

These minutes were approved at the 7/15/19 City Council meeting with no changes.

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO – 475 Main Street
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Regular Meeting
July 1, 2019

1. **Call to Order.** Mayor Ruben Pineda called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.** Alderman Dimas 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, Christopher Swiatek, Jeanne M. Short, Bonnie A. Gagliardi, and Noreen Liginio-Kubinski present. Aldermen Matthew E. Garling and Rebecca Stout were 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, Museum and Cultural Services Coordinator Sara Phalen, Chief of Police Mike Uplegger, Community Development Director Tom Dabareiner, and Marketing and Communications Coordinator Rosemary Mackey.

5. Public Participation.

The following people spoke during Public Participation:

1) Peggy Krauch, 411 E. Washington Street, West Chicago, IL 60185, President, Friends of the City Museum, spoke about the Museum's plans for July 27-28, 2019, when the Big Boy steam engine from Union Pacific is in West Chicago. The Friends had thought about having an event at Sesquicentennial Park and at the Museum for the people coming into town. The estimated number of people visiting West Chicago ranges from 1,000 – 30,000. However, the Friends have been very discouraged because they were told to drop any plans. The Friends would like to see the opening hours and days of the Museum extended while the Big Boy is in town. In addition to asking for additional hours they would like to see improved communications between the Friends and the City. She would like to see everyone on the same page. The Friends are looking forward to sharing our history with those who do come to see the train.

2) Becky Hall, 212 Fulton Street, West Chicago, resident since 1988, said she was here on behalf of the Museum. She said the City Museum would like to be able to plan activities at the Museum and Depot during the visit of the Big Boy. She also showed Train Magazine that had the Big Boy on the front cover. Another magazine had a large article about the Big Boy. She said twenty-five Big Boys were built, eight still exist, and only one runs, and it is coming to West Chicago. West Chicago was established because of the trains. She said the Friends of the West Chicago Museum is a 501(c)(3) organization formed for civic, charitable and recreational purposes. One important aspect is fundraising and the Friends are looking to increase visibility and perhaps raise additional funds through gift shop items over the course of the weekend. West Chicago's Strategic Plan developed in 2016 notes that residents cherish West Chicago's historic railroad history among other things. The Plan also called for more community festivals and events. She realizes that the City did not get much notice. She just hoped the City would let the Friends highlight West Chicago's railroad history. The Museum would like to be able to plan activities on Saturday.

Mayor Pineda said the City receives information from Union Pacific, and this is their show. West Chicago is one of the few towns to be so honored with this train arrival. He said the City has to ensure the health and welfare of the community. At this time it is not known how many people to expect. If the City had been notified a year ago it could have planned for a festival. West Chicago will have challenges with Washington Street being repaired. People will have to use the Wilson Street (A. Eugene Rennels Bridge). The City is bringing in overtime police officers. Crowd control will be problematic.

6. City Council Meeting Minutes – June 17, 2019. Alderman Brown made a motion, seconded by Alderman Hallett, to approve the minutes of June 17, 2019, with no changes.

Voting Aye: Alderman Beifuss, Brown, Sheahan, Hallett, Dimas, Swiatek, Short, Gagliardi, and Liginio-Kubinski. Aldermen Chassee, Ferguson, and Birch-Ferguson abstained. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

7. Corporate Disbursement Report. Alderman Dimas made a motion, seconded by Alderman Ferguson, to approve the July 1, 2019, Corporate Disbursement Report in the amount of \$465,146.92. Voting Aye: Aldermen Chassee, Beifuss, Brown, Sheahan, Ferguson, Hallett, Dimas, Birch-Ferguson, Swiatek, Short, Gagliardi, and Ligino-Kubinski. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

8. Consent Agenda – Consideration of an Omnibus Vote.

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

A. Ordinance 19-O-0020 – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 9, Article XII – Relocators and Repossessors

B. Ordinance 19-O-0022 – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 9, Article XXIV Tobacco Sales, of the City of West Chicago Code of Ordinances to Prohibit the Sale of Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices to Persons Under 21 Years of Age

C. Ordinance 19-O-0023 – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 11, Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions, Article II Offenses, of the West Chicago Code of Ordinances Affecting Minors

D. Resolution 19-R-0030 – A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute an Intergovernmental Police Assistance Agreement to Join the DuPage Metropolitan Emergency Response and Investigation Team (MERIT)

E. Waive – Competitive Bidding and Purchase a Mechanical Assist High-Density Mobile Storage System and Pass through Evidence Lockers (for an amount not to exceed \$37,105.00)

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

9. Reports by Committees.

A. Approve the Proposal for a Butterfly Mural on the Southwest Corner of the Supermercado Tampico Building

Alderman Beifuss made a motion, seconded by Alderman Birch-Ferguson, to approve the above items.

