy M. Smith  
City Clerk