



City of Palos Heights  
License, Permits, & Franchises Meeting  
Tuesday, March 8, 2022  
7:00 p.m.  
MINUTES

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Lewandowski called the License, Permits, and Franchises Committee meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Alderman McGovern, Alderman Basso, Alderman McGrogan, City Administrator David Strohl, Building Commissioner Frank Giordano, and recording secretary Gina Marcotte.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Alderman Lewandowski made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2022 meeting, seconded by Alderman McGrogan. On a voice note, the motion passed unanimously.

**PERMIT & CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT**

Chairman Lewandowski referred to the permit report in the agenda packet. There were 29 permits issued from February 3, 2022 to March 3, 2022 totaling \$8,807.56. For the permit period from January 1, 2022 to March 3, 2022, the city has collected \$32,190.34 with 77 permits issued. From January 1, 2022 to March 3, 2022, the city has collected \$150.00 in re-inspection fees. There were 5 code enforcement cases and 6 code enforcement inspections from February 3, 2022 to March 3, 2022. From January 1, 2021 to March 3, 2022, there have been 15 code enforcement cases and 14 inspections.

**BUSINESS LICENSE REPORT**

For the 2022 business licenses, \$79,876.00 was invoiced of which \$58,704.50 has been paid. The amount owed is \$21,171.50.

**VEHICLE STICKER REPORT**

For the period from May 17, 2021 to March 2, 2022 approximately 7,180 stickers were sold and \$164,510.75 was collected.

**VIDEO GAMING**

Alderman Lewandowski gave a brief update on the special meeting that took place on Monday, March 7, 2022, regarding video gaming. Many residents and business owners attended the special meeting to speak and there were more people against video gaming than there were people who were for it. Many concerns addressed were potential damage to the city, the esthetics of the restaurants that residents enjoy so much, and the opportunity to allow residents to indulge in damaging vices. Pros addressed for allowing video gaming were additional revenue for the businesses and additional tax revenue for the city. The estimated tax revenue would be around \$250,000.

Alderman Lewandowski stated that the decision to allow video gaming was referred to referendum in 2018 and the residents of the City of Palos Heights voted against it. It is important to give great weight to the residents that cast a vote and not go against what they want. He also stated that there would have to be a significant change to go against the vote of the community. He wants the businesses to do well and be sustainable, but the response of the residents confirmed for him, that he would vote no to video gaming.

Alderman McGovern stated that Channel 4 will be airing the March 7<sup>th</sup> meeting and it will also be available on YouTube. Alderman McGovern asked that the discussion regarding video gaming be brought up again at the next License, Permits & Franchises meeting. This will give other residents the opportunity to watch the meeting and provide their opinions.

Alderman McGrogan discussed the city's financial background and discussed that the city is over fifty years old and will continually need improvements. The yearly maintenance upkeep for the city has an estimated cost of over fifteen million dollars in the next ten years. The revenue from video gaming is something that could help with those costs and should not be dismissed. Alderman McGrogan stated that things change in four years and it might be beneficial to look at video gaming again at that time. Depending on the feedback from residents in four years, they can determine if having another referendum on video gaming would be beneficial.

Alderman Basso discussed that he was elected as an alderman by the vote of the residents and it should be up to the residents to decide if they want video gaming in their community. Alderman Basso stated the city is in good shape without video gaming and we are not depriving our citizens of anything. If someone would prefer to go outside of the city for video gaming, they can do that.

**NEW BUSINESS-NONE.**

**OLD BUSINESS-NONE.**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Alderman Jack Clifford spoke regarding misinformation. He received emails and comments about the March 7<sup>th</sup> special meeting not being publicized and stated that information was incorrect. The special meeting was brought up at numerous committee meetings, it was posted to the city Facebook page, the city website, the message board outside of City Hall, the message board at the parks and recreation center, and was posted on the bulletin board at the fire station. He also noted that many residents are not aware of the city's financials and make assumptions without having all the information. Alderman Lewandowski stated that all of the city's financials are available on the city website for any resident that would like to view them.

Resident Sean Hunt stated he has been a resident of the City of Palos Heights for the past nine years. He discussed that he is one hundred percent against video gaming in the restaurants and bars in the City of Palos Heights. Video gaming was voted on by referendum at the last election and the majority of residents voted against it. The negative impact on having video gaming outweighs any positive impacts. The families in the community do not want to see the gaming machines when they are dining at a restaurant with their friends and families. The businesses that suffered from COVID-19 do not need video gaming for extra revenue. We as citizens and a city can do a better job of marketing the businesses to help them out. He stated he loves living in the City of Palos Heights because it is unique, different, and appealing because

we are one of the few communities that do not allow video gaming. The choice should continue to be left to the residents to decide.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Alderman Lewandowski made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Basso. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Gina Marcotte, Recording Secretary