



CITY OF HIGHWOOD COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

17 Highwood Avenue
Highwood, Lake County, Illinois
(847) 432-1924 phone
(847) 432-0735 fax

MINUTES

August 4, 2009

6:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER.

Mayor Pecaro called the City Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL.

Present: Mayor Pecaro, Alderman Linari, Cahnmann, Murphy-Pieri, Bruni, Fiore, Sepulveda and Harpster.

Absent: Alderman Falberg, City Clerk Marcia Burke.

Also present: City Treasurer Patricia Lenzini, G. Jackson, City Manager; Anne Marrin, Assistant City Manager; J. Harding, Director of Community Development and Water Distribution, Chief Tom Lovejoy HWFD, Dan Blondin, City Attorney, Jeff Stein, City Attorney.

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Alderman Linari made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining and pending litigation. Seconded by Alderman Bruni. All Aldermen voted aye. Motion carried.

4. RECONVENE

Mayor Pecaro called the Committee of the Whole meeting reconvened at 6:14 p.m. No action from Executive Session is necessary.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

6. APPOINTMENTS

None.

7. SPECIAL BUSINESS.

The presentation from the community Family Center of Highland Park will be rescheduled due to a conflict with the administrator.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- 8.1. *Engineering Agreement with Baxter & Woodman for Sheridan Road LAPP Funds*-The engineering agreement for the Sheridan Road Project was presented. It was stated that the packets are time sensitive as these are for the Federal Stimulus Funds. Alderman Murphy-Pieri asked why are we going with Baxter & Woodman? In addition a discussion ensued regarding a project manager for road and sewer projects. It used to be Jim Johnson and the Council knew where they were at each project and were given time frames. The Council would like to see this again. Alderman Murphy-Pieri stated that past projects were done incorrectly such as the 18 inch curbs on Sheridan Road. Assistant City Manager, Anne Marrin stated that Baxter & Woodman gave a bid of \$19,000 for the project and Bleck engineering gave a bid of \$52,000. Alderman Murphy-Pieri asked why Baxter suddenly lowered their prices. Ms. Marrin explained that Baxter had initially done the pre-engineering and had all specs and drawing so the remainder of the project would be less. Alderman Harpster stated that the price difference may be due to a cost-break out. Alderman Murphy Pieri requested bids from other engineers. Ms. Marrin explained that this is time sensitive due to the fund dispersal and IDOT requirements.
- 8.2 *City of Highwood Elevator Ordinance Inspection Program*-City Attorney Jeff Stein stated that although the Council passed the ordinance a program of inspections needed to be put in place as they did not have specifics of when inspection were to be completed. It enables the City Inspectors and the City Manager to schedule required inspections. The change of ordinance will be put into codification. They require the same standards as before.
- 8.3 *Rienzi Lane*-City Manager Jackson stated that this topic has gone through the Public Safety Committee and they determined that Rienzi should be one-way going south. Alderman Cahnmann asked to check and see if there was a stop sign already located at Rienzi. City Manager Jackson will verify.
- 8.4 *Mayoral Board, Committees and Appointments*-Mayor Pecaro stated that he has application out for the Boards and Committees but has yet to receive any back. The new Council had reached it ninety days and has given the mayor time to reflect of the accomplishments. If he had to give a grade it would be a C+. He came in and has watched and observed for ninety days. He believes he did not do what a mayor should do. He allowed the committees to run and empowered them. They were weak in the goals and direction of the committees but strong in energy. He would like the Council to keep the energy and bring more ideas and solve more issues.
- 8.5 *Economic Incentives*-The Council requested that Greg Jackson, Mayor Pecaro and Alderman Falberg begin discussions with Morningside Group regarding Fort Sheridan Place. Morningside entertained the thought of getting quotes for the redevelopment and revisions for the property. Mr. Jackson explained that they attempted to put together a proposal for an economic incentive. It is a valuable tool which places the right dollars in the right project to help move development forward. Mayor Pecaro stated that it was a good faith effort by all involved but because of many phone calls and concerns of people they have decided to table the issue as they cannot do it as quickly as they need to.
- 8.6 *Letter of Engagement*-Letter from Meckler, Bulger, Tilson Marick and Pearson to represent the collective bargaining unit for the Fraternal Order of Police. The mayor met with them and had a lengthy conversation. Meckler etc. has years of dealing with the FOP and it was a good meeting. In addition, Alderman Falberg met with them and was impressed with them. Because of their knowledge of the

