



CITY OF HIGHWOOD

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Committee of the Whole Meeting
MINUTES
**August 19, 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 (not present for roll call, arrived at 6:52), Cahnmann, Bruni, Murphy (not present for roll call, arrived at 6:56) 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. APPROVAL OF BILLS

Bills were reviewed. A question was raised regarding the \$1,100 charge for a bench.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Chamber of Commerce- Request for Underwriting Festival – The Chamber of Commerce is requesting the City to sponsor 50% of the cost of the Harvest Day scheduled for September 27, 2008. The cost to the City would be \$6,000. It was noted that last year the City's portion was \$3,000. This expense was not budgeted. The Budget Committee will need to review the funds to determine if the \$6,000 can be made available. This item will be considered/approved at the September 3, 2008 meeting. The Harvest Day Committee would need to have the decision by September 5, 2008.
- b. Dental Insurance- Horton Group increase in rates/VSP Vision Insurance Renewed October 1, 2008-September 30, 2009 – For information only. The employee pays the premiums.
- c. Transfer Stamp Program – The real estate transfer tax is something that will be considered in the future. The transfer stamp program (no fee) will provide 1) an opportunity to confirm that bills have been paid, 2) a statement from the owner regarding what the property will be used for and 3) a pre sale inspection. It was agreed that the results of the inspection will not hold up the closing but would require the buyer be notified of the findings. City Administrator Jackson indicated that the Recorder of Deeds is supportive of this effort. The Council will have a draft Ordinance by September 2, 2008 for consideration. City Administrator Jackson will have a procedure developed and implementation is expected for October 1, 2008. Regarding parity with the Town of Fort Sheridan property owners and the rest of Highwood, this item will be on hold because of

the realization that the budget is tight and we can't simply stop the revenue. Between now and the end of the year, the Council will come up with an approach to start to phase the Fort Sheridan Transfer tax out.

- d. Approval of ARC Recommendations – will be considered/approved this evening.
- e. Consideration of Amendment to the liquor Code-Fine Wine Establishment. – Petitioners were present to discuss their business. The sales will be primarily wine and wine tasting but will also offer cheese, bread and beer. City Attorney Blondin has drafted a shell document for Council's review. Mayor Donofrio plans to bring the request to the Liquor Commission. There will be no package sale of beer. There will be only one establishment in this class and additional requests would need to come to the Council. City Administrator Jackson is researching the fee and once determined, he will provide the information to City Attorney Blondin.

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Alderman Bruni, seconded by Alderman Pieri, moved to go into executive session to discuss sale of real estate property. All Aldermen present voted aye. The motion carried.

{Executive session}

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

6. ADJOURN - The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Druktenis - City Clerk