

These minutes were approved at the 5/3/2010 City Council meeting with no changes.

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO – 475 Main Street

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting

April 19, 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. Scout Charles Fortner led all in the pledge of allegiance.

3. Invocation. The City Clerk gave the invocation in honor of patriots, including Officer Michael Browning.

4. Roll Call and Establishment of a Quorum. Roll call found Aldermen Lori J. Chassee, James E. Beifuss, Jr., H. Ronald Monroe, Russell Radkiewicz, Ruben Pineda, Sandy Dimas, Alan Murphy, John C. Smith, Nanette B. Connelly, Rebecca Stout, Nicholas Dzierzanowski, and Matt Fuesting present. Aldermen James Smith and Joey Gianforte 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, and Community Development Director Joanne Kalchbrenner.

5. Public Participation. The following persons spoke during public participation:

1) John Kruser, CableCom, 411 Main Street, West Chicago, announced that on Wednesday and Friday at 7:00 pm, there would music from the 2007 Railroad Days event. He has also found some more lost tapes and they will be shown in the future.

2) Don Kvasnicka, 1008 Bishop Street, West Chicago, commented on the transfer of police calls on Saturday and Sunday. Given the typical calls received, he asked if there would be adequate coverage.

3) Theresa Gardner, West Chicago Police Department, 325 Spencer Street, West Chicago, said she has been with the Police Department for 19 years and in West Chicago for 23 years. She read in the *Daily Herald* that there was no budget gap in West Chicago. The Records Clerks received a letter from the city attorney regarding the need to lay off some of the clerks or outsource their duties. As an employee and a resident, she feels the records clerks provide excellent service to the City: they handle a lot of time sensitive materials; many people know and trust them; all but one lives in town; they are the people who help those who walk in or call the Police Department. She said the Records Clerks are trained and hold government certification. The Police Department is open 24/7, and as a citizen, she wants it to be that way. She does not want to call and talk to someone who is contracted and may not care about West Chicagoans. She wants the best for her neighbors and families. She hopes the Council agrees with her.

4) Elizabeth G. Mundoza, West Chicago Police Department, 325 Spencer Street, West Chicago, said she has been a resident since she was 5 years old. She has been employed at the Police Department as a Records Clerk. She is aware that the City wants to cut back, but there are only two Hispanics and she is one of them. The Records Clerks make Hispanics feel comfortable, and she helps with translations. If the Records Clerks are laid off, she asked if the money would go to other cities. She said the City has seven trained employees now. She also expressed fear that police officers would be taken off the streets.

5) Jane Frost, West Chicago Police Department, 325 Spencer Street, West Chicago, also was opposed to cutting the Records Clerks. She felt there were other ways to cut the budget citing four layers of management above her. She also felt some positions could be consolidated. She said six of the Records Clerks live in West Chicago and patronize businesses here and pay taxes here. She was concerned about the Record Clerks losing their homes and asked what would happen to their sense of community. She has seen many types of people seeking help at night. She did not feel a telephone set up would be helpful. She takes pride in her job knowing that in some small way she is giving back to the community where she lives. She hoped the Council would consider what she has said here.

6) Julissa Alfaro, West Chicago Police Department, 330 Clayton Street, Apartment A, West Chicago. She has lived in West Chicago for over 20 years, and is very disconcerted to hear about these possible cut backs, especially with the Police Department. She has had the privilege of working with them since she was in high school. She and many of her neighbors have been to the Police Department at night. She said people in her community are more

comfortable talking to someone in person instead of by telephone. She knows there might have to be cut backs, but they should be in areas that are not needed. These people are needed. She said as a teacher in West Chicago, many of the students and parents rely on these people. She said it is disturbing to think of walking into the police station and not have a person to talk to. Her community really trusts the Records Clerks.

6. Correspondence and Announcements.

The City Clerk announced that the West Chicago Sister Cities Organization is sponsoring a **Mayfest** celebration on May 1, 2010, at the American Legion. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

Alderman Chassee said she had Lion's Club Sweepstakes tickets to benefit the blind and hearing impaired.

Upcoming Meetings. The Mayor announced the following meetings.

