

These minutes were approved at the 4/1/13 City Council meeting with no changes.

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO – 475 Main Street  
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
Regular Meeting  
March 18, 2013

1. **Call to Order.** Acting Mayor Ruben Pineda called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.** Alderman Murphy led all in the pledge of allegiance.
3. **Invocation.** The City Clerk gave the invocation.
4. **Roll Call and Establishment of a Quorum.** Roll call found Aldermen Lori J. Chassee, James E. Beifuss, Jr., H. Ronald Monroe, James Smith, Russell Radkiewicz, Ruben Pineda, Sandy Dimas, Alan Murphy, John C. Smith, Kurt Meissner, Nanette B. Connelly, Rebecca Stout, and Nicholas Dzierzanowski present. Alderman Matt Fuesting was absent. The Acting 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, Public Works Director Rob Flatter, and City Administrator Michael L. Guttman.

**5. Public Participation.**

The following people spoke during Public Participation:

1) Don Earley, City Treasurer, West Chicago, said there were several spaces available for the Lion's Club Camp. Campers must be between 7 and 17 and have a visual or hearing disability. Contact him or any Lion Club member for applications.

Mr. Earley, on behalf of **4 the People**, thanked the residents of West Chicago for their generous contributions to the food pantry. The Library has been particularly generous.

2) Ted Hirschfeld and Barb Andrews, National Athletic Trainers Association, 200 Amber Court, West Chicago. At the Mayor's request, the City Clerk read **Mayoral Proclamation – National Athletic Training Month – March 2013** in which the Mayor said the National Athletic Trainers Association represents and supports more than 40,000 members of the athletic training profession in a variety of venues and in honor of their health care for athletes and those engaged in physical activities, he proclaimed the month of March 2013 as National Athletic Training Month. The Acting Mayor then presented a copy of the Proclamation to Mr. Hirschfeld and Ms. Andrews.

3) Maranna W., La Escuelita, 809 Main Street, Apt 104, West Chicago, spoke about how the escuelita helps and should not be taken away. The Acting Mayor explained that the Neighborhood Resource Centers (NRC's) are not being taken away, but grant funding has been cut and by having the Wheaton Bible Church take over their organizational functions, nothing will change.

4) Francisco Marcelino, 1221 King Cross apartments, West Chicago, also spoke about his objection to the change at the NRC's; He voiced concern that religion would now be mixed in. The Acting Mayor suggested that a representative group call tomorrow and talk with Valeria Lopez to discuss the details of the changeover.

**6. City Council Meeting Minutes – March 4, 2013.** Alderman Monroe made a motion, seconded by Alderman Murphy, to approve the minutes of March 4, 2013, with no changes. Voting Aye: Aldermen Beifuss, Chassee, Monroe, Jim Smith, Radkiewicz, Pineda, Dimas, Murphy, John Smith, Meissner, Connelly, Stout, and Dzierzanowski. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

**7. Corporate Disbursement Report.** Alderman Connelly made a motion, seconded by Alderman Radkiewicz, to approve the March 18, 2013, Corporate Disbursement Report in the amount of \$ 612,596.58. Voting Yea: Aldermen Beifuss, Chassee, Monroe, James Smith, Radkiewicz, Dimas, John Smith, Meissner, Connelly, Stout, and Dzierzanowski. Voting Nay: 0. Alderman Murphy and Acting Mayor Pineda abstained. Motion carried.

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

\* **Development Committee:** No report

\* **Infrastructure Committee:** Alderman Dzierzanowski read and explained the following items:

**A. Resolution 13-R-0015** – A Resolution Authorizing the Acting Mayor to Execute a Contract Agreement with Strand Associates, Inc., for Professional Services Related to Construction Oversight for the Well No. 12 Well House Project (for an amount not to exceed \$55,800.00)

**B. Resolution 13-R-0018** – A Resolution Authorizing the Acting Mayor to Accept Conveyance of a Permanent Easement from the DuPage Airport Authority for Certain Utilities Located at the DuPage Business Center

**C. Resolution 13-R-0021** – A Resolution Authorizing the Acting Mayor to Execute Change Order No. 1 and Final with Geneva Construction Company, Inc. for the Smith Road Quiet Zone Improvement Project (for an amount not to exceed \$135,224.08)

**D. Resolution 13-R-0023** – A Resolution Authorizing the Acting Mayor to Execute a Local Agency Agreement for Federal Participation Between the Illinois Department of Transportation and the City of West Chicago for FHWA/STU Grant Funding for Construction Costs Related to the Geneva Spur-Great Western Connector Path Project

**E. Resolution 13-R-0025** – A Resolution Authorizing the Acting Mayor to Execute a Contract Agreement with Alaniz Landscape Group, Inc., for Landscape Maintenance Services Related to the 2013 Right-of-Way Maintenance Program (for an amount not to exceed \$98,104.00)

