

These minutes were approved at the 8/7/17 City Council meeting as AMENDED
CITY OF WEST CHICAGO – 475 Main Street
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Regular Meeting
July 17, 2017

1. **Call to Order.** Mayor Ruben Pineda called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.** Alderman Gagliardi 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., Heather Brown, Jayme Sheahan, Michael D. Ferguson, Alton Hallett, Sandy Dimas, Melissa Birch-Ferguson, John C. Smith, Kurt Meissner, George L. Garcia, Rebecca Stout, Bonnie A. Gagliardi, and Noreen Ligino-Kubinski present. 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 Mike Uplegger, and Community Development Director John D. Said.

5. Public Participation.

The following persons spoke in opposition to video gaming mostly because they felt it would tarnish the image of West Chicago, it would not provide expected amounts of revenue, it would cause addiction, and it would set a bad example for families and children:

Mr. Hank Betts, Forest Trails Homeowners Association President, 1109 Ridgewood Drive, West Chicago

Mr. Dean Klapatch, Glen Arbor Community Church pastor, 204 Church Street, West Chicago

Mr. John White, 1080 Cherrywood Lane, West Chicago

Mr. Daniel Culloton, 418 Elite Avenue, West Chicago

Mr. Michael Schafer, 550 Main Street, West Chicago

Mr. James W. Settecasz, 405 Ann Street, West Chicago

Mr. Matt Garling, 937 Wild Ginger Trail, West Chicago

Reverend Nancy Rethford, First United Methodist Church pastor, 250 E. Grand Lake Boulevard, West Chicago

Mr. Dan Balzer, 1009 Willow Creek Road, West Chicago

Mr. Brad Kimme, 787 Hickory Lane, West Chicago

Mr. Greg Salzman, 437 Summit, West Chicago

Mr. Bruce D. Akers, 345 Kresswood Drive, West Chicago

Mr. Greg Mills, Pal Joey's, 440 E. Roosevelt Road, West Chicago

Ms. Cindy Hallett, 408 Sherman Street, West Chicago

Ms. Kathy Gilroy, 230 W. Division Street, Villa Park, Illinois

Ms. Diane Ferguson, Pomeroy Street, West Chicago (letter)

The following people spoke in favor of allowing video gaming mostly because they felt it would provide needed revenue for businesses and veterans' organizations, provide enjoyable adult entertainment, and problems have not been noted where they are now located in other communities:

Ms. Julia Doggett, American Legion, 123 Main Street, West Chicago

Mr. Chris McSwain, Awesome Hand Gaming, 6502 Highline Road, Crystal Lake, Illinois,

Ms. Andrea Grex, 308 Hemlock Lane, West Chicago

Ms. Nancy Smith, 308 E. Grand Lake, West Chicago

6. **City Council Meeting Minutes – July 3, 2017.** Alderman Hallett made a motion, seconded by Alderman Ferguson, to approve the minutes of July 3, 2017, with no changes.

Voting Aye: Aldermen Chassee, Beifuss, Brown, Sheahan, Ferguson, Hallett, Birch-Ferguson, Smith, Meissner, Garcia, Stout, and Liginio-Kubinski. Voting Nay: 0. Aldermen Dimas and Gagliardi abstained. Motion carried.

7. Corporate Disbursement Report. Alderman Smith made a motion, seconded by Alderman Dimas, to approve the July 17, 2017, Corporate Disbursement Report in the amount of \$904,742.43. Voting Aye: Aldermen Chassee, Beifuss, Brown, Sheahan, Ferguson, Hallett, Dimas, Birch-Ferguson, Smith, Meissner, Garcia, Stout, Gagliardi, and Liginio-Kubinski. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

8. Consent Agenda – Consideration of an Omnibus Vote.

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

A. Ordinance 17-O-0024 – An Ordinance Granting a Certain Waiver to Section 7.13(C)(4), Design Standards and Review, of the Zoning Code for 151 W. Washington Street

B. Ordinance 17-O-0027 – An Ordinance of the City of West Chicago, DuPage County, Illinois, Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Certain Redevelopment Agreement – H & H Specialty LLC

C. Resolution 17-R-0041 – A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Certain Downtown Façade Grant Agreement – West Chicago Printing Company – 131 Fremont Street (for an amount not to exceed \$4,344.50)

Alderman Stout made a motion, seconded by Alderman Birch-Ferguson, to adopt the above items. Voting Aye: Aldermen Chassee, Beifuss, Brown, Sheahan, Ferguson, Hallett, Dimas, Birch-Ferguson, Smith, Meissner, Garcia, Stout, Gagliardi, and Liginio-Kubinski. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

