

These minutes were approved at the 10/7/19 City Council meeting with no changes.

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO – 475 Main Street  
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
Regular Meeting  
September 16, 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 Hallett 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, Matthew E. Garling, Jeanne M. Short, Rebecca Stout, and Noreen Ligino-Kubinski present. Alderman Bonnie A. Gagliardi 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, Museum Director Sara Phalen, Chief of Police Mike Uplegger, Community Development Director Tom Dabareiner, Marketing and Communications Coordinator Rosemary Mackey, and Special Events Coordinator Bethan Bayci.

**5. Public Participation.**

**A. Proclamation: Union Pacific Railroad Recognition.**

**B. Proclamation: National Rail Safety Week**

The Mayor read his Proclamation Commemorating the Historic Visit of Union Pacific's Big Boy No. 4014 Great Race Across the Midwest, West Chicago, Illinois, in which he extended sincere congratulations to the UP on the occasion of its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the transcontinental railroad's completion and gratitude in being chosen as one of the UP's tour stops for the "Great Race across the Midwest." A copy of the Proclamation is attached. The Mayor also read his Proclamation on National Rail Safety Week (copy attached) in which he proclaimed as September 22 – 28, 2019, and encouraged all citizens to recognize the importance of rail safety education. The Mayor further stated his gratitude for having the Big Boy in West Chicago for four days. He then presented the Proclamation to Liisa Stark, Assistant Vice President for Public Affairs. She spoke and said she is responsible for nine states. She was pleased that Illinois is one of them and the home of the railroad. She thanked the City for the opportunity to be here this evening, and felt the Proclamation was well written. She praised the partnership with West Chicago, and said they estimated 65,000 people came to see the Big Boy. She then introduced General Manager for Operations Andrea Drozdov, Analyst for Rail Operations Support Brandy Linqvist, and Manager for Operations in West Chicago Tim Suiter. Ms. Stark presented a plaque of appreciation to the Mayor, and to Police Chief Uplegger for the many hours the Police Department devoted to the event. She also had one for the Fire Department. The Mayor said he met Ed Dickens, the Chief Engineer who provided much information. The Mayor also praised the partnership and said West Chicago is a Railroad Town.

**C. Proclamation: Sister Cities: 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.** At the Mayor's request, the City Clerk read his Proclamation Honoring West Chicago Sister Cities on the Occasion of its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Partnership with Taufkirchen (Vils), Germany, in which he proclaimed recognition, respect, and congratulations to West Chicago Sister Cities and the Partnerschaftsverein on the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their partnership. A copy of the Proclamation is attached. The Mayor then recognized Becky Hall, President of the West Chicago Sister Cities Organization. She said they are leaving this week end for a trip to Taufkirchen and some of the travelers were in attendance. Many have hosted and met our visitors. She then presented Sister City pins to the Council. She thanked the Council for the City's support. She said the smallest support grows into bigger support, and all on the City Council have provided some support. The Mayor wished the group a wonderful trip, and said they would be with people they have known for 20 years. He said Taufkirchen has its own brewery, and he encouraged anyone who could, to visit. He had a great visit there himself.

The following people spoke during Public Participation:

- 1) Diane Ferguson, 30W276 Pomeroy Street, West Chicago, spoke about the McAuley School. She was concerned that the transfer of its ownership to the Historical Society was

not discussed at the Development Committee meeting of September 8, 2019, due to the huge amount of time spent on possible legalization of marijuana dispensaries in West Chicago. It was pushed to the October meeting. A copy of her statement is attached.

2) David Sabathne, CEO and Director of the Western DuPage Chamber of Commerce, 155 Spencer, West Chicago, spoke about Sister Cities, and said at the time Sister Cities was established he was an alderman. He has traveled to Taufkirchen several times on official and unofficial trips. On one occasion his son and his band were asked to come and perform. He said sometimes there are unintended consequences. He received an email from someone who asked if he was part of the Sabathne family that immigrated to Altoona, PA. As a result, he found out that he has family in Germany and one of them has all the family records and was able to give a great history of the family, including a story about his grandfather. So now he has a second family in Taufkirchen. He thanked the City for getting behind this effort, and encouraged the Council to continue any support they can. The people in Taufkirchen host us like royalty. Mr. Sabathne also thanked the Council for the Big Boy

**6. City Council Meeting Minutes – September 3, 2019.** Alderman Chassee made a motion, seconded by Alderman Brown, to approve the minutes of September 3, 2019, with no changes. Voting Aye: Alderman Chassee, Beifuss, Brown, Sheahan, Ferguson, Dimas, Birch-Ferguson, Swiatek, Stout, and Ligino-Kubinski. Aldermen Hallett, Garling, and Short abstained. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

