

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO – 475 Main Street  
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
Regular Meeting  
January 18, 2021

The City Council meeting of January 18, 2021, 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 Sheahan 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, Heather Brown, Jayme Sheahan, Alton Hallett, Michael D. Ferguson, Melissa Birch-Ferguson, Sandy Dimas, Christopher Swiatek, Rebecca Stout, Matthew Garling, and John E. Jakabcsin present remotely. Aldermen James E. Beifuss, Jr., and Jeanne Short were absent. The Mayor announced a quorum.

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

City Clerk Nancy M. Smith attended on site.

5. **Public Participation.** The City Administrator read a letter from Diane E. Ferguson, Board of Directors, McAuley School Restoration Initiative. A copy of the letter is attached.
6. **City Council Meeting Minutes of January 4, 2021.** Alderman Jakabcsin made a motion, seconded by Alderman Swiatek, to approve the minutes of January 4, 2021, with no changes.

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

7. **Corporate Disbursement Report.** Alderman Dimas made a motion, seconded by Alderman Chassee, to accept the January 18, 2021, Corporate Disbursement Report in the amount of \$1,325,752.32. Voting Aye: Aldermen Chassee, Brown, Sheahan, Hallett, Ferguson, Birch-Ferguson, Dimas, Garling, Swiatek, Stout, and Jakabcsin. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

#### 8. Consent Agenda

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

- A. **Resolution 21-R-0001** – A Resolution Approving the Hahn Place Plat of Resubdivision – 924 Hahn Place and 928 Hahn Place

Alderman Stout made a motion, seconded by Alderman Birch-Ferguson, to approve Resolution 21-R-0001. Voting Aye: Aldermen Chassee, Brown, Sheahan, Hallett, Ferguson, Birch-Ferguson, Dimas, Garling, Swiatek, Stout, and Jakabcsin. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

9. **Reports by Committees:** None

10. **Unfinished Business.** None

#### 11. New Business

- A. **Concur** - With the Mayor's Appointment of Christopher Shackelford as Interim Chief of Police.

Alderman Stout made a motion, seconded by Alderman Brown, to concur with the Mayor's appointment of Christopher Shackelford as Interim Chief of Police. Voting Aye: Aldermen Chassee, Brown, Sheahan, Hallett, Ferguson, Birch-Ferguson, Dimas, Garling, Swiatek, Stout, and Jakabcsin. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

#### 12. Correspondence and Announcements

**Upcoming Meetings**

January 19, 2021	Plan Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals (cancelled)
January 25, 2021	Public Affairs Committee
January 26, 2021	Historical Preservation Commission
January 28, 2021	Finance Committee (cancelled)

**13. Mayor's Comments.** The Mayor noted that today was *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day* and he was glad that everyone recognized the day for a very important man.

The Mayor spoke of the COVID-19 statistics. West Chicago has 3606 cases, up 262, and 36 deaths. The Mayor would like the numbers to go down every week so that businesses could be reopened. This will take vigilance and working together. The Mayor said vaccinations are still 10 days out. The Mayor spoke of when the children go back to school. Teachers are already back in school. The children will start next week. It is important to get the children back to school and get back to normalcy. To Alderman Garling's inquiry, the students going back next week are District 33. District 94 will be going back in February.

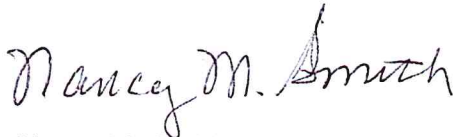
The Mayor thanked everyone for their participation and urged them to stay healthy.

**14. Executive Session.** There was no need for an executive session.

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

**16. Adjournment.** At 7:13 pm, Alderman Chassee made a motion, seconded by Alderman Stout, to adjourn. Voting Aye: Aldermen Chassee, Brown, Sheahan, Hallett, Ferguson, Birch-Ferguson, Dimas, Garling, Swiatek, Stout, and Jakabcsin. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy M. Smith  
City Clerk

To Be Read at City Council Meeting Public Participation  
and shared with District 33 for informational purposes

January 18, 2021

Update on McAuley School Restoration Initiative

Please allow this message to serve as formal notification of The McAuley School Restoration Initiative still working diligently, in these COVID times, we continue our efforts to resurrect, revive, refurbish and restore McAuley School. It is our mission.

However, in these unique times we find ourselves, the State of Illinois has not demonstrated the level of commitment and sense of urgency as shared by our board members and the financial backers, anxiously enthusiastic volunteers and tradesmen we have at the ready.

We are still moving toward a 3-way transaction of transferring the deed of McAuley School. Starting with District 33 signing over the deed to the City of West Chicago, who will immediately pass it down the conference table; signed and deed transferring the property ownership over to The McAuley School Restoration Initiative. This being possible per the respective lawyers.

At no point holding the previous <sup>County</sup> owners or the newest ones to be cited or fined by The City of West Chicago for any City, State (or maybe even State) for any statute or ordinance: we will complete the process of transfer of property from one taxing body to another who will then gift it to our NFP.

**One meeting, one long conference table, one 3-way transaction. Done.**

There are stipulations ( from all three stake holders) collaborating with this transaction. Those will be discussed in the near future. As of right now, our Not For Profit status has been renewed by The State We still await the State of Illinois ' issuance of our 501c charter, as the IRS has already forwarded the approval, only then can we begin our fund raising efforts.

Thank you for your time and attention. We will request another meeting with the development committee when our documentation is fully in order.



Diane E Ferguson  
Board of Directors  
McAuley School Restoration Initiative