

These minutes were approved at the 9/17/18 City Council meeting with no changes.

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO – 475 Main Street
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Regular Meeting
September 4, 2018

1. **Call to Order.** Mayor Ruben Pineda called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.** Alderman Garcia 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, Matthew E. Garling, George L. Garcia, Rebecca Stout, Bonnie A. Gagliardi, and Noreen Ligino-Kubinski present. Alderman Kurt Meissner 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, Chief of Police Mike Uplegger, Community Development Director Tom Dabareiner, Deputy City Clerk Valeria Lopez, and Communications Coordinator Rosemary Mackey.

5. Public Participation.

A. Introduction of Sister Cities Dignitaries. The Mayor said the Sister Cities visitors came in last week. He introduced Bodo Gsedl who addressed the Mayor, City Council, and friends of West Chicago. Bodo gave a brief history of how in 1998 a small group from Taufkirchen came to West Chicago to seek out West Chicago and its people with an eye to starting a Sister City partnership. The group was met with open hearts. Visitors from both cities are not tourists. They stay in private homes where they can glimpse everyday life and exchange questions and answers. In 1999, the official proclamation was made to become Sister Cities. As of today, twenty-two visits have taken place: ten were people from West Chicago visiting Taufkirchen and twelve from Taufkirchen to West Chicago. Oftentimes the visits revolved around special interests, e.g., artists, gardeners, musical performers, young people, senior citizens, and just regular people. Bodo extolled the value of exchanges in building understanding and substantial friendships between individuals and the two communities.

He said forty-two years ago he was an exchange student in West Chicago for almost a year. The organization that sponsored that trip had 120 students from 60 different countries. By being in America they all learned to speak English and to this day they get together almost every year in other countries around the world and they can communicate. He never dreamed the exchange would mean so much. Most of the students are devoted to making the world a better place. Some became American citizens and they all liked what America stands for – equal treatment, etc.

Bodo said the students from Taufkirchen have changed and they might not have noticed it yet. They arrived and started with handshake and in 10 days they touched each other's hearts. From now on they will have friends on the other side of the world. They have gained a new perspective about the other country. From now on, they will know what America is regardless of any criticisms they may hear.

On behalf of Burgermeister Franz Hofstetter and the citizens of Taufkirchen, Bodo extended greetings and gratitude for the hospitality shown for this visit. Next year will be the 20th Anniversary celebration which will be held in Taufkirchen, and it is hoped that Mayor Pineda especially and every citizen of West Chicago who is curious to get to know the most beautiful part of Europe can come visit.

The Mayor thanked Bodo and said Taufkirchen is a fabulous City. He was there and noted that they have a brewery. He hoped everyone had a nice visit. He said he was fortunate to have the Burgermeister and his wife, Gabi, here on a visit. He said Gabi is his most loved German.

B. Proclamation: Sister Cities. The Mayor read his Proclamation (copy attached) honoring the international friendship established through West Chicago Sister Cities with Taufkirchen (Vils) Germany. He further proclaimed respect, admiration, and friendship for the Sister City, and West Chicago's commitment to nurture this lasting international bond. He then presented the Proclamation to Bodo Gsedl to take back to Taufkirchen. He also presented him with a gift from West Chicago of one of the historical plates created by the West Chicago Historical

Society, and a stuffed doll from the Los Comales Restaurant, which was the caterer for this evening's reception. Bodo presented the Mayor with gifts of a Taufkirchen banner and a commemorative medallion.

C. Proclamation: Chamber of Commerce Week 2018. The Mayor read his Proclamation proclaiming September 10 through September 14, 2018, as CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WEEK in West Chicago and recognizing its significance to the citizens of the City of West Chicago. The Mayor presented the Proclamation to President and CEO of the Western DuPage Chamber of Commerce David Sabathne. Mr. Sabathne thanked him for this honor, and said it is their pleasure to work here in West Chicago. He provided a brief history of the Chamber which began in 1952. He said it is unique in that the Chamber oversees all the resource development in DuPage County. He said they are very proud that the City will partner with the Job Fair to be held on October 16, 2018, in which many large employers will be participating.

The Mayor recognized Tonia Khouri, DuPage County Board and candidate for the 49th District for Illinois, and invited her to hear the presentation about the West Chicago High School.

