



CITY OF HIGHWOOD

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City Council Meeting MINUTES

January 15, 2008 Regular City Council Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers
17 Highwood Avenue
Highwood, IL 60040

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Donofrio called the City Council Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Donofrio, Aldermen Pieri, Linari, Cahnmann, Bruni, Pecaro, Fiore, Murphy and Hospodarsky.

Absent: None.

Also present: S. Druktenis, City Clerk; R. Stefani, City Treasurer; M. Lasday, City Administrator; T. Lovejoy, Fire Chief; S. Henley, Assistant to the City Administrator; M. Sommer, City Planner; and D. Blondin, City Attorney

3. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by St. James Preschool students.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Alderman Linari moved for an approval of the minutes from the December 18, 2007 and the January 2, 2008 Regular City Council Meetings. Alderman Hospodarsky seconded the motion. All Aldermen voted aye. The motion carried.

5. AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Fire Chief Lovejoy made an award presentation to Martha Pettineo in recognition of her response to the train/vehicle accident victim. She is a nurse/paramedic, was the first person on the scene and is credited with saving the victim's life.

6. PUBLIC FORUM

- Laurie Borman, Highwood resident, feels that the Morningside proposal is not what Highwood deserves and that it is a minimum facelift. Not changing the floor plans would provide inadequate facilities. There needs to be more green space and better floor plans. She indicated that North Shore estates are Highwood's "Robert Taylor homes/Cabrini Greens" and urged the Council to reject the Morningside proposal.
- Lisa Cervac, 239 Burchell, thanked the aldermen for tabling the text amendment (Morningside) proposal. She originally supported the proposed development but since has some concerns (i.e., sidewalk, balconies, could take up to 6 to 8 years to completed). She also thanked Mega for tabling their proposal in light that the petition from the owners that about the property may change the vote. She feels that Mega

- should be concerned with what happens with Morningside. The Developers did not have an opportunity to review their individual plans. She also hopes that the Plan Commission has access to a Planner so someone can review the proposals critically.
- Amy Strege, Highwood resident, indicated that she has strong emotional ties to the city and is a board member of the Highwood Historical Society. She feels that Highwood should not settle and that there has been a lot of time and effort put into something that will not be approved. The proposal for the south side of the property is even worse. She thanked the Council for tabling the matters.
 - Paula Bernstein, 144 Ronan Road, thanked the Council for allowing the community to speak and for listening to the people. People are concerned about the Highwood Towers proposal as well as the proposal for North Shore Estates. She feels that the city needs to take a second look and should not be kept captive, i.e., “do it or else”. We should negotiate for what we deserve. It means a lot to the community to be listened to. The Council is voted into office but it is the people who voted the Council in. The developers need to negotiate more with the citizens.
 - Paul Diambri, Highwood business owner, thanked the aldermen for holding the ward meetings and commended them for their exchange. He noted that citizens are not against development; they care about a carefully planned development. The bar should be set high. Regarding the North Shore Estates development, he felt that the bar is set too low and the developer indicated that they did not want to take questions. He feels there are two sides; one being the Council and one being the public.
 - Alex Largo, Highwood property owner, indicated that he is bothered by the “half truths” he has heard. He feels that the citizens against the developments are not the majority but rather the minority. He feels that more people are needed in Highwood to patronize the business. He does not feel it will over burden the infrastructure, Fire Department or Police Department. He hopes the proposals pass.
 - Joe Passini, Highwood resident and business property owner, attended the two ward meetings and felt that it was unfortunate that they were not well attended by the people in the specific wards. He felt he was listening to nonsense from the same people. He produced a document that contained more than 100 signatures that indicated support for the Highwood Towers (many are from businesses) and read an article in the Highland Park news regarding Highland Park Development. He feels that three aldermen are holding back development in Highwood. He indicated he had letters from several business owners and read one of the letters, from resident and ex alderman, Bruno Giangorgi, in support of Highwood Towers. The signatures and letters were provided to the City Clerk.

7. REPORTS

a. Mayor's Report

1. Announcements – volunteers are needed for a number of committees. Applications can be obtained at City Hall.
2. Mayor Donofrio indicated that he has contacted two Planners to review the Highwood Towers proposal. One report is from Teska Associates and the other is from John Houseal. He distributed the reports to the Council and asked that they review the material. A representative from

Teska, Scott Goldstein, was present and indicated that in his review, he looked into existing conditions, conformance with plan, compliance with zoning and plan development and then made recommendations. The two reports will be made available to the public. It was noted that North Shore Estates property was not taken into account in the reports and City Administrator Lasday will look into having the Planners review the Morningside proposal and the Highwood Towers proposal as one PUD.

