

These minutes were approved at the 9/15/14 City Council meeting with no changes.

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO – 475 Main Street

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting

September 2, 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 Grodoski 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., Donald F. Earley, James Smith, Laura Grodoski, Alton Hallett, Sandy Dimas, Alan Murphy, John C. Smith, Kurt Meissner, Mark Edwalds, John F. Banas, and Matt Fuesting present. Alderman Rebecca Stout was absent. The Mayor announced a quorum.

City Clerk Nancy M. Smith was also present. .

Also in attendance were City Attorney Patrick K. Bond, City Administrator Michael L. Guttman, and Krista Coltrin of Marketing and Communications.

5. **Public Participation.**

A. Presentation: Sister Cities. Sandy Buckles, President of the West Chicago Sister Cities Organization, said she was here with host families and guests from Taufkirchen (Vils), Germany. Ms. Buckles spoke of Sister Cities International and how the local Sister Cities chapter came about because of Bodo and Uwe Gsedl. She said the West Chicago group's motto is "fostering peace through education, culture, and people to people exchanges." She said American visitors will be going to Germany next year and she invited members of the City Council to attend. This year is the 15th Anniversary of the relationship. Taufkirchen Deputy Mayor Christoph Puschmann spoke and read a letter (copy attached) from Taufkirchen (Vils) Mayor Franz Hofstetter who was unable to attend due to health reasons. Mr. Puschmann said it was a great honor for the Taufkirchen group to be here to celebrate the 15th birthday. He said every visit has been unforgettable, and it is interesting to see the development of West Chicago over the past 15 years. Getting together is like getting together with families. Mr. Puschmann thanked the City for its great hospitality. He also thanked the Sister City committee, the Chamber of Commerce, the Park District, the host families, and schools. They all helped to make their stay unforgettable. Mayor Pineda said it is an honor to have the visitors here, and being together for fifteen years is quite an achievement. He has been here since the beginning. He noted the excitement of the visiting German and American youth. He plans to visit Taufkirchen next year, with his wife. They will be celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary. He thanked the visitors for coming here.

B. Proclamation: 15th Anniversary of West Chicago Sister Cities Partnership with Taufkirchen (Vils), Germany. At the Mayor's request, the City Clerk read the Proclamation (copy attached) in which the Mayor proclaimed recognition, respect, and congratulations to West Chicago Sister Cities on the occasion of its 15th Anniversary in partnership with Taufkirchen (Vils), Bavaria, Germany. The Mayor presented a copy of the Proclamation to Deputy Mayor Christoph Puschmann. Mayor Pineda thanked everyone involved with Sister Cities from the start to those keeping the relationship strong.

C. Presentation: Northern Illinois Food Bank. Ms. Juana Montalvo, Community Partnership Coordinator of the Northern Illinois Food Bank, and Ken Walker of the West Chicago Food Pantry, spoke, saying their mission is to rid Illinois of hunger. They spoke of the number of pantries, meals, and volunteers involved with the mission. Ms. Montalvo pointed out that 77% of the clients have had someone working in the household in the last twelve months. West Chicago is helping by hosting a food drive to raise awareness to run from now until September 12, 2014. Ken Walker, Site Coordinator at West Chicago food pantry, gave statistics for West Chicago. He gave a heartfelt thank you for the initiative that West Chicago shows for this program. It shows that so much can be done when a community comes together. He urged people to let people know about the food pantries. Mayor Pineda noted the startling statistics and the outstanding work being done to combat hunger. He said *WeGo for Kids* sends backpacks home with food. The Mayor has been to the Northern Illinois Food Bank, and it is an amazing place. He urged people to go out there and volunteer for one or two hours. They have a conference room where a group can meet and then volunteer. The Mayor said our community is so generous. He helped pass out 120 turkeys and gifts to needy families last year at the West Chicago food pantry with Ken Walker. He thanked Mr. Walker for his dedication.

D. Proclamation: Hunger Awareness Month. At the Mayor's request, the City Clerk read the Proclamation in which the Mayor proclaimed September 2014 as "**Hunger Action Month**" and encouraged the community to support the efforts of Northern Illinois Food Bank by contributing non-perishables for West Chicago's food drive to be held from September 2-12, 2014, at City Hall. The Mayor presented the Proclamation to Ms. Montalvo and Mr. Ken Walker.

6. City Council Meeting Minutes – August 18, 2014. Alderman Banas made a motion, seconded by Alderman Dimas, to approve the minutes of August 18, 2014, with no changes. Voting Aye: Aldermen Chassee, Beifuss, Earley, James Smith, Grodoski, Hallett, Dimas, Murphy, John Smith, Meissner, Edwalds, 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 September 2, 2014, Corporate Disbursement Report in the amount of \$ 232,279.74. Voting Aye: Aldermen Chassee, Beifuss, Earley, James Smith, Grodoski, Hallett, Dimas, John Smith, Meissner, Edwalds, Banas, and Fuesting. Voting Nay: 0. Alderman Murphy abstained. Motion carried.

8. Consent Agenda – Consideration of an Omnibus Vote. None

9. Reports by Committees. None

10. Unfinished Business. None

11. New Business. None

12. Correspondence and Announcements.

Upcoming Meetings

September 3, 2014	Plan Commission/ZBA
September 4, 2014	Infrastructure Committee
September 8, 2014	Development Committee

Alderman Beifuss invited everyone to the West Chicago Historical Society's Ice Cream Social this Saturday at the Kruse House, 527 Main Street, from noon to 3:00 pm. This is an old fashioned event which will feature homemade pies and cakes from local residents. Cost is \$4.00 at the event. There will be a silent auction and a cake walk for the children.

The City Clerk announced that there would be a Trivia Night at the VFW on Route 59, starting at 7:00 pm, this Friday. The entry fee is \$10.00, but a table of six is only \$50.00. The public is welcome to participate.

The City Clerk announced again that nominating packets would be available on September 23, 2014, for the Consolidated Election to be held April 7, 2015.

The Mayor said Mexican Independence Day would be celebrated on September 13, 2014, noon to 4:00 pm downtown. The Mayor said more and more responses are coming in from faith based groups.

Alderman Grodoski said the Park District has a new recreation center. The Mayor said there will be a ribbon cutting and tour on Saturday at 10:00 am, at Reed-Keppler Park.

13. Mayor's Comments. The Mayor said the children are back at schools, and he would like to see everyone being careful. We all want the children going to school and coming home to be safe.

14. Executive Session. There was no executive session.

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

15. Adjournment. At 7:30 pm, Alderman Chassee made a motion, seconded by Alderman Dimas, to adjourn. Motion was carried by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy M. Smith
City Clerk