

These minutes were approved at the 9/15/08 City County meeting with no changes.

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO – 475 Main Street

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting

September 2, 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 Radkiewicz 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 James E. Beifuss, Jr., James Smith, Russell Radkiewicz, Ruben Pineda, Sandy Dimas, Alan Murphy, Gregory D. Bunch, Joey Gianforte, Nanette B. Connelly, Rebecca Stout, Nicholas Dzierzanowski, and Matt Fuesting present. Aldermen Lori J. Chassee and H. Ronald Monroe 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, Museum and Cultural Services Director LuAnn Bombard, Chief of Police Donald Goncher, City Administrator Michael L. Guttman, Marketing and Communications Coordinator Rosemary Mackey, and many members of the West Chicago Police Department.

5. **Public Participation.** No one spoke during regular public participation.

**A. Proclamation Number 486 – Honoring Richard Theodore on his Retirement.**

At the Mayor's request, the City Clerk read Proclamation Number 486 (copy attached) in which the Mayor recognized the accomplishments of Sergeant Richard Theodore for his 30 years of service to the citizens of West Chicago. Chief of Police Goncher invited all Officer Theodore's co-workers from the Police and Fire Departments up to recognize him and for them to be recognized. Chief Goncher said Officer Theodore has served in many capacities from patrolman, investigator in hundreds of interviews, and during the last few years, in the high school. He has worked with Officer Theodore for 29 of his 30 years. He wished to thank him personally and professionally for his contribution to law enforcement. The Mayor presented Officer Theodore with the framed Proclamation. Officer Theodore thanked the Mayor, Aldermen, Chief, Deputy Chiefs and all who he has worked with in the past and now. He thanked the City of West Chicago for 30 beautiful years. Officer Theodore received a standing ovation.

**Proclamation Number 487** – At the Mayor's request, the City Clerk read Proclamation Number 487 in which the Mayor proclaimed September 21, 2008, as *West Chicago Peace Day*. The United Nations officially declared the twenty-first day of September of every year to be *Peace Day*, calling for an international day of global ceasefire and nonviolence.

**Proclamation Number 488** – At the Mayor's request, the City Clerk read Proclamation Number 488 in which the Mayor proclaimed support for the nationwide campaign to "*Join the Voices for Recovery: Real People, Real Recovery*," and proclaimed the month of September as *Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month*.

**B. Introduction of Artist in Residence** – Museum Director Bombard introduced Anni Holm of the Cultural Arts Commission. Ms. Holm is the person who organized the Artist-in-Residence program. She in turn introduced Gudrun Hasle of Copenhagen, Denmark, who is taking part of this first residency. She will spend a month here in West Chicago. Ms. Hasle said she was happy to be here and happy that West Chicago has this program. She hoped everyone would come and participate in her project at the Museum.

**C. Fine Arts Fiesta Winners** – The Mayor called upon Museum Director Bombard who called upon Fredericka Howard, past Cultural Arts Commission Chair, to present the awards. Ms. Howard said this was the 15<sup>th</sup> show and it is a fun place for West Chicago artists to put their artwork out to the public. The Mayor helped present checks and ribbons to the winners thanking them for their support. Awards were presented as follows:

Fine Arts; 2-D, Sculpture: 1<sup>st</sup> – Edith Beeman  
(tie) 2<sup>nd</sup> – Marge Hall, Mandy Rakow  
3<sup>rd</sup> – Fredericka Howard

Fine Arts: Photography: 1<sup>st</sup> – Uwe Gsedl  
2<sup>nd</sup> – Britta Renwick (absent)  
(tie) 3<sup>rd</sup> – James Rakow, Philip Weibler

Student: 1<sup>st</sup> – Jessica Hansen  
2<sup>nd</sup> – Alexis Long  
3<sup>rd</sup> – Grace Beifuss

Craft: 1<sup>st</sup> – Alexis Long  
2<sup>nd</sup> – Leanne Stewart  
3<sup>rd</sup> – Leanne Stewart

**D. Update on CN Acquisition of EJ&E** – Alderman Pineda provided an update on the meetings held to discuss the STB's draft Environmental Impact Report. He said West Chicago had a strong showing with the Mayor, Aldermen Murphy, Fuesting, and himself, as well as Hugh Scott from the Fire Department and Jesse Felix from the Park District. There were 38 speakers against the acquisition and two in favor. He said it is very important to get the word out of how this acquisition will impact quality of life. He said the community needs to pull together to fight this acquisition. The STB said they the track can still be used even if the acquisition is denied. Alderman Pineda spoke of the harmful consequences on the community of multiple and long trains. TRAC is working to send at least a dozen members on September 10<sup>th</sup> to Washington, D. C. for the bill to require the STB to consider the impact on local communities. The bill would put people before freight, and either stop it or make the railroad pay for overpasses and underpasses and grade crossings and quiet zones. Joliet came out in favor of the acquisition and want to have a hub. Alderman Pineda said we have to stay motivated and hopefully get entire community convened.

Alderman Beifuss gave the docket number and address to write to oppose the acquisition. He said he learned at the public hearing that there was not much interest in mitigation of the increased traffic in West Chicago. He said there is also the consideration of environmental justice and the adverse impact on communities with dense minority populations. They see West Chicago with the densest minority population along the CN track. They also expect there would be a release of hazardous material during a year. Response people should consider where the population is densest and who will be impacted. He said people should write to the STB, attend meetings, visit the web site, and look at the hard copy of the report at the West Chicago Library.