* **Infrastructure Committee:** Alderman Beifuss read and explained the following item:

D. Reject – All Bids for the 2017 Sidewalk Maintenance Program

Alderman Beifuss made a motion, seconded by Alderman Smith, to approve the above item. Voting Aye: Aldermen Chassee, Beifuss, Brown, Sheahan, Ferguson, Hallett, Dimas, Birch-Ferguson, Smith, Meissner, Garcia, Stout, Gagliardi, and Liginio-Kubinski. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

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

E. Resolution 17-R-0010 – A Resolution Establishing a Policy for Reimbursement of Travel, Meal, and Lodging Expenses

Alderman Dimas made a motion, seconded by Alderman Sheahan, to approve the above item. Voting Aye: Aldermen Chassee, Beifuss, Brown, Sheahan, Hallett, Dimas, Birch-Ferguson, Smith, Meissner, Garcia, Stout, Gagliardi, and Liginio-Kubinski. Voting Nay: 0. Alderman Ferguson abstained. Motion carried.

* **Item Not Sent to Committee:** Mayor Pineda read and explained the following item:

F. Resolution 17-R-0033 – A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Certain License Agreement with Level 3 Communications LLC for Use of City Right-of-Way Along Atlantic Drive, Winston Street, Carolina Drive and Hawthorne Lane

Alderman Stout made a motion, seconded by Alderman Meissner, to approve the above item. Voting Aye: Aldermen Chassee, Beifuss, Brown, Sheahan, Ferguson, Hallett, Dimas, Birch-Ferguson, Smith, Meissner, Garcia, Stout, Gagliardi, and Liginio-Kubinski. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

9. Reports by Committees.

A. Ordinance 17-O-0023 – An Ordinance amending Chapter 9, Licenses, Permits and Business Regulations, Article XXVII, Video Gaming Prohibited, of the West Chicago Code of Ordinances

Alderman Chassee made a motion, seconded by Alderman Brown, to adopt Ordinance 17-O-0023.

During discussion, Alderman Chassee thanked all the people who came out and spoke. She provided a history of how and why the City previously banned video gaming. When the idea

was brought back by veterans and businesses, the City did its research. The current ordinance has many safeguards. The other communities who opted for video gaming have not had an increase in trouble or a need for more police, nor has their images been tarnished. Alderman Chassee shared the concern about addiction, did research, and found that casinos provide the opportunity, but do not cause the addiction problem. Addicts need education and treatment, and the gambling industry pays for such education and treatment. Forty-eight of fifty states have a form of gambling. West Chicago has bingo, raffles, and pull tabs, so it is not something new. She was concerned that our residents go to other towns to have dinner, a drink, and spend a few dollars on the video games. That is money that is leaving West Chicago.

Alderman Beifuss said he is a long time resident of West Chicago and loves the City. He raised four children here, one is a service veteran and two are in the service. His family has had a very good experience in West Chicago, and he wants that quality to continue into the future. He provided some background on when the City made its initial decision in 2009 to not participate in video ~~gaming~~ **gambling**. Mayor Kwasman and others did not feel it was the right thing to do. They researched the benefits and liabilities and ~~determined that it was not wanted~~. **decided unanimously to ban it. Alderman Beifuss noted that Video Gambling is associated with high social costs including gambling addiction, debts, bankruptcy, broken homes and depression as well as increased crime.** Alderman Beifuss then cited many studies that found gambling to be a negative activity in many ways. **Studies show that video gambling creates addicts three times faster than other forms of gambling and there are approximately \$3 of social costs for every \$1 of revenue. There is also evidence that pathological gamblers account for over 30% of video gambling machine revenue. He noted that 133 municipalities and five counties statewide ban video gambling.** He also said this subject has not been well communicated to the residents. It was not in the newsletter or on the City's web site. He asked that the City maintain the ban.

Alderman Ligino-Kubinski thanked all the people for being here. She's been a resident for 18 years, and finds this to be a wonderful community. She is very pro-business and the businesses came and asked for lifting the ban. This is a revenue stream, and in a State that is very unstable, this is a good thing. The City needs to support the local businesses. They are an economic engine. The increased revenue will help them in many ways and allow for them to make improvements and help with their tax struggles. She has been to many of these establishments and finds they are wonderful corporate citizens. They give a lot back to the community. For example, Hawthorne's Back Yard is always helping out with fundraisers. The establishments also make contributions to schools and sports teams. The City can also use the extra revenue for its needs. She said people are going to gamble no matter what. She would rather see the funds come to West Chicago than Carol Stream and St. Charles.