There was extensive discussion, during which Alderman Brown expressed a number of concerns regarding the hedges in the area that might hide the mural; did the Cultural Arts Commission consider local artists for this mural to show how we support the Monarch in West Chicago and the migration from Mexico to here; and who will maintain the mural. She is concerned about graffiti and vandalism. She also asked if the additional panels would come out of the City's budget through the Cultural Arts Commission. Marketing and Communications Coordinator Mackey said this item will be put into the budget in October. They will allocate \$10,000 for the Cultural Arts Commission. This will allow for paint and maintenance costs.

City Administrator Guttman said if the City Council approves this proposal, the City has responsibility for the art. Buddy Plumlee, Cultural Arts Commission member, said they envisioned the mural on the far right and it would be raised above the hedges. Museum Director Sara Phalen then said the Cultural Arts Commission has been working on access points for public art in West Chicago. This mural would be seen by people coming out of the tunnel, getting on and off the train, and by people riding the trains. Filling in the rest of the public art in West Chicago may take ten years or more. She also said the last three events had local artists, but this artist is from Mexico. He is working at COD and will be here a limited time.

Alderman Chassee said she is very supportive of public art, but is concerned with looking at the long term with regards to protecting and repairing the artwork. Is there a coating that can be applied to save it from graffiti? Mr. Plumlee said the panel will be 8' x 16' and by being raised higher, it will be harder to tag. Coating will provide UV protection from the sun. The artist will be painting on aluminum, and Mr. Plumlee will volunteer his time to bevel the edges and paint the primer on and after artist is done, apply two coats of the UV protection.

Mr. Guttman referred to the master plan and said there is a time issue here because this is when this artist could be here. Ms. Phalen said the Master Plan calls for the Cultural Arts Commission to take inventory every year so if there is maintenance needed, it will be done.

Alderman Beifuss said he knows the Cultural Arts Commission has been talking about this for a long time. Public artwork brings a richness to our community. This is good for West Chicago and this is a good place to start. It highlights West Chicago in a positive way so he is supportive.

Alderman Hallett also wondered how well it will be protected. Mr. Plumlee said the finish coat is designed for exterior murals and has a matte finish. Alderman Short suggested having cameras and a sign stating that the area is under surveillance. Mr. Guttman said there are a number of cameras in the parking lot. Mr. Plumlee asked if the mural could be insured. Mr. Guttman said there is a \$2500 deductible. Alderman Brown asked how often the coating would need to be reapplied. Mr. Plumlee said the mural faces west and would get the afternoon sun. It will need to be reapplied about every five years. It will not prevent vandalism. He said he can volunteer his time to reapply the coating which costs \$100/gallon.

Voting Aye: Aldermen Chassee, Beifuss, Brown, Sheahan, Ferguson, Hallett, Dimas, Birch-Ferguson, Swiatek, Short, Gagliardi, and Ligino-Kubinski. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

10. Unfinished Business. None

11. New Business. None

12. Correspondence and Announcements.

Upcoming Meetings

- July 2, 2019 Plan Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals
- July 4, 2019 Infrastructure Committee (cancelled)
- July 8, 2019 Development Committee

The City Clerk announced that the West Chicago Sister City Organization would be holding an Oktoberfest Dinner fundraiser on September 28, 2019, at the American Legion.

The City Clerk also announced that there will be a Twentieth Anniversary trip to the Sister City, Taufkirchen (Vils), Bavaria, Germany from September 20 – October 1, 2019. The round trip cost would be about \$1,100.00. There would be no lodging cost as Taufkirchen will provide hosts families. There will be incidental expenses.

Alderman Ferguson said the average train engine is about 72 feet long and weighs about 394,000 pounds. The Big Boy that is coming is 132 feet long and weighs 1.52 million pounds.

The Mayor said Railroad Days is next Thursday through Sunday at Pioneer Park. It is a great time and he will be there all four days. He invited everyone to join him there. He noted that it would have been great to have the Big Boy in town at that time. Alderman Brown asked if there will be a dunk tank, but the Mayor said not this year.

The Mayor said Gary Major at the Park District also wants to have an Oktoberfest. The Mayor said Oktoberfest comes between Mexican Independence Day and the Food Festival so it is good for the City.

13. Mayor's Comments. The Mayor said July 4th is coming this week and he wanted everyone to be safe out there. If the neighbors are setting off illegal fireworks, people should call 911. We have to think of people with PTSD and the animals. Our Police Officers are ready to respond to anything that may happen. The Mayor wished everyone a very safe 4th of July and he hoped everyone could get out and have fun.

14. Executive Session. There was no executive session.

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

16. Adjournment. At 7:45 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