

These minutes were approved at the 3/17/08 City Council meeting with no changes.

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO – 475 Main Street

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting

March 17, 2008

1. **Call to Order.** Mayor Michael B. Kwasman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.** Mr. John Vires led all in the pledge of allegiance.
3. **Invocation.** The City Clerk gave the invocation.
4. **Roll Call and Establishment of a Quorum.** Roll call found Aldermen Lori J. Chassee, James E. Beifuss, Jr., H. Ronald Monroe, Russell Radkiewicz, Ruben Pineda, Sandy Dimas, Alan Murphy, Gregory D. Bunch, Joey Gianforte, Nanette B. Connelly, Rebecca Stout, Nicholas Dzierzanowski, and Matt Fuesting present. The Mayor announced a quorum.

City Clerk Nancy M. Smith and City Treasurer Donald F. Earley were also present.

Also in attendance were City Attorney Patrick K. Bond, Museum and Cultural Services Director LuAnn Bombard, Public Works Director Rob Flatter, City Administrator Michael L. Guttman, and Community Development Director Joanne Kalchbrenner.

**5. Public Participation.**

**A. Presentation: West Chicago Lions Club.** Mr. John Vires, President of the West Chicago Lions Club thanked the Mayor and City Council for the opportunity to address them this evening. Mr. Vires gave a brief summary of the West Chicago Lions Club, which was founded in 1960 with 25 charter members, one of which is still active. Since 1962, the meetings have been held at the Methodist Church on the first and third Thursday at noon. They usually have lunch, a business meeting, and a speaker. Membership has grown by 20% this year. They have several different events throughout the year. In March and November they have their pancake breakfast at the West Chicago Middle School. They co-sponsor the beer tent at Railroad Days, participate in National Night Out donating over 1,000 hot dogs, and in October they have Candy Day and collect money at Sonny Acres for Lions Club of Illinois Foundation. They are part of the highway beautification system cleaning up Route 59 from North Avenue to Washington Street. They also have firewood sales and sponsor the new teacher luncheon. By these activities they raise thousands of dollars each year. The primary use is to support the sight and hearing impaired. Helen Keller asked them to be knights to the blind about 75 years ago. They have a partnership with Lens Crafter and refurbished hearing aids for low-income people. They also donate to local charitable agencies, such as Moms in School, Northeast Food Pantry, and Family Shelter Services. They are always looking for new members. If anyone is interested, the web site is [www.westchicagolions.org](http://www.westchicagolions.org) or they can come to the Methodist Church at 12 noon (the Lions will provide lunch) or they can talk to any Lion member. He again thanked the Mayor and Council for the opportunity to speak about the Lions. The Mayor said this is a worthwhile organization and he is proud to be a member as are most of the members of the City Council. He said the Lions have done so much within the community. They work hard and are dedicated.

**B. Presentation: Mayoral Proclamation (Community High School-German Exchange Program).** At the Mayor's request, the City Clerk read Proclamation Number 476 (copy attached) in which the Mayor welcomed the students from Simon-Marius Gymnasium, Gunzenhausen, Germany, Bavaria, and encouraged all the citizens of West Chicago to give them a warm welcome and a special thank you to teacher Terry Mitchell Strohm, the WCCHS students and German exchange program and the host families. The Mayor presented Excellence in Education pins to each student and presented the proclamation to their teacher. He thanked the students for visiting the community. The teacher said it was a big program and they are proud to be here in the United States and at the City Council meeting. She said she is very proud of her students because they are getting along very well with their English and all are having a great time. Ms. Strohm said on behalf of the participants, she would like to thank the Mayor and Council for this recognition. She said the partnership between the two schools has lasted 27 years and the effects of this program last a lifetime.

**C. Public Hearing: 2007-2008 Budget.** The Mayor opened the public hearing at 7:13 pm. No one spoke for or against the budget. The Mayor closed the public hearing at 7:14 pm.

**D. Update on Residual Thorium Clean-up.** City Administrator Guttman provided a briefing. Since Barb Magel was last here, the EPA is continuing to work on 41 or less properties. At the end of March there will be a meeting by all the parties involved and they should know how long it would take to get samples and develop a game plan.