FOP there is no learning curve. A discussion ensued regarding choosing the firm with little notice. Alderman Linari pointed out that the mayor met with them as well as the city manager. It was then decided that the Joe Tilson would be asked to attend the August 18, 2009 COW meeting to answers any further questions the Council may have.

9. OLD BUSINESS

None.

10. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION ON CONSENT AGENDA FOR REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

City Attorney Dan Blondin advised the Council to take each matter individually.

10.1 City Manager Jackson explained this was the agreement with the Fire Fighter's union for concessions as discussed earlier.

10.2 The approval of the letter of Engagement will be tabled until attorney Joe Tilson, can come before the Council and answer questions.

10.3 – 10.4 City Manager Jackson explained that the engineering contract for Federal Stimulus need to be approved.

10.4 The Ordinance Granting a Variation From the City of Highwood Appearance Code for Fort Sheridan Improvements-Alderman Murphy-Pieri wanted to know is there an Exhibit A and how much in liability insurance there was. She also questioned the proposed sign in from of the building. Alderman Harpster stated that the Council did have the discussion regarding the sign and that Chief Rossi had checked into it and determined there was no obstruction to traffic.

10.5 Surplus of City Personal Property-Bicycles from the Police Department. Alderman Harpster stated that he thought it was a great idea but he had one concern-that they were all going to Oak Terrace-what about other areas such as the Nuestro Center? We should spread it out through the city to everybody.

Mr. Jackson clarified for the Council that the Fort Sheridan approval was only for the lighting, fence, landscape and signage and nothing else.

11. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Linari at 7:13 p.m. Seconded by Alderman Sepulveda. All ayes, motion approved.

15. ADJOURN - Alderman Hospodarsky made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Bruni. All Aldermen voted aye. The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anne Marrin-Assistant City Manager/Deputy Clerk

**City of Highwood
17 Highwood Avenue
Highwood, Lake County, Illinois
Telephone (847) 432-1924
Fax (847) 432-0735**

**Regular City Council Meeting
August 4, 2009 – 7:30 P.M.
Minutes**

1. Call to Order

Mayor Pecaro call the meeting to Order at 7:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Pecaro, Aldermen Linari, Bruni, Fiore, Murphy-Pieri, Cahnmann, Sepulveda, Harpster.

Absent: Alderman Falberg, City Clerk Marcia Burke.

Also Present: City Treasurer Trish Lenzini, City Manager Greg Jackson, Assistant City Manager Anne Marrin, Dan Blondin and J. Stein City Attorneys, Jeff Harding, Community Development Director, Chief Tom Lovejoy, Highwood Fire Department.

3. Pledge to the Flag

All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

4-5. Executive Session

Mayor Pecaro stated no Executive Session was necessary.

6. Approval of Minutes, Committee of the Whole Minutes of July 21, 2009; Regular City Council Minutes, July 21, 2009; Executive Session Minutes of June 2, 2009 and July 7, 2009. Alderman Murphy-Pieri stated that she did not have time to review the executive session minutes.

Motion to approve the minutes of the Committee of the Whole and Regular Council Meeting of July 21, 2009 made by Alderman Murphy-Pieri; Seconded by Alderman Cahnmann. Upon a call of the roll the following voted:

Ayes: Alderman Linari, Bruini, Fiore, Murphy-Pieri,
Cahnmann, Sepulveda

Abstain: Alderman Harpster

Nays: None

All in favor, motion carried.

