

These minutes were approved at the 5/16/11 City Council Meeting with one change.

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO – 475 Main Street  
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES - AMENDED  
Regular Meeting  
May 2, 2011

1. **Call to Order.** Mayor Michael B. Kwasman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.** Boy WEBLO <sup>Per Ald. Dzierzanowski</sup> Scout Robbie Dzierzanowski led all in the pledge of allegiance.
3. **Invocation.** The City Clerk gave the invocation.
4. **Oath of Office for Newly Elected Officials Administered by Judge Kelsey.** Judge Bruce Kelsey administered the Oath of Office separately to each of the following Aldermen:
  - \* Ward 1 – James Beifuss
  - \* Ward 2 – James Smith
  - \* Ward 4 – Alan Murphy
  - \* Ward 5 – Kurt Meissner
  - \* Ward 6 – Rebecca Stout
  - \* Ward 7 – Matt Fuesting

(Ward 3 – Ruben Pineda was administered the oath of office earlier.)

5. **Roll Call and Establishment of a Quorum.** Roll call found Aldermen James E. Beifuss, Jr., H. Ronald Monroe, James Smith, Russell Radkiewicz, Sandy Dimas, Alan Murphy, John C. Smith, Kurt Meissner, Nanette B. Connelly, Rebecca Stout, Nicholas Dzierzanowski, and Matt Fuesting present. Aldermen Lori J. Chassee and Ruben Pineda were absent. The Mayor announced a quorum.

City Clerk Nancy M. Smith and City Treasurer Donald F. Earley were also present. .

Also in attendance were City Attorney Mary E. Dickson, Museum and Cultural Services Director LuAnn Bombard, Public Works Director Rob Flatter, Interim Chief of Police Laz Perez, City Administrator Michael L. Guttman, Community Development Director Joanne Kalchbrenner, Public Information Officer Valeria Lopez, Marketing and Communications Coordinator Rosemary Mackey, and Administrative Services Director Linda Martin, and many members of the West Chicago Police Department.

6. **Resolution No. 11-R-0047** – A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Certain Employment Agreement with Lazaro M. Perez – Chief of Police. Alderman Murphy made a motion, seconded by Alderman Dzierzanowski, to approve Resolution No. 11-R-0047. Voting Yea: Aldermen Beifuss, Monroe, James Smith, Radkiewicz, Dimas, Murphy, John Smith, Meissner, Connelly, Stout, Dzierzanowski, and Fuesting. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

7. **Oath of Office for Police Chief Lazaro M. Perez Administered by Judge Kelsey.** Judge Kelsey administered the Oath of Office to Police Chief Perez, who received a standing ovation.

8. **Public Participation.**

The following persons spoke during public participation:

- 1) Anni Holm, 336 Harrison Street, West Chicago, with *People Made Visible* introduced the new Artist-in-Resident, Stine Marie Jacobsen. Ms. Holm said they sponsor an artist every year. Ms. Jacobsen is from Copenhagen, Denmark, and will be here approximately three weeks. She will be producing a film together with, and in collaboration with, the students of West Chicago Community High School. The students will learn how to do story boards, scripts, and different angles.
- 2) Maria Romero, West Chicago, said she has been a resident of West Chicago for 32 years, and she remembers when Chief Perez started on the police force. She said he is bi-lingual and she knows he will be able to handle this community very well. She said West Chicago really needs this type of person. She thanked the Mayor for appointing Chief Perez. The Mayor thanked Ms. Romero for her comments.

**A. Proclamation: National Historic Preservation Month.** At the Mayor's request, the City Clerk read the Proclamation in which the Mayor proclaimed May 2011 as National Preservation Month. The theme, "Celebrating America's Treasures" is cosponsored by the West Chicago Historical Preservation Commission and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

## 9. Correspondence and Announcements.

**Upcoming Meetings.** The Mayor announced the following meetings.

- May 3, 2011 Plan Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals
- May 5, 2011 Infrastructure Committee
- May 9, 2011 Development Committee

**10. Corporate Disbursement Report.** Alderman Connelly made a motion, seconded by Alderman Radkiewicz, to approve the May 2, 2011, Corporate Disbursement Report in the amount of \$ 295,735.48. Voting Yea: Aldermen Beifuss, Monroe, James Smith, Radkiewicz, Dimas, Murphy, John Smith, Meissner, Connelly, Stout, Dzierzanowski, and Fuesting. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

