

These minutes were approved at the 4/21/14 City Council meeting with no changes.

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO – 475 Main Street
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Regular Meeting
April 7, 2014

1. **Call to Order.** Mayor Ruben Pineda called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.** Alderman Fuesting 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, Donald F. Earley, James Smith, Laura Grodoski, Alton Hallett, Sandy Dimas, Alan Murphy, John C. Smith, Kurt Meissner, Mark Edwalds, Rebecca Stout, John F. Banas, and Matt Fuesting present. Alderman James E. Beifuss was absent. The Mayor announced a quorum.

City Clerk Nancy M. Smith was also present.

Also in attendance were City Attorney Patrick K. Bond, Public Works Director Rob Flatter, City Administrator Michael L. Guttman, Chief of Police Laz Perez, Community Development Director John D. Said, and Administrative Services Director Linda Martin.

5. **Public Participation.** No one spoke during Public Participation:

6. **City Council Meeting Minutes – March 17, 2014.** Alderman Banas made a motion, seconded by Alderman Meissner, to approve the minutes of March 17, 2014, with no changes. Voting Aye: Aldermen Chassee, Earley, James Smith, Grodoski, Hallett, Dimas, Murphy, John Smith, Meissner, Edwalds, Stout, Banas, and Fuesting. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

7. **Corporate Disbursement Report.** Alderman John Smith made a motion, seconded by Alderman Edwalds, to approve the April 7, 2014, Corporate Disbursement Report in the amount of \$ 654,304.78. Voting Aye: Aldermen Chassee, Earley, James Smith, Grodoski, Hallett, Dimas, John Smith, Meissner, Edwalds, Stout, Banas, and Fuesting. Voting Nay: 0. Alderman Murphy abstained. Motion carried.

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

- * **Development Committee:** No report

- * **Infrastructure Committee:** Alderman John Smith read and explained the following items:

- A. **Resolution 14-R-0015** – A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Contract Agreement with RJN Group Inc., for Professional Engineering Services Related to the 2014 Sanitary Sewer and Manhole Rehabilitation Program (for an amount not to exceed \$29,870.00)

- B. **Resolution 14-R-0018** – A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Contract Agreement with Alaniz Landscape Group, Inc., for Landscape Maintenance Services Related to the 2014 Right-of-Way Maintenance Program (for an amount not to exceed \$102,737.00)

- C. **Resolution 14-R-0019** – A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Contract with Clark Dietz, Inc., for Professional Engineering Services Related to a Nutrient Removal and Energy Savings Evaluation Study at the City's Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (for an amount not to exceed \$39,805.00)

- D. **Resolution 14-R-0020** – A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Contract Agreement with RJN Group, Inc., for Services Related to the 2014 Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Program (for an amount not to exceed \$128,874.00)

Alderman John Smith made a motion, seconded by Alderman Banas, to adopt the above items. Voting Aye: Aldermen Chassee, Earley, James Smith, Grodoski, Hallett, Dimas, Murphy, John Smith, Meissner, Edwalds, Stout, Banas, and Fuesting. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

- * **Public Affairs Committee:** Alderman Chassee read and explained the following items:

E. Approve – 2014 *Cinco de Mayo* Event Proposal

F. Ordinance 14-O-0010 – An Ordinance Amending Article VIII of Appendix C, Personnel Rules, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of West Chicago, Illinois, to Add Section EE Governing the Possession of Firearms by Employees Licensed Under the Firearm Concealed Carry Act When on Duty, on City Property, or in Vehicles Owned by the City

Alderman Chassee made a motion, seconded by Alderman Murphy, to adopt the above items. Voting Aye: Aldermen Chassee, Earley, James Smith, Grodoski, Hallett, Dimas, Murphy, John Smith, Meissner, Edwalds, Stout, and Fuesting. Voting Nay: 0. Alderman Banas voted present. Motion carried.

