

City Council Meeting
Of the City of Palos Hills
Held Thursday, March 5, 2009
City Hall Council Chambers
10335 S. Roberts Road
Palos Hills, Illinois 60465

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Bennett called the City Council Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- 2) **PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:** Mayor Bennett led everyone in the Pledge to the Flag.
- 3) **ROLL CALL:** Upon roll call the following Aldermen responded as present: Knox, Hanson, Marrotta, Schultz, Kleefisch, Stratton, Pasek, Moore, Williams

ABSENT: Brachman

- 4) **QUORUM:** Mayor Bennett declared a quorum was present.

- 5) **READING OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:**

Ald. Kleefisch, I MOVE to approve the City Council Meeting Minutes dated February 19, 2009 as presented. SECONDED by Ald. Schultz. Upon roll call the following Ald. voted:

AYE: Hanson, Marrotta, Schultz, Kleefisch, Stratton, Pasek, Williams, Knox

ABSTAIN: Moore

ABSENT: Brachman

NAY: None

MOTION CARRIED.

- 6) **CITIZENS PETITION:** None

- 7) **CITIZENS HEARING:**

Mrs. Erickson of Valley Drive addressed several issues with the City Council concerning her subdivision; the run down condition of the streets in her area; a house in the subdivision that has been sitting vacant for 6 months due to a fire and a letter everyone received in their mailbox regarding the pillars on Roberts Road.

Mayor Bennett, as far as the streets over there we working with our Public Works Director to try to come up with a program this year that is extensive. It is going to depend on the type of funding we have to do a big program but we know that some of your streets over there are on the list.

With regards to the pillars, my understanding is that the developer back in the mid 70's I don't know if the homeowners ever (inaudible).

City Clerk Mulderink, the Palos Meadows Subdivision put up those pillars; Ken Skipta was the President at the time and he did that with his own private money; Adolf Digore who was the builder did not put that up.

Mrs. Erickson, I guess the letter that went out, there should have been an opportunity that maybe we could (inaudible) done something with. The letter was poorly worded.

Mayor Bennett, I think the point of the letter that was to sent to the residents was that what use to be an Association, if they wanted to replace them or put them back up that is your prerogative to do that. But the city did not put up the pillars and now the one is half gone and from a standpoint of maintenance and of beauty we didn't want it to continue to stay that way. That is why the letter was sent to the homeowners that if you wish to put them back up, that is fine, if (interrupted), if you think the Association wants to put them back up?

Mrs. Erickson stated there is no Association.

Mayor Bennett, then you are saying that you have no interest in replacing them.

Ald. Stratton, if the property owners wanted to contribute then they can put them back up; is that correct?

Mayor Bennett, yes that was always the option. We are telling you right now that if you want them to stay up and the homeowners want to pitch in to put them back up we are more then willing to wait before we take them (interrupted).

Ald. Moore, Dave have you been contacted by any other homeowner until right now tonight?

Comm. Weakley, I have received a total of 3 (inaudible).

Ald. Moore, and even if the pillars are tore down you still have an option to replace the pillars, correct?

Mayor Bennett, yes and certainly the intent was because of a disrepair and again it was not the city that put them up and the city was offering to take them down. You didn't receive a letter from the city saying these are your pillars please either repair them or take then down.

Ald. Schultz, who pays the electric bill on those lights?

Mayor Bennett, the city has.

Ald. Schultz, I think you had an issue with the way the letter was written but if you look beyond that (interrupted). You can sit and argue this all day but the point of this is that you could have called Mr. Weakley if anybody was interested; the phone number

was on the letter. I mean 3 people out of how many homes that are there, 100 or 200 that are in the whole area over there.

Ald. Pasek, so regarding the pillars do we want to send out another letter with options; here are your options we are going to take it down number one free of charge; number two we will let you people rebuild it by such and such a date and you do the organizing and you have up to a certain date to do it.

Mrs. Erickson, that is fine if you give the people the choice to make but the letter was poor that's all.

Ald. Stratton, can the pillar be repaired as opposed to being removed and then start fresh; maybe it can be repaired by someone who does that kind of work and it will save the homeowner something.

