



## CITY OF HIGHWOOD

17 Highwood Avenue  
Highwood, Illinois 60040  
847.432.1924 / 0735 Fax  
www.cityofhighwood.com

City Council Meeting  
MINUTES  
**August 19, 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, Pecaro, Cahnmann, Bruni, Murphy and Hospodarsky.

Absent: Alderman Fiore

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

### 3. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

### 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Alderman Murphy moved for an approval of the minutes from the August 5, 2008 Regular City Council and Committee of the Whole Meetings. Alderman Pecaro seconded the motion. Upon a call of the roll the following voted:

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

The motion carried.

### 5. PUBLIC FORUM –

- a. Bill Lolli, Highland Park resident, indicated that he was representing the Town of Fort Sheridan residents and golfers regarding the golf course. He noted that there has been a settlement regarding disposing of the dirt piles. He felt that this was a step but that there still is a long way to go in getting the golf course built. He also indicated that he spoke to the Highland Park City Council and they are supportive of the golf course being built and would like to work with Highwood in getting Lake County to build it.
- b. Highwood Library Board members, Frank and Jackie, thanked the Council for the recent appointments to the board. They also updated the Council on the successful summer reading program for children. They also announced that effective following Labor Day; the Library will be open on Sundays.
- c. Joe Passini, Highwood resident, thanked the Mayor's Special Events Committee for the Art Fair. He also thanked the volunteers that helped with the Recreation Center raffle and indicated that there will be a fundraising event for the Recreation Center at the Bocce Ball Club in the near future.
- d. Lisa Cervac, Highwood resident, stated that the presentation on the City Manager form of government was first presented on T.V. at 6:30 p.m. this evening. She asked the Council to

consider postponing the vote on changing to a City Manager form of government since she felt that prior communication to the public is very important.

**6. CITY TREASURER'S REPORT:**

- a. Treasurer's Report - Alderman Linari, seconded by Alderman Pieri, moved for an approval of the Treasurer's Report for the month of July 2008 as read by City Treasurer Stefani. Alderman Murphy had several questions and comments regarding the report. She was asked to submit them to City Treasurer Stefani and City Administrator Jackson and they will work with the accounting staff to resolve. Upon a call of the roll the following voted:

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

The motion carried.

- b. Approval of Bills - Alderman Pecaro seconded by Alderman Linari, moved for an approval of the Bills as read by City Treasurer Stefani, excluding the bill from Baxter & Woodman. Clarification regarding the services that were provided will be obtained before the bill is considered. Upon a call of the roll the following voted:

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

The motion carried.

**7. REPORTS FROM THE ALDERMEN:**

- a. Alderman Hospodarsky reported that a Housing Committee meeting was held last Tuesday to discuss the item that will be discussed in more detail during the public hearing.
- b. Alderman Murphy provided an update on the ARC report and also indicated that she had informed them that they would be asked to comment on the Salt Dome. Although the ARC will be meeting tomorrow night, unfortunately, the information on the Salt Dome is not yet available for their review.
- c. Alderman Cahnmann reported that a Judiciary Committee meeting was held and the discussion was on the Health and Safety Ordinance. The discussion will be continued on a meeting scheduled for September 4, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.
- d. A status was requested regarding the Landscaping agreement. The response was that the Judiciary Committee has not had the opportunity to proceed on this item since the initial discussion.
- e. Alderman Linari noted that the second annual Art Festival was held last weekend and thanked the many volunteers. The Special Events Committee hopes to raise more money for future community events.

