



AUGUST 17, 2021
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
PALOS HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Mayor called to order the regular meeting of the City of Palos Heights City Council at 7:00 p.m. in the City Administrative Center, 7607 W. College Drive, Palos Heights, IL

II. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Mayor led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated the following were present:

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

V. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

- Approval of Minutes: City Council Meeting - August 3, 2021
- Approval of Payroll and Voucher List for the period ending August 13, 2021.

- Approval of a request from The Salvation Army to conduct their annual Red Kettle Campaign from November 1 through December 24, 2021 at pre approved private property locations in Palos Heights in accordance with the City's Code.
- Approval of a Special Event permit request from Trinity Christian College to conduct the Trinity "Three Point One" 5k Walk or Run on Saturday November 6, 2021 in accordance with the City's Code

Alderman Clifford moved to approve the consent agenda seconded by Alderman Bylut. On roll call, the motion to approve the Consent Agenda was:

Ayes: (8) Basso, Bylut, Begley, Clifford, Lewandowski, Key, McGovern, McGrogan

Nays: (0) None

With eight (8) affirmative votes the motion carried.

VII. OPENING OF SEALED BIDS

None

VII. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS

A. Mayor:

- The Mayor urged residents to use caution while driving as students return to school. Regarding the covid update, the City of Chicago has initiated mask wearing indoors but the rest of Cook County has not to date. 75.3% of the residents in Palos Heights have had at least one shot of the vaccine and 65.3% are fully vaccinated. By comparison with surrounding communities Palos Heights is doing well but the Mayor urged residents to consider receiving the vaccine.
- The Mayor introduced a motion to adopt an Ordinance Increasing the Number of Class A Liquor Licenses by one (1) for Haven Indoor Golf, a new business to be located at 12317 S. Harlem Avenue. The proprietor of the facility offered an overview of the business including hours of operation, menus and services offered. The Mayor pointed out that the business will likely attract residents from neighboring communities as well as local golf teams and enthusiasts to the City.

Alderman Key moved to adopt the Ordinance seconded by Alderman Clifford. On roll call, the motion to adopt the ordinance was:

Ayes: (8) Basso, Bylut, Begley, Clifford, Lewandowski, Key, McGovern, McGrogan

Nays: (0) None

With eight (8) affirmative votes the motion carried.

- The Mayor introduced a Motion to adopt an Ordinance Pertaining to the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund explaining that the ordinance pertains to funding received from the federal government regarding losses related to covid.
- Alderman Key moved to adopt the ordinance seconded by Alderman Clifford. On roll call, the motion to approve the Consent Agenda was:

Ayes: (8) Basso, Bylut, Begley, Clifford, Lewandowski, Key, McGovern, McGrogan

Nays: (0) None

With eight (8) affirmative votes the motion carried.

B. Clerk: No report

B. Treasurer: Delivered Treasurer's Report for the month ending July, 2021.

General Fund:

Beginning cash balance \$3,913,219

Revenues \$789,699

Expenses \$1,344,578

Other \$4,886

Ending cash balance \$3,353,454

Total of All Funds:

Beginning cash balance \$19,622,183

Revenues \$1,537,658

Expenses \$2,155,436

Other \$769

Ending cash balance \$19,005,174

Alderman McGovern moved to approve the Treasurer's Report seconded by Alderman McGrogan. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

C. City Attorney: No Report

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS

Alderman McGovern extended birthday wishes to Alderman Clifford.

Alderman McGrogan suggested that those reluctant to receive the vaccine should consider getting the antibody test.

IX. CITIZENS ADDRESSING THE CITY COUNCIL

None

X. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- A. Finance—*Chairperson Alderman McGrogan*: No report
- B. Public Safety—*Chairperson Alderman Basso*: Reported on the dangers related to distracted driving which causes 40 thousand deaths per year and urged residents not to use a cell phone while driving particularly with respect to teen drivers. Also reported on IRS scams which are targeted to seniors. Text messages and email messages are used to perpetrate these scams. Victims of these scams should contact the IRS.
- C. Municipal Grounds and Property—*Chairperson Alderman Begley*: No Report.
- D. Planning and Zoning—*Chairperson Alderman McGovern*:
 - Alderman McGovern moved to adopt an Ordinance allowing Seva Brands management office to operate as a B-1 Use in a B District, specifically at 11855 Southwest Highway, and contained within PIN 23-24-300-336-0000 seconded by Alderman McGrogan.

