

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, April 7, 2020 6:30 PM City Hall

****PLEASE NOTE: CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDED THIS MEETING ELECTRONICALLY****

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Mayor called to order the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

The following were present:

<i>Mayor</i>	Robert Straz	<i>Ward 1</i>	Donald Bylut & Jeffrey Key
<i>City Clerk</i>	Thomas Kantas	<i>Ward 2</i>	Robert Basso & Jack Clifford
<i>City Treasurer</i>	James Daemicke	<i>Ward 3</i>	Dolores Kramarski & Brent Lewandowski
<i>City Attorney</i>	Tom Brown	<i>Ward 4</i>	Michael McGrogan & Jerry McGovern

3. DISCUSSION OF COVID-19 POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS.

1. The Mayor stated that Cook County has offered an interest free business loan up to \$20,000.00 for businesses employing less than 25 employees and a \$10,000.00 for independent contractors without employees. Federal Programs administered by the Small Business Association known as PPP loans has received wide-spread support. Individual businesses can apply for a loan up to two and a half times their payroll and if spent by June 30th the loan is forgiven. An additional 250 billion dollar loan package is expected to be enacted. A state program for businesses employing less than 50 employees is available as well. The City has inquired on local restaurants and businesses on the status of their business. Local businesses are independently owned and not franchisees which have generally received local support. The Mayor proposed local measures to support the residents during the Covid of 2 free vehicle stickers for any residents showing \$100.00 of receipts from a local retail business or restaurant by June 30th. or 30 Metra tokens or \$100.00 voucher for any recreation programs offered by the City. Additionally, overdue water bills will not be penalized and no shut off until the shelter in place order is lifted.

2. Alderman McGovern asked if the proposal would include the Jewel and the Mayor indicated it would.

3. Alderman Key asked if certain local businesses would be entitled to a prorated license fee or partial refund or waive liquor license fees. The Mayor indicated that the proposal would be targeted to businesses facing the most dire of financial circumstances and also to assist residents.

4. Alderman Basso asked if the City could purchase gift cards from local businesses and then raffle them off at a later date. The Mayor indicated that it is a good idea but the immediate concern is to provide relief to local businesses via the proposal.

5. Alderman Clifford asked about rebates for business and liquor licenses and suggested that a letter be sent to local sporting organizations advising against groups who gather for practices per the State order.

6. Alderman Bylut supports the Mayor's proposal

7. Alderman McGovern suggested that the City support the employees at Palos Hospital.

8. Alderman Clifford supports Alderman McGovern's suggestion and also recognized the workers at the Jewel and other stores supplying residents with needed products.

9. Alderman Kramarski recognized in particular Jewel workers who are on the front lines and to respect the work they do.

10. Attorney Brown advised that carry out liquor establishments be cautious and not to contravene Illinois Liquor Commission regulations.

11. Alderman McGrogan stated that enforcement be relaxed during this time period.

12. Alderman Lewandowski suggested removing basketball hoops at the parks to discourage group gatherings and commended the City department continuing to operate. Alderman Lewandowski asked about the City's application for FEMA funds. The City Administrator indicated the City had applied for such funding.

4. COMMENTS/QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC - None

5. ADJOURNMENT 6:30 p.m.

Thomas Kauter
— by Margaret Carey
Deputy City Clerk

5-18-2020