Mrs. Erickson, another thing that I was told (inaudible) liable.

Mayor Bennett, that is also a problem, the fact that whether there was a permit originally issued because it is on a city easement and if there is a rebuild, there is also going to have to be a letter of Hold Harmless with the city because those things were put up by a private party not by the City of Palos Hills. So are the homeowners willing to hold the city harmless if somebody hits those again.

Mrs. Erickson, that's fine, all I am saying is we should have an option.

8) REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR AND OTHER CITY OFFICIALS:

A. CITY CLERK: No report.

B. CITY ATTORNEY: No report.

C. MAYOR:

Mayor Bennett, Ladies & Gentlemen I just have a couple of items. Number one the Budget is pretty much done; I will present the budget at next Thursday's meeting.

The second item is I received a letter from St. Patricia Church in Hickory Hills and they are requesting the use of Indian Woods Park and Volunteer Park for kid's soccer, Monday thru Friday's from 4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and every Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to Noon.

I have talked to our Commissioner and certainly indicated the problems that we had last year, which I don't know if actual permission was requested for that. But one of the problems I will state number one is that those parks are designated for athletic type deals they are parks, and certainly with usage on 5 days a week; also Volunteer which is even a more tenderness type of park because of the ground over there with it being close to the water table.

I guess I would have a concern. I understand you'd like to provide this but number one St. Pat's isn't even in our town although I know they have a portion of the children are from Hickory Hills. But we also don't have a Park District and that is a concern. I am not asking for a vote I am just going to look and see if I have a consensus.

Ald. Schultz, I have a problem with that; number one Hickory Hills has a lot of parks; number two, St. Pat's does have some empty lot space next to the school. Thirdly what do we do with our Palos Hills kids, tell them they can't play in the park because Hickory Hills; no I would not.

Ald. Hanson, the Parish boundaries go up to 103rd Street so they go well into Palos Hills. I don't know if it is necessary to give them their full request. The property, they really don't have lots next to the church; they have the football field and then that's about it.

Ald. Schultz, well what do you need for soccer?

Ald. Hanson, well I know you need those but there is more than one team. I don't know if you knew there is more than one grade there. But there are a lot of grades there that play soccer and the problem is they don't have enough fields for all of them. They put as many of them as they can on the baseball field and on the football field, and then they just needed additional space from there.

This is the first I am hearing their request; if we are to allow anything I would give them what we think is fair but I do think that is a little excessive for what they are asking for.

Ald. Stratton, I knew of someone that was in that program maybe 12 or 15 years ago so I think they have been in our parks officially/unofficially for a real long time. I don't have a problem with it.

Mayor Bennett, 5 days a week from 4:30 pm to 8:00 p.m.?

Ald. Stratton, no but you know what but if they have other kids coming into the parks obviously; they have to move over shift or cancel out if we know of something. But I don't want to see our community get hurt but they have been there for a real long time; I think we should be able to work something out and as the Aldermen said maybe as an abbreviated schedule.

Mayor Bennett, I don't know if they'd even ask for an option other than what they are asking for.

Ald. Knox, I would believe that there are Palos Hills children that are involved and I think we should be able to offer them something. I don't know that I'd want to offer this extended schedule. I do think also there might be something that needs to be talked about, about field repair and maintenance if they are tearing up the fields there should be some

kind of stipulations they have to contribute. But I don't think that we should tell them no that they can't do that.

Mayor Bennett, and the only think I did not check on is whether or not again from a liability standpoint they --- we've never asked for any insurance hold harmless, again for organized sports.

Comm. Vincent, they gave us a certificate of insurance every year (inaudible).

Mayor Bennett, how often were they practicing in the past?

Comm. Vincent, they were out there every night or (inaudible). The bigger kids were going to (inaudible) and they send the littler kids to us. At Indian Woods it is going to be kindergarten, 1st & 2nd grade and at Volunteer there will be 3rd & 4th grade.

