

These minutes were approved at the 12/3/07 City Council meeting with no changes.

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO – 475 Main Street
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Regular Meeting
November 19, 2007

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 Monroe 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, Gregory L. Kauth, Russell Radkiewicz, Ruben Pineda, Sandy Dimas, Alan Murphy, Gregory D. Bunch, Nanette B. Connelly, Rebecca Stout, Nicholas Dzierzanowski, and Matt Fuesting present. Alderman Joey Gianforte was 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, City Administrator Michael L. Guttman, and Community Development Director Joanne Kalchbrenner.

5. Public Participation.

A. DuPage Senior Citizens Council. Mr. Greg Weider, executive director of the DuPage Senior Citizens Council, presented a Certificate of Appreciation (copy attached) to the City. The Mayor accepted and thanked Mr. Weider.

B. Arts Friendly Community Award – 2007. Museum Director Bombard said it was a pleasure to present to the Mayor and City Council a certificate that designates West Chicago as an Illinois Arts Friendly Community. West Chicago has a long history of fostering the arts as evidenced by the City Museum, Gallery 200, etc. On behalf of the Arts Community of West Chicago, she thanked the Mayor and City Council for their support of the arts and presented the certificate to the Mayor. A copy of the certificate is attached.

The following people spoke during public participation with regard to possible thorium contamination in their neighborhood:

Kathy Bentham speaking for Maria Salazar said they are here to find out more information. They have formed a new group, *Protect Life Against Thorium*. She said the letters from EPA that were sent to residents were in English, and no one answered the telephone at the number given for a translation. She said the residents want to work together and not cause trouble. Ms. Salazar said she would like to sell her home, but cannot because it has thorium. The owner of La India, 653 Joliet Street, said he did not live in West Chicago, but knows there are a lot of children in the area and the people would like more information. Miguel Gallegos, 124 W. Brown Street, West Chicago, was concerned that the truck traffic might pose a hazard for the residents, especially the children. Mark Dombek, 219 W. Stimmel Street, said he received a letter stating that his property was clear, but his concern also was that thorium is still being brought to the factory site. Paula Neltner, 216 W. Stimmel, said a newspaper article stated the City and EPA decided it was not necessary to notify people about the thorium issue when they come to the neighborhood. Ciricco Zarco, 237 W. Brown Street, said he needed a translator as he had many questions. Mr. Rosales translated for him. Maria G. Soto, 411 Church Street, was also present at the meeting.

The Mayor assured the residents that their children are West Chicago's most precious assets. He said trucks going to the factory do not spread thorium. The EPA oversees how it is handled and transported and would not allow contamination. The Mayor said the letters sent out by the EPA said the homes **may** have to be reexamined. If any contamination is found, it will be cleaned up. If a homeowner did not receive a letter, then the property is clean. He said the goal of the City is to keep the progress going until the thorium scare is gone. The Mayor said the City does not have the addresses of where the letters were sent, as that is a privacy issue between the homeowner and the EPA. He also said if anyone needs a translation to contact Valeria Perez on the Mayor's staff.

The following person spoke on another issue: Marianne King, 422 Virgie Place, West Chicago, said she wanted to thank anyone who had anything to do with getting the Arts Friendly Community award. She was the first Chair of the first Cultural Arts Commission, and it has been a long 14-year fight to get the gallery. She felt it would not have been so long if the present City Council were in office. She also thanked Museum Director LuAnn Bombard for her tireless efforts and for getting every possible funding and awards.

6. Correspondence and Announcements.

Upcoming Meetings. The Mayor announced the following meetings.

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| - November 20, 2007 | Plan Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals |
| - November 21, 2007 | Environmental Commission (cancelled) |
| - November 22, 2007 | Finance Committee (rescheduled to December 11, 2007) |
| - November 26, 2007 | Public Safety Committee |
| - November 27, 2007 | Historical Preservation Commission |
| - November 29, 2007 | Community Affairs Committee |

7. Corporate Disbursement Report. Alderman Kauth made a motion, seconded by Alderman Radkiewicz, to approve the November 19, 2007, Corporate Disbursement Report in the amount of \$ 306,484.49. Voting Yea: Aldermen Chassee, Beifuss, Monroe, Kauth, Radkiewicz, Pineda, Dimas, Bunch, 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 items:

A. Resolution 07-R-0120 – A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to Execute a Certain Downtown Rehabilitation Façade Program Agreement – Steven Treudt – 135 Fremont Street (for an amount not to exceed \$7,122.50)

B. Ordinance 07-O-0098 – An Ordinance Approving an Amendment to the Final PUD Plan of Phase 2B of St. Andrew’s Square – Popeye’s Chicken – 1730 N. Neltnor Boulevard

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

- * **Infrastructure Committee:** no report

- * **Public Safety Committee:** no report

- * **Community Affairs Committee:** Alderman Kauth urged everyone to attend Frosty Fest on December 1, 2007. He said it will be very good this year and includes live reindeer.

- * **Finance Committee:** no report

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

C. Approve - City Council Meeting Minutes of November 5, 2007

D. Approve – Reappointment of David Jacobson, as a Full Member, to the Building Board of Appeals, Term Ending April 30, 2009

E. Ordinance 07-O-0099 – An Ordinance of the City of West Chicago, DuPage County, Illinois, Extending a Temporary Moratorium on the Approval of New Banks and Financial Institutions in the B-1, B-2, and B-3 Zoning Districts

F. Ordinance 07-O-0100 – An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of West Chicago, Chapter 3, Section 3-12 (C) – Increasing the Number of Class E-1 Liquor Licenses and Authorizing the Issuance of a Class E-1 Liquor License to Mr. Hot Dog 2, Inc.

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

9. Reports by Committees. None

10. Unfinished Business. Alderman Kauth thanked the Youth Commission and the over 200 volunteers that came out for leaf raking last Saturday. In the past, Alderman Beifuss, Aldermen Pineda, and he would come around and pick up the leaves around 2:00 – 3:00 pm when they had 50 – 70 volunteers. But this year it was all done by 11:00 am. Thirty-three yards were raked. The seniors were very appreciative. The Mayor thanked the Youth Commission for a job well done.

11. New Business. The Mayor read the following items:

A. Approve – Appointments of Norm Strum, Dave Bergstrum, John Warbiany, and William Mitchell, as Full Members, to the Building Board of Appeals – Term Ending April 30, 2009

B. Approve – Appointment of Joe Kreidl, as an Alternate Member, to the Building Board of Appeals – Term Ending April 30, 2008

C. Approve – Appointment of Dennis Matousek to the Environmental Commission, Term Ending April 20, 2010

Alderman Fuesting made a motion, seconded by Alderman Murphy, to concur with the Mayor's appointments as stated above. Voting Yea: Aldermen Chassee, Beifuss, Monroe, Kauth, Radkiewicz, Pineda, Dimas, Murphy, Bunch, Connelly, Stout, Dzierzanowski, and Fuesting. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

12. Mayor's Comments. The Mayor said he has only received two phone calls about the thorium cleanup. There was an important presentation on October 30, 2007. He said only 41 residential properties *may* have buried residual thorium and *may* require further testing and analysis. The owners of those 41 properties were notified directly by the EPA. If a homeowner did not receive a letter, then their property is not impacted. The EPA technical experts indicated there is no health risk associated with buried residential thorium. The Mayor said the City will get information out to the public through several modes: 1) the City will work with the EPA to upload the October 30th PowerPoint presentation to the City website; 2) beginning in December the City website will contain regular updates about the status of this project; 3) beginning in January or February there will be a monthly update of the progress of the EPA of how the 41 properties will be further tested. This media should provide the people of West Chicago information about this project. The West Chicago City Council is committed to seeing that each property is cleaned up and could be used as property without any concern about thorium susputure.

The Mayor wished all of West Chicago the happiest of Thanksgivings and asked them to remember that "thanks" is part of the holiday.

13. Executive Session. At 7:40 pm, Alderman Chassee made a motion, seconded by Alderman Dimas, to adjourn into executive session to discuss personnel matters [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)], and review of official record [5 ILCS120/2(c)(21)]. Voting Yea: Aldermen Chassee, Beifuss, Monroe, Kauth, Radkiewicz, Pineda, Dimas, Murphy, Bunch, Connelly, Stout, Dzierzanowski, and Fuesting. Voting Nay: 0. 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