**8. CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

- a. City Administrator Jackson summarized the detailed report that he provided in the Council's materials. The report includes an update on initiatives relating to 1) a Capital Improvement Plan, 2) technology service providers, 3) analysis of alternative revenue sources, 4) intergovernmental relations, 5) first quarter fiscal analysis, 6) economic development strategy, 7) seized vehicle ordinance, 8) reestablishing relationship with State of Illinois for joint purchasing and 9) community relations. Also included in the Council's packets are reports from 1) the Police Department, 2) the Fire Department, and the Building Department

**9. SPECIAL BUSINESS**

Mayor Donofrio opened the Public Hearing on **a resolution to submit to referendum the question of a proposed real estate transfer tax for the City of Highwood in an amount of two dollars fifty cents (\$2.50) for each five hundred dollars (\$500.00) of the value of the real property or beneficial interest in real property located in the City of Highwood so transferred to be paid by the seller of the real estate transferred, will be held on August 19,2008 at 7:30 P.M. at Highwood City Hall, City Council Chambers, 17 Highwood Avenue, Highwood, Illinois. The current rate of real estate transfer tax imposed by City of Highwood is zero.**

Alderman Pecaro explained the Council's intent to have a transfer tax; however, in light of the slow housing market, the Council has decided to postpone the referendum. He also noted that part of the goal was to implement a transfer stamp. Alderman Linari added that the Council wants to look into providing equity between the Town of Fort Sheridan property owners (who currently pay a transfer tax) and remaining Highwood property owners (who do not); however, it will need to be looked at and implemented over the next year or so. Alderman Hospodarsky indicated that the Housing Committee came to the same consensus and agreed that it is not the right time to make this change. He noted that the Fort Sheridan transfer fee does generate an approximate budgeted \$40,000 a year and we would need to come up with a plan to phase it out. The Council might want to consider the transfer tax next year; however, the transfer stamp (with no fee) this year. The benefits to a transfer stamp are to insure that bills and fines are paid and that an inspection is performed. This can be put into place without going to referendum and the Housing Committee recommends proceeding.

No one from the Public address the Council on this matter.

Public Hearing was closed.

#### 10. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Fort Sheridan Golf Course – Alderman Hospodarsky recognized individuals in the audience that have been active in trying to move the golf course at Fort Sheridan forward. He also noted that Highwood has shown a strong commitment to making the golf course move forward. However, some Lake County representatives have indicated that they do not want to build the golf course. Highwood needs to work with Highland Park as a coalition to make our voices heard. City Administrator Jackson will be meeting with Highland Park's City Manager and this will be one of the items for discussion. A question was raised regarding the taxes that are going to the Lake County Forest Preserve. Alderman Hospodarsky noted that all residents pay these taxes and everyone needs to speak up if they feel the golf course needs to be built. City Administrator Jackson noted that he has talked to several Lake County Board members who are in support of the golf course and we need to leverage their support.
- b. Clocks at Train Station – Alderman Hospodarsky noted that the time is not correct and since we have a maintenance contract on the clocks, this should be addressed. City Administrator Jackson will look into it.
- c. Lockard Lane – Alderman Murphy displayed pictures of water retention at a new construction site on Lockard Lane. Is this work in progress or is it an indication of a continuing problem? City Administrator Jackson will look into it.

#### 11. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Approval of ARC Recommendations – Alderman Hospodarsky, seconded by Alderman Murphy, moved to approve the ARC recommendations. Alderman Murphy noted that the ARC had requested that the Viti banners be removed by October 31st in preparation for the Holiday Banners. Also there was a clarification that the approval was on the ARC recommendations; one of which was actually a denial.

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

Absent: Fiore  
The motion carried.

- b. **ORDINANCE** - Providing for a City Manager for The City of Highwood – consideration of the Ordinance will be on the September 2, 2008 City Council agenda. Alderman Linari clarified that Bill Balling’s recommendation for the City Manager form of government was derived at through interviews with the Council. The presentation will also be aired on August 26, September 2 and September 9. City Attorney Blondin also noted that the Ordinance does not represent a change in government. It clarifies, by Ordinance, the roles and responsibilities of the City Manager. The Council can change the Ordinance as needed. If the change were made through a referendum, the Council does not have this flexibility.

12. **ADJOURN** - Alderman Hospodarsky, seconded by Alderman Cahnmann, motioned to adjourn the meeting. All Aldermen voted aye. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Druktenis - City Clerk