



CITY OF HIGHWOOD

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Committee of the Whole Meeting MINUTES

**August 5, 2008 Committee of the Whole Meeting
6:30 p.m.**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Donofrio called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: None

Also present: S. Druktenis, City Clerk; B. Balling, Interim City Administrator; G. Jackson, City Administrator; Anne Marrin, Associate Consultant; and D. Blondin and J. Stein, City Attorneys.

3. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Alderman Hospodarsky, seconded by Alderman Linari, moved to go into executive session to discuss closed session minutes. All Aldermen voted aye. The motion carried. {Executive session}

Alderman Hospodarsky, seconded by Alderman Pieri, moved to close the executive session, seal the minutes until they are no longer sensitive and adjourn the meeting. All Aldermen voted aye. The motion carried.

4. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Discussion of Real Estate Transfer Tax – Alderman Pecaro presented the recommendation from the Finance Committee. The recommendation is for start with a 1% transfer tax. There will need to be a public meeting. A super majority is needed for it to pass (6 votes). The public meeting can be held on August 19th (need 10 day notice). The referendum needs to be filed with the Clerk's Office by September 4, 2008. It was suggested that the vote take place on September 2, 2008. The ordinance needs to be available before then. If the referendum fails, the Council can consider a rebate for the Fort Sheridan residents. Alderman Hospodarsky committed to discussing this at a Housing Committee Meeting to be held at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall on August 12, 2008.
- b. Discussion of Safe Buildings Act – Alderman Murphy recommended a Council workshop. Mayor Donofrio commented that a single property (North Shore Estates) should not be singled out. It was generally felt that certain properties should be retrofitted regardless of whether or not they are sold. Topics for the workshop discussion are number of units, whether or not landlords reside in the buildings, etc. It was also recommended that the Council consider contacting sprinkler system companies to obtain a lower negotiated price for the affected property owners. The workshop will be held on August 12, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

City Attorney Blondin will send Council and email he had previously sent to Alderman Murphy in answer to her questions.

- c. Antenna Proposal – two leases are pending (Cricket and Verizon). They may be ready for consideration/approval on August 19, 2008.
 - d. Salt Storage Update - A proposal was received for \$117,380 (includes site work). Alderman Hospodarsky indicated that although he understands that a \$40,000 grant will be expiring, he has a concern regarding the height of the salt dome and that only one bid was received. He felt that we don't know if there are any other solutions. Alderman Murphy expressed a concern on whether or not the amount of salt that can be housed was enough. Interim City Administrator Balling indicated that the money available in the budget for the salt dome is \$100,000 so we needed to work within those constraints as well. There was some discussion on the location constraints, and that Alderman Bruni and Pieri have been involved early on with the research and have recommended the 35 foot salt dome at this site and that it was the only viable solution. It was recommended that the ARC be involved with choosing the color of the salt dome.
 - e. Semi Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes - This topic was discussed during Executive Session.
5. **ADJOURN** - The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.