On roll call, the motion to adopt the ordinance was:

Ayes: (8) Basso, Bylut, Begley, Clifford, Lewandowski, Key,
McGovern, McGrogan

Nays: (0) None

With eight (8) affirmative votes the motion carried.

- Alderman McGovern moved to adopt an Ordinance allowing a 6-foot privacy fence to extend beyond the southern building line to the south property line along the one-lot block of 126th Street, in lieu of the required 0 feet beyond the front building line, thence easterly to the east property line, thence northerly along the east property line to the north property line for the principal residence located on the corner lot at 12561 S. 68th Court, and contained within PIN

24-30-325-007-0000 seconded by Alderman Clifford.

On roll call, the motion to adopt the ordinance was:

Ayes: (8) Basso, Bylut, Begley, Clifford, Lewandowski, Key,
McGovern, McGrogan

Nays: (0) None

With eight (8) affirmative votes the motion carried.

E. Recreation—*Chairperson Alderman Key:*

- Alderman Key moved to approve contract amendment #1 and payment of \$2,500.00 to JSD Professional Services, Inc. for additional meetings and Master Plan revisions for the Misty Meadows Park project seconded by Alderman Bylut.

Alderman McGrogan posed a question regarding the need for additional fees related to this hire. Alderman Key stated that the amendment was made at the request of the City in order to address questions related to the project specifically with respect to meetings conducted with residents. The Mayor also indicated that this request was made in response to meetings conducted with residents.

Alderman Begley reiterated that the request was made based on concerns raised by residents. All agreed that close scrutiny regarding future requests is necessary.

On roll call, the motion to approve the amendment and payment was:

Ayes: (8) Basso, Bylut, Begley, Clifford, Lewandowski, Key,
McGovern, McGrogan

Nays: (0) None

With eight (8) affirmative votes the motion carried.

- Alderman Key moved to approve the first installment payment for the 2021-22 membership to the South West Special Recreation Association (SWSRA) in the amount of \$43,699.50 seconded by Alderman Clifford.

On roll call, the motion to approve the payment was:

Ayes: (8) Basso, Bylut, Begley, Clifford, Lewandowski, Key,
McGovern, McGrogan

Nays: (0) None

With eight (8) affirmative votes the motion carried.

- Alderman Key moved to approve a Resolution authorizing the Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) grant program seconded by Alderman Bylut. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
- Alderman Key moved to approve the Orchard Park Master Plan with Upland Design seconded by Alderman Clifford.

On roll call, the motion to approve the design was:

Ayes: (8) Basso, Bylut, Begley, Clifford, Lewandowski, Key, McGovern, McGrogan

Nays: (0) None

With eight (8) affirmative votes the motion carried.

F. Roads and Construction—*Chairperson Alderman Clifford:*

- Alderman Clifford moved to approve partial payment to M&J Asphalt Paving Company for the MFT Road Program in the amount of \$371,509.96 seconded by Alderman McGrogan.

On roll call, the motion to approve the payment was:

Ayes: (8) Basso, Bylut, Begley, Clifford, Lewandowski, Key, McGovern, McGrogan

Nays: (0) None

With eight (8) affirmative votes the motion carried.

- Alderman Clifford moved to approve Morris Engineering invoices totaling \$78,668.34 seconded by Alderman Basso.

On roll call, the motion to approve the invoices was:

Ayes: (8) Basso, Bylut, Begley, Clifford, Lewandowski, Key, McGovern, McGrogan

Nays: (0) None

With eight (8) affirmative votes the motion carried.