7. Appointments

None.

8. Special Business

None.

9. Public Input

Paula Bernstein 134 Ronan

Ms. Bernstein stated that she had a several questions from the COW meeting regarding the engineering group, Baxter & Woodman. She wanted to know if she was hearing correctly that the city already paid for the portion of the bid. If the city already paid, don't we own it? Could we say it is already done?

Secondly, Fort Sheridan Place-She saw it was taken off the agenda but if incentives are given she asked the Council to please put sprinklers on the list. Finally, she would like to add that that the law firm of Meckler etc., is very good as Joe Tilson is a long time friend. He is fabulous and she advised the Council to make sure that they state they want Mr. Tilson to represent them in their letter.

Kathy Dutka-500 Lakeview

Ms. Dutka has concerns regarding an RV that parks by the condominium building. This RV now has a trailer attached and takes up two spaces of parking. She is now having issues with pulling out of the parking garage as it is a steep incline and she cannot see oncoming traffic. If you need to get out you must accelerate to make it up the incline. She almost hit a person on a bike and there has been one accident there already. In addition, it is not a very nice sight outside of one's balcony. Ms. Dutka wanted to know if he was allowed to park there overnight for 24 hours? She does know he received a special permit to park there but he can park on the east or west side. City Manger Jackson asked if Ms. Dutka had taken any photos or if she could take some. He stated that City Hall will respond to this and we will place it on the Public Sfaety Committee agenda for the next meeting.

10. Mayor's Report

Mayor Pecaro stated that the city is looking into the creation of an electronic newsletter. He would like to get it out within the next 30 days. All departments would have reports and the Council needs to decide where they want to go with it.

11. City Manager's Report

Mr. Jackson will give a formal report at the next meeting in August. He stated that he met with representatives from Senator Burris' office. They will work with staff on the Stable Community Project. Mayor Pecaro is the Co-Chairman of the Metropolitan Mayor's Caucus on the Housing Committee so this will help with future projects as well. The final property rental inspections

have been completed for Fort Sheridan Place and a formal review is being completed before it is dispersed.

Mayor Pecaro stated that City Manager Jackson has been with the city for one year and offered him his congratulations. He stated that they have seen many accomplishments:

\$144,000 deficit illuminated

All departments heads and staff are motivated and moving forward under his leadership.

We are now an ICMA approved city with ICMA recognition under the Council-Manager form of government.

\$1.3 million in grants awarded to the city.

He has engaged our representatives from local state and federal agencies and they are more responsive to our needs.

He also is a professor at IIT, he is on the Lake County Municipal League, Community Advisor at Highland Park Hospital.

He has been instrumental with the continuing Fort Sheridan Golf Course committee.

Legislative Agenda

Salt Dome and salt purchasing program last year that saved the city \$40,000.

Mayor Pecaro also added that staff has done an amazing job. They have done wonders with what they are given.

12. Committee Reports

Long Term Planning Committee-(Alderman Harpster)-Alderman Harpster stated that they are moving forward with the Rain Barrel Program with sponsorship by Coca-Cola. This program is funded by Senator Garrett's office and will consist of recycled barrels. They will be presenting a roll-out at Oak Terrace School and discussing the benefits of rain barrels for the environment and water conservation. They are hoping they can get the barrels free of charge.

Western Avenue Lift Station-Alderman Harpster, Steve Versman from Baxter & Woodman and staff met with Metropolitan Pump to review the problems and better understand what to do long term Jeff Ponsi called Metro and removed the pump and it is being repaired.

Special Events Committee-(Alderman Falberg)-There will be a Special Events Committee meeting on August 11th which will be a joint meeting with Public Outreach at 7:00 p.m. The Farmer's Market is a huge success.

