

These minutes were approved at the 6/16/25 City Council meeting with no changes.

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO – 475 Main Street
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Regular Meeting
June 2, 2025

1. Call to Order. Mayor Bovey called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. on June 2, 2025.

2. Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Bovey led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call and Establishment of a Quorum.

Roll call found Dan Beebe, Julieta Alcántar-García, Sandy Dimas, Rebecca Stout, Melissa Birch Ferguson, Denise Carreto-Muñoz, Alton Hallett, Joseph C. Morano, Jayme Sheahan, Christopher Swiatek, Carlos Aviña Soto, and John Smith, Jr. were present. Aldermen Matthew Myers and Heather Brown were absent.

Also in attendance Assistant City Administrator Tia Messino, Finance Director Nikki Giles, Business & Community Relations Director Kelley Chrise, Community Development Director Tom Dabareiner, Public Works Director Mehul Patel, City Attorney Patrick Bond, and Interim City Attorney Jeff Jacobson.

4. Public Participation.

- A. Katy O'Shea-Kessler – Ms. O'Shea-Kessler, a resident, showed a map of neighboring communities that have an elected clerk and treasurer. She hopes this new city council will consider having both.
- B. Jonathan Wolf – Mr. Wolf, a resident, represents WeGo for the people, relayed they are trying to organize a townhall get-together. The elected were sent email invitations.
- C. Kim Santiago – Ms. Santiago, a resident of 26 years, expressed her disappointed in how elected officials have been acting since Mayor Bovey was elected.
- D. Mike Gunther – Mr. Gunther, a resident of 26 years and business owner in the last 20 years. He said consensus is very clear that change needs to happen in this town, from the top down.
- E. Kurt Jaros – Resident and small business director. Spoke about council being creative on how it considers revenue sources.
- F. Emily Hall – Ms. Hall provided her reflections on the last city council meeting.
- G. Liuan Huska – Ms. Huska, a resident, spoke again about the residents who have signed the letter supporting Mayor Bovey's decision to appoint a new city administrator and city attorney.
- H. Tim Devitt – Mr. Devitt, a resident, said the residents want answers because they need to know things. He asked Mayor Bovey for a forensic audit regarding Kerr-McGee settlement. He also commented on the behavior of the elected in the last city council meeting.
- I. Jeanne Short – Ms. Short, a resident of 13 years, congratulated the newly elected. She spoke about careful consideration when it comes to replacing staff.
- J. Denise Kolode – Ms. Kolode, a resident, thanked the council for all they do. She talked about the changes that residents would like to see and for the city council to represent them.
- K. Bob Blaus – Mr. Blaus, a resident of 36 years, congratulated the newly elected. He said the city needs to change the way it does business.
- L. Louise Handel – Ms. Handel spoke about the duties that Michael Guttman should not have had. She also looked into the communities who have an elected clerk. She said there are ways to get answers. She gave thanks for the live streaming.

5. City Council Meeting Minutes of May 5, 2025 and May 19, 2025. Alderman Swiatek made a motion, seconded by Alderman Beebe to approve the minutes of May 5, 2025.

Voting Aye by Voice Vote: Beebe, Alcántar-García, Carreto-Muñoz, Aviña Soto, Jr., Sheahan, Hallett, Dimas, Birch Ferguson, Smith, Jr., Swiatek, Stout, and Morano. Motion carried.

Alderman Stout made a motion, seconded by Alderman Alcántar-Garcia to approve the minutes of May 19, 2025.

Voting Aye by Voice Vote: Beebe, Alcántar-García, Carreto-Muñoz, Aviña Soto, Jr., Sheahan, Hallett, Dimas, Birch Ferguson, Smith, Jr., Swiatek, Stout, and Morano. Motion carried.

6. Corporate Disbursement Report. Alderman Dimas made a motion, seconded by Alderman Swiatek to approve June 2, 2025, Corporate Disbursement Report in the amount of \$492,829.31.

Voting Aye by Roll Call: Beebe, Alcántar-García, Carreto-Muñoz, Aviña Soto, Jr., Sheahan, Hallett, Dimas, Birch Ferguson, Smith, Jr., Swiatek, Stout, and Morano. Motion carried.

7. Filling any Vacancy in Elected Offices.

Mayor Bovey stated Alderman Brown has submitted her resignation. Alderman Morano read a proclamation for Alderman Brown.

Mayor Bovey would like Sergio Santiago to be considered by City Council. He mentioned any others that are interested will also be considered.

8. Consent Agenda:

***Items Not Sent to Committee:**

- A. **Ordinance No. 25-O-0016** –An Ordinance Disconnecting Certain Real Property from the City of West Chicago (A Portion of PIN 01-30-401-019) Pursuant to the Provisions of 65 ILCS 5/7-3-4.

Alderman Beebe made a motion, seconded by Alderman Stout.

Voting Aye by Voice Vote: Beebe, Alcántar-García, Carreto-Muñoz, Aviña Soto, Jr., Sheahan, Hallett, Dimas, Birch Ferguson, Smith, Jr., Swiatek, Stout, and Morano. Motion carried.

9. Reports by Committee:

Alderman Dimas stated they are in the process to compensate for the State’s elimination of the grocery tax. Staff will be finding ways to do that.

Alderman Morano stated they are in full construction season. If someone’s vehicle is damaged, they can contact him directly.

10. Unfinished Business

a. Presentation by a Representative from Law Firm Ancel Glink

Keri-Lyn J. Krafthefer made the presentation.

b. Status Updates and Continued Discussion Regarding Pathway Forward with Appointments

1. Choose an outside counsel to represent the City for administrative review regarding the \$20,000 administrative adjudication ruling against Mayor Bovey. Ancel Glink will propose three firms and City Council can choose one of them.

City Council agreed to appoint Ancel Glink as a temporary law firm

2. City Council hiring Pat Bond or their attorney of choice as their legal counsel.

3. City Council approve interim appointments of Tia Messino as City Administrator and Colin Fleury as Chief of Police for a maximum of six months pursuant to Number 5.

4. City Council approve Ancel Glink as interim corporate counsel maximum of six months with the understanding that Mr. Jacobson could be one of the attorneys appointed to represent West Chicago. A search would be conducted for a permanent replacement for corporate counsel.

5. City Council approve a contract with Michael Guttman.

11. New Business: None

12. Correspondence and Announcements

Upcoming Meetings

June 5, 2025	Infrastructure Committee
June 9, 2025	Development Committee
June 16, 2025	Public Affairs Committee

Alderman Swiatek mentioned the paper shredding event happening Saturday, June 7th at the Metra Station parking lot. Other items will be collected as well.

13. Mayor's Comments.

Mayor Bovey thanked the community for being present. He also mentioned that staff is working on a better audio system, translation services and live streaming.

14. Executive Session

A. Personnel Matters – 5 ILCS 120/2 (C) (1)

City Council agreed that this was not needed.

15. Adjournment

At 9:32 p.m., Alderman Hallett made a motion, which was seconded by Alderman Alcántar-García to adjourn this meeting.

Voting Aye by Voice Vote: Beebe, Alcántar-Garcia, Stout, Birch Ferguson, Dimas, Hallett, Morano, Sheahan, Carreto-Muñoz, Swiatek, Aviña Soto, and Smith, Jr. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Valeria Perez
Executive Office Manager

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