**F. Resolution 13-R-0026** – A Resolution Authorizing the Acting Mayor to Execute a Contract Agreement with RJN Group, Inc. for Services Related to the 2013 Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Program (for an amount not to exceed \$138,460.00)

**G. Resolution 13-R-0027** – A Resolution Authorizing the Acting Mayor to Execute a Contract Agreement with Clark Dietz, Inc. For Professional Engineering Services Related to the Sanitary Sewer Lift Station No. 3 Improvement Project (for an amount not to exceed \$58,845.00)

**H. Resolution 13-R-0029** – A Resolution Authorizing the Acting Mayor to Submit the Joint Purchasing Requisition to the State of Illinois Bureau of Strategic Sourcing and Procurement for Rock Salt for Season 2013-2014 (for an amount not to exceed \$250,000.00)

Alderman Dzierzanowski made a motion, seconded by Alderman Jim Smith, to adopt the above items. Voting Aye: Aldermen Beifuss, Chassee, Monroe, Jim Smith, Radkiewicz, Pineda, Dimas, Murphy, John Smith, Meissner, Connelly, Stout, and Dzierzanowski. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

\* **Public Affairs Committee:** No Report

\* **Finance Committee:** No Report

\* **Items Not Sent to Committee:** Acting Mayor Pineda read and explained the following items:

**I. Ordinance 13-O-0005** – An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of West Chicago to Reflect the Elimination of the Elected Office of City Treasurer

**J. Resolution 13-R-0028** – A Resolution Approving the City of West Chicago's Investment Policy that was Formerly in the Code of Ordinances

Alderman Dimas made a motion, seconded by Alderman Meissner, to adopt the above items. During discussion, Alderman Murphy thanked and praised City Treasurer Earley for his help in ensuring the smooth elimination of the office of City Treasurer. A round of applause was then given to City Treasurer Earley. Voting Aye: Aldermen Beifuss, Chassee, Monroe, Jim Smith, Radkiewicz, Pineda, Dimas, Murphy, John Smith, Meissner, Connelly, Stout, and Dzierzanowski. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

**9. Reports by Committees.** None

**10. Unfinished Business.** None

**11. New Business.** None

**12. Correspondence and Announcements.**

**Upcoming Meetings**

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| - March 19, 2013  | Plan Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals (cancelled) |
| - March 25, 2013` | Public Affairs Committee                            |
| - March 26, 2013  | Historical Preservation Commission                  |
| - March 28, 2013  | Finance Committee (cancelled)                       |

Alderman Dimas announced that Community Fellowship Church would be sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt this Saturday at 10:00 am. Everyone is invited. They have over 15,000 eggs.

Alderman Chassee announced that the West Chicago Lion's Club has a \$2,000.00 scholarship available to a high school senior. Applicants should have an interest in human resource services. Applications are available at the schools and the Lion's web site.

**STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS.** The Acting Mayor then presented his State of the City address which follows in its entirety.

**13. Executive Session.** There was no executive session.

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

**15. Adjournment.** At 7:49 pm, Alderman Chassee made a motion, seconded by Alderman Stout, to adjourn. Motion was carried by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy M. Smith  
City Clerk

## STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

Good evening and thank you for your interest in and support of the state of our City.

A little less than a year ago, West Chicago was touched beyond comprehension by the loss of a great leader and friend, Mayor Mike Kwasman. The strides he made before leaving us set West Chicago on a favorable course and will serve as his legacy for future generations. So much of the positive news I am eager to share with you tonight bears his imprint. I would like to dedicate the 2013 State of the City Address to Mayor Kwasman and lead off with the news that would make him most proud.

West Chicago has received the honorable distinction of being named the 74<sup>th</sup> Safest City in America by Location, Inc., creators of the neighborhood research site, NeighborhoodScout. What validating news for our City! The ranking is based on NeighborhoodScout's latest research of cities with at least 25,000 residents, and uses the total number of Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) statistics and the population of each city. The UCR crime counts reflect calendar year 2011 crimes, which are the most recent and fully vetted data with complete national coverage classified by the FBI as "Final, Non-preliminary."

The ranking reflects not only the tremendous accomplishments of the City's Police Department, but also the effectiveness of community policing which has become our citywide culture. Programs like Neighborhood Watch and National Night Out strengthen meaningful relationships between residents, businesses and the Police Department and the results have been powerful.

The 12-hour shifts for our patrol officers have resulted in more officers on the street and more proactive policing. The designation of 74<sup>th</sup> Safest City in America reflects our City's values and character; and is hugely significant in positioning West Chicago as a desirable community in which to raise a family, open a business or retire. I encourage your continued involvement and interaction with the programs and people of the West Chicago Police Department. They are there not only to protect and defend our person and property, but in a broader sense, to safeguard the quality of life we cherish. I know you will join me in expressing gratitude for the fine job they are doing.