Alderman Murphy said he went to the public hearing as a representative of *4 the People*. He asked the STB consultants what the report did not say. He wanted to know what the future holds for West Chicago in five years. They said with the Union Pacific, METRA, and the EJ&E, West Chicago is in the top five of the country today. In five years, it will be number one or two with more than 200 trains a day. The increases will affect everyone in town.

The Mayor thanked Don Early, and Aldermen Dzierzanowski, Fuesting, Murphy, and Beifuss for attending the meeting. West Chicago was well represented. He said the laws date from the mid-1800s and the desire is to change them. Their draft report is flawed. It is missing the effects on the parks and prairie. The Fire Chief and he took STB representatives on a tour and asked how much it would affect the commuter line and rail to rail clogging. This is not in the report. He said they have made this known to the STB and hope it has not fallen on deaf ears. He invited comments to the STB to be sent to his attention and he will ensure they are sent to the STB with the correct docket number. He also thanked Alderman Murphy for getting resolutions from other taxing bodies and *4 the People* for donation of the signs. TRAC has put together a lobbyist in Washington, D.C. He said many voices are needed to be heard and people should not wait too long. This City Council is dedicated to making our voices heard. He said West Chicago does intend to be enslaved by the railroad.

## **6. Correspondence and Announcements.**

Alderman Beifuss invited everyone to the West Chicago Historical Society Ice Cream Social at the Kruse House on Saturday from noon to 3:00 pm. In case of rain, it will be held at the VFW. There will be homemade pies and cakes, a silent auction, and games for the children. This is the Historical Society's primary fundraiser and tickets are only \$3.50.

The Pastor at St. Michaels Church said they would have a Peace party on September 21<sup>st</sup> and dedicate a new peace pole in front of the church. The event is from 1:00 – 3:00 pm, at 400 W. Washington Street. She invited everyone to attend.

City Clerk Smith thanked the Mayor and the City Council for the courtesies extended last week to the visiting Germans from the Sister City, Taufkirchen/Vils.

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

- September 4, 2008                    Infrastructure Committee (cancelled)
- September 8, 2008                    Development Committee

**7. Corporate Disbursement Report.** Alderman Connelly made a motion, seconded by Alderman Radkiewicz, to approve the September 2, 2008, Corporate Disbursement Report in the amount of \$ 369,288.74. Voting Yea: Aldermen Beifuss, Smith, 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:** Alderman Radkiewicz read and explained the following item:

**A. Ordinance 08-O-0065** – An Ordinance of the City of West Chicago, DuPage County, Illinois, Adding Article VII, Chronic Nuisance Property, to Chapter 10 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of West Chicago

Alderman Dimas made a motion, seconded by Alderman Fuesting, to adopt the item on the consent agenda. During discussion, Alderman Dimas felt that it is for everyone's benefit to make properties look their best. Voting Yea: Aldermen Beifuss, Smith, Radkiewicz, Pineda, Dimas, Murphy, Bunch, Gianforte, Connelly, Stout, Dzierzanowski, and Fuesting. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

- \* **Community Affairs Committee:** Alderman Stout read and explained the following items:

**B. Approve** – Parade Route and Use of City Right-of-Way, Including the Closure of Main and Galena Streets, and Providing City Staff Support for the Mexican Independence Day Celebration and Parade on September 14, 2008

**C. Approve** – The Closure of Main Street, Turner Court and Washington Street and Providing City Staff Support for the Annual Halloween Parade on October 25, 2008

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

- \* **Finance Committee:** No report
- \* **Items Not Sent to Committee:** The Mayor read and explained the following items:

**D. Approve** – City Council Meeting Minutes of August 18, 2008

**E. Approve** – Low Bid with Exelon Energy for a Three-Year Contract at a Weighted Price of 7.41 Cents Per Kilowatt Hour

**F. Resolution 08-R-0095** – A Resolution Applying for Community Development Block Grants for 2009-2010 DuPage County Consolidated Plan Year

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

**9. Reports by Committees.** None

**10. Unfinished Business.** The Mayor requested the Aldermen provide the data on their ward assessments this week so they could be brought up at the next City Council meeting.

**11. New Business.** Alderman Stout she had been given a petition with many signatures to look at the amusement tax at Bowling Green. The Mayor said he would ask staff to send this to the Finance Committee and notify Bowling Green of the date this would be heard. That will be the proper time to discuss this matter.

**12. Mayor's Comments.** The Mayor had two items: 1) He said he was very proud of the Fine Arts Fiesta. He said he and former Mayor Fortner saw the opportunity of buying the building on Main Street on behalf of the City and starting Gallery 200. It has been successful and growing. He thanked the people of West Chicago for coming to the gallery. He said there are so many hidden talents in West Chicago. We expand this program more every year. He is proud of the Gallery 200 and the City Museum. They are part of the future of West Chicago.

2) The Mayor asked West Chicagoans to come participate in Mexican Independence Day. He urged them to join in and learn about other cultures and participate in this important date in Mexican history. He will be there as well as the Aldermen. .

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

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

**15. Adjournment.** At 8:10 pm, Alderman Dimas made a motion, seconded by Alderman Dzierzanowski, to adjourn. Voting Yea: Aldermen Beifuss, Smith, Radkiewicz, Pineda, Dimas, Murphy, Bunch, Gianforte, Connelly, Stout, Dzierzanowski, and Fuesting. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy M. Smith  
City Clerk