Ald. Kleefisch, I was under the impression that this was a first time request; that they had not been using those parks. I suggested as an alternative that they might want to check with the Palos Stars Football Association on Southwest Highway. They have a big football field, they have a practice field next to it, and they have a large parking area; that might be more appropriate for them.

Ald. Hanson, I doubt that would be possible because that is leased land for the Reclamation District, that is a very strict lease that they have.

Mayor Bennett, the District rules are as long as recreation, they don't care. It really is an agreement between the Palos Stars and this organization. Which right aren't used during the summer time, football doesn't start until the fall so that is an option. We can pass that information on to them.

Ald. Pasek, I remember last year I voiced a concern about our parks and some people that were coming to play soccer and at that point it seemed like the whole Council was against me and preserving our grass that most of us said that the parks are here for the people and the kids play in and now all of a sudden we are changing our tune.

I'd just like to have continuity; like are we going to let them play in our parks or not. Because you have to remember all the kids that go to Sacred Heart also go to St. Pats because Sacred Heart doesn't have a school, so even kids on 111th St. go to St. Pats. So I imagine all these kids are either Hickory Hills kids or Palos Hills kids and do have an agreement with the Hickory Hills Park District now where we can go and use some of their equipment and the people in Hickory Hills get the Palos Hills rate at the Golf Course because of that and that has been going on for a long time.

Mayor Bennett, City Council all I am bring to your attention is a request from Monday through Friday from 4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Saturday 8:00 a.m. to Noon; that is what their request is. So I need an indication from the Council whether or not you ----

Ald. Knox, can you just have a dialogue that will open those times up and those dates; because if we go back and just say no; Council said no you can't have all of that. You work with them and say they think this is an idea to (inaudible) but maybe not this (inaudible).

Mayor Bennett, well what does the Council think is reasonable?

Ald. Hanson, I would say offer them a counter offer because they are going to throw the full plate at you first. Come back with a counter offer and I am sure they'd appreciate anything that you try to do try to spread it out a little bit.

Comm. Vincent, they spoke to Anna today and she said they went down to 3 days a week.

Anna Slubowski, they said they would consolidate down to 3 days a week. Because they also besides Hickory and Palos they also use (inaudible) at 79th & Oketo. They consolidate between the 3 Park Districts (inaudible). They have been doing this for at least 7 years because I was a soccer (inaudible) 7 years ago. They have utilized the parks here for 7 years.

Ald. Knox, I think it is fine, 3 days.

Ald. Hanson, yes 3 days.

Ald. Pasek, fine with me.

Ald. Williams, 3 days a week is plenty.

Ald. Pasek, so that would be during the week 3 days and then Saturday or 3 days total.

The response from the Council Members was 3 days total.

9) **PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDERS AND ORDINANCES BY ALDERMEN:**

A. **BUILDING & LICENSES:** No report.

B. **CITY ADMINISTRATION/GOLF:** No report.

C. **COMMUNITY RESOURCES:**

Ald. Schultz, in your mailbox everyone should have a revenue sheet for Friendship Fest for 2009. The sponsorship and vendor letters were mailed in January and to date \$6,220.00 has been received. The plans for Friendship are coming along nicely with some great bands and etc. The dates for the festival are July 9th through July 12th.

D. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: No report.

E. FINANCE:

Ald. Pasek, you all have before you a Vendor Warrant dated March, 2009 in the amount of \$465,613.50. I MOVE to authorize the expenditure of same. SECONDED by Ald. Marrotta. Upon roll call the following Ald. voted:

AYE: Hanson, Marrotta, Schultz, Kleefisch, Stratton, Pasek, Moore, Williams, Knox

ABSENT: Brachman

NAY: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Ald. Pasek, in talking to Comm. Vincent about Lake 'N' Park and the dog problem with people walking their dogs around and not cleaning up after them; this has become quite a problem. I think this is something we have to look into so how about next week we talk about it to see what solutions we can come up with. Mary Jo maybe you and Dave can come up with a solution.

Ald. Moore, don't we already have an ordinance when in public the dog has to be on a leash and you have to pick up after them? Isn't that already in place?

