

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO – 475 Main Street
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Regular Meeting
September 7, 2021

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 to the Flag. Alderman Short 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, Christine Dettman, Alton Hallett, Sandy Dimas, Melissa Birch-Ferguson, Christopher Swiatek, Jeanne M. Short, Rebecca Stout, John E. Jakabcsin, and Joseph G. Morano present remotely. Alderman Matthew E. Garling was present on site. The Mayor announced a quorum.

City Clerk Nancy M. Smith was also present on site.

City Attorney Patrick K. Bond was present on site. Public Works Director Mehul Patel, City Administrator Michael L. Guttman, and Community Development Director Tom Dabareiner were present remotely.

5. Public Participation. City Administrator Guttman read correspondence from the following people:

1) Crystal Noland-Riani, 202 E. Conde, West Chicago, expressed concern about increased speeding and traffic from the high school. She would like to see a stop sign at Conde and Wilson.

2) Steve Riani, 202 E. Conde, West Chicago, would like to see an investigation of Second Ward Alderman Brown who has been going door-to-door with anti-mask and other propaganda.

3) Brendan McCormack had an extensive letter in which he expressed opposition to video gaming. He criticized staff and elected officials for bringing this matter back up. Because the reading of the letter extended past the three-minute limit, the Mayor instructed Mr. Guttman to stop reading the letter. Mr. Guttman will send copies of the letter to the Council.

4) Steve Treudt, Arbor Avenue, West Chicago, also opposed video gaming.

6. City Council Meeting Minutes – August 16, 2021. Alderman Swiatek made a motion, seconded by Alderman Morano, to approve the minutes of August 16, 2021, with no changes. Voting Aye: Alderman Chassee, Beifuss, Brown, Sheahan, Dettman, Hallett, Dimas, Birch-Ferguson, Swiatek, Short, Stout, Jakabcsin, and Morano. Alderman Garling abstained. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

7. Corporate Disbursement Report. Alderman Dimas made a motion, seconded by Alderman Chassee, to approve the September 7, 2021, Corporate Disbursement Report in the amount of \$910,595.99. Voting Aye: Aldermen Chassee, Beifuss, Brown, Sheahan, Dettman, Hallett, Dimas, Birch-Ferguson, Swiatek, Garling, Short, Stout, Jakabcsin, and Morano. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

8. Consent Agenda – Consideration of an Omnibus Vote.

* **Infrastructure Committee:** Alderman Beifuss read and explained the following items:

A. Resolution 21-R-0077 – A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute Change Order #1 and Final with FLOLO Corporation for Services Related to Three Water Treatment Plant High Service Pump Motors (for an amount not to exceed \$22,471.04)

B. Resolution 21-R-0078 – A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Contract Agreement with Precision Pavement Markings, Inc. for Services Related to the 2021 Contractual Street Stripping Program (for an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00)

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

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

C. Approve – The City’s Annual Halloween Festivities – Scheduled for Saturday, October 30, 2021

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

* **Item Not Sent to Committee:**

D. Resolution 21-R-0075 – A Resolution Approving a Plat of Easement and Abrogation for Watermain and Stormwater Drainage with Alton Industry Ltd., Group – 643 Innovation Drive

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

9. Reports by Committees. None

10. Unfinished Business. None

11. New Business. Alderman Garling would like to look at other ways that the Council can meet in person, perhaps at other facilities in town. The Mayor asked Mr. Guttman to poll the City Council. The Mayor said even with in person meetings, masks must be worn. Alderman Garling said he would like to see a vote, not a poll. There followed extensive discussion on the pros and cons of other facilities. Alderman Chassee was concerned about high interest meetings with many people in attendance. Alderman Dimas was concerned that everyone would be able to hear. Alderman Short said some of the Aldermen have compromised loved ones and do not want to bring something home to them. She asked if a hybrid situation would work. Alderman Beifuss said he would like to attend the meetings in person even if the meeting is somewhere else. Alderman Brown also expressed safety concerns. She would prefer Zoom meetings at this point. Alderman Jakabcsin was also concerned with indoor meetings and the risk of infecting the staff wherever they might go. Alderman Dettman said as much as she would like to resume in person she just felt a safety concern and would like to wait. The Mayor said he would like in person meetings, but he is concerned about his 85-year-old mother and 95-year-old mother-in-law.

The Mayor said they could not vote on this matter until they find another place. He would like to see what happens in the next two weeks. He then called for a show of hands of those who wish to meet in person. Only Aldermen Garling and Beifuss wanted to meet in person.

12. Correspondence and Announcements.

Upcoming Meetings

- September 8, 2021 Plan Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals
- September 13, 2021 Development Committee

13. Mayor’s Comments. The Mayor said the Mexican Cultural Center canceled the Mexican Independence Day observation. The City of Aurora also cancelled theirs. They are not ready for a spreader event.

The Mayor spoke of the *Move with the Mayor* event. The first one is this Saturday at Reed-Keppler Park at 9:00 am. The next will be September 18 and then September 25 at Blackwell. There are 31 mayors participating of which five are in DuPage County.

Cantigny will host a 9/11 event 11:00 am. The public is welcome to this 20th Anniversary event. We can never forget.

14. Executive Session. At 7:37 pm, Alderman Chassee made a motion, seconded by Alderman Dimas, to adjourn into executive session to discuss personnel matters [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)] and review of Official Record [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21)].

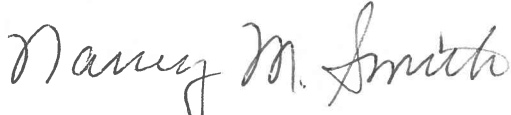
Voting Aye: Aldermen Chassee, Beifuss, Brown, Sheahan, Dettman, Hallett, Dimas, Birch-Ferguson, Swiatek, Garling, Short, Stout, Jakabcsin, and Morano. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

Minutes for the executive session are filed separately.

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

16. Adjournment. See above.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy M. Smith
City Clerk