

These minutes were approved at the 7/21/08 City Council meeting with no changes.

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO – 475 Main Street

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting

July 7, 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.** Alderman Chassee 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, James Smith, Russell Radkiewicz, Ruben Pineda, Alan Murphy, Gregory D. Bunch, Joey Gianforte, Nanette B. Connelly, Rebecca Stout, and Matt Fuesting present. Aldermen Sandy Dimas and Nicholas Dzierzanowski were absent. 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 and City Administrator Michael L. Guttman.

5. Public Participation.

The following person spoke during public participation:

David J. Sabathne, 155 Spencer, West Chicago, and Executive Director of the West Chicago Chamber of Commerce and Industry, spoke about the upcoming Railroad Days festival. He thanked all the sponsors and the organizations that helped to put it together including the commercial sponsors and the City of West Chicago, the West Chicago Park District, and the West Chicago Fire Protection District. He invited the Council to a reception on Thursday for the Chamber members. Mr. Sabathne spoke of the entertainment acts that will be appearing. For the convenience of people living on the south side and those coming by train, there will be two busses running from 5:00 pm until well after closing on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Mr. Sabathne thanked the Council for its support. Mr. Sabathne said he is so proud of West Chicago. While other communities are closing down, West Chicago is opening up new enterprises.

A. Update on Canadian National Acquisition of EJ&E. The Mayor said he had a very busy week. He went to Chicago, Bartlett, and Barrington, towns affected by the proposed merger. In Chicago he met with the Surface Transportation Board and got an idea of what they will be looking at. The takeover will result in fewer trains in the City and more in the outer perimeter. There was no answer to the question of what will happen to the other tracks. There are customers on those lines so another railroad will likely come in to serve them. The Mayor met with Congressman Roskam who has proposed to make the EJ&E strictly a commuter line. Although this may not work, it is an effort. The impact on West Chicago and the surrounding communities is just maddening. It will land lock some communities who will not be able to get fire or police in their community. There will be public hearings and updates will be posted on the West Chicago website. The City has contacted other taxing bodies to update different priorities. West Chicago is a town that was built by railroads, but it is not a town to be enslaved by a railroad. The increased traffic will impact the health and welfare of the community. The Mayor said he and Alderman Pineda have been attending the TRAC meetings with staff. The City joined in with them and gave them \$10,000 to hire a lobby group and a public relations group. The City wants its voice heard. Either the Mayor or Alderman Pineda will be attending all the TRAC meetings and will keep the community up to date.

6. Correspondence and Announcements.

Alderman Pineda reported on the death of former West Chicago Fire Chief James Hamlin, who passed away July 5, 2008. Chief Hamlin was born in 1927 in West Chicago, and began his career in 1954 as a volunteer fire fighter. He worked up to Chief, becoming the first paid fire chief in West Chicago. He was highly respected and retired in 1986. Alderman Pineda provided information on the visitation and funeral. The Mayor said Chief Hamlin was a friend. The Mayor had been on the Fire Protection Board six years prior to running for alderman. The Mayor said Chief Hamlin brought a lot of updates to the Fire Department. The Mayor asked staff to lower the flag for seven days in Chief Hamlin's honor.

Alderman Murphy talked about the Canadian National proposed purchase of the EJ&E. He said he attended the meeting in Barrington representing the community group **4 the People**. Mayor Kwasman spoke there to a rally of about 200-300 people who are against the CN

proposal. **4 the People** has a web site 4dupage.org with information. They are making up 500 window signs and will have a booth at Railroad Days with a special pitch. He said there would be a donated Harley Davidson motorcycle to raffle for Special Olympics. Alderman Murphy said the City is not anti-CN, but the City will experience 24 trains a day, up from four. They will not be standard freight trains, but will be over 10,000 feet long with an average speed of 45 mph. Mayor Kwasman said the motorcycle is from the Kane County Sheriff's Department. We joined with them to sell the raffle tickets. There will be a rally in Pratts Wayne Wood and an update will be given of that event.

City Clerk Smith invited everyone to an open house prior to the Railroad Days parade at her home. She said she liked the opportunity to meet members of the community.

Upcoming Meetings. The Mayor announced the following meetings.

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| - July 14, 2008 | Development Committee |
| - July 15, 2008 | Plan Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals |
| - July 16, 2008 | Environmental Commission |
| - July 17, 2008 | Community Affairs Committee |
| - July 19, 2008 | WeGo Youth Advisory Board |

Alderman Pineda said there would be a special Finance Committee meeting on July 9, 2008.

7. Corporate Disbursement Report. Alderman Connelly made a motion, seconded by Alderman Bunch, to approve the July 7, 2008, Corporate Disbursement Report in the amount of \$ 1,531,252.57. Voting Yea: Aldermen Chassee, Beifuss, Monroe, Smith, Radkiewicz, Pineda, Bunch, Gianforte, Connelly, Stout, 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:** No report
- * **Finance Committee:** City Treasurer Early said that through a grant that the Mayor obtained, Pace Route 747 has been extended to West Chicago. He provided the route and said people can flag it down. It will run about every hour and the cost is about \$1.50. Senior citizens can ride for free. He encouraged people to ride the bus in order to keep it.
- * **Items Not Sent to Committee:** The Mayor read and explained the following items:
 - A. Approve –** City Council Meeting Minutes of June 16, 2008
 - B. Resolution 08-R-0080 –** A Resolution in Support of the Union Pacific West Line Improvements
 - C. Resolution 08-R-0083 –** A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Certain 1st Amendment to the Lease Agreement for 302 High Street
 - D. Ordinance 08-O-0058 –** An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of West Chicago – Chapter 3, Section 3-12 (c) to Decrease the Number of Class B-3 Liquor Licenses – Tivoli d/b/a Ocean Drive

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

9. Reports by Committees. None

10. Unfinished Business. None

11. New Business.

A. Ward Assessment. The Mayor said ward assessment is something that was done many years ago, perhaps 20. The Mayor would like to put the Aldermen to work by having them go through their wards and develop a needs assessment. He would like this done in 30

days. Items will be prioritized and go through committees to be completed. This has not been done for 20 years and West Chicago has grown.

12. Mayor's Comments. The Mayor said West Chicago becomes a party town during Railroad Days. The City is proud of Railroad Days, as it is a time for people to come together and neighbors to meet neighbors. In a party atmosphere, the City can show off and be proud of the downtown, roads, and heritage. The Mayor said Railroad Days will be here again next year and he wants people to be here so he is asking everyone to be safe and use logic. It is hot out there and the parade route is hot. People should watch their children. The Mayor wished all to have a safe Railroad Days and he hoped to see everyone out there. He will be out there to have a good time like everyone else.

13. Executive Session. There was no executive session.

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

15. Adjournment. At 7:32 pm, Alderman Chassee made a motion, seconded by Alderman Stout, to adjourn. Voting Yea: Aldermen Chassee, Beifuss, Monroe, Smith, Radkiewicz, Pineda, Murphy, Bunch, Gianforte, Connelly, Stout, and Fuesting. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy M. Smith
City Clerk