



CITY OF HIGHWOOD

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City Council Meeting
MINUTES
November 5, 2008 Regular City Council Meeting
7:30 p.m.

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, Pecaro, Fiore, Bruni, Murphy and Hospodarsky.

Absent: None

Also present: S. Druktenis, City Clerk; R. Stefani, City Treasurer; G. Jackson, City Manager; A. Marrin, Assistant City Manager; D. Blondin, and J. Stein, City Attorneys.

3. **PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES –**

- a. Alderman Murphy, seconded by Alderman Pecaro, moved for an approval of the minutes from the October 21, 2008 Committee of the Whole Meeting. Upon a call of the roll the following voted:

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

The motion carried.

- b. Alderman Linari moved for an approval of the minutes from the October 21, 2008 Executive Session Meeting. Alderman Bruni seconded the motion. Alderman Cahnmann indicated that he was not present on October 21, 2008 to vote on the release of the October 7, 2008 minutes but felt that the October 7, 2008 executive session minutes should have reflected his recommendation that employees should be questioned for clarification prior to any action taken upon Alderman Murphy. It was noted that the October 7, 2008 minutes had already been approved. Upon a call of the roll the following voted on the October 21, 2008 executive session minutes:

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

Abstain: Cahnmann
Nays: None
Absent: None

The motion carried.

- c. Alderman Murphy, seconded by Alderman Linari, moved for an approval of the minutes from the October 21, 2008 City Council Meeting. Upon a call of the roll the following voted:

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

The motion carried.

5. PUBLIC INPUT:

- Donna Krol, 316 Grove Street, complained about the poor upkeep of Everts Park. She noted a broken swing, weeds, chips worn away (plastic underneath coming up), etc. She has reported this to City Hall a number of times and nothing has been done. She asked who was responsible for the maintenance of the park? City Manager Jackson reported that he has asked the Directory of Public Works to make an assessment of what needs to be addressed and will also discuss ongoing maintenance.
- Joe Passini, 216 Burchell, noted the “Bocce Night for the Rec” fundraiser on November 22, 2008. He also noted the prior comments, in that wood chips are needed for the ballpark as well and perhaps they could be purchased together for a volume discount. Mr. Passini noted that the fundraiser has received a lot of support and he recognized the various businesses that have made donations. \$6,500 has been raised so far and raffle tickets are still available through various avenues.
- Alex Largo, property owner (Sheridan Road), discussed rumors he has heard, specifically, that the Council is not getting anything done. He noted, a case in point, were the past administration did not handle the parkland near the water tower appropriately. He felt that those who want to take shots at the current administration should be ashamed of themselves.

6. **CITY MANAGER’S REPORT** – City Manager Jackson reported on progress on many initiatives that include: 1) the budget, 2) the Westover Property, 3) the Business Response Team, 4) an Ethics Ordinance, 5) Property Casualty Insurance, 6) the Mayor’s Housing initiative, and 7) a RFP for the City’s technology infrastructure.

7. APPOINTMENTS

Alderman Pecaro, seconded by Alderman Linari, moved to approve the appointment of Alderman James Hospodarsky and Alderman Michael Fiore to the Ethics Committee. Upon a call of the roll the following voted:

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

Abstain: None
Nays: None
Absent: None

The motion carried.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Alderman Bruni, seconded by Alderman Linari, moved to remove the following items from the Consent agenda and to table them until future City Council Meetings:

1. Resolution Honoring 35 Years of Service to Highwood Police Department-Frank Reinier (tabled until 11/18/08).
2. Variation Request for a Subdivision and Expansion/Renovation of Existing Single Family Dwelling located 106 South Central (tabled until 11/18/08).
3. Motion to Approve Comcast Franchise Agreement (tabled until 12/1/08).
4. Motion to Approve North Shore Gas Franchise Agreement (tabled until 12/1/08).

Upon a call of the roll the following voted:

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

The motion carried.

- b. It was also requested that the following items be considered separately:

1. Approval of Variation Ordinance- VP Properties 323/329 Waukegan Avenue (Fence Variation).
2. Ordinance Establishing the City of Highwood Real Estate Transfer Stamp Requirement.