Ald. Kleefisch, that is correct.

Ald. Knox, do we have signs stating fines for not picking up after the animals over there?

Comm. Weakley, there are signs that talk about picking up your dog waste and cites an ordinance number. It is our standard dog waste sign.

F. LEGISLATION & ORDINANCE: No report.

G. PARKS:

Ald. Stratton, the Resource & Recreation Dept. offers a Free Tutoring Service at the Community Center on Tuesday and Thursday from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in conjunction with Stagg National Honor Society Students. It is a great opportunity for your child to get the extra help that they may need with their schoolwork. Call the Community Center for more details.

H. PLANNING & ZONING:

Ald. Hanson, we are awaiting the minutes from the Plan Commission meeting that was held on February 23rd regarding the application for special use for the operation of a cigar lounge, tobacco sales and Internet café over on 103rd Street.

I. PUBLIC SAFETY:

Ald. Kleefisch presented and read the Palos Hills Police Department Activity report for the month of February 2009 as follows: we issued 346 traffic tickets, 555 P-tickets, there were 38 misdemeanor complaints, 1 burglary, 16 thefts, 1 motor vehicle theft, 5 drug crime arrests, the C.I.D. Division handled a total of 77 cases.

Also on March 2nd our Police Department conducted selected traffic enforcement detail on 3 high-speed roads in Palos Hills between 6:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.; we issued a total of 91 citations within that 4 ½ hour period. Some of the major violations were for speeding, passing a stopped school bus, a d.u.i., driving while suspended, no insurance, disobeying a red light, no seat belts, no valid drivers license and multiple equipment violations.

The Chief wants the City to know that we are going to continue doing several of these special traffic details throughout the spring and summer at various locations in Palos Hills. A Highway Safety Grant will support some of these details.

J. PUBLIC WORKS/SEWER & WATER:

Ald. Williams, I have an ordinance this evening that was presented last week; an Ordinance Authorizing Northern Illinois Gas Company (d/b/a/ Nicor Gas Company) Its Successors & Assigns, To Construct, Operate And Maintain A Gas Distribution System In And Through The City Of Palos Hills.

Mayor Bennett, will the City Clerk assign a number.

City Clerk Mulderink assigned ordinance number 2009-3.

Ald. Hanson, I MOVE to WAIVE the reading of proposed Ordinance 2009-3. SECONDED by Ald. Marrotta. Upon roll call the following Ald. voted:

AYE: Marrotta, Schultz, Kleefisch, Pasek, Moore, Williams, Knox, Hanson

ABSENT: Brachman

NAY: Stratton

MOTION CARRIED.

Ald. Williams, I MOVE for PASSAGE of Ordinance 2009-3, an Ordinance Authorizing Northern Illinois Gas Company (d/b/a/ Nicor Gas Company) Its Successors And Assigns, To Construct, Operate And Maintain A Gas Distribution System In And Through The City Of Palos Hills, as presented. SECONDED by Ald. Moore. Upon roll call the following Ald. voted:

AYE: Schultz, Kleefisch, Stratton, Pasek, Moore, Williams, Knox, Hanson, Marrotta

ABSENT: Brachman

NAY: None

MOTION CARRIED.

10) REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES: None.

11) UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Ald. Knox, we received in our mailbox's the green form from Moraine Valley Community College. We talked about setting up the Committee for green?

Mayor Bennett, yes I intend to do that affective May 1st.

Ald. Kleefisch, Mr. Mayor as Chairman of the Beautification Committee I would like to suggest that the Aldermen tour their wards and take note of any property ordinance violations and report the same to our Ordinance Officer and the Building Department.

Also the Senior Citizen Crime Prevention Breakfast is going to be held on March 24th at Belvedere Banquet Facilities starting at 9:00 a.m.

12) MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

13) ADJOURNMENT:

No further business, Mayor Bennett entertained a motion to adjourn. SO MOVED by Ald. Stratton. SECONDED by Ald. Pasek. By voice vote, all voted AYE.

The Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Submitted by

Rudy A. Mulderink
City Clerk
City of Palos Hills