



CITY OF HIGHWOOD
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2009

1. Call to Order

Mayor Pecaro called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Pecaro; Aldermen Bruni, Cahnmann, Falberg, Fiore, Harpster, Linari, Murphy-Pieri, Sepulveda (participated electronically after receiving council approval)

Absent: --

Also present: M. Burke, City Clerk; P. Lenzini, City Treasurer; G. Jackson, City Manager; A. Marrin, Assistant City Manager; D. Blondin, City Attorney

There being a quorum present, the Mayor announced the meeting to be in session.

Alderman Falberg made a motion seconded by Alderman Murphy-Pieri to approve Alderman Sepulveda participating by telephone. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone present rose to say the Pledge of Allegiance

4. Review of Minutes

4.1. Committee of the Whole minutes: November 17, 2009
Tabled at the request of Alderman Fiore

4.2. Regular meeting of the City Council: November 17, 2009
Tabled at the request of Alderman Fiore

4.3. Executive Session of the Committee of the Whole:
June 2, 2009, September 1, 2009, October 27, 2009, November 3, 2009, and November 17, 2009
to be reviewed

5. Special Business

none

6. Appointments

Library Board of Trustees

Judy Broderick, 746 Lyster Rd. Term ending: July 1, 2010.

Alderman Harpster made a motion, seconded by Alderman Linari, to approve the appointment of Judy Broderick to the Board of the Highwood Public Library for the term ending July 1, 2010 .

Discussion: Alderman Cahnmann noted that Ms. Broderick had been on the Library Board previously and had declined to be reappointed. He asked her to explain why she had declined then and why she should be considered now.

Ms. Broderick explained that she had been frustrated with the lack of action being taken by the previous board and with the new board she wanted to resume her service. She noted that

even though she had left the board, she continued to provide adult programming (2 book clubs).

Vote:

Yes: Aldermen Bruni, Falberg, Fiore, Harpster, Linari, Murphy-Pieri, Sepulveda

No: Cahnmann

Absent: --

Abstain: --

Appointment approved by a vote of: 7 yes, 1 no, 0 absent, 0 abstain

Library Board of Trustees

Bertha Chavez -- sent to Library Board for review

7. Review and Approval of Bills

n/a

8. Public Input regarding items not on agenda

Susie Serafini O'Neill 419 Lockard Lane. Ms. O'Neill had a question about the pumpkins. Someone told her that it cost \$15,000. She said she wanted the cost including manpower. Alderman Falberg: the Parisian Markets, the Farmers' Markets, and the Pumpkin Fest all together cost \$13,000. Alderman Falberg told Ms. O'Neill that the events were to build up business in the community; they were an investment that was paying off for the businesses. He told her that the Ice Rink in Everts Park had been donated by the US Bank and that there was no additional cost for insurance and it would be available during the daytime only. Ms. O'Neill suggested that if US Bank wanted to give Highwood something, that the council ask them for something it needs.

Paula Bernstein 144 Ronan Road. Ms. Bernstein thanked the council for allowing people to talk without having to fill out any forms. She then went on to say that she was assuming that the same things will be asked of the police department as were asked of the fire department. She also asked when the concessions being requested of bargaining unit employees get into the Administrative department. She said any cuts should got throughout the city – including requesting that all vendors, such as the attorneys, the accountants, etc. take similar cuts in their rates.

9. Mayor's Report

The Mayor said that the city was looking at dilapidated properties for possible acquisition by the city. Also, he will be representing Highwood at a meeting of the Lake County Forest Preserve Board concerning the Ft Sheridan golf course at Oak Terrace on Wednesday. He plans to ask why the Highland Park and Lake Forest Park Districts have been given an equal seat at the table with the municipalities with whom the original deal was struck.

10. Committee Reports.

10.1. Special Events –Alderman Falberg, Chair and **Public Outreach** -Alderman Murphy-Pieri, Chair
Alderman Falberg reminded everyone that this Saturday was the Highwood for the Holidays event for service men and women from Great Lakes. The event will run from 10 am to 7 pm. 300 service members, typically young people just out of high school, have been invited to dinner at Oak Terrace where they will be served entrees donated by Bruce Bertucci, Bertucci's Restaurant and salad and fruits donated by Sunset. 500 are expected to come to Highwood for the day. Every service member will be given \$10 in Highwood Bucks to spend in town. Some merchants have already said that they either will not redeem the gift certificates or will redeem only half of what they receive. Additional donations to contribute to the funding of these gift certificates are also needed. For a \$20 donation, a tree can be lit and the donor recognized.

\$5,625 has been raised so far. The Committee is also selling Highwood for the Holidays ornaments for \$7 each.

On Thursday, Highwood may experience the only major snowfall in the Chicagoland area -- courtesy of Strum company which donated the use of 2 snowmaking machines to ensure a winter wonderland for the troops (Strum can be found at www.snowmaker.com).