No one spoke during regular public participation.

## 6. Correspondence and Announcements.

Alderman Murphy said it was with heartfelt sadness that he had to announce that his uncle, Jim Murphy and passed away. He left his wife Marlene and four children, Jay, Jalene, Joel, and Jill. He lived in West Chicago for over 55 years before moving to Geneva. He was a telephone lineman and eventually retired as a supervisor and became a consultant. He was very active in West Chicago where he raised his family. Many of his accomplishments include being a former alderman, school board member of the high school, and commander of American Legion Post 300. In the early 1990's he was on the Kane County Regional Board of Education. Alderman Murphy said he remembers his big smile and thought perhaps he is looking down on us and smiling. The Mayor said his thoughts and prayers are with the family.

The City Clerk said Jim Murphy was a fine man, one of her fellow past commanders, and he will be missed.

The City Clerk announced that the West Chicago Sister Cities Organization was sponsoring German movie nights on April 26 and May 16, 2008, at the Wheaton Academy Arts Center, 7:00 pm. The public is invited to these free events.

Alderman Pineda thanked everyone for their support of the Bowling for Diabetes fundraiser held on February 19<sup>th</sup>. It was a very successful event and they raised a little over \$12,000. He especially thanked Len and Willine Mahony who are the reason the fundraiser is held every year. He also thanked entertainer Danny Campos, Dave Sabathne, who helped with raffles, and Ted Phillips who worked the sound system. The big group that really stepped up and hit the ground running was the Sons of the American Legion who made the event so successful. Alderman Pineda thanked all those who came and those who donated. The Mayor said it was a fun time for all.

**Upcoming Meetings.** The Mayor announced the following meetings.

- March 18, 2008 Plan Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals (cancelled)
- March 19, 2008 Environmental Commission
- March 20, 2008 Community Affairs Committee (cancelled)
- March 24, 2008 Public Safety Committee (cancelled)
- March 25, 2008 Historical Preservation Commission
- March 27, 2008 Finance Committee (cancelled)
- April 3, 2008 Infrastructure Committee

**7. Corporate Disbursement Report.** Alderman Chassee made a motion, seconded by Alderman Radkiewicz, to approve the March 17, 2008, Corporate Disbursement Report in the amount of \$ 412,749.07. Voting Yea: Aldermen Chassee, Beifuss, Monroe, Radkiewicz, Pineda, Dimas, Bunch, Gianforte, Connelly, Stout, Dzierzanowski, and Fuesting. Voting Nay: 0. Alderman Murphy abstained. Motion carried.

## 8. Consent Agenda – Consideration of an Omnibus Vote.

- \* **Development Committee:** No report
- \* **Infrastructure Committee:** No report
- \* **Public Safety Committee:** No report
- \* **Community Affairs Committee:** Alderman Stout read and explained the following items:

**A. Approve** – Use of City's Rights-of-Way; In-Kind Services; and Event Route for School District No. 33 We-Go Run 5K/10K Run – Scheduled for Sunday, May 4, 2008

**B. Approve** – Use of City's Rights-of-Way; Street Closures for Main and Galena; and In-Kind Services for the 2008 Blooming Fest – Scheduled for Saturday, May 17, 2008

**C. Approve** – Use of City's Rights-of-Way; In-Kind Services; and Event Time and Route for St. Andrews Church Procession-Stations of the Cross – Scheduled for Friday, March 21, 2008

Alderman Gianforte made a motion, seconded by Alderman Stout, to adopt those items on the consent agenda. Voting Yea: Aldermen Chassee, Beifuss, Monroe, Radkiewicz, Pineda,

Dimas, Murphy, Bunch, Gianforte, Connelly, Stout, Dzierzanowski, and Fuesting. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

\* **Finance Committee:** City Treasurer Early read and explained the following items:

**D. Ordinance 08-O-0018** – An Ordinance Adopting the Annual Budget for the City of West Chicago, DuPage County, Illinois, for the Fiscal Year Commencing May 1, 2008, and Ending April 30, 2008.

