



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
HIGHWOOD CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, HIGHWOOD CITY HALL
FEBRUARY 4, 2010**

1 CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pecaro called the regular meeting of the Highwood City Council to order at 7:35 p.m.

2 ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Pecaro; Aldermen Bruni, Fiore, Harpster, Falberg, and Murphy-Pieri

Absent: Aldermen Cahnmann, Sepulveda, and Linari (joined meeting by telephone immediately after roll call)

Also present: M. Burke, City Clerk; T. Lenzini, City Treasurer, G. Jackson, City Manager; A. Marrin, Assistant City Manager; M. Zimmerman, City Attorney, J. Ponsi, Superintendent of Public Works.

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

Motion to allow Alderman Linari to participate by phone as she had made a timely request and was home ill.

Motion: Alderman Falberg Second: Alderman Harpster

Yes: Aldermen Bruni, Fiore, Harpster, Falberg, and Murphy-Pieri

No: --

The motion passed with a vote of 5 Yes, 0 No. Alderman Linari joined the meeting by phone.

3 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone present rose to say the pledge of allegiance

4 REVIEW OF MINUTES

4.1 Committee of the Whole minutes: January 19, 2010

4.2 Regular meeting of the City Council: January 19, 2010

4.3 Executive Session of the COW: January 19, 2010 -- deferred at the request of Clerk Burke

Omnibus motion to accept the minutes of the January 19 meetings of the COW and the Regular Council as presented: Alderman Harpster; Second: Alderman Linari.

Vote:

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

No: --

Absent: Aldermen Cahnmann and Sepulveda

Abstain: --

Accepted by a vote of 6 yes, 0 no, 2 absent, 0 abstain

5 SPECIAL BUSINESS

None

6 APPOINTMENTS

6.1 Mayor Pecaro said that he would be asking the Council to approve the appointment of Mike Steffens, owner Cellar Gate, to the Parks and Recreation Board for the term May 1, 2009 through April 30, 2012. Mr. Steffens would be replacing Lucy Putlak who moved out of the city.

7 PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF BILLS

n/a

8 PUBLIC INPUT REGARDING ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA

Judy Johnston 244 Everts Place: Census Complete Count Committee Highwood Co-Chair
Ms. Johnston asked everyone to be sure to complete and return their census forms. The amount of money we get from the federal government and our representation in Congress is determined by our population – which is whatever the census says it is. There will be forms in both Spanish and English. There are also temporary jobs available. The phone number will be available on the Highwood web-site. There will be places in town where people can go if they have questions. Most importantly, the information is entirely confidential. It cannot and will not be used for any other purpose.

Patty Stone, 241 Prairie: Raised an issue she had read about in minutes from several months ago. Ms. Stone questioned whether Alderman Murphy-Pieri was required to excuse herself from any future discussions or decisions regarding the Fire department. Alderman Murphy-Pieri responded that she had had the same question and had gotten two legal opinions on that, one from Mr. Blondin of Raysa & Zimmerman and one from the State's attorney. Both said that there was no conflict involved and that she could participate in any and all matters about the Fire Department. The alderman added that, as a matter of personal choice, she did not participate in any discussions or votes that involved Deputy Fire Chief Pieri.

Susie Serafini-O'Neill 419 Lockard Lane: Asked everyone to stop the lying, backstabbing, and cheating. Wants to be able to raise her children in Highwood. Confused about why this administration is "so underhanded" and to start thinking about what is best for Highwood.

9 MAYOR'S REPORT

none

10 COMMITTEE REPORTS.

Long Term Planning – Alderman Harpster, Chair – no report

Finance - Alderman Linari, Chair – no report

Public Safety – Alderman Cahnmann, Chair -- no report

Parks and Recreation – Alderman Fiore, no report

Mayor's Committee on Special Events and Public Outreach- Alderman Falberg & Alderman Murphy-Pieri, Co-Chairs

- Alderman Falberg reported that the trial period for extended hours for taverns and restaurants will be starting soon. The intent is to bring people back to Highwood given the growing competition in surrounding suburbs. The police department will be watching to see if there are unintended effects. Restaurants that choose to stay open can track their revenues by the hour to see if the change in hours will appear to have a positive impact on revenues in the hours before 2 a.m..

- Alderman Falberg also reported that the organization that runs the Randolph St. market, the country's largest monthly antique market, have agreed to take over the Parisian Market. The Parisian Market will continue to run once monthly starting the 3rd week in June. That organization will absorb the costs of running this event and will receive all revenue generated. The City of Highwood will receive sales tax resulting from any sales by vendors at the Parisian Market. Highwood restaurants will be offered the opportunity to have booths at no cost. In addition, Highwood will benefit from the added foot traffic the market brings. Where in Highwood it will be held has not yet been determined. Alderman Falberg also said that his committee will work to piggy-back events on those Sundays.

Legislative – Alderman Murphy-Pieri, Chair -- no report

11 CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

The City Manager made a power point presentation on his proposed restructuring of city staff for the Council's consideration. He explained that he had to see to it that the city's work got done while dealing with the reality of falling revenue. Expects this process to give the city the opportunity to develop some HR skills needed to work in today's environment. In response to questions from the aldermen, Mr. Jackson defended his decision to post an add for a new position – that of Public Works Director -- that the council had not approved. It was stressed that this was not a replacement for Jeff Ponsi who is the Public Works Superintendent. Mr. Ponsi's work, many contributions, and his dedication to the city were recognized by the council.