- April 20, 2010 Plan Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals (cancelled)
- April 22, 2010 Finance Committee (cancelled)
- April 26, 2010 Public Affairs Committee
- April 27, 2010 Historical Preservation Commission

7. Corporate Disbursement Report. Alderman Connelly made a motion, seconded by Alderman Beifuss, to approve the April 19, 2010, Corporate Disbursement Report in the amount of \$ 673,132.51. Voting Yea: Aldermen Chassee, Beifuss, Monroe, Radkiewicz, Dimas, John Smith, Connelly, Stout, Dzierzanowski, and Fuesting. Voting Nay: 0. Aldermen Pineda and Murphy abstained. Motion carried.

8. Consent Agenda – Consideration of an Omnibus Vote.

* **Development Committee:** Alderman Pineda read and explained the following items:

A. Ordinance 10-O-0039 – An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of West Chicago – Chapter 4, Article I, Section 4-1, Administration

B. Ordinance 10-O-0046 – An Ordinance Granting a Special Use to Landbank Required Off-Street Parking – 110 E. Roosevelt Road – Dunkin Donuts

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

* **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:

C. Approve – City Council Meeting Minutes of April 5, 2010

D. Approve – Use of Public Spaces for *artXposium* – Scheduled for May 14-16, 2010

E. Resolution 10-R-0039 – A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Local Agency Agreement for Federal Participation between the City of West Chicago and Illinois Department of Transportation for ARRA Grant Funding for Arbor Avenue

F. Resolution 10-R-0040 – A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Local Agency Agreement for Federal Participation between the City of West Chicago and the Illinois Department of Transportation for HRRP Grant Funding for Phase II Design Engineering Services for the Wilson Street – Joliet Street Culvert Replacement Project

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

9. Reports by Committees. None

10. Unfinished Business. None

11. New Business. None

12. Mayor's Comments. The Mayor said his *Coffee with the Mayor* sessions every third Saturday have become very popular. People are interested in what is happening in the City as well as at the state and federal levels. He said the November elections will include county, state, and federal offices, so now is the time to ask the tough questions. The first line is City government to provide services. But now there is interest at the state level because of the cut backs and reduced tax money. He cited the example of two sheriffs, one Democrat and one Republican, vying for state agencies to help children's services. At the last Council meeting Treasurer Earley talked about proposed state tax cuts, demonstrating that state policies can affect us here in West Chicago. One entity affected is the Police Department, where 70% of that money goes. Alderman Beifuss brought up the valid point regarding the police officers. We are lucky to have a balanced budget, but it is very thin. There is a skeleton staff at City Hall to provide services. There is no intention of cutting Police Officers as people want police protection. There were candidates at Saturday's session. People should ask them what they will do to balance the budget. If they want to blame others, walk away and seek out another candidate. This not a democrat or republican issue, but a people issue. Property taxes are at peak, but values have gone down. The legislature in Springfield must react. Ask about children's services especially as busy children do not get into trouble.

13. Executive Session. At 7:30 pm, Alderman Fuesting made a motion, seconded by Alderman Stout, to recess into executive session to discuss land acquisition [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5) (6)], litigation [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)], and review of Official Record [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21)]. Voting Yea: Aldermen Chassee, Beifuss, Monroe, Radkiewicz, Pineda, Dimas, Murphy, John Smith, Connelly, Stout, Dzierzanowski, and Fuesting. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried. Minutes for the executive session are filed separately.

The regular meeting resumed at 8:37 pm. Roll call found Alderman Chassee, Beifuss, Monroe, Radkiewicz, Pineda, Dimas, Murphy, John Smith, Connelly, Stout, Dzierzanowski, and Fuesting present.

14. Items to be Referred for Final Action from Executive Session.

Ordinance 10-O-0047 - An Ordinance of the City of West Chicago, DuPage County, Illinois, Authorizing the Acquisition of Four Vacant Parcels Located at the Northwest Corner of Geneva Road and Prince Crossing Road for Construction of a Water Tower

Alderman Fuesting made a motion, seconded by Alderman Radkiewicz, to adopt Ordinance 10-O-0047. Voting Yea: Aldermen Chassee, Beifuss, Monroe, Radkiewicz, Pineda, Dimas, Murphy, John Smith, Connelly, Stout, Dzierzanowski, and Fuesting. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

15. Adjournment. At 8:38 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