

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO – 475 Main Street  
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
Regular Meeting  
December 21, 2020

The City Council meeting of December 21, 2020, was held partly remote (via Zoom) and partly on site due to the coronavirus pandemic.

1. **Call to Order.** Mayor Ruben Pineda (on site) called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The Mayor said it was determined that in person meetings are not practical and prudent at this time.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance.** Alderman Swiatek 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, Jayme Sheahan, Alton Hallett, Michael D. Ferguson, Sandy Dimas, Melissa Birch-Ferguson, Christopher Swiatek, Jeanne Short, Rebecca Stout, John E. Jakabcsin and Noreen Ligino-Kubinski present remotely. Alderman Matthew Garling was present on site. Aldermen James E. Beifuss, Jr. and Heather Brown were absent. The Mayor announced a quorum.

Also in attendance was City Administrator Michael Guttman (remotely), and on site were Chief of Police Mike Uplegger and Deputy Chief of Police Chris Shackelford. City Attorney Patrick Bond attended remotely.

City Clerk Nancy M. Smith attended on site.

5. **Public Participation.** The Mayor called upon City Administrator Guttman who said he received a communication from Jason Harris who lives in the 400 block of Colford Avenue. Mr. Harris complained about rudeness of City officials in that his calls have not been returned. He has property damaged by the City. Mr. Guttman addressed this issue later in the meeting.

**A. Public Hearing: 2021 Proposed Budget**

The Mayor opened the Public Hearing at 7:02 pm. Alderman Chassee said the staff has done a great job once again, and she appreciates their efforts. The Mayor agreed and he thanked all the staff for putting this together. It was a difficult year.

The Mayor closed the public hearing at 7:04 pm.

6. **City Council Meeting Minutes of December 7, 2020.** Alderman Garling made a motion, seconded by Alderman Chassee, to approve the minutes of December 7, 2020, with no changes.

Voting Aye: Alderman Chassee, Sheahan, Ferguson, Hallett, Dimas, Garling, Swiatek, Short, Stout, Jakabcsin, and Ligino-Kubinski. Alderman Birch-Ferguson abstained. Motion carried.

7. **Corporate Disbursement Report.** Alderman Dimas made a motion, seconded by Alderman Chassee, to accept the December 21, 2020, Corporate Disbursement Report for the amount of \$1,191,790.61. Voting Aye: Aldermen Chassee, Sheahan, Hallett, Ferguson, Dimas, Birch-Ferguson, Garling, Swiatek, Short, Stout, Jakabcsin, and Ligino-Kubinski. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

**8. Consent Agenda.**

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

**A. Ordinance 20-O-0028** – An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of West Chicago – Appendix A, Article IV and Article X of the Zoning Code Relating to Private Garage Vehicle Condominiums

**B. Ordinance 20-O-0029** – An Ordinance Granting a First Amendment to a Special Use Permit for an Automobile Repair Shop, a Self-Storage Facility, and Outside Storage – Frank's Automotive – 927 West Washington Street

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

\* **Finance Committee:** Alderman Dimas read and explained the following items:

**C. Ordinance 20-O-0026** – An Ordinance Amending the Annual Budget for the City of West Chicago, DuPage County, Illinois, for the Fiscal Year Commencing January 1, 2020, and Ending December 31, 2020, Passed and Adopted by Ordinance 19-O-0041

**D. Ordinance 20-O-0027** – An Ordinance Adopting the Annual Budget for the City of West Chicago, DuPage County, Illinois, for the Fiscal Year Commencing January 1, 2021, and Ending December 31, 2021 (removed and voted upon separately)

**E. Ordinance 20-O-0030** – An Ordinance Levying Taxes on Property within the Corporate Limits of the City of West Chicago as that Property is Assessed and Equalized for State and County Purposes for the Fiscal Year Beginning January 1, 2021, and Ending December 31, 2021

**F. Ordinance 20-O-0031** – An Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning January 1, 2021, and Ending December 31, 2021, in and for the City of West Chicago Special Services Area No. 2

Alderman Dimas made a motion, seconded by Alderman Jakabcsin, to adopt items C, E, and F. Voting Aye: Aldermen Chassee, Sheahan, Hallett, Dimas, Birch-Ferguson, Garling, Swiatek, Short, Stout, Jakabcsin, and Ligino-Kubinski. Voting Nay: Alderman Ferguson. Motion carried.