D. Presentation: West Chicago High School. Alderman Garling said District 94 Superintendent Doug Domeracki was here to speak about the upgrades to the high school made possible by the favorable vote on the referendum. Dr. Domeracki thanked the District 94 Board for putting this matter to a referendum. He thought it was important for the City Council to know what has been going on. He then outlined the areas being upgraded and said construction will continue for several years. He presented a video showing where all the improvements have and will be made. The school dates back to 1926 and needed infrastructure updates and improvements. The second floor will add 50,000 square feet. The Mayor said he is looking forward to next year and seeing the second floor.

The following person spoke during Public Participation:

1) Diane Ferguson, Pomeroy Street, West Chicago, spoke about the McAuley School. She said the City's motto of "Where History and Progress Meet" is embodied by having the newer DuPage Business Center and then down the street (Roosevelt Road) the McAuley School that was built in 1913. It closed in 1991 as the last operating one room school house in Illinois. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on June 3, 1982. In 2014 it made the Registry of the Top Ten most Endangered Historical Places in Illinois. The property is owned by District 33 and it cannot be moved, used for commercial purposes, or demolished. However, District 33 can sell, trade, or swap it only with another West Chicago City entity. She would like the City Council to make a motion to refer the rescue mission of McAuley School to the Development Committee for further review. While she is related to several Aldermen, she will not at any time ask for or exert any undue influence for favoritism. The Mayor said they cannot make a motion, but this matter will be referred to the Development Committee for discussion, to which City Administrator Guttman agreed.

6. City Council Meeting Minutes – August 20, 2018. Alderman Chassee made a motion, seconded by Alderman Brown, to approve the minutes of August 20, 2018, with no changes. Voting Aye: Aldermen Chassee, Beifuss, Brown, Sheahan, Ferguson, Hallett, Dimas, Birch-Ferguson, Garling, Garcia, Stout, Gagliardi, and Ligino-Kubinski. . Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

7. Corporate Disbursement Report. Alderman Dimas made a motion, seconded by Alderman Ferguson, to approve the September 4, 2018, Corporate Disbursement Report in the amount of \$362,044.57. Voting Aye: Aldermen Chassee, Beifuss, Brown, Sheahan, Ferguson, Hallett, Dimas, Birch-Ferguson, Garling, Garcia, Stout, Gagliardi, and Ligino-Kubinski. . Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

8. Consent Agenda – Consideration of an Omnibus Vote.

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

A. Resolution 18-R-0074 – A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Certain downtown Façade Grant Program Agreement – Anona West, Inc. – 129 Fremont Street (for an amount not to exceed \$9,400.00)

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

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

B. Ordinance 18-O-0047 – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 8, Article I, Administrative Adjudication System, of the West Chicago Code of Ordinances

C. Resolution 18-R-0070 – A Resolution Adopting the Revised DuPage County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan

Alderman Chassee 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, Garling, Garcia, Stout, Gagliardi, and Ligino-Kubinski. . Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

9. Reports by Committees. None

10. Unfinished Business. None

11. New Business. None

12. Correspondence and Announcements.

Upcoming Meetings

- September 5, 2018	Plan Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals
- September 6, 2018	Infrastructure Committee
- September 10, 2018	Development Committee

Alderman Beifuss invited everyone to attend the Kruse House Museum's Ice Cream Social this Saturday from noon to 3:00 p.m. It is their large fundraiser. The Ice Cream Social is always a great time and a lot of delicious pies and cakes will be available along with the ice cream.

13. Mayor's Comments. He said there was a great event last Tuesday at the DuPage Airport. There were 700 kids and families there. This is up from last year's 300-400 people. DuPage County had their S.W.A.T. vehicle there. Also in attendance were representatives of the Fire Department, the Police Department, and radio station WGN. Everyone had a great time.

The Mayor reminded everyone that the kids are back in school so be careful.

Healthy West Chicago – Move with the Mayor is this month. The first event was last Saturday. There is an app you could put into your phone to help you keep track of your steps. You can get this app from the City's web site. West Chicago came out ahead the last two years. This Saturday will be at Currier School, and next will be Gary School and then Turner School. The kids love it and they try to get their parents out too.

The Mayor said now is the hard part of the meeting. The Council will be losing Alderman Garcia who moved out of the 6th Ward into the 4th Ward. When he first met him, he asked for something to do. He has been a great representative and will be dearly missed. The Mayor said he is excited that he will be on the Historical Preservation Commission.

Alderman Garcia said he arrived in the City in 2014 when they were downsizing and they found they liked this time and place. He said it is something to be an alderman. He met a lot of people. Some complain and some work with you. He said it has been an honor and a privilege working with the City Council and Mayor. He has made a strong group of friends and he thanked them.

14. Executive Session. There was no executive session.

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

16. Adjournment. At 8:07 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