

City Council Meeting
Of the City of Palos Hills
Held Thursday, March 19, 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, Brachman, Schultz, Kleefisch, Stratton, Pasek, Moore, Williams

ABSENT: Hanson, Marrotta

- 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 March 5, 2009 as presented. SECONDED by Ald. Moore. Upon roll call the following Ald. voted:

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

ABSTAIN: Brachman

ABSENT: Hanson, Marrotta

NAY: None

MOTION CARRIED.

- 6) **CITIZENS PETITION:** None

- 7) **CITIZENS HEARING:** None

- 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 at this time I would like to present to our City Treasurer, Ken Nolan, the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 19th consecutive year for our Audit and Financial reporting that was reviewed by a group of National Certified Public Accountants; congratulations Ken and staff.

The other item I've picked a Committee, there is again we talked about some public works agenda items and I will talk to you next Thursday about some short term and long term planning that with regard to the roads. Again a lot is pending with what still may possibly come out of Springfield with a capital program in a couple of areas that could effect local governments as far as revenue sharing either through the proposed income tax increase or the gasoline tax which is being proposed by the General Assembly. So if those items if it pans out should mean revenue sharing for municipalities, especially the income tax.

The other thing is the General Assembly is proposing a gas tax; the Governor is proposing a license fee which we would not receive any revenue share off of that. But a gasoline tax again we receive part of that for our Motor Fuel Tax Fund.

In the short term and long term the needs of the City on our Motor Fuel Tax our local roads repaving, I have asked Dave to come up with a program of what we are going to need based upon priority and review of all the streets in town on a three, two, one basis. I will present that at Committee regarding those issues.

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

A. BUILDING & LICENSES:

Ald. Brachman, total permits for the month were 6, fees collected \$1,184.00, security deposits received \$100.00 and security deposits refunded \$250.00.

Mayor Bennett, McDonalds just got their re-hab permit and hopefully they will move very quickly.

B. CITY ADMINISTRATION/GOLF: No report.

C. COMMUNITY RESOURCES:

Ald. Schultz, join millions of people around the world and turn off your lights on March 28th from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Comm. Vincent has registered the City and beginning to morrow we will be listed as a Key U. S. City on the Earth Hour website. For more information on Earth Hour and to lean simple tips for everyday energy savings, we have a link to the Earthhour2009 site on the city website.

Mayor Bennett, I also want to thank Mary Jo Vincent for working with me and the Council creating a link to the city website for Clean Air Initiatives. If you go to the front page of that you can click into the environmental Clean Air Section for residents to get information on how they can be energy efficient and also now with the Earth Hour.

D. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: No report.

E. FINANCE:

Ald. Pasek, you all have before you a Vendor Warrant dated March 19, 2009 in the

amount of \$542,504.47. I MOVE to authorize the expenditure of same. SECONDED by Ald. Knox. Upon roll call the following Ald. voted:

AYE: Schultz, Kleefisch, Stratton, Pasek, Moore, Williams, Knox, Brachman

ABSENT: Hanson, Marrotta

NAY: None

MOTION CARRIED.

This evening we held our first budget meeting with the Police Department and ESDA and I'd like to thank the Aldermen that attended the meeting.

F. LEGISLATION & ORDINANCE: No report.

G. PARKS:

Ald. Stratton, Commissioner Vincent submitted an application for the Clean Air Counts Bronze level designation. In response to the application Mayor Bennett received the following letter.

Dear Mayor Bennett:

On behalf of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and Clean Air Counts, thank you for your championship of the Clean Air Counts Campaign. Your application for Bronze Level designation as a Clean Air Community has been approved.

Engaging in our outreach efforts to promote clean air initiatives is the first step towards improving air quality. We have included a table highlighting measures required for Silver, Gold and Platinum level participation. We look forward to continuing to work with your community to promote the Clean Air Counts Campaign.

If you have any questions or need any assistance, please contact Eve Pytel at 312-201-4506. Sincerely Thomas J. Murawski, Chair, Environmental Committee

Commissioner Vincent has also created a link to the City website for Clean Air Initiatives.

Mayor Bennett, again I also talked to the Commissioner about linking to the C-Map Website for the stimulus money; there is a lot of stimulus money out there for residents on weatherization of their home; windows and other efficiency items and we will try to get that information up so people can become aware of that and possibly apply for that. There is a huge tax break that is involved with that stimulus package on weatherization.

H. PLANNING & ZONING:

In the absence of Ald. Hanson, Mayor Bennett stated we did received the minutes from the Plan Commission hearing and we will take that to Committee for discussion.

Attorney Pappas, I had an opportunity just to skim the summary of what happened at

the Plan Commission hearing and it appears as though that they approved the request subject to an indication of me with respect to the structure itself and whether it is free standing and whether it satisfies the requirements of state law.

I went by there once and I looked at the structure and I am going to go by there again before the City Council votes at to whether to draft and ordinance and go through that expense. I suggest you postpone that until I review everything and if I feel that it doesn't satisfy State Law I will notify the City Council and also contact the petitioner and let him know that he may have a problem with this and perhaps he may want to change his plans.

So instead of voting on the action of the Plan Commission lets defer for a while and give me a week or so and I will be able to come back to the City Council and give you an opinion.

I. PUBLIC SAFETY:

Ald. Kleefisch, we recently received 2 Asset Sharing checks from the U.S. Marshall Service that totaled \$271,264.47.