## 11. Consent Agenda – Consideration of an Omnibus Vote.

- \* **Development Committee:** No report
- \* **Infrastructure Committee:** No report
- \* **Public Affairs Committee:** Alderman John Smith read and explained the following items:

**A. Ordinance 11-O-0021** – An Ordinance Amending and Restating Certain Sections of Chapter 9, Article VI, Solicitors of the Municipal Code of the City of West Chicago, Illinois

**B. Ordinance 11-O-0022** – An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of West Chicago – Chapter 17, Article XIV, Section 17-120

**C. Ordinance 11-O-0023** – An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of West Chicago – Chapter 9, Article XX, Section 9-559 – Allowable Fees for Tow Companies to Charge

**D. Approve** – West Chicago Park District Railroad Days 5K Run/Walk to be Held on Saturday, July 9, 2011, 5K Run/Walk Route and Time and In-Kind Services

**E. Approve** – West Chicago Printing's Request for Commemorative Banner Display on Main Street for its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Doing Business in West Chicago and In-Kind Services

Alderman John Smith made a motion, seconded by Alderman Monroe, to adopt the items on the consent agenda. Voting Yea: Aldermen Beifuss, Monroe, James Smith, Radkiewicz, Dimas, Murphy, John Smith, Meissner, Connelly, Stout, Dzierzanowski, and Fuesting. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

- \* **Finance Committee:** No report
- \* **Items Not Sent to Committee:** The Mayor read and explained the following items:

**F. Approve** – City Council Meeting Minutes of April 18, 2011

**G. Approve** – Re-Appointment of Heidi Morris to the Cultural Arts Commission for Term Ending April 2015

**H. Approve** – Re-Appointment of Erik Vanderney to the Plan Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals for Term Ending April 2016

Alderman Fuesting made a motion, seconded by Alderman Beifuss, to adopt those items on the consent agenda. Voting Yea: Aldermen Beifuss, Monroe, James Smith, Radkiewicz, Dimas, Murphy, John Smith, Meissner, Connelly, Stout, Dzierzanowski, and Fuesting. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

**9. Reports by Committees.** None

**10. Unfinished Business.** None

**11. New Business.** City Treasurer presented a proposal to rename the Wilson Street Bridge after long time resident and former Mayor, A. Eugene Rennels. He was the major figure in obtaining the funds for the construction of the bridge. He also served this town for a long time in a variety of ways. He was on the school board, an Alderman, City Treasurer, and then

Mayor. He had many initiatives while Mayor including "Clean and Proud" to clean up the railroad station and police department and have blooming plants and flowers so something was growing all the time. West Chicago has a history of naming streets after local people who have done something for the community such as Colford, Turner, McDonald (a County Treasurer), Dayton, Tye Court, and Turner Court. Treasurer Earley read from a letter saying it was time to do something for Mr. Rennels, saying, "It is not the Wilson Street Bridge, it is the Rennels Bridge." The Mayor related how when he moved here 22 years ago the first person he met was Gene Rennels who told him the history of West Chicago. The Mayor saw how much this man loved West Chicago. Mr. Rennels was also the person who started the war against storing thorium in West Chicago. He went to Washington, D.C. and gathered the troops to start that battle. The Mayor said he will ask the Public Affairs Committee to put this on their next agenda to discuss and report back to the City Council.

**12. Mayor's Comments.** The Mayor welcomed Mr. Meissner to the Council, saying the City looks for forward thinking. Whatever the Council does is so the future generations will be proud of this community. Mr. Meissner comes from the north side, from one of the newer subdivisions, and took on the duties of a former alderman who has very hard shoes to fill. He advised Mr. Meissner to ask the questions. He will get answers, even if he may not like them. The Mayor said this is not a City Council of followers. He again welcomed Mr. Meissner to the City Council, what the Mayor calls, "My Dream Team."

The Mayor said he got involved in local government from John Smith to work on the police referendum to be able to hire more officers. The referendum passed on the first try, and from that, the City was able to get our new Chief. Chief Perez hit the ground running. The City's crime rate has dropped 27%, which is easy to say, but hard to do. The drop is due to our police department and its leadership. The Mayor said he was proud to appoint Laz Perez, who is the epitome of a police chief and an ambassador, and we welcome him to our community.

**13. Executive Session.** There was no executive session.

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

**15. Adjournment.** At 7:32 pm, Alderman Stout made a motion, seconded by Alderman Meissner, to adjourn. Motion was carried by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy M. Smith  
City Clerk