- Alderman Clifford noted that City salt reserves are well stocked and should be sufficient.
- Alderman Clifford introduced a Summary of Public Comment and Discussion of 123rd Street Sidewalk from Palmer Park to 76th Avenue. [NOTE: This discussion occurred at the end of regular business] regarding the possible implementation of a sidewalk along 123rd street where the ongoing construction project is taking place. Alderman Clifford stated that because of the ongoing construction a sidewalk along 123rd street would be cheaper now as opposed to after the construction is completed. The approximate cost now is \$75,000.00 as opposed to six times as much after construction. Residents were invited to offer comments regarding this topic. The Mayor stated that a sidewalk along 123rd street would be an appropriate location to connect to other areas of the City such as Lake Katherine or 76th Avenue. The Mayor also stated that the cost to the City would pay 20 percent of the \$75,000 due to matching funding from the federal government. The City is not seeking to eventually install sidewalks throughout the City but ones that allow for greater connectivity throughout the City. The Mayor stated that the City is not voting to decide this issue but seeks community input. Alderman Key stated enhanced movement within the City is an issue that arises especially during large public events such as the Classic Car Show. Alderman Bylut stated that the presence of a sidewalk will alter the character of the City and that with proper caution residents can navigate the City safely without sidewalks. Alderman McGrogan stated that the possibility to construct the sidewalk would come at an opportune time financially. Alderman McGovern opposes the construction of such a sidewalk noting that he walks safely using the streets to reach points of interest around the City. Alderman Bylut stated that a sidewalk would be better suited from Halem connecting to the Library. Alderman Lewandowski stated that the subject under discussion would take place in his ward. Alderman Lewandowski stated that the matter is under discussion solely to consider input from the residents. Alderman Lewandowski stated that the discussion would center on what action is best for the future of the City and not preexisting notions of what the character of the City is or should be. Alderman Lewandowski stated that the position is well understood that sidewalks over the entirety of the City is not a possibility but that sidewalks providing greater connectivity in the City could be beneficial. Alderman Begley stated that the purpose of the meeting is to receive input from all residents interested in the subject.

- i. Gary Kramer (123rd and Harold) stated that he is an engineer and did not hear options other than the sidewalk under discussion. 123rd Street is already being widened by 5 feet a sound master plan would consider widening the street by 8 feet which provides a walking lane integrated into the street. Such a proposal would be cost effective and allows for foot traffic as contemplated by a sidewalk. Mr. Kramer stated the City should consider viable options such as a walking lane. He opposes a sidewalk because it would erode further resident property.
- ii. An unidentified resident residing along 123rd street stated that he opposes sidewalks because they will not provide safety.
- iii. Peg Gara resides along 123rd Street and asked who would maintain the sidewalks and, for instance, shovel the snow on the sidewalk. Ms. Gara opposes a sidewalk along 123rd street.
- iv. Jim Stevens (123rd and 73rd Avenue) opposes sidewalks that would cut into residents properties and may support a walking lane on the street such as the one suggested.
- v. Brian Knoll (123rd and 75th Avenue) stated that he opposes a sidewalk and may support Mr. Kramer's idea regarding a walking lane in the street.
- vi. Mr. White (123rd and Harold) stated that the character of the City is inconsistent with sidewalk and opposes one along 123rd Street.
- vii. Mr. Kramer stated that the construction crew undertaking the construction has been professional and asks that the City provide additional advance notice before notifying residents that public input is being sought.

G. License, Permits & Franchises—*Chairperson Alderman Lewandowski:*

- Alderman Lewandowski moved to approve the Permanent Sign request from JCLicht (Benjamin Moore) at 12345 S. Harlem Avenue seconded by Alderman McGovern. Alderman Lewandowski noted that one portion of the sign is five inches above the code and the other is four inches above the code.

On roll call, the motion to approve the request was:

Ayes: (8) Basso, Bylut, Begley, Clifford, Lewandowski, Key, McGovern, McGrogan

Nays: (0) None

With eight (8) affirmative votes the motion carried.

H. Water and Sewer—*Chairperson Alderman Bylut*: No Report

XI. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- A. Business/Economic Development: Alderman Key - Reported that the Chamber of Commerce will conduct its Health and Business Expo at the Rec Center on August 28 from 8 am to 1 pm with a focus on thanking first responders and emphasizing the need to shop local.
- B. Ad Hoc Cable TV: Alderman McGovern - Reported that the Comcast live broadcast is under construction and will be restored soon.

XII. OLD BUSINESS

None

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

None

XIV. CITIZENS ASKING QUESTIONS REGARDING THE EVENING'S BUSINESS

None

XV. CLOSED SESSION

Alderman Clifford moved to recess to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel Under Section 2(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act seconded by Alderman Key. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

XVI. OPEN SESSION

Alderman McGovern moved to approve the appointment of a Building Commissioner seconded by Alderman Begley. The motion carried by voice vote.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:35 p.m. the Mayor requested a motion to adjourn that passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
PALOS HEIGHTS CITY CLERK

Thomas Kantas

9.7.21

Thomas Kantas

Date