Alderman Hallett said he has been here 41 years, and finds this a stand up community. He remembers in the 1980's and Kerr-McGee wanted to bury thorium. Now the thorium is gone. He said he heard a lot of people speak tonight, and one thing he kept hearing is how this money will be used to improve their grounds and facilities. He thought the improvement would come from serving their products. The money for the City is not significant. It will only get 5%. He does not see how the City can even consider this and urged each of his fellow City Council members to vote no.

Alderman Smith said he has been here a long time, and has seen the City clean up gangs and thorium. He sees video ~~gaming~~ **gambling** as bestowing a negative on West Chicago. He said perception is reality. This is a negative thing for a family oriented town. He said he does not represent the businesses, but the people in his ward. And the people in his ward do not want video ~~gaming~~ **gambling**. He is also against it. He said this matter should go out to the community as a referendum. He said this information has not gotten out to the people. They live here, and they want to have a say in it.

Alderman Ferguson said he is the second longest resident in West Chicago (about 60 years) and his family has been here for 90-95 years. He said the town has lived through stigmas. He also does not represent the businesses, but his constituents. He has not had the time to go out and talk to his constituents, but feels the process needs to be slowed down so the people can tell the City what they want. He also researched some studies. Video gaming is considered the "crack" of gambling. He said it is harmful to veterans with PTSD and others with addictions.

Alderman Garcia said he has been in town the least amount of time. He downsized from Naperville three years ago, and fell in love with the town and is committed to the City of West Chicago. He said 23 establishments will qualify to have video ~~gaming~~ **gambling**. He is

concerned about 25% of the revenue going to the State. He said this will be convenience gambling rather than destination ~~gaming~~ **gambling**. He urged the Aldermen to vote against this. He does not want to open Pandora's Box.

Alderman Sheahan said she is a third generation West Chicagoan, and has been here 51 years. She has never been ashamed about West Chicago. She has seen many things improve. She does not gamble, but has friends that do and so has been to video gaming places out of town. She said she would rather people stay in West Chicago.

Alderman Gagliardi made a motion, seconded by Alderman Chassee, to send this matter back to the Public Affairs Committee for further discussion. Voting Yea: Aldermen Chassee, Beifuss, Sheahan, Ferguson, Hallett, Dimas (with hesitation), Birch-Ferguson, Smith (with hesitation), Meissner, Garcia, Stout, Gagliardi, and Ligino-Kubinski. Voting Nay: Alderman Brown. Motion carried.

The Mayor said this will go back to Public Affairs for further discussion. He said they need as much input as possible. There are 14 policy makers here, who have heard from both sides this evening so there is a lot to talk about.

Alderman Chassee requested that this be on the August Public Affairs meeting instead of July. She also requested that this be duly noted on the web site. City Administrator Guttman said this will be done.

Alderman Smith asked about the next newsletter. Since it will not go out until September, he asked that it be moved up as many people do not look at the web site.

10. Unfinished Business. None

11. New Business. Alderman Beifuss said information on video gaming needs to go out before the contract date of the newsletter. City Administrator Guttman said he would need direction from the majority of the City Council to get the word out about the August Public Affairs meeting. This could be done by a post card. The Mayor called for a show of hands to direct the City Administrator to get the information out quickly. All hands went up.

12. Correspondence and Announcements.

Upcoming Meetings

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| - July 18, 2017 | Plan Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals |
| - July 24, 2017 | Public Affairs Committee (start time 6:00 pm) |
| - July 25, 2017 | Historical Preservation Commission |
| - July 27, 2017 | Finance Committee (cancelled) |
| - August 1, 2017 | Plan Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals |
| - August 3, 2017 | Infrastructure Committee (rescheduled to August 10, 2017) |

Alderman Sheahan said tomorrow evening at 5:00 pm, there would be a meeting for Wards 2 and 6. City Administrator Guttman said this is not a published meeting, so all the Aldermen can attend, but they cannot talk policy. The Mayor said this is for Wards 2 and 6, but everyone is invited and it will be open to the public. They will be taking and giving out information from 5:00 – 7:00 pm. The Mayor and City Administrator will be here.

Alderman Stout said that National Night Out will be held August 1st from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at an Open House at the police station. The Mayor said National Night Out is getting back to what it used to be.

3. Mayor's Comments. The Mayor said he lost a good friend and resident of West Chicago, Nathan Birch, brother of our Alderman Birch-Ferguson. He was 33 years old. The Mayor said he was his neighbor for 27-28 years and he watched him grow up. Nathan went through the school system. He worked hard at being a good resident. He advocated for the Wiant House. His life was cut too soon; he had a lot of future ahead of him. He will be missed terribly.

14. Executive Session. There was no executive session.

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

16. Adjournment. At 8:55 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