* **Finance Committee:** Alderman Dimas read and explained the following items:

G. Ordinance 14-O-0011 – An Ordinance Amending the Annual Budget for the City of West Chicago, DuPage County, Illinois, for Fiscal Year Commencing January 1, 2014, and Ending December 31, 2014, Passed and Adopted by Ordinance No. 13-O-0042

H. Ordinance 14-O-0012 – An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of West Chicago – Fee Schedule

I. Resolution 14-R-0003 – A Resolution Amending the West Chicago City Council Rules

J. Resolution 14-R-0016 – A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Certain Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of West Chicago and Community High School District 94 – Possession of 157 W. Washington Street

Alderman Dimas made a motion, seconded by Alderman Chassee, to adopt the above items. Voting Aye: Aldermen Chassee, Earley, James Smith, Grodoski, Hallett, Dimas, Murphy, John Smith, Meissner, Edwalds, Stout, Banas, and Fuesting. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

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

K. Approve – The Re-appointment of Rosalinda Delgado, Angelo Trapani, and Gene Plumlee to the Cultural Arts Commission for a Term Ending April 2018

L. Approve – The Re-appointment of Robert T. Mireault to the Plan Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals for a Term Ending April 2019

M. Approve – The Appointment of David B. Faught to the Plan Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals, as an Ex-Officio Member, for a Term Ending April 2015

Alderman Banas made a motion, seconded by Alderman Stout, to adopt the above items. Voting Aye: Aldermen Chassee, Earley, James Smith, Grodoski, Hallett, Dimas, Murphy, John Smith, Meissner, Edwalds, Stout, Banas, and Fuesting. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

9. Reports by Committees. None

10. Unfinished Business. None

11. New Business. None

12. Correspondence and Announcements.

Upcoming Meetings

April 14, 2014	Development Committee
April 15, 2014	Plan Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals (cancelled)

The City Clerk thanked Mayor Pineda, Alderman Edwalds, State Representative Michael Fortner, and District 94 School Board President of District 94, for their participation in the VFW's first Chili Fest, and thanked all who donated or participated in the event. The Mayor said judging the Chili Fest was great. The VFW paid the judges \$10.00 which they used to bid on a genuine Patrick Kane jersey. (The Mayor won the jersey.)

The City Clerk announced that the VFW would be having a Trivia Night on May 2, 2014, from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Cost is \$10.00 per person or tables of six for \$50.00

The City Clerk announced that the American Legion would be having an Easter Egg Hunt on April 19, 2014, at 10:00 am. Children ages 1 through 8 are eligible to participate.

Alderman Dimas said Community Fellowship, 28W240 North Avenue, would be having an Egg Drop on April 12, 2014. Children ages 2 through fifth grade are eligible to participate. The eggs will be dropped from a helicopter.

The Mayor announced that a 5K Run/Walk would be held on April 19, 2014, in honor of fallen West Chicago police officer Michael Browning. Check in is at 7:00 am and the race starts at 7:30 am. The Mayor said he would be walking in the race.

The Mayor also reminded everyone that the District 33 5K race is also coming up.

13. Executive Session. There was no executive session.

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

15. Adjournment. At 7:16 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

2014 State of the City Address

Good evening. I'm thrilled and honored to be here tonight to talk about our hometown, West Chicago. Whether you've lived here for a year, or two, or 53 like me, you'll know how special a place this is and how fortunate we are to call it home. Today, I'd like to share some of what has happened in our town this past year and what's in store for 2014 and beyond.

But, before I begin, I want to thank the Western DuPage Chamber of Commerce for coordinating this event, providing the refreshments and helping to spread the word to its business members. The Chamber continues to be a valuable resource and advocate to our business community and I wish to acknowledge the hard work and support of Executive Director and CEO Dave Sabathne and his team of Patricia Haskins and Rich Bysina. I also want to recognize several elected officials from the County and State who have joined us tonight (Mary Ann Manna from Winfield Township; Shannon Burns, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County; Frank Lenertz from the West Chicago Park District. Thank you for the continued support and interest in our community.

Also joining us tonight are members of our own elected community which include some new faces. Last May, the City said good bye to Aldermen Nannette Connelly, Nick Dzierzanowski, Ron Monroe and Russ Radkiewicz. Their collective experience, totaling 36 years, represents an incredible legacy of service to the citizens of West Chicago, and we thank them for their dedication. Last May we welcomed Aldermen Laura Grodoski, Don Earley, Mark Edwalds, Al Hallett and John Banas to our governing board. Our City Council is the key to the success that we achieve every year. The Aldermen work hard for this community and I thank them for their continued support.

I'd also like to thank my wife Julie, who has always been very supportive of my public service and understands the importance of giving back to a community that has given so much to us.

Our City continues to honor a philosophy of living within our means, and through thoughtful planning and strategic foresight has been able to weather the storm of tough economic times by towing the line on expenses. The City Council voted to maintain the same property tax levy for the third year in a row. The 2014 Annual Budget, which totals \$43,661,100, is a decrease of 5.21% as compared to the 2013 Budget. The Budget includes no tax hikes for our customers and no increase in water and sewer rates. That's really good news.