\* Items Not Sent to Committee: The Mayor read and explained the following items:

**G. Concur** – With the Mayor's Appointment of Debbie Walsh to the Cultural Arts Commission for an Unexpired Term Ending April 2023

**H. Resolution 20-R-0077** – A resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Certain Labor Agreement Between the City of West Chicago and the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 150

Alderman Garling made a motion, seconded by Alderman Dimas, to concur with the Mayor's Appointment of Debbie Walsh and approve Resolution 20-R-0077. Voting Aye: Aldermen Chassee, Sheahan, Hallett, Ferguson, Dimas, Birch-Ferguson, Garling, Swiatek, Short, Stout, Jakabcsin, and Ligino-Kubinski. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

**9. Reports by Committee:** From Item 8.D. **Ordinance 20-O-0027** – An Ordinance Adopting the Annual Budget for the City of West Chicago, DuPage County, Illinois, for the Fiscal Year Commencing January 1, 2021, and Ending December 31, 2021

Alderman Stout made a motion, seconded by Alderman Chassee, to adopt Ordinance 20-O-0027. Voting Aye: Aldermen Chassee, Sheahan, Ferguson, Hallett, Dimas, Birch-Ferguson, Swiatek, Short, Stout, Jakabcsin, and Ligino-Kubinski. Voting Nay: Alderman Garling. Motion carried.

**10. Unfinished Business:** None

**11. New Business:**

**A. Railroad Days Contract.** The Mayor recognized Mr. Guttman who said the Public Affairs Committee did not want to have a Railroad Days contract, and that this is staff recommendation also. This year we had to pay for one and did not have it. This is the last City Council meeting to cancel the contract. Because of COVID-19, there are so many unknowns. If the time comes that mass gatherings are allowed, then we could engage with the Chamber of Commerce. Alderman Stout made a motion, seconded by Alderman Jakabcsin, to cancel the contract. Voting Aye: Aldermen Chassee, Sheahan, Ferguson, Hallett, Dimas, Birch-Ferguson, Swiatek, Garling, Short, Stout, Jakabcsin, and Ligino-Kubinski. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

**12. Correspondence and Announcements**

Mr. Guttman said Mr. Harris filed a claim with IRMA and it was denied. The City's point of contact is Carol LeBeau. IRMA also has one point of contact. City Attorney Bond said it has been the practice and his recommendation that when incidents happen there should be a singular point of contact. He advised that if someone other than Ms. LeBeau is contacted, that person should say at the direction of the City Attorney they have to go through Ms. LeBeau. IRMA does the same. This is a sound practice that makes it a quicker and more efficient way to deal with the situation.

**Upcoming Meetings**

December 22, 2020 Historical Preservation Commission (cancelled)  
December 28, 2020 Public Affairs Committee (Alderman Chassee said  
this meeting is also cancelled.)

The City Clerk announced that today was the last day of filing for the Consolidated Election on April 6, 2021. Twelve people have filed.

**13. Mayor's Comments.** The Mayor said everyone is familiar with the COVID-10 numbers. Now that the vaccine is out, he hoped West Chicago would get it soon. They have to take care of first responders first. The Mayor will keep everyone up to date on availability.

The Mayor wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He hoped 2021 would be a much better year, and 2020 would be put in the rear view mirror and we'll never look back.

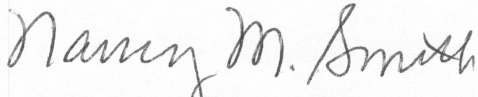
The Mayor urged everyone to keep cautious and do not have big gatherings. Happy holidays.

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

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

**16. Adjournment.** At 7:28 pm, Alderman Chassee made a motion, seconded by Alderman Stout, to adjourn. Voting Aye: Aldermen Chassee, Sheahan, Hallett, Ferguson, Dimas, Birch-Ferguson, Garling, Swiatek, Short, Stout, Jakabcsin, and Liginio-Kubinski. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy M. Smith  
City Clerk