

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO

WHERE HISTORY & PROGRESS MEET

APPROVED 9/26/11

MINUTES

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

August 22, 2011, 7:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Establishment of a Quorum

Chairman Chassee called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Roll Call found Alderman Connelly, Fuesting, Monroe, Radkiewicz and Murphy present. Alderman Meissner was not present.

Also in attendance was Chief Laz Perez; LuAnn Bombard, Museum Director and Cultural Services; David Sabathne, Executive Director of the Western DuPage Chamber; John Fincham, Community Development Assistant Director of Mainstreet Organization of Realtors; Jeff Merrinette, Government Affairs Director; Cort Airhart, Airhart Construction, 500 E. Roosevelt Road, West Chicago, IL 60185

2. Approval of Minutes

A. Public Affairs Committee of July 25, 2011. Alderman Radkiewicz made a motion, seconded by Alderman Murphy to approve the minutes of the Public Affairs Committee Meeting of July 25, 2011 with no changes. Voting Yea: Chairman Chassee, Alderman Connelly, Fuesting, Monroe, Radkiewicz and Murphy. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

3. Public Participation / Presentations

None.

4. Items for Consent

A. Ordinance No. 11-O-0047 – An ordinance modifying Chapter 4, Article I and Chapter 7, Article II of the Code of Ordinances of the City of West Chicago

The ordinance adopts and amends the 2009 edition of the International Residential Code and Property Maintenance Code. One revision that exists in the residential code is the requirement for residential fire sprinklers to be installed in all new single family homes.

Cort Airhart, Airhart Construction is opposed to this ordinance and expressed the significance in cost to the home buyer. Mr. Airhart asked to remove this modification to the ordinance and reconsider it because of the cost to the construction business and buyer.

Jeff Merrinette, Government Affairs Director was also opposed to this ordinance. He informed the committee that his Board of Directors conducted a survey on public opinion. The poll showed that 77% of homeowners preferred not to have sprinklers because of the added construction and maintenance costs.

Alderman Fuesting expressed how he doesn't believe this type of ordinance is appropriate at this time and doesn't believe this is going to help develop the downtown area of West Chicago in the long term.

Alderman Fuesting made a motion, seconded by Alderman Murphy to amend the ordinance to exclude sprinklers and forward the revised ordinance to City Council. Voting Yea: Chairman Chassee, Alderman Connelly, Fuesting, Monroe, Radkiewicz and Murphy. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

5. Items for Discussion

None.

6. Unfinished Business

None.

7. New Business

None.

8. Reports from Staff

A. Traffic Management Report for July 2011

Chief Perez informed the committee that the following two items were being forwarded to the Finance Committee in September, 1) Reclassification of three Sergeant positions to Commanders and 2) Neighborhood Resources Centers Funding.

The Committee gave Chief Perez direction on deploying the Speed Trailer at least three times a year per neighborhood.

B. Railroad Days 2011 Report – Dave Sabathne, Executive Director of the West Chicago Chamber; informed the committee that the event turned out very well however there were a few challenges that will be worked on for next years event.

Mr. Sabathne asked that the City revisit their insurance requirements for fireworks since only one of the area companies were able to meet them for the allocated budget.

Alderman Chassee suggested to Mr. Sabathne that he draft a letter with the review of Joanne Kalchbrenner, Community Development Director and submit it early to IRMA regarding the restrictions and requirements for the fireworks.

9. **Adjournment.** Alderman Monroe made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Fuesting. The motion was approved by voice vote, and the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:50P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Yahaira Bautista

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Administrative Assistant