Also to remind everyone that next week Tuesday, March 24th is our Senior Citizen Crime Prevention Breakfast at Belvedere Chateau starting at 9:00 a.m.

J. PUBLIC WORKS/SEWER & WATER:

Ald. Williams, the Commissioner reports that the annual Loss Survey has been completed and a total of 7 hidden water main leaks were detected. This survey represents a completion of 3 rounds of water loss surveys over the last 4 years with each survey locating significant water loss within our water system. The summary results are as follows: October 2005 potential 1-year loss would have been \$69,284.00 or forty million nine hundred ninety six thousand eight hundred gallons of water

January 2007 potential 1 year loss would have been \$198,000.00 or one hundred seventeen million two hundred and eight thousand eight hundred gallons.

On the March survey potential 1 year loss would have been \$94,000.00 or forty five million two hundred and one thousand six hundred gallons.

The survey has proven to be an effective tool used to locate and eliminate hidden water leaks that left unchecked would cost the city thousands of dollars in expense and lost revenue.

At last weeks meeting the Commissioner presented several price quotes for the purchase of a new emergency stand by generator to provide power in the city pumping stations during times of power interruption. The Commissioner reported previously the current generator the 1979 Pinar had failed and parts are no longer available to service this unit.

Requests were sent out to 3 Vendors capable of providing the unit and only received to quotes back. One from Patton Cat Power Systems in the amount of \$55,530.00 and the other quote from Advance Electronic Technologies in the amount of \$54,800.00.

The Commissioner reviewed quotes and both meet all the specifications and both are within budgeted amount. The Commission is seeking authorization to accept the quote from Advance Electronic Technologies in the amount of \$54,800.00.

Ald. Williams, I MOVE to accept the quote from **Advance Electronic Technologies** in the amount of **\$54,800.00** for the **purchase of the emergency stand by generator**. SECONDED by Ald. Kleefisch. Upon roll call the following Ald. voted:

AYE: Schultz, Kleefisch, Stratton, Pasek, Moore, Williams, Knox, Brachman
ABSENT: Marrotta, Hanson
NAY: None

MOTION CARRIED.

10) REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES: None

11) UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

12) MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Ald. Pasek, on these building permits; Gene I have something to suggest here. The liquor store Maple Lake Wine & Spirits; they are going to do some updating with some lights on the front. Could you do me a favor and suggest to them that they also finish the side of the building where the walkway was attached to the side of the building. Because it looks terrible and I don't think it would be that costly to put some kind of a cover over this thing to make it look nice.

Mayor Bennett, even if they put some evergreens along side of that building to cover that up, that was suppose to be part of their re-hab.

Ald. Kleefisch, I noticed the bus shelter at 103rd & Roberts Rd; the bench has rusted and the piping is split with jagged rusted edges on it. Are we liable if someone gets hurt?

Mayor Bennett, we don't own it that is Illinois Convenience; they are suppose to maintain those. I will have Anna contact them.

Ald. Pasek, this is a big request for Dave; we are doing this relining of the sewer pipes and its cost us 6 plus million dollars and now I find out that M.W.R.D. just realized that part of Bridgeview flows into this sewer system and that is why we never could achieve the numbers on the sewer water going into this system. So we are relining our sewers for millions of dollars and the M.W.R.D. was getting some misinformation. I was just wondering can we get the M.W.R.D. to contribute mucho deniro.

Mayor Bennett, I thought I brought this up some time ago; it is a dual problem that we face. One is the ICAP Program which means that we have to meet certain standards of that clean water act as far as infiltration of our system; water coming into our sanitary

system, that was number one. But the most recent problem is the one you talked about which I brought to the Councils attention, why we got into this project and that was the total flow of water or sewerage into the lift station owned by the M.W.R.D. and indicated as I thought to the Council before about them jumping over us and Hickory on the volume of water and as Dave found out that we brought to the Districts attention that Bridgeview is part of the system.

What we are in the process of doing right now through David and our City Attorney is working with the M.W.R.D. to identify the Bridgeview link, the volume of water that Bridgeview is contributing to the system, to get the M.W.R.D. to reflect on what they are sending us as far as warnings are concerned but anyway that is being addressed.

The District will never contribute. What we wanted them to do was to build a bigger lift station over by Stony Creek; that has overflowed at times. They said that was built to the amount of water that both Hickory and Palos should be delivering to that system.

Obviously there is more going in there so whether or not in the final analysis with Bridgeview being part of that system they would to that, I certainly doubt it but certainly possibly go after Hickory and or Bridgeview as to their contribution of water to the system. We think we are at the level we should be at and now based upon the evidence that we've brought to them hopefully they will confirm that.

Attorney Pappas, I have been dealing with the Attorney General's Office on that particular issue that we are trying to resolve.

Ald. Pasek, it's a lot of money we paid.

Mayor Bennett, you missed my point Alderman. We needed to do that under the ICAP Program anyway. It was just moving this thing up quicker because of the immediacy by the M.W.R.W. the IEPA because of the overflow. So the ICAP Program we still had to meet these conditions as far as sewer lining is concerned. This wasn't brought on just because of it. It stepped up our program to the point where we went out and did it.

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 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by

Rudy A. Mulderink
City Clerk
City of Palos Hills