

These minutes were approved at the 12/1/08 City Council meeting with no changes.

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO – 475 Main Street

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting

November 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.** Alderman Beifuss 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., 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 H. Ronald Monroe and James Smith 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 persons spoke during public participation:

1) Don Smith, 308 E. Grand Lake Boulevard, West Chicago, thanked the City for the youth who came out to rake the leaves in his yard last Saturday. He said it was greatly appreciated. He also reminded everyone of the Holiday Celebration for the Community to be held on December 6, 2008, and sponsored by the veterans of the American Legion and VFW Posts in West Chicago.

2) John Kruser, CableCom, West Chicago, provided information on programming. *The Urban Coyote* is being shown at the request of the City since coyotes have been sighted in the area. It is very good and everyone should view it. Next week there will be another edition of *Yesterday Today*, an historical program that is of such good quality it could be shown on PBS. Finally, CableCom is starting to show the Wheaton West Wild Competitive Hockey Team games. Players are from Wheaton North, Wheaton Academy (West Chicago), and West Chicago Community High School. Mr. Kruser thanked the City for all the support given to CableCom. He would like to receive feedback and the best method would be through e-mail: Cablecom17@ahoo.com. The Mayor thanked Mr. Kruser for a job well done.

**A. Proclamation Number 492 – National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month.** At the Mayor's request, the City read Proclamation Number 492, in which the Mayor proclaimed December 2008 as ***Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month*** in West Chicago and called upon everyone to promote awareness of the impaired driving problem, to support programs and policies to reduce the incidence of impaired driving, and to promote safer and healthier behaviors regarding the use of alcohol and other drugs this December holiday season and throughout the year.

**Proclamation Number 493 – Honoring Daisaku and Kaneko Ikeda.** At the Mayor's request, the City Clerk read Proclamation Number 493 (copy attached) in which the Mayor conferred the title of Honorary Citizen upon Daisaku and Kaneko Ikeda. The Mayor presented a copy of the Proclamation to members of the Soka Gakkai International Buddhist Association who were in attendance.

**B. Update on Residual Thorium Clean-up.** City Administrator Guttman said the sampling is finished for the winter and the EPA is still working to get access to the nine remaining properties. There will be another update in the spring.

**C. Update on CN Acquisition of EJ&E.** Alderman Pineda said TRAC has not met since October 17, 2008, but there is news. The Federal Transportation Board would like to force the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to speed up the Environmental Impact Statement; however, a Federal Court on Monday ruled against CN's request to require the STB to provide its ruling by December 31, 2008. This is good news as U.S. Steel can cancel the sale if it is not closed by that date. Alderman Pineda said the Mayor had forwarded information about a person who put together statistics for Army Trail Road and the impact of the increased number of trains coming through Wayne. There would be 70 cars waiting east bound with a wait of 19 minutes, and west bound with a wait of 18 minutes. Their idling would not be good for the environment, especially with the forest preserve in the area. With trains blocking the intersections, police and fire services would be negatively impacted. Those trains

would be coming to West Chicago. Alderman Pineda hoped that people would continue to contact their representatives in Washington, D.C.

Alderman Murphy, at the podium, said he is the Vice-Chair of **4 the People** and the point man on the CN acquisition of the EJ&E. He received a copy of the letter written by the West Chicago Library District, which is opposed to the acquisition and increased traffic. They are one of the many taxing bodies coming out in opposition. They are concerned that with 200 trains coming through, books would be vibrated off the shelves. In general, there will be 200 trains coming through on the EJ&E and UP lines in five years if the acquisition is approved. He also urged everyone to write to congressmen and relate opposition or favor, as this is the only way they will take action. Alderman Murphy thought the acquisition would be bad for West Chicago and surrounding communities.

## 6. Correspondence and Announcements.

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

- November 24, 2008           Public Safety Committee
- November 25, 2008           Historical Preservation Commission

**7. Corporate Disbursement Report.** Alderman Connelly made a motion, seconded by Alderman Beifuss, to approve the November 17, 2008, Corporate Disbursement Report in the amount of \$ 796,715.78. Voting Yea: Aldermen Chassee, Beifuss, 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:** Alderman Pineda read and explained the following item:

**A. Ordinance 08-O-0088** – An Ordinance Granting an Extension to the Preliminary PUD for Kipling Woods at St. Andrews – North Avenue and Atlantic Drive.

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

- \* **Infrastructure Committee:** Alderman Dzierzanowski read and explained the following item:

**B. Ordinance 08-O-0053** – An Ordinance Authorizing the Disposal of Surplus Equipment Owned by the City of West Chicago

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

- \* **Public Safety Committee:** No report

- \* **Community Affairs Committee:** No report

- \* **Finance Committee:** No report

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

**C. Approve** – City Council Meeting Minutes of November 3, 2008

**D. Resolution 08-R-0119** – A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Accept a Wetland Conservation Easement – Ball Horticultural – 622 Town Road

**E. Ordinance 08-O-0089** – An Ordinance of the City of West Chicago Authorizing the Acquisition of a Parcel Commonly Known as the “P.K.I. LLC,” Located at Illinois Route 59 and North Avenue for Corporate Purposes

**F. Ordinance 08-O-0090** – An Ordinance Authorizing the Acquisition of 101 West Washington Street

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

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

**9. Reports by Committees.** City Treasurer Early provided an update on the status of West Chicago's water rates as compared to surrounding communities. West Chicago's rates are in the lower half and will go even lower as Lake Michigan water is increased by 10% for the next two years and 15% the third year.

**10. Unfinished Business.** None

**11. New Business.** None

**12. Mayor's Comments.** The Mayor said as we gather for Thanksgiving with our families to enjoy the feasts, he would like people to think about those a little less fortunate. The food pantries are running low in West Chicago and surrounding communities. As the economy is slowly withering, they are in need of help. The Mayor asked all in West Chicago to give a little more to them. He said the community is there to help. He urged people to gather up as much as they could and buy a little more and drop off at the food pantries to make Thanksgiving a little better. The Mayor said he knows West Chicago is a community with heart and always comes through for those in need. They are our neighbors.

**13. Executive Session.** At 7:29 pm, Alderman Dimas made a motion, seconded by Alderman Connelly, to adjourn into executive session to discuss land acquisition [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5) (6)] and review official records [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21)]. Motion was carried by voice vote with Aldermen Chassee, Beifuss, Radkiewicz, Pineda, Dimas, Murphy, Bunch, Gianforte, Connelly, Stout, Dzierzanowski, and Fuesting indicating assent. There were no nay votes. Motion carried. Minutes for the executive session are filed separately.

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

**15. Adjournment.** See above.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy M. Smith  
City Clerk