

**CITY OF COUNTRY CLUB HILLS
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL
January 28, 2013**

1. A regular meeting of the City Council, City of Country Club Hills, County of Cook, State of Illinois, was held in the City Hall, 4200 W. 183rd Street at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by the honorable Dwight Welch, Mayor.

a. The Pledge of Allegiance, given by all those in attendance, was led by the Boy Scouts.

2. **THOSE ON ROLL CALL ANSWERING PRESENT WERE:**

Aldermen Hutson, Comein, Lockett, Martin, Ford, Burris, Edwards, Williams, and Davis.

Also present were: City Clerk, Deborah McIlvain; City Attorney, John Murphey, and Rhonda Williams, City Treasurer.

Absent was: Alderman Singleton.

2a. The invocation was given by Pastor Richards.

3. **Journal of Proceedings :**

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Administrative Meeting - January 7, 2013

2. Regular City Council Meeting - January 14, 2013

Alderman Hutson moved for Council approval of the minutes of the Administrative meeting of January 7, 2013 and approval of the minutes of the Regular City Council meeting of January 14, 2013. Second - Alderman Comein. Discussion - none. Motion to approve the minutes of the Administrative Meeting of January 7, 2013 and to approve the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of January 14, 2013 Carried Via Voice Vote.

4. **Communications and Reports by the Mayor:**

Mayor Welch extended the City's best wishes upon the retirement of Pastor Howard Kennon.

A. Proclamation - Declaring February as Boy Scouts of America Month

The text of the Proclamation was read by one of the members of the Boy Scouts. Motion

Proclaiming February as Boy Scouts of America Month Carried Via Voice Vote.

B. Presentation - 2012 Holiday House Decorating Contest Winners

Jennifer Braun-Denton, Chairman of the Environmental Commission and L. Garner, Commissions Liaison, presented prizes to the following winners:

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Ward 1: | 1 st Place Timothy and Sharon Gregory |
| | 2 nd Place John Alexander |
| Ward 2 | 1 st Place Mr and Mrs. Marvin Quinn |
| | 2 nd Place Kathi Holiday |
| Ward 3 | 1 st Place Maggie Davis and Blair Family |
| | 2 nd Place Danny and Cherise Martin |
| Ward 4 | 1 st Place Fredrick and Limsela Navales |
| | 2 nd Place Willie and Vivian Ridley |
| Ward 5 | 1 st Place Joi Bradshaw |
| | 2 nd Place Rose Fitzsimmon |

Grand Prizes were awarded to The King Family, The Schmidt Family, and the Melvin Lee and Iona Grady Family.

5. City Treasurer's Report

City Treasurer, Rhonda Williams gave the Treasurer's Report for the months ending November and December 2012. She explained the cash balances in the restricted and unrestricted funds. City Attorney, John Murphey provided clarification regarding the Council's authorization to transfer monies from the water fund to pay Cook County and stated that repayment to the water fund is something to be decided in the future.

6. City Clerk's Report

No Report

7. City Collector's Report

City Collector, Deborah McIlvain, gave the collectors report for the months ending November 30, 2012 and December 31, 2012.

8. Committee Reports

Alderman BUrris moved for Council approval to amend the agenda to include the 2012/13 budget. Motion Carried Via Voice Vote.

**I. Finance: Alderman Burriss, Chairman
(Committee Meeting February 7, 2013 6:30 pm)**

A. Approval of Vouchers

Alderman Burriss moved for Council approval of vouchers in the amount of \$486,989.15. Second - Alderman Comein. Discussion - It was explained that the amount reflects removal of Keslin Engineering and Baker and Tilley and the addition of Lionheart and Thornton Equipment. The Fire Chief explained the need for a rental of a generator, Dan Barr explained the voucher for Thornton Equipment and Alderman Burriss explained that the charges on the attorney's voucher for electoral board items was proper.

ROLL CALL VOTE 9 Ayes: Aldermen Hutson, Comein, , Lockett, Martin, Ford, Burriss, Edwards, Williams, and Davis.

0 Nays:

1 Absent: Alderman Singleton

Motion Declared Carried and Hereby Made a Part of the Original Journal of Proceedings this date.

B. Approval of an Ordinance Authorizing an Interfund Transfer and Good Faith Payment to Cook County

Alderman Burriss moved for Council approval of Ordinance No. O-01-13, and Ordinance Authorizing an Interfund Transfer and Good Faith Payment to Cook County. Second - Alderman Ford. Alderman Lockett moved to table this item. Second - Alderman Williams. Roll Call Vote on the Motion to Table the Item as follows:

ROLL CALL VOTE 3 Ayes: Aldermen Lockett, Williams, and Davis.