**7. Corporate Disbursement Report.** Alderman Dimas made a motion, seconded by Alderman Chassee, to approve the September 16, 2019, Corporate Disbursement Report in the amount of \$838,048.52. Voting Aye: Aldermen Chassee, Beifuss, Brown, Sheahan, Ferguson, Hallett, Dimas, Birch-Ferguson, Swiatek, Garling, Short, Stout, 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 items:

**A. Resolution 19-R-0041** – A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Certain Downtown Façade Grant Program Agreement – Maria Mercedes Arroyo Gonzalez – 207 Main Street (in an amount not to exceed \$950.00)

**B. Resolution 19-R-0042** – A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Certain Downtown Façade Grant Program Agreement – Jersey Hurst, LLC – 111-115 Galena Street (in an amount not to exceed \$12,268.00)

**C. Resolution 19-R-0043** – A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Certain Downtown Façade Grant Program Agreement – Jersey Hurst, LLC – 136 West Washington Street (in an amount not to exceed \$16,782.00)

**D. Resolution 19-R-0045** – A Resolution Accepting a Plat of Easement and Authorizing Mayor to Execute Same for a Storm Sewer and Drainage Easement – 124 West Stimmel Street

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

**9. Reports by Committees.**

**A. Ordinance 19-O-0028** – An Ordinance Approving a Second Amendment to the Final PUD of the Shoppes of West Chicago Located at 191 West North Avenue  
Alderman Beifuss made a motion, seconded by Alderman Swiatek, to adopt the above item. During discussion, Alderman Beifuss said this came before the Plan Commission and the Development Commission several times. The amendment was not approved at the Plan Commission due to a lack of a quorum. There then followed extensive discussion on the concern that the proposed banquet hall needs more parking spaces than are available and so would like to share parking spaces with the other tenants. The current tenants have hours different from the banquet hall, but this could change with new tenants, thus causing a parking shortage and parking in unauthorized areas. Alderman Garling said he would like to see this local business thrive. The tenant and owner were recognized by many of the Aldermen to speak. The owner talked of various possible solutions, such as paving over the originally planned drive through area or contracting with a valet service. City Administrator Guttman said staff would have to look at the possibility of paving the drive through area for

parking. Alderman Beifuss said given the potential of adding additional spaces, he would like to table this item until staff can work more with adding spaces. Alderman Chassee seconded the motion to table. Voting Aye: Aldermen Chassee, Beifuss, Brown, Sheahan, Ferguson, Hallett, Dimas, Birch-Ferguson, Swiatek, Garling, Short, Stout, and Ligino-Kubinski. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried. The Mayor said staff will look into it further.

**10. Unfinished Business.** None

**11. New Business.** None

**12. Correspondence and Announcements.**

**Upcoming Meetings**

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|----------------------|---|
| - September 17, 2019 | Plan Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals (cancelled) |
| - September 23, 2019 | Public Affairs Committee                            |
| - September 24, 2019 | Historical Preservation Commission                  |
| - September 26, 2019 | Finance Committee (cancelled)                       |
| - October 1, 2019    | Plan Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals             |
| - October 3, 2019    | Infrastructure Committee                            |

The City Clerk announced that the American Legion is sponsoring a fundraiser/fish fry at the American Legion Hall on Friday, October 4, 2019. There will be a live band. This is open to the public.

The City Clerk announced also that at the American Legion on Friday, October 11, 2019, there will be a disc jockey. This event is in honor of all West Chicago High School alumni. There is no charge to attend. There will be a cash bar and bar food. Alderman Ferguson added that his high school class is having their 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion and decided to invite all former alumni. The event starts at 7:00 pm.

The Mayor said this weekend the West Chicago Park District will have their Rhythms and Brews event at the Shell, with catering by Hawthorne's Back Yard. There will be German beer.

**13. Mayor's Comments.** The Mayor said the Mexican Independence Day events were well attended. The parade started at the Middle School and went downtown. It was very long. About 300 students participated. The students were part of the Move with the Mayor event. They had their own signs, and were excited to participate. The Mexican Consulate was also in attendance. The 750 pound piñata did not fail to please everyone.

The Mayor announced the regrettable news that 7<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman Bonnie Gagliardi resigned as of this evening, because of her job. She will keep in touch. The Mayor said the 7<sup>th</sup> Ward had two great aldermen.

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

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

**16. Adjournment.** At 8:04 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