But a balanced budget is just one of the ways the City of West Chicago is defining success. Forward-thinking has enabled us to accomplish many immediate goals and positioned us for several long-range opportunities. Forward thinking prepares us to grow, remain relevant and when necessary, re-define success for the next generation of West Chicagoans.

Thanks to the fabulous job of all the men and women who represent West Chicago's finest, our Police Department employees enjoy solid relationships built on trust and mutual respect in our schools and throughout our neighborhoods. In large part due to these relationships, for the second year in a row, West Chicago, Illinois, has been named in the top 100 safest cities in America for cities with a population of 25,000 or more. The designation comes from Location, Inc., creators of the neighborhood research site, NeighborhoodScout. Our citizens know they can count on members of our Police Department to fulfill their mission of protecting life and liberty, and to do so with integrity and professionalism.

Our police and community service officers have educated the public about child restraint equipment, seatbelts, speeding and alcohol-related violations; as well as pedestrian and driver safety at railroad crossings. This has been done as part of the targeted safety campaigns funded through the Illinois

Department of Transportation and the Union Pacific, Railroad. Ample communication always precedes these campaigns, in the form of a press release, a City e-news, a Tweet, and a posting on the LED sign at the corner of Main Street and Route 59. If you haven't already signed up for these alerts, please consider doing so.

We will be losing a few of our Officers in the near future to retirement. I want to personally thank each of them for their dedication to our city and its residents.

Let's move on to legislative actions in 2013 that are helping us re-define the quality of our community.

The City Council adopted an Ordinance that now requires owners of pawn shops and precious metals dealers (a.k.a. Cash for Gold businesses) to be licensed. The goals of the new regulations are to limit the proliferation of these businesses and also to assist law enforcement officers in the identification and apprehension of individuals responsible for pawning or selling stolen goods through these channels. After almost a year since its implementation, the program has been extremely effective, most notably that the number of licensed precious metals dealers has reduced from nine at inception to just four businesses now. West Chicago's creative approach with this Program has resulted in such being replicated in several Chicagoland communities.

Another licensing program was implemented to address the rising number of junk peddlers working the streets and parking their junk wagons in residential areas. Early success has been observed with this program as well.

Our City will benefit from some major IDOT projects which will keep our residents and visitors moving safely and efficiently on our roadways.

- the North Avenue Reconstruction and Widening Project is now near completion;
- tremendous progress has been made on the overpass at Kautz Road and Route 38, with substantial completion expected this year; and
- design work has begun for the reconstruction of the Fabyan Road/Route 38/Washington Street intersection

The brutal conditions of this never-ending winter presented a great challenge to our Public Works staff, and I commend them for being up to the task. Our plow crews kept pace with the nasty weather, and our roads remained safe to the traveling public.

It's always nice when I receive phone calls and e-mails and when I get stopped in our stores while shopping, from people, and not only our residents, complimenting me on how wonderful our streets are during and after all the storms we had this year. I tell them it's not me; it's our hard working crews that carry that pride with them every time they get into their trucks. They want to make sure that our streets are the cleanest and safest of any around.

Also, staff has overseen a number of local infrastructure improvements that include:

- a new landscaped parking lot south of Tastee Freez off of Fremont Avenue providing added convenience for downtown businesses and their customers;
- the reinstallation of Factory Street between Ann Street and the High School Parking Lot;
- an addition to the Great Western Trail bike path through the construction of pavement between Reed-Kepler Park and the City's boundary limit at Route 59;
- and the resurfacing of 1.2 miles of roadway

Those following the Ker McGee clean-up will be happy to know that the thorium remediation along and in the West Branch of the DuPage River was completed. There is only one residential property left that still needs to be cleaned, and the EPA, Weston Solutions and the property owner have reached an agreement to finish that portion of the Project. The trailers at the Rare Earths Facility will soon be demolished, leaving only the factory site to be remediated. Unfortunately, the federal government did not allocate any funds to the Title X Reimbursement Program, and so this portion of the clean-up is on hold. Letters have been sent and conversations have been had with all of our Congressmen and Senators at the federal level, to make them understand how crucial it is that we receive this money so we can finally complete the last phase of a very long clean up.