Roadway and railroad safety will continue to be a priority. A new Traffic Unit has been established to do more targeted enforcement for speeding, stop sign violations, overweight vehicles and more, in all corners of the City. An education grant of \$5,000 from the Canadian National Railroad will enable our Police Department to work with students, pedestrians and motorists to promote rail safety, as well as create enforcement initiatives. By partnering with the Canadian National Railroad, the City was able to make several capital improvements which will improve safety at rail crossings, including the recently completed re-alignment of South Aurora Street to allow for better emergency vehicle access when trains are blocking the tracks.

We are extremely close to receiving an official designation from the Federal Railroad Administration for our quiet zone along the Canadian National Railway, and while you will still hear horns on occasion, it will be much more tolerable in the evening hours.

Moving on to other projects, I would like to recognize our Public Works Department for the critical role they play in the City's cost-effective operation, maintenance, and construction of the public infrastructure of West Chicago and in providing safe, effective and reliable services to the City. Positioning our infrastructure for the future through upcoming capital projects including the completion of Well #12, installing water lines in the W. Brown and W. Pomeroy neighborhood, and continuing the water meter replacement program, make sense to our long-range goals. Also, included in the Budget within the Sewer Fund, is the repair and upgrade of the City's primary lift station. Funds have also been allocated to analyze and make repairs to the collection system to continue to reduce inflow and infiltration problems.

We will continue to spend over \$2 million annually on road resurfacing and other related improvements, many of which are partially grant-funded. And, we are looking forward to enhancing our streetscape in a meaningful way with the addition of a comprehensive system of directional, informational and identification signage. These way finding signs are the next phase of our Master Plan which will integrate with the already installed eight landmark signs that define our borders and the large LED sign at Main Street and Route 59, which has become a hugely effective communication tool for the community. The installation of this custom-designed system of signs which will include large and small directional signs,

information kiosks, historical facts panels and historical district markers, will not only advance the ease with which people navigate our city, but also advance its image.

And speaking of our image, 2013 may be the year we can finally close the book on the environmental catastrophe that scarred our City's image for too long. Only one remaining residential property needs remediation as part of the Kerr McGee clean-up! And depending on federal funding, the Factory Site could be cleaned and closed within the next two years. That's worth celebrating on so many important levels.

Proactive planning which considers and anticipates the future needs of the community, budgets resources, leverages outside funding if available and adheres to a financial timetable are proven strategies to our fiscal stability. Even with the cuts to public budgets at every level of government as a result of the economic condition of our nation, the City Council and I directed staff to do what it could in preparing the 2013 Annual Budget to relieve the financial burden on our customers, and I am happy to report success as a result of the visionary leadership of our senior management team.

The most significant outcome of this dedicated effort will resonate favorably with our residents and businesses, as it includes no tax or rate increases and also no proposed service reductions. For the sixth year in a row, we have cut our total budget; have not increased the property tax levy in three years; haven't raised other taxes or utility rates in five years; have had no reductions in the number of services or the quality of services; and have one of the lowest water rates in the area. Further encouragement coming from the financial snapshot of our City is a return of sales tax revenue to about what it was before the economic downturn, signaling a growing consumer confidence. Of particular note along these lines, the extended sales tax-sharing arrangement with Haggerty Ford, is on pace to repay the City via sales tax revenues four years prior to original projections. Haggerty Ford continues to have phenomenal annual sales since moving from its prior location, results which speak volumes for the desirability of this high trafficked business corridor along Illinois Route 38.

Another sign of returning economic health, vacancy rates among office and retail use are improving. Forty-plus new businesses joined our community in 2012 and Old Time Pottery, a tremendous addition to the 80,000 square foot building in Mosaic Crossing, formerly Dominick's, will be opening this summer. The City has hired a new Director of Community Development, John D. Said. His expertise will add value to the multi-faceted Department that is responsible for economic development, code enforcement, planning and zoning, and commercial and residential permitting. He will continue to monitor and assess our development regulations to ensure consistency and a competitive position with other municipalities. We will continue to be proactive in marketing our wonderful City, especially in promoting the 400 acre business park that is ready for new businesses and will be the spark for future development for the Roosevelt Rd. corridor.

John has worked with the City Council and I on a brand new Downtown Grant Program for restaurant and retail businesses which is designed to spark further business development and expansion. We are very excited about being able to offer this matching grant program, up to \$10,000, to new or existing brick and mortar businesses in the downtown TIF district. This initiative dovetails with the City's purchase of two more properties in the Central Main Street Redevelopment Area; and the start of Phase II Environmental Work in the West Washington Street Redevelopment Project, and further positions a highly anticipated downtown redevelopment project targeted for 2014.