Legislative Committee-(Alderman Murphy-Pieri)-The committee met on July 28th and review the Life Safety Code. They will meet again on August 11th at 8:00 p.m. to review the Property Maintenance Code.

Mr. Jackson clarified that the Finance Committee meeting on August 11th will meet at 5:00 p.m.

13. Consent Agenda

City Attorney Dan Blondin stated that the items on the Consent Agenda will be reviewed separately.

13.1 Motion to Approve Supplementary Agreement Between the City of Highwood and Highwood Fire Fighters Union, Local 3993.

A motion to accept the agreement was made by Alderman Linari. Seconded by Alderman Fiore.

Alderman Murphy-Pieri made a motion to table the agreement for two weeks until the next Council meeting. Seconded by Alderman Sepulveda.

Attorney Blondin stated that due to the two motions the issue will now go to a yes/no vote—yes meaning that you want to table the agreement until the next Council meeting or no-meaning you do not want to table the agreement and will vote to accept.

Upon a call of the roll the following voted:

Yes: Murphy-Pieri, Sepulveda, Cahnmann, Harpster

No: Linari, Bruni, Fiore

Abstain: None

Absent: Falberg

All in favor, motion to table the agreement for two weeks carried.

13.2 Motion to Approve a Letter of Engagement with Meckler, Bulger, Tilson, Marick and Pearson to Represent the City of Highwood on Labor Negotiations with the Fraternal Order of Police.

A discussion ensued regarding the law firm and Alderman Murphy-Pieri stated that this item should be tabled until Mr. Tilson could come before the Council to clarify any questions the aldermen have. Motion to table until the next Council meeting.

13.3 Resolution-Improvement by Municipality Under the Illinois Highway Code-Illinois Department of Transportation-Sheridan Road LAPP Improvements.

Motion to table until the next Council meeting.

13.4 Motion to Approve Engineering Services Agreement Between Baxter & Woodman for Sheridan Road LAPP Improvements.

Motion to table until the next Council meeting.

13.5 Approval of an Ordinance Granting a Variation from the City of Highwood Appearance Code. (Fort Sheridan Place).

Manager Greg Jackson clarified that this was for the Landscape, lights, signage and fencing only.

A motion to approve the ordinance was made by Alderman Linari. Seconded by Alderman Harpster.

Upon a call of the roll the following voted:

Ayes: Linari, Bruni, Fiore, Murphy-Pieri, Cahnmann, Sepulveda, Harpster
Abstain: None
Nays: None
Absent: Falberg

All in favor, motion carried.

13.6 Approval of an Ordinance Authorizing the Disposal of Surplus City Personal Property.

Motion to table until the next Council meeting.

A motion to table consent agenda items 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 13.4 and 13.6 was made by Alderman Linari. Seconded by Alderman Sepulveda.

Upon a call of the roll the following voted:

Ayes: Linari, Bruni, Murphy-Pieri, Cahnmann, Sepulveda, Harpster
Abstain: None
Nays: Fiore
Absent: Falberg

All in favor, motion to table carried.

14. Unfinished Business

Alderman Murphy-Pieri stated that the Rules and Procedures would be on the next COW meeting for discussion.

15. New Business

Alderman Sepulveda stated that there many people outside who came to speak to the Council regarding concerns of past fires at Fort Sheridan Place. Mayor Pecaro stated that all issues were turned into Morningside Group and they are dealing with them. The Fire Chief is working on a Route of Safety for evacuation during any emergency at that property. The Fire Department is moving forward with this plan.

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Bruni at 8:09 p.m. Seconded by Alderman Fiore.

Upon a call of the roll the following voted:

Ayes: Linari, Bruni, Murphy-Pieri, Cahmann, Sepulveda, Harpster, Fiore
Abstain: None
Nays: None
Absent: Falberg

All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anne Marrin
Assistant City Manager

The next regular scheduled City Council Meeting will be on Tuesday August 18, 2009 at 7:30 P.M.