I'm sure you heard recently on the news and in the newspapers, the Federal Government reached an agreement with Anadarko Petroleum Corp for 5.15 billion dollars. This settlement is for the cleanup of thousands of sites across the country. It was stated that the West Chicago Kerr Mc McGee site would be one of these sites. Unfortunately, this is not the case. Several years ago the City, DuPage Co., the DuPage Co. Forest Preserve, the West Chicago Park District, the EPA and other State governmental partners signed the West Chicago Environmental Response Trust Agreement which allowed work to continue during Tronox's bankruptcy proceedings. Tronox is the company now responsible for the cleanup and remediation. So we are not included in this settlement. Having said that, again, it is crucial at this time to make sure the Federal Government follows through with their promise to release the Title X monies so we can move forward with the remediation and finally put this all behind us.

From the standpoint of new business, a major retailer became part of the West Chicago family last summer, Old Time Pottery. I helped store executives cut the ceremonial ribbon for this family-owned regional chain which chose our City to expand its presence in the western suburbs. The 80,000 square foot shopping destination at the northeast corner of Route 64 and Route 59 joins Hobby Lobby, Dollar Tree, Great Clips and the UPS Store, among others – each one helping the other by contributing a customer base for the entire Center.

Later in the year, the City Council and I honored Haggerty Ford owners Bill and Jerry Haggerty with the presentation of a City flag for their establishment on Roosevelt Road as an acknowledgement of the exemplary service they provide to the community and in recognition of a stellar sales year, of which we benefit through a tax sharing agreement.

We recognized five Brilliant Businesses at the City Council meeting of November 18, 2013. FreshGround Roasting, USAgain, State Bank of Illinois, El Coco Loco Mexican Restaurant and Cascade Drive-in Theater were the proud recipients that have earned a place among the ranks of other West Chicago super stars. I urge everyone here tonight, listening at home, or reading these words in the City newsletter, please make sure to support our local businesses; they are the backbone of the local economy.

On the industrial side, absorption rates for our vacant spaces have been increasing at great rates; and those for vacant retail spaces are showing signs of improvement.

A new operating structure for the City Museum is saving taxpayers over \$50,000 a year through the hiring of a private company to operate the Museum. So far, the results have been fantastic. Our contractor has done an amazing job this past year installing several new exhibits, organizing research files and fulfilling 99 research inquiries, obtaining artifacts and inventorying the Museum's collection, which as of December 31, 2013 totals 30,128 objects, and forming organizational collaborations that enrich the West Chicago history experience for residents and visitors.

Communication remains a priority in our City and the various forms of communication which we continually evaluate help us stay connected to our residents and businesses, and all those who have made an investment in our community. Our communications help us benchmark successes, contribute to government transparency and involve us all as we chart a course for the future.

Once again, we received recognition for our e-News communications and were awarded the designation of a Constant Contract All Star. This status is an annual designation that only 10% of the more than 500,000 organizations internationally who use this service receive. I urge everyone who isn't already a subscriber to do so by joining the mailing list from our website's homepage, or filling out a form that you can find on the table in the hallway.

Our monthly Coffee with the Mayor series has grown in leaps and bounds. City Hall turns into "the meeting place" on the last Saturday of each month. The casual atmosphere and great coffee, donated by FreshGround, one of the Brilliance in Business recipients, are a perfect combination for the exchange of ideas, feedback, and general community-building.

So much good comes when people are invested in their community. Our Commissions are active and thriving. These are volunteers giving their time and talents to make a difference in our community and who have all contributed to the healthy state of our city.

I wish to thank the members of the Environmental Commission, for their efforts to organize several recycling events including one for cooking oil the Saturday after Thanksgiving and holiday lights during the Christmas season.

The Cultural Arts Commission members accomplished a major feat in transitioning Gallery 200 into a division of local not-for-profit People Made Visible. This structural change will allow the Gallery to advance to the next level through its ability to fundraise and apply for grants under the not-for-profit umbrella.

The Historical Preservation Commission takes great pride in West Chicago's rich history through their painstaking review of plans for exterior modifications to structures within our two historic districts – the Turner Junction Historic district and the East Washington Historic District. Through the efforts of our Commissioners, the integrity of our historic structures is preserved for generations to come.

I would like to thank the members of the Plan Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals for their work vetting development proposals and carefully listening to the input from impacted neighbors.