5 Nays: Aldermen Hutson, Comein, Ford, Burriss and Edwards

1 Abstain Alderman Martin

1 Absent: Alderman Singleton.

Motion to Table Fails.

Roll Call Vote on Original Motion as Follows:

ROLL CALL VOTE

8 Ayes: Aldermen Hutson, Comein, , Lockett, Martin, Ford, Burris, Edwards, and Davis.

1 Nays: Alderman Williams

1 Absent: Alderman Singleton

Motion Declared Carried and Hereby Made a Part of the Original Journal of Proceedings this date.

C. Approval of Motion to Authorize City to Seek Proposals From Qualified Auditing Firms to Prepare the City’s Annual Audit for the Years 2010-11 and 2011-12.

Alderman Burris moved for Council approval to Authorize the City to Seek Proposals From Qualified Auditing Firms to Prepare the City’s Annual Audit for the Years 2010-11 and 2011-12. Second - Alderman Comein. Discussion - It was stated that the RFP would be sent by the legislative attorneys to the City Clerk for publication Motion Carried Via Voice Vote.

D. 2011/12 Budget Discussion

General discussion ensued with Alderman Burris stating that revised copies of the draft budget are available. This item will go the Administrative meeting of February 4, 2013 for discussion.

Alderman Hutson moved that the budget be moved to the next administrative meeting for discussion. Second - Alderman Williams. Motion Carried with Alderman Burris casting a “no” vote.

Alderman Burris stated that he and his committee will be bringing forward for consideration an RFP for an accounting firm to help make changes and adjustments as needed by the finance staff.

**II. Law, Ordinance and Government: Alderman Martin, Chairman
(Committee Meeting TBA)**

Alderman Martin stated that an update will be forthcoming regarding the facility at 19001 Cicero.

**II. Public Works and Utilities Alderman Williams, Chairman
(Committee Meeting TBA)**

Alderman Williams had no formal report; however, general discussion ensued regarding the MFT street repair program, the number of streets in need of repair, and the length of time since some streets had been repaired. Alderman Lockett suggested that revenue from the red light program be used for street repairs.

**IV. Economic Development
(Committee Meeting TBA)**

Alderman Hutson, Chairman

Alderman Hutson stated that additional information regarding the signage for the Outlet Mall, the status of the Eagle property, and the signage and parking lot at Heritage Plaza will be provided at his committee meeting which will be held February 27, 2013 at 6:30 pm.

**V. Planning, Zoning and Development Alderman Comein, Chairman
(Committee Meeting TBA)**

Alderman Comein stated a special use/zoning/annexation issue will be discussed by the committee.

**VI. Insurance and Risk Management
(Committee Meeting TBA)**

Alderman Lockett, Chairman

Alderman Lockett stated that a committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 31 at 4:00 pm.

A. Approval of 2013 Property and Casualty Insurance Renewal

Alderman Lockett moved for Council approval of the 2013 Property and Casualty Insurance Renewal. Second - Alderman Comein. Discussion - Alderman Lockett stated that this had been discussed at the committee level and was recommended for approval by the full Council.

ROLL CALL VOTE

8 Ayes: Aldermen Comein, Lockett,
Martin, Ford, Burris, Edwards, Williams and
Davis.

0 Nays:

1 Abstain: Alderman Hutson

1 Absent: Alderman Singleton

**Motion Declared Carried and Hereby Made a Part of the Original Journal of
Proceedings this date.**

**VII. Community and Park Activities Alderman Singleton, Chairman
(Committee Meeting TBA)**

No Report

**VIII. Contract Compliance Alderman Ford, Chairman
(Committee Meeting February 11, 2013 4:30 pm)**

Alderman Ford announced that his next committee meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2013 at 4:30 pm. He also reminded the Council that all contracts must be reviewed by his committee for compliance issues.

**IX. Special Committee - Schools & Education Alderman Edwards, Chairman
(Committee Meeting February 11, 2013 5:3 pm)**

Alderman Edwards stated that a committee meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2013 to coordinate efforts between the schools and the parents of students. He also stated that he is working to bring a Black History program to area seniors.

**X. Special Committee
Country Club Hills Outdoor Theater Alderman Davis, Chairman
(TBA)**

Alderman Davis announced that a committee meeting is scheduled for January 31, 2013 at 5:00 pm. He stated that the committee is working on different plans for the theater season with new ideas.

Alderman Hutson moved to open the floor to the public. Second - Alderman Lockett.
Motion Carried Via Voice Vote.

