

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO – 475 Main Street  
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
Regular Meeting  
December 6, 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 Jakabcsin led all in the pledge of allegiance.
3. **Invocation.** There was no invocation.
4. **Roll Call and Establishment of a Quorum.**

Roll Call found Aldermen Lori J. Chassee, Heather Brown, Jayme Sheahan, Christine Dettmann, 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. Alderman James E. Beifuss, Jr. was absent. The Mayor announced a quorum.

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

Also in attendance remotely were City Attorney Patrick K. Bond, Public Works Director Mehul Patel, City Administrator Michael L. Guttman, and Community Development Director Tom Dabareiner.

5. **Public Participation.** City Administrator Guttman said there was no public participation.

6. **City Council Meeting Minutes – November 15, 2021.** Alderman Jakabcsin made a motion, seconded by Alderman Swiatek, to approve the minutes of November 15, 2021, with no changes. Voting Aye: Alderman Chassee, Brown, Sheahan, Dettmann, Hallett, Dimas, Birch-Ferguson, Swiatek, Garling, Short, Stout, Jakabcsin, and Morano. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

7. **Corporate Disbursement Report.** Alderman Dimas made a motion, seconded by Alderman Chassee, to approve the December 6, 2021, Corporate Disbursement Report in the amount of \$1,195,541.31. Voting Aye: Aldermen Chassee, Brown, Sheahan, Dettmann, 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 Dimas read and explained the following item:

**A. Approve** – The Rejection of Bids for the 2022 Cleaning, Repairing, and Painting of 500,000 Gallon Ground Storage Reservoirs Project

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

\* **Liquor Control Commission:**

**B. Ordinance 21-O-0034** – An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of West Chicago, Chapter 3, Alcoholic Beverages Article II Licensing Sections 3-18, 3-17, and 3-27 (removed and voted upon separately)

9. **Reports by Committees.** None

10. **Unfinished Business.**

From Item 8.B. **Ordinance 21-O-0034** – An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of West Chicago, Chapter 3, Alcoholic Beverages Article II Licensing Sections 3-18, 3-17, and 3-27. Alderman Stout made a motion, seconded by Alderman Garling, to adopt the above ordinance. During discussion, Alderman Garling expressed concern that no minimum age requirement was in this ordinance. He made a motion to table, but there was no second so discussion continued. The Mayor, City Administrator and several Aldermen explained that the ages were 18-21 in State law, thus stating the minimum age was not required. It would be a violation of State law if those ages were not met.

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

**A. Concur** – With the Mayor's Appointment of Crystal Nolan-Riani to the Historical Preservation Commission for an Unexpired Term Ending April 2022. The Mayor said he had a good conversation with Ms. Nolan-Riani yesterday. She has a history of 13 years in the community, and she and her husband are very excited about working on committees. Her husband is interested in the Cultural Arts Commission. The Mayor said he wants to encourage such people and appoint them to City committees.

Alderman Swiatek made a motion, seconded by Alderman Dimas, to concur with the Mayor's appointment of Crystal Nolan-Riani to the Historical Preservation Commission for an unexpired term ending April 2022. During discussion, Alderman Brown said her concern is that this person made comments against Code Enforcement. The Mayor said he read those comments and posts and did not see any complaint against the City. Voting Aye: Aldermen Chassee, Sheahan, Dettmann, Hallett, Dimas, Birch-Ferguson, Swiatek, Short, Stout, Jakabcsin, and Morano. Voting Nay: Aldermen Brown and Garling. Motion carried.

## 11. New Business.

### A. Approve – 2022 Meeting Schedule

Alderman Garling made a motion, seconded by Alderman Morano, to approve the 2022 meeting schedule. Voting Aye: Aldermen Chassee, Brown, Sheahan, Dettmann, Hallett, Dimas, Birch-Ferguson, Swiatek, Garling, Short, Stout, Jakabcsin, and Morano. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

## 12. Correspondence and Announcements.

### Upcoming Meetings

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|---------------------|---|
| - December 7, 2021  | Plan Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals |
| - December 9, 2021  | Finance Committee                       |
| - December 13, 2021 | Development Committee                   |

The Clerk announced that State Representative Maura Hirschauer is sponsoring a breakfast for veterans at the VFW Post on Thursday, December 9, 2021, from 9:00 – 11:00 AM.

The Clerk announced the public is invited to two parties. The first is the Sister Cities' party this Friday at Biscuits and Gravy starting at 7:00 pm. Alderman Birch-Ferguson confirmed this event. The second party is the American Legion/ Veterans of Foreign Wars Holiday Party for the Community would be this Saturday, December 11, 2021, at the American Legion post.

**13. Mayor's Comments.** The Mayor said we had a very successful Frosty Fest with many people in attendance. The lights up and down Main Street are fantastic, as is the tree trimmed by Kramer Tree. The Mayor said instead of an essay this year, the school children participated in a raffle, which leveled the playing field for all. The students who won were so excited to be riding in the sleigh and being up on the stage. The mini-doughnuts were delicious. Everything worked out well, the weather was great, the City received many compliments, and people were happy to be back.

DuPage County is the number one county in the State with the most vaccinated residents at 68%. The Mayor cautioned not to go crazy over omicron, and to listen to the doctors. Christmas is coming and we have been jumpy, but we have to be careful, wear our masks, and take care of one another.

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

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

**16. Adjournment.** At 7:23 pm, Alderman Chassee made a motion, seconded by Alderman Stout, to adjourn. Voting Aye: Aldermen Chassee, Brown, Sheahan, Dettmann, Hallett, Dimas, Birch-Ferguson, Swiatek, Garling, Short, Stout, Jakabcsin, and Morano. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy M. Smith  
City Clerk