I would like to thank our volunteers on the Civil Service Commission once again ensured that the City impartially recruits and selects qualified police officer candidates for employment. As I stated earlier, we will be losing a few of our exceptional officers to retirement and the City Service Commission is in the process of interviewing and selecting our future Officers that will continue to "protect and serve" the entire community.

Finally, I would like to thank the staff and every employee that works right here in City Hall and our water treatment plant. They touch our community and residents every day when they answer the phones and speak directly to people at the counters.

I am very optimistic about the future. Allow me to share some of what is on the horizon.

Chances are, if you drove from the east to get here tonight, you noticed an impressive brick and mortar addition at the southwest corner of Route 59 and Main Street. We're proud to announce AutoZone is joining our community. Its decision to locate in West Chicago shows that they believe in the strength of our local economy. Its presence can help other local businesses by bringing new energy to the area. So, if someone comes to AutoZone, she might also pick up a sandwich at a nearby restaurant, buy something at the local hardware store, or make a purchase at the grocery store. Residual benefits to the community at large include the creation of jobs; more choices for the consumer based on price and service, and increased tax income.

From a development perspective, the City Council authorized two independent studies to ensure that sufficient background work is done in connection with locating a tactical training facility for law enforcement and fire service personnel throughout the Midwestern portion of the United States. Planned in partnership with the College of DuPage, the Midwest Regional Training Center would require approximately 40 acres of land along the Roosevelt Road corridor and will accommodate approximately 400,000 trainees annually. The first report, a TIF Feasibility Study, we recently completed and the consultant found that the Roosevelt Road corridor, west of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe rail spur, could be eligible for a TIF designation.

The second study, a marketing analysis of a subset of this area is nearing completion, and its results will serve to provide invaluable information on what types of land uses and businesses would do well along the Roosevelt Road corridor, either with or without the Midwest Regional Training Center.

In our downtown, environmental studies were completed to ascertain the level of contamination present within the West Washington Street Redevelopment Area. The City's contractors have started work on the necessary remediation, bringing us that much closer to the realization of our vision for a Municipal Campus.

The City has entered into a Purchase and Sale Agreement with West Chicago Community Center, Inc. for the historic structure at 151 West Washington Street. Renovations should begin later this spring with the goal of restoring the building to its former glory and folding it into the larger Redevelopment Project.

An investment in West Chicago which has us extremely excited is a unique partnership with United Way. Working with WeGo Together for Kids, which supports Elementary School District 33, and its strong coalition of human service and business partners, United Way is establishing the second of its Neighborhood Network models (its first in the suburbs) which brings additional funding, strategies and partners to the already impressive work being done in our City to ensure everyone has access to the tools and opportunities they need to be successful.

While West Chicago human service agencies have benefitted from United Way support for some time, the additional layer of investment and expertise, and the close working relationship with WeGo Together for Kids, means expanded and integrated services in education, income and health for all of West Chicago.

And finally, I want to update you on the initiative which was the subject of my Mayor's Message in the January/February issue of Window to West Chicago Online. I shared with you that I was made aware of the staggering report that obesity has become a national epidemic across all demographic groups and, more unsettling, that West Chicago's childhood obesity rate is higher than the national average. Obviously, this is an issue that had no easy fix. I invited community leaders to join a Task Force to address the issues and offer suggestions. My sincere thanks to them for making the time, taking this crisis seriously, and for saying yes to being a part of finding a solution.

While we all had the best of intentions, it became obvious that what was needed was a long-range strategic plan, specifically tailored for our community. A plan that would engage residents, businesses, elected officials, schools, faith communities, hospitals, inter-governmental partners, and restaurants in creating a citywide culture of wellness.

I'm happy to announce that our community partner, Cadence Health, has stepped up and offered major funding for a 10-year strategic plan that will guide and direct the initiative, called Healthy West Chicago. The plan will be developed by Seven Generations Ahead, a not-for-profit organization which has successfully done this work in Oak Park and elsewhere. Supplementing Cadence Health's funding are contributions from WeGo Together for Kids and United Way.

Let's roll up our sleeves together as a community, and tackle the challenge of reducing our obesity rates, creating more opportunities for physical activity and making the healthy choice the easy choice. After all, the health of a community is only as strong as the health of its people.

I'd like to close by thanking you for the privilege of serving as your Mayor and for allowing me to have some small part in the history of this great City.

God bless you, God bless the City of West Chicago and God bless this wonderful country we live in, that allows us to do and hold events like these, the United States of America.

Thank you and good night.