The following individuals addressed the Council:

Special time allotment consideration was given to Izelle Rogers, as she stated that she was representing 7 individuals in attendance at the meeting. Ms. Rogers suggested that the Mayor was using inaccurate facts in his public presentations, questioned the accuracy of bank fund balance statements, requested clarification regarding transfer of monies from the water fund to the general fund, explained the difference between restricted and unrestricted funds, stated that not enough monies were being set aside for street repairs, suggested that red light revenues be used for street repairs, requested clarification regarding WalMart's proposed use of the former Eagle property store, stated that the aldermen were addressing the issues regarding the theater, applauded the efforts of the aldermen for a forensic audit, questioned the Mayor's educational

background and suggested that the Mayor consider a career change.

Thomas Melton , Country Club Hills, addressed the Council and stated that Ms. Rogers had several good points in her message; however, there was only one positive statement. He stated that debate is necessary; however, positive dialogue and decorum should be exhibited.

Jerrell Thomas, Country Club Hills addressed the Council and stated that if the City had no vision, it would not survive and businesses will leave. (He was asked to bring his voice level down)

M.Michael Williams, Country Club Hills, addressed the Council and stated that he had not received a response to a recent FOIA request. (The City Clerk stated that a response had been sent to him, via certified, registered mail within the proper response time.). He stated that he is working on a proposal for school participation in veterans projects and that he will receive recognition as Veteran of the Month on February 20, 2013.

Carol David, Country Club Hills, addressed the Council and questioned the City's ability to move forward without a "balanced" budget.

Terry Densmore, Country Club Hills, addressed the Council and asked how the transfer form the water funds to the general fund would affect the residents.

Mark O'Donnell, Mokena, addressed the Council a and stated that he was speaking to "quash" the rumor that his wife had left the employment of the City with a lucrative agreement and that she had been demoted twice prior to her leaving.

Kathie Berg, Country Club Hills, stated that the City will permanently deplete the water account, needs a reimbursement plan, salaries need to be cut, she heard that Waterwerks is leaving town, and that the residents carry the majority of the financial burden in the City.

Alderman Hutson moved the floor be closed to the public. Second - Alderman Comein. Motion Carried Via Voice Vote.

Alderman Lockett moved for Council approval to require immediate airing of City Council meetings on Channel 4. Alderman Burris moved to amend the motion to include that there be no broadcast following the City Council meeting. Motions Carried via Voice vote

11. Aldermen's Reports

Alderman Davis thanked everyone for their attendance , stated that the Aldermen will continue to do the best job they can do and fight for what is right. He stated that he may be contacted by calling 473-4712.

Alderman Lockett stated that property tax bills had been lowered by the efforts of the City Council, reminded those eligible to file for property tax exemptions, stated that he sympathized with Mr. O'Donnell and that the Council was not involved in the employment issue.

Alderman Martin stated that citizen participation is welcomed and of importance. He stated that meetings should be conducted with respect and decorum.

Alderman Hutson stated that he can be contacted with questions and c/or concerns at 307-2770.

Alderman Ford stated that the Council has a mandate to be professional and they should be setting an example (to the residents and especially to the youth) and should act responsibly. He asked that those addressing the Council "speak the truth" and concluded by stating that the City does not meet the criteria to accept financial intervention and assistance from the State.

Alderman Comein stated that the State was experiencing financial difficulties. He stated that 70 Eagle Scouts had been part of the Calumet Council in the past 50 years, 30 of them from Country Club Hills. He encouraged youth participation in the Police Explorer Cadet program.

Alderman Burriss stated that he will hold a town hall meeting on January 31, 2013 at 7 pm at City Hall, that he has fought for the taxpayers for the past 11 years, that the budget had been cut significantly, that the situation with T. O'Donnell was due to actions by the Mayor and the former Police Chief, that political issues should be set aside and that everyone sitting on the dais was qualified in a number of different ways to hold office.

Alderman Edwards reminded everyone of his committee meeting on February 11, 2013 at 5:30 pm and stated that he has only heard negative comments and is concerned that there is no plan to repay monies owed to the water fund.

Alderman Williams thanked everyone for their attendance and their thoughts and comments and stated that he tries to address residents' concerns during his lunch break from work.

Alderman Hutson moved for Council approval to adjourn to Executive Session, not to return, for the purposes of discussion of Former Employees' Settlements. Second - Alderman Comein.

ROLL CALL VOTE

9 Ayes: Aldermen Hutson, Comein, , Lockett, Martin, Ford, Burriss, Edwards, Williams, and Davis.

0 Nays:

1 Absent: Alderman Singleton

Motion Declared Carried and Hereby Made a Part of the Original Journal of Proceedings this date.

Meeting adjourned to Executive Session, not to return, at 8:48 pm

Deborah M. McIlvain, City Clerk