Other areas of focus for development are the DuPage Business Park, as well as the North Avenue and Roosevelt Road corridors. We are extremely encouraged by the State moving forward with the new overpass for the at grade railroad crossing on Roosevelt & Kautz Rd. This bridge will not only improve the flow of traffic on Roosevelt Road, but also spark new development in the business park.

We now have IDOT's approval for a traffic signal at the intersection of North Avenue and the entrance to the St. Andrew's Shopping Center where Menards is located. Not only will a signal make the southwest corner more attractive for new development, but it will also provide safer access for customers.

Outstanding customer satisfaction remains the City's goal. Our Administrative Services Department provides the community support both on the front-line and behind the scenes. The Department is responsible for the City's financial, personnel and information technology functions, and is continually looking for alternate, cost-effective ways of improving its services and overseeing tremendous improvements to our IT systems. Its staff has proven to be

tremendous stewards of the public's tax dollars, and they invest and manage the public's funds prudently and efficiently.

Communication with our residents has been steadily improving with the incorporation of new tools like the mobile website which was introduced in early 2012 and podcasts which debuted on our YouTube channel later in the year. Most recently, the City spearheaded the creation of a comprehensive Community Calendar which has been developed in partnership with the West Chicago Public Library, West Chicago Park District, West Chicago Fire Protection District, School District 33, Community High School District 94 and Benjamin School District 25. We have also included a calendar for not-for-profit organizations with which to promote their public events. The self-publish feature makes submitting a calendar listing an easy and effective way to share news and creates a one-stop-shop for community events. The calendar link may be found on each entity's website, as well as on the homepage of [www.westchicago.org](http://www.westchicago.org).

Our free, subscriber-based E-News database continues to grow, with over 1,000 individuals receiving timely messages delivered directly to their email accounts. Direct feedback from users has been very positive, and the City just received a 2012 All Star Award from Constant Contact, the company which manages the City's account, for the level of customer engagement based on open, bounce and click-through rates.

Our Twitter account continues to grow and has proven to be a tremendous tool for staying on top of breaking news as well as daily reminders of meetings, city services, special events and more. The City urges residents to consider following us on Twitter to increase connectivity to the community.

While we have transitioned Window to West Chicago from a print to an online newsletter, copies are still available at City Hall, the City Museum, West Chicago Park District and West Chicago Public Library. Additionally, anyone interested in receiving a mailed copy may request one by contacting Rosemary Mackey at (630) 293-2200 x139.

Community engagement is definitely on the rise. The support of our Boards and Commissions has been outstanding this past year, and judging by the projects I have seen earmarked, 2013 and beyond holds exciting promise. It is so rewarding to see the citizen involvement represented on each Board and Commission. The new ideas, fresh energy and leadership are bringing West Chicago to the next level. I am deeply grateful for the willingness of this great cross-section of individuals for sharing their various interests and abilities for the betterment of our community. Thanks to them, we have enjoyed countless art receptions, kept tons of electronics and holiday lights from entering the landfill, and maintained the architectural integrity of our historic downtown.

This has been a banner year for volunteerism. Our special event committees have grown in leaps and bounds. And, we have been showered by multiple acts of kindness and quiet generosity – last May, the beautifully planted downtown flower beds which sprung up through the efforts of our Boy Scouts, or the December donation of a majestic 28-foot white pine; cut, delivered and decorated free of charge - a holiday gift from a resident and West Chicago business owner.

We live in an amazing community filled with caring people and defined by a resilient spirit. Last July 1<sup>st</sup> that resilience was tested again, this time by a devastating force of nature. A powerful storm with winds of over 75-miles-per-hour winds ripped through our community, wreaking havoc in its wake. Hundreds of mature trees, some more than 200-years old, were unearthed and tossed like tooth picks across cars, houses and power lines. West Chicago homes were counted among the more than 33,000 west suburban households in the line of the storm that were left without power. And, as we began the massive effort of cleaning up the destruction, Mother Nature lashed out again, this time with an oppressive heat-wave which gripped our power-less community for days. Rather than allow it to defeat us, though, West Chicago rallied together. We witnessed firsthand the compassionate response of neighbor helping neighbor and in some cases, total strangers offering to lend a hand or provide a bottle of water for parched workers. Through the hard work of City Crews, the strength of our community partnerships with other government agencies, a solid relationship with ComEd and all of the service providers contracted on our behalf, we survived and were reminded once again, our City works!

I was humbled when it became necessary to have been appointed Acting Mayor, to have been entrusted with the duties of this demanding office, and I remain so today. I wish to thank my fellow members of the City Council, for the support, direction and friendship you have given so freely. Together we held the course and even made some significant headway.

It is my honor to serve the City of West Chicago. I have no doubt that our future is bright and I look forward to continuing the work that was started by so many who came before us and who continue to grace this community with their invisible presence.

Thank you and good night and God bless West Chicago.