**E. Ordinance 08-O-0019** – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 16, Article II of the Code of Ordinances of the City of West Chicago to Increase the Home Rule Municipal Retailers' Occupation Tax and the Home Rule Municipal Service Occupation Tax.

Alderman Fuesting made a motion, seconded by Alderman Pineda, to adopt those items on the consent agenda. Voting Yea: Aldermen Chassee, Beifuss, Monroe, Radkiewicz, Pineda, Dimas, Murphy, Bunch, Gianforte, Connelly, Stout, Dzierzanowski, and Fuesting. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

\* **Items Not Sent to Committee:** The Mayor read and explained the following items:

**F. Approve** – City Council Meeting Minutes of March 3, 2008

**G. Ordinance 08-O-0020** – An Ordinance Ratifying Ordinance No. 07-O-0042 and Amending Chapter 8, Article I, of the Code of Ordinances in the City of West Chicago to Provide for Notification and Authorization to the Secretary of State to Commence Drivers License Suspension Proceedings

**H. Resolution 08-R-0024** – A Resolution Authorizing a Plat of Abrogation and Authorizing the Mayor to Execute the Same Related to Drainage, Utility, and Ingress/Egress Easements Bishop Place Planned Unit Development

**I. Resolution 08-R-0025** – A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Certain Contract Between the City of West Chicago and B&F Technical Code Services Inc., for Plan Review/Inspection Services and Property Maintenance Inspections (for an amount not to exceed \$275,000.00)

**J. Resolution 08-R-0026** – A Resolution Accepting a Plat of Dedication and Authorizing the Mayor to Execute the Same Related to Right-of-Way Dedication and an Easement for Signage – Main Street Development

**K. Resolution 08-R-0027** – A Resolution Accepting a Plat of Easement and Authorizing the Mayor to Execute the Same Related to an Easement for a Bike Path – Main Street Development

Alderman Stout made a motion, seconded by Alderman Dimas, to adopt those items on the consent agenda. During discussion, Alderman Dzierzanowski said the March 3, 2008, minutes should be corrected by eliminating the word, "reelected" in item 6, third paragraph, first line, and replacing it with "reappointed." Voting Yea: Aldermen Chassee, Beifuss, Monroe, Radkiewicz, Pineda, Dimas, Murphy, Bunch, Gianforte, Connelly, Stout, Dzierzanowski, and Fuesting. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

## 9. Reports by Committees.

**A. Resolution 08-R-0021** – A Resolution Urging the General Assembly to Stop Making Costly Benefit Improvements and to Adopt Reforms that Protect Police Pensions. Alderman Fuesting made a motion, seconded by Alderman Gianforte, to approve Resolution 08-R-0021. During discussion, City Treasurer Earley said this came from the Illinois Municipal League to try to head off some of the non-funded changes in police pensions. Voting Yea: Aldermen Beifuss, Monroe, Radkiewicz, Pineda, Dimas, Murphy, Bunch, Gianforte, Connelly, Stout, Dzierzanowski, and Fuesting. Voting Nay: 0. Alderman Chassee abstained. Motion carried.

**10. Unfinished Business.** None

**11. New Business.** None

**12. Mayor's Comments.** The Mayor thanked Treasurer Earley for acting as his proxy in Atlanta.

The Mayor said for the last seven years the City has presented a balanced budget. The staff has worked long and hard to bring this guide to the taxpayer. He said the Finance Committee, the Treasurer, and the City Administrator know that a return on investment plus doing more with less is the goal of this administration. The Mayor said the City has privatized and done away with duplication plus laid out a business plan that the taxpayers can live with. He said it is easy to work in a deficit in today's economy; however, the City has more police on the street than ever before and has also implemented a long-term plan to repair the infrastructure. He said the City has tightened its belt and moved forward, hopefully to better financial times, but the City remains with the promise of financial responsibility and quality service.

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

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

**15. Adjournment.** At 7:33 pm, Alderman Chassee made a motion, seconded by Alderman Pineda, to adjourn. Voting Yea: Aldermen Chassee, Beifuss, Monroe, Radkiewicz, Pineda, Dimas, Murphy, Bunch, Gianforte, Connelly, Stout, Dzierzanowski, and Fuesting. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy M. Smith  
City Clerk