- c. Alderman Linari, seconded by Alderman Hospodarsky, moved to approve the remaining items on the consent agenda as follows:

1. **2008-R-29** – A Resolution To Include Compensation Paid Under An Internal Revenue Code Section 125 Plan as IMRF Earnings
2. **2008-O-38A** – An Ordinance Amending the Zoning Ordinance Section 9.7.4
3. **2008-O-39** – An Ordinance-Providing for the Recoupment of Advances for Construction of a Sanitary Sewer Along Lockard Lane
4. **2008-O-40** - An Ordinance Granting a Variation from the City Appearance Code (440 Sheridan Road) (Carpets of Highwood/Signage)
5. **2008-O-41** - An Ordinance Granting a Variation from the City Appearance Code (327/329 Waukegan Avenue) (Soben Studios /Signage)
6. **2008-O-42** - An Ordinance Granting a Variation from the City Appearance Code (742 Sheridan Road) (Lake Forest Lamp and Shade/Signage)

Upon a call of the roll the following voted:

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

The motion carried.

- d. **2008-O-43 - An Ordinance Granting a variation from the Appearance Code for the City of Highwood for 323/329 Waukegan Avenue (VP Properties/Fence Variation)** – Alderman Bruni, seconded by Alderman Pieri, moved to approve the Ordinance Granting a variation from the Appearance Code for the City of Highwood for 323/329 Waukegan Avenue conditional on the City Manager’s confirmation from Police Chief Rossi that the fence will not cause a visual obstruction. Upon a call of the roll the following voted:

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

The motion carried.

- e. **2008-O-44 – An Ordinance Establishing the City of Highwood Real Estate Transfer Stamp Requirement** – Alderman Bruni, seconded by Alderman Hospodarsky, moved to approve the Ordinance Establishing the City of Highwood Real Estate Transfer Stamp Requirement with the two changes noted during the Committee of the Whole Meeting. It was noted that Highwood is the first community in Lake County to pass and Ordinance like this; however, a number of communities have adopted and amended non-tax regulations (a tax stamp cannot be passed without a Referendum). Lake County will not give an opinion on this until we have passed the Ordinance. Upon a call of the roll the following voted:

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

The motion carried.

9. **ALDERMAN/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a. City Treasurer Stefani reported that School District 112 received a Grant for providing healthy snacks (fruits and vegetables) to school children. The Grant requires community involvement and should any one want to volunteer, they should contact the school.
- b. Finance and Budget Committee – Alderman Pecaro reported that a meeting was held this week to review the budget and a follow-up meeting will be held on November 12, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. City Attorney Blondin reminded the Council that we would need an estimate of the taxes for the next meeting. The Truth in Taxation process needs to be

followed before an adoption of an Ordinance, which would need to be adopted by December 16, 2008. The tax estimate can be reduced but not increased. City Manager Jackson noted that it is important for the Public to know that a strong budget was prepared; however, because of the economic climate, we may have to reduce services. Alderman Murphy questioned whether the annual report was published since she did not see it in the Highland Park News. Last year it was published in the Waukegan News Sun and it was noted that it was more expensive and should be published in the Highland Park News. City Manager Jackson will look into this.

- c. Capital Improvement Planning Committee – The Capital Improvement Planning Committee did not meet because efforts were devoted to the budget discussion.
 - d. Judiciary Committee – Alderman Cahnmann indicated that a draft Retrofit Sprinkler Ordinance has been prepared, the next Judiciary Meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. and the goal is to present the draft Ordinance at the next Committee of the Whole Meeting.
 - e. Highwood for the Holidays – City Manager Jackson reported that the event (November 29) would include the Navy and Army. We will ask them to join us in decorating the town, lunch and refreshments will be provided, followed by a dinner at St. James Church, caroling and at 7:00 p.m., the lighting of the streets. Many local politicians and Army/Navy officials will be invited. Donations have been received from individuals, businesses and the Chamber of Commerce.
 - f. Lisa Cervac, representing the Highwood Historical Society, noted that she has tried to get funding to host a similar event (holiday lighting in the neighborhoods) and there will be a Highwood Historical Society fundraiser held at the Bocce Club on November 11, 2008.
10. **ADJOURN** - Alderman Hospodarsky, seconded by Alderman Pecaro, motioned to adjourn the meeting. All Aldermen voted aye. The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Druktenis - City Clerk