

These minutes were approved at the 12/15/08 City Council meeting with no changes.

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO – 475 Main Street

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting

December 1, 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 Gianforte 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, 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, Public Works Director Rob Flatter, and City Administrator Michael L. Guttman.

5. Public Participation. The following person spoke during public participation:

1) Don Smith, 308 E. Grand Lake Boulevard, West Chicago, once again invited the Mayor and City Council members to the Holiday Celebration for the Community to be held on December 6, 2008, at the American Legion. Mr. Smith net proceeds from the event will benefit the Food Pantry. He said the American Legion and the VFW make thousands of dollars in donations to the food pantry every year, but felt this would be a good time to donate more based on the Mayor's comments at the last meeting.

A. Proclamation No. 494 – Wildcat 100 lb Football Team. At the Mayor's request, the City Clerk read Proclamation 494 (copy attached), in which the Mayor proclaimed the Wildcat 100 lb football team "**Community Champions**" and congratulated the team members and coaches. The Mayor invited all the Champs to stand. He then presented *Excellence in Athletics* pins and *Mayoral Circle of Excellence* certificates to all who were in attendance and thanked them for a great job that made West Chicago proud. He then presented the Proclamation to Coach Joe Urban. Mr. Urban in turn presented the *Bill George Youth Football League, Bill Pope Trophy 2008, 100 lb AFC Gold Division Champion* trophy to the Mayor.

B. Presentation on Middle School Expansion Project. Dr. Ed Leman, Superintendent of School District 33, accompanied by Becky Koltz, District 33 Director of Community Relations, said there is much evidence of learning in the schools, but the state tests scores do not reflect that very well. The drop was due to the State Board of Education requiring all students to take the same test without regard to students not proficient in English. He then presented information on expanding the Middle School and moving the sixth graders there. The project will be funded through bond sales and not a tax increase, and no additional land is required. Dr. Leman said there would be a School Board meeting on December 18, 2008, to which the public is invited. He also said the next hour long presentation on the school expansion project would be held on December 11, 2008, at 7:00 pm, at the Middle School. He encouraged everyone to attend and provide input. He said they are keenly interested in what the public wants and their thoughts. He said if people let them know, they would do their best to provide that for them.

C. Update on CN Acquisition of EJ&E. Alderman Pineda said today is the day the Environmental Impact Statement should have been completed and turned over to the STB. The STB had a public meeting on November 18, 2008, and he heard there were several flaws in the proceedings with the biggest one being that the public could not make any comments. TRAC is urging everyone to have congressmen meet with the STB and address the flaws. Now it is a process of waiting. Brownie Scout Troop 138 at Norton Creek School is working on a new patch called, *Miss President – The White House Project*. In order to earn this patch they wrote to Mayor Kwasman about subjects important to West Chicago. The topic was EJ&E acquisition. Alderman Pineda read several of them. Mayor Kwasman said words from a child are often very wise. He said it shows how this merger affects everyone, from young children to senior citizens. He said he was very proud of the Brownies from Norton Creek. They think and know West Chicago is their home and felt compelled enough to write letters.

6. Correspondence and Announcements.

Upcoming Meetings. The Mayor announced the following meetings.

- December 2, 2008

Finance Committee

- December 4, 2008 Infrastructure Committee
- December 8, 2008 Development Committee

7. Corporate Disbursement Report. Alderman Connelly made a motion, seconded by Alderman Stout, to approve the December 1, 2008, Corporate Disbursement Report in the amount of \$ 371,255.17. Voting Yea: Aldermen Chassee, Beifuss, Monroe, 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:** Alderman Pineda read and explained the following item:

A. Resolution 08-R-0118 – A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Certain Easement Encroachment Agreement – 2750 Lehman Drive

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

- * **Infrastructure Committee:** Alderman Dzierzanowski said several things are happening at their meeting on Thursday at 7:00 pm. The Wayne and Winfield Township Highway Commissioners have been invited to attend to discuss roads and how best to provide service to the residents. There will be discussion on how roads are assessed. Residents of Meadowwood were also invited to attend this meeting.

- * **Public Safety Committee:** Alderman Dzierzanowski requested this item be taken off the consent agenda.

B. Ordinance 08-O-0086 – An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of West Chicago – Chapter 17 – Traffic, Article XVII, Schedules of Designated Streets; Division 6. Parking Prohibited at All Times.

- * **Community Affairs Committee:** Alderman Stout reminded everyone to attend Frosty Fest.

- * **Finance Committee:** City Treasurer Earley said the Committee meets tomorrow.

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

C. Approve – City Council Meeting Minutes of November 17, 2008

D. Ordinance 08-O-0092 – An Ordinance of the City of West Chicago Authorizing the First Amendment to the Lease Agreement for a Portion of Property at 325 Spencer Street

E. Ordinance 08-O-0085 – An Ordinance Authorizing the Transfer of Personal Property Owned by the City of West Chicago to the Winfield Fire Protection District

F. Resolution 08-R-0125 – A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Accept a Watermain Easement for 178 West Washington Street

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

9. Reports by Committees.

From Item 8. B: Ordinance 08-O-0086 – An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of West Chicago – Chapter 17 – Traffic, Article XVII, Schedules of Designated Streets; Division 6. Parking Prohibited at All Times.

Alderman Pineda made a motion, seconded by Alderman Dzierzanowski, to adopt Ordinance 08-O-0086. During discussion, Alderman Dzierzanowski made a motion that this matter be deferred to the next City Council meeting so he can do more research. Alderman Fuesting seconded the motion. Motion was carried by voice vote.

10. Unfinished Business. None

11. New Business. None

12. Mayor's Comments. The Mayor said some people have little to say about West Chicago, while some people look at West Chicago from its long history and bright future. Some people look at the community's past and see Thorium and gang issues that are about gone. Some people are concerned about the snowfall; however, this is what is hoped for this Saturday for *Frosty Fest*. The Mayor said everyone is invited, including Mr. and Mrs. Santa Clause from the North Pole, to enjoy West Chicago and see the looks on children's faces. There will be candy canes and games. The City is looking to make *Frosty Fest* a key event. He thanked the staff for making this possible and hoped the weather would be better than last year. He said he would be there and asked the City Council to come to the tree lighting and enjoy the fun.

13. Executive Session. At 7:40 pm, Alderman Fuesting made a motion, seconded by Alderman Beifuss, to adjourn into executive session to discuss land acquisition [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5) (6)], pending litigation [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)], and review of official record [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21)]. Motion was carried by voice vote with Aldermen Chassee, Beifuss, Monroe, Smith, Radkiewicz, Pineda, Dimas, Murphy, Bunch, Gianforte, Connelly, Stout, Dzierzanowski, and Fuesting indicating yea. No one voted nay. 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