- b. City Administrator's Report
 - 1. Library Report – The Library Director and an Advisory Board Member were present to discuss the budget process, the real estate tax dollars needed to support the Library and a number of the Library's needs.
 - 2. Fire Chief Report- Fire Chief Lovejoy summarized the Fire Department report that was included in the Council's materials. Chief Lovejoy also noted that there has been an offer of employment made to a lateral transfer.
 - 3. Police Chief Report – An arrest summary for 2007 was provided in the Council's materials.
 - 4. Building Department Report – Marilyn Sommer updated the Council on two items; 1) a Certificate of Occupancy will be granted, effective, January 16, 2008 for Bridie McKenna and 2) property owners at 228 S. Central have indicated that they do not want to build a house with a brick facade.
 - 5. Code Enforcement Report –Jeff Harding updated the Council on recent code enforcements, which include the issuance of 10 violation notices and 2 citations. He also noted that the light ballasts in front of City Hall have been replaced and are in the process of determining whether or not they were defective. He is currently performing follow-up inspections and the 2008 rental inspection letters have been distributed. Six property owners have not complied. He also noted that providing water to the Army has resulted in zero impact on the water plant.

- c. Aldermen Reports
 - 1. The Joint Plan Commission and Zoning Board Meeting was held on January 10, 2008 and was continued to January 23, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.
 - 2. The Long Term Planning committee will meet with the Finance committee on February 4, 2008 @ 6:30 p.m. They would then like to present their recommendation at the February 5, 2008 Committee of the Whole Meeting.
 - 3. Alderman Linari noted the 3rd Ward Meeting that was held as well as thanked the Public Works Department for their snow removal efforts.
 - 4. Judiciary Meeting was rescheduled for Monday, January 21, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.
 - 5. Alderman Pecaro noted that the 1st ward meeting was attended by approximately 25 to 30 people (15 from the 1st ward) and the Aldermen for this ward plan to hold meetings more frequently.

- d. Approval of Bills - Alderman Linari, seconded by Alderman Pecaro, moved for an approval of the Bills as read by City Treasurer Stefani. Upon a call of the roll the following voted:

Ayes: Pieri, Linari, Cahnmann, Bruni, Pecaro, Fiore, Murphy,
Hospodarsky
Abstain: None
Nays: None
Absent: None

The motion carried.

- e. Treasurer's Report - Alderman Pieri, seconded by Alderman Linari, moved for an approval of the Treasurer's Report for the month of December 2007 as read by City Treasurer Stefani. Upon a call of the roll the following voted:

Ayes: Pieri, Linari, Cahnmann, Bruni, Pecaro, Fiore, Murphy,
Hospodarsky
Abstain: None
Nays: None
Absent: None

The motion carried.

- f. Finance Directory, Nick Narducci noted that the monthly financial reports and the annual audit are now on the website.

8. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. **2008-R-2 – A Resolution Approving an Intergovernmental Construction Traffic Management Agreement and Plan** – Alderman Linari, seconded by Alderman Fiore, moved to approve a Resolution Approving an Intergovernmental Construction Traffic Management Agreement and Plan with the following conditions: No official or other representative of the City of Highwood will attend or otherwise participate in any meeting, teleconference or other gathering in which representatives or agents of any one or more of the United States Navy, Midwest Military Communities, LLC, Midwest Family Housing, LLC and/or Forest City are participants, unless one of Highwood's city attorneys is also a participant and unless Highwood's legal fees for such participation are reimbursed by one of the foregoing other participants. It was also noted that the \$150,000 will be put in escrow and used to repair the streets.

Upon a call of the roll the following voted:

Ayes: Pieri, Linari, Cahnmann, Bruni, Pecaro, Fiore, Murphy
Abstain: Hospodarsky
Nays: None
Absent: None

The motion carried.

- b. Alderman Bruni, seconded by Alderman Linari, moved to table the following two items until the February 5, 2008 meeting.
 - Zoning Code Text Amendment related to condominium requirements
 - Ordinance amending zoning Ordinance to rezone 700 North Sheridan Rd. As a PUD

Upon a call of the roll the following voted:

Ayes: Pieri, Linari, Cahnmann, Bruni, Pecaro, Fiore, Murphy,
Hospodarsky

Abstain: None

Nays: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

9. **OLD BUSINESS** – It was noted that there was no response to a letter that was sent to the surrounding property owners requesting input on a proposed stop sign at Euclid Court and Euclid Ave. Feedback should be submitted to City Hall or the matter will be dropped.
10. **ADJOURN** - Alderman Pieri, seconded by Alderman Hospodarsky, motioned to adjourn the meeting and to reconvene the Committee of the Whole Meeting. All Aldermen voted aye. The meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Druktenis - City Clerk