Highland Park and Winnetka have donated skates for the troops to use. Coca-Cola has donated all beverages.

Anyone who wants to volunteer was asked to call Anne Marrin at City Hall.

The city will be lit at 4pm on Saturday. To express their thanks, at 4:30 the troops will line-up in formation to march to Oak Terrace for dinner. They will do this again when they line-up to march to their buses at the end of the event.

All day long, there will be outdoor movies for the kids.

\$10 gift certificates can be purchased at most Highwood businesses.

10.2. Legislative – Alderman Murphy-Pieri, Chair

The meeting called for November 24 was not held due to lack of a quorum. The next meeting is scheduled for December 8 at 8pm.

10.3. Finance - Alderman Linari, Chair

The Committee meeting was changed to a meeting of the full council to discuss the estimated tax levy for 2010-2011. At their next meeting on December 8 at 5pm, the committee will evaluate water rates and consider home rule revenue options.

Not scheduled to report:

Long Term Planning – Alderman Harpster, Chair

Public Safety – Alderman Cahnmann, Chair

Parks and Recreation – Alderman Fiore, Chair

11. City Manager's Report

Mr. Jackson said that many of the items in his report had been covered in the committee reports. He announced that a new Thai restaurant "Kori" will soon be opening where Soba had been. It is being developed by the owners of the Red Lantern. He said that he was working with Highland Park to secure grant money through Senator Burris' office to repair Western Avenue and that he was working with the insurance carrier on a light duty return to work program.

12. Treasurer's Report

Will be reporting at the next meeting

13. Clerk's Report

Clerk Burke told the Council that she appreciated being put on the agenda as specified in the recently adopted Council Rules of Procedure and promised only to talk when she had something to say.

14. Action Items

14.1. A Motion To Approve Estimated Tax Levy For FY 2010-2011

Alderman Linari made and Alderman Harpster seconded A

Motion to find and determine that the aggregate levy for the City of Highwood, as defined in the Illinois Truth in Taxation Law, estimated to be necessary to be raised by taxation for 2009 upon the taxable property in Highwood is \$1,106,688.

Such an estimate of the amount of the property tax levy must be made at least 20 days prior to approving the levy.

This would be a 4.8% p from the prior year in the City's part of the property tax bill. It includes \$235,000 (.154% of expected EAV) for the Library, \$166,590 for the police pension fund (.109% of expected EAV), \$143,568 for the firefighter pension fund (.094% of expected EAV), and \$561,530 for the city's General Fund (.368% of EAV).

Vote:

Yes: Aldermen Bruni, Cahnmann, Falberg, Fiore, Harpster, Linari, Murphy-Pieri

No: Alderman Sepulveda

Absent: --

Abstain: --

Motion to approve estimated tax levy passed by a vote of: 7 yes, 1 no, 0 absent, 0 abstain

14.2. 2009-O-44 An Ordinance Transferring Previously Appropriated Funds Amending the Annual Appropriations Ordinance for Special Events
\$35,000 for a Special Appropriation for Special Events

A motion was made by Alderman Linari and seconded by Alderman Fiore to adopt an ordinance transferring previously appropriated funds amending the annual appropriations ordinance for special events from General Fund 01.11.573 to the Special Events Fund 2500.368.1 Any money spent from this fund will be used for special events that promote Highwood as a destination. Alderman Bruni asked how the Committee can be stopped from spending \$35,000. It was explained that this was an appropriation which means that this is the most you can spend. It does not mean that the money will actually be there to be spent. Also, it is not a blanket approval for spending without Council authorization. Mr. Jackson explained that this appropriation for special events was not made when the original appropriation was made because the council did not know where Highwood would be going with special events at that time. Alderman Sepulveda said that it is a good investment for the city.

Public comment: Susie Serafini O'Neill, 419 Lockard Lane. Ms. O'Neill commented on the generosity of Highwood business in supporting community events. She continued to express concern about the money being spent on special events. She did commend the committee for the event being held for the military on Saturday.

Mr. Blondin noted that six affirmative votes were required to adopt this ordinance.

Vote:

Yes: Aldermen Bruni, Cahnmann, Falberg, Fiore, Harpster, Linari, Murphy-Pieri, Sepulveda

No: 0

Absent: --

Abstain: --

Motion to approve estimated tax levy passed by a vote of: 8 yes, 0 no, 0 absent, 0 abstain

14.3. Discussion and or Approval of Morningside Façade Application

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15. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

16. NEW BUSINESS

None

17. Executive Session

none

18. **Any Action Necessary Coming Out of Executive Session to discuss**
n/a

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Bruni, was seconded by Alderman Falberg, and was passed unanimously by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

MBurke

Marcia Burke, City Clerk

Reviewed and Accepted by the City Council on December 15, 2009