Mayor Pecaro stressed that Highwood is facing huge challenges and that we are going to have to change the way Highwood conducts its business. He said that the elected officials were all there to make sure that Highwood was still here 10 or 20 years from now.

12 TREASURER'S REPORT

n/a

13 CLERK'S REPORT

Given the lateness of the hour, Clerk Burke said she would defer her report until the next meeting except for two items. She requested that the Mayor appoint an Alderman to work with her on the review of the Executive Session minutes for 2003-2006.

She also asked the Mayor to take whatever steps were necessary to ensure that the titles of ordinances shown in council agendas be exactly the same as the titles shown on the ordinances.

Mayor Pecaro agreed with both requests.

14 Action Items

14.1 Motion to approve Resolution 10-R-02. "A Resolution in Memoriam Recognizing the Contributions of Ozzie Mazzetta".

Motion: Alderman Harpster Second: Alderman Bruni

Discussion: Alderman Fiore read the resolution honoring Mr. Mazzetta that he would like to present to the Mazzetta family at the dedication of the Highwood Recreation Center floor to Mr. Mazzetta on February 14th at 4 p.m. He invited everyone attending or

watching the meeting to attend.

Vote:

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

No: --

Absent: Aldermen Cahnmann and Sepulveda

Abstain: --

Resolution approved by a vote of 6 yes, 0 no, 2 absent, 0 abstain

14.2 Motion to approve “A Resolution Relating to the Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes”.

Approved at the January 19, 2010 regular city council meeting.

14.3 Motion to approve “An Ordinance Amending the 2007 Salary Ordinance”.

Tabled until 2/16/10 Mr. Jackson is to make the revisions discussed in the COW meeting (much narrower ranges for hiring; salary of incumbents rather than ranges for filled positions) and to provide the council, et al, with an updated ordinance in a timely fashion.

14.4 First reading of a motion to approve “An Ordinance Abating the Tax Heretofore Levied for the Year 2009 to pay the Principal and Interest on a General Obligation Bond Not to Exceed \$4,000,000 (TIF Alternate Revenue Sources) Series 2002, of the City of Highwood, Lake County Illinois.”

The city did not need to levy a tax sufficient to pay principal and interest on the named bond as there were adequate monies in the TIF fund to make these payments. Therefore, the tax levied should be abated.

14.5 First reading of a motion to approve “An Ordinance Abating the Tax Heretofore Levied for the Year 2009 to pay the Principal and Interest on \$1,860,000 General Obligation Bonds (Waterworks and Sewerage Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2004, of the City of Highwood, Lake County, Illinois.”

The city did not need to levy a tax sufficient to pay principal and interest on the named bond as there were adequate monies in the TIF fund to make these payments. Therefore, the tax levied should be abated.

14.6 Motion to approve An Ordinance Temporarily Extending the hours for certain Classes of Liquor Licenses

Adopted at the January 19, 2010 regular city council meeting.

14.7 Motion to approve An Ordinance Establishing an ad hoc Comprehensive Planning Advisory Committee (CPAC) and Directing the Completion of a Comprehensive Land Use Plan

Tabled until February 16, 2010

14.8. First Reading: An Ordinance Temporarily Suspending Demolition Permit Fees.

SUMMARY: To try to stimulate property owners to proceed with (re)development plans, the council is planning to suspend demolition permit fees for a 3 month period, subject to certain restrictions as described in the ordinance.

14.9 Motion to Approve Proposal for Contracting With The City of Highland Park to Have The Preparatory Flushing And Televising Of The Sewers On Western Avenue Done By Highland Park At A Cost Of \$6,690.

Motion: Alderman Harpster Second: Fiore

Discussion: The City Manager requested that the council approve this tonight in case he has to proceed with this prior to the next meeting.

Vote:

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

No: --

Absent: Aldermen Cahnmann and Sepulveda

Abstain: --

Motion approved by a vote of 6 yes, 0 no, 2 absent, 0 abstain

14.10 Motion to Approve Proposal from EJ Equipment to Repair the VacCon.

SUMMARY: An 18 year old piece of equipment that is used to maintain sewer lines has broken. The cost to repair it is \$22,000. The last major expenditure on this piece of equipment was \$37,000 to rebuild the pump eight years ago.

Disposition: Tabled pending the city manager providing the council with a report comparing the ROI of purchasing a new piece of equipment, leasing a new piece of equipment, purchasing a piece of used equipment, and repairing the current piece of equipment.

15 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

none

16 NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Falberg asked that the council review the parking fund contribution required of businesses opening in Highwood who have a parking shortfall. He said that the high fees that can result from parking shortages may be preventing needed new business growth. He suggested consideration of a temporary freeze similar to what is being done with demolition permits.

Disposition: referred to Finance Committee for a recommendation.

17 EXECUTIVE SESSION

None (Note: A piece of correspondence was to be distributed on a confidential basis instead of going into executive session to distribute and review it.)

18 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Fiore, seconded by Alderman Bruni, and passed unanimously by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

/s/ MBURKE
MARCIA BURKE, CITY CLERK

REVIEWED AND ACCEPTED BY THE HIGHWOOD CITY COUNCIL ON: FEBRUARY 16, 2010