

**City Council Meeting**  
Of the City of Palos Hills  
held **Thursday, April 17, 2014**  
City Hall Council Chambers  
10335 S. Roberts Road  
Palos Hills, Illinois 60465

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Bennett called the City Council Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- 2) **PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:** Mayor Bennett led everyone in the Pledge to the Flag.
- 3) **ROLL CALL:** Upon roll call the following Aldermen responded as present: Knox, Brachman, Hanson, Marrotta, Schultz, Kleefisch, Stratton, Pasek, Moore, Williams
- 4) **QUORUM:** Mayor Bennett declared a quorum was present.
- 5) **READING OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:**  
Ald. Kleefisch, I MOVE to approve the City Council Meeting Minutes dated April 3, 2014 as presented. SECONDED by Ald. Williams. Upon roll call the following Ald. voted:  
AYE: Marrotta, Schultz, Kleefisch, Stratton, Pasek, Moore, Williams, Knox  
ABSTAIN: Brachman, Hanson  
NAY: None MOTION CARRIED.
- 6) **CITIZENS PETITION:** None.
- 7) **CITIZENS HEARING:**  
Mayor Bennett, the meeting is open to the public for any comments or questions.

With no questions or comments from the public; the public portion of the meeting was closed.

8) **REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR AND OTHER CITY OFFICIALS:**

A. **CITY CLERK:** No report.

B. **CITY ATTORNEY:**

City Attorney Pappas, the Attorney representing the owner of 103<sup>rd</sup> & 75<sup>th</sup> Ct. called me and wanted to know what the situation was with his request for the fence permit, and I informed him that I would ask the City Council to discuss and consider it at the next Committee Meeting and then possibly vote on it at the next City Council Meeting.

C. **MAYOR**

Mayor Bennett, Ladies & Gentlemen under my portion of the meeting I would like to

remind the Council that on the 23<sup>rd</sup> NIMEC will be going out to bid again on the aggregation.

Also, Dave informed me during the Public Works/Sewer & Water budget meeting about the Oak Lawn situation. I know Frank will bringing that up under his report.

Last week I had passed out the salary ordinance, there were a few typos and the typos were corrected and this is the corrected one, and Joan if you will take care of this under Finance.

**9) PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, RESOLUTIONS  
ORDERS AND ORDINANCES BY ALDERMEN:**

**A. BUILDING & LICENSE:** No report.

**B. CITY ADMINISTRATION/GOLF:**

Ald. Moore, our website update is on schedule with a time and day of May 1<sup>st</sup> to have that live and on line, and then on May 8<sup>th</sup> we will have a presentation on our newly updated website that contains a lot of new features.

**C. COMMUNITY RESOURCES:**

Ald. Marrotta presented and read a Proclamation to celebrate Arbor Day in the city Whereupon Gerald R. Bennett, Mayor of the City of Palos Hills proclaimed April 25, 2014 as Arbor Day in the City of Palos Hills, and urged citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, and further urged all citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the wellbeing of this and future generations.

**D. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** No report.

**E. FINANCE:**

Ald. Knox, we have one more budget hearing to be held on April 24<sup>th</sup> for Parks and Community Resource. I have changed the time to 5:15 pm. instead of 6:00 pm.

Ald. Knox, you all have before you a Vendor Warrant dated April 17, 2014 in the amount of \$308,294.41. I MOVE to authorize the expenditure of same. SECONDED by Ald. Pasek. Upon roll call the following Ald. voted:

AYE: Hanson, Marrotta, Schultz, Kleefisch, Stratton, Pasek, Moore, Williams, Knox, Brachman

NAY: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Ald. Knox, I MOVE for consideration of an Ordinance relating to compensation for City Officers and Employees. SECONDED by Ald. Kleefisch. Upon roll call the following Ald. voted:

AYE: Marrotta, Schultz, Kleefisch, Pasek, Moore, Williams, Knox, Brachman, Hanson

NAY: Stratton

MOTION CARRIED.

City Clerk Mulderink assigned number 2014-09 to a proposed Ordinance entitled: An Ordinance Relating To Compensation For City Officers & Employees.

Ald. Williams, I MOVE to WAIVE the reading of proposed Ordinance 2014-9. SECONDED by Ald. Moore. Upon roll call the following Ald. voted:

AYE: Schultz, Kleefisch, Stratton, Pasek, Moore, Williams, Knox, Brachman, Hanson Marrotta

NAY: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Ald. Knox, I MOVE for PASSAGE of proposed Ordinance 2014-9, An Ordinance Relating To Compensation For City Officers & Employees, as presented. SECONDED by Ald. Kleefisch. Upon roll call the following Ald. voted:

AYE: Kleefisch, Pasek, Moore, Williams, Knox, Brachman, Hanson, Marrotta, Schultz

NAY: Stratton

MOTION CARRIED.

Ald. Knox reminded every one of the Finance Meeting scheduled for May 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm., which will be kind of a question and answer meeting that was discussed.

**F. LEGISLATION & ORDINANCES:**

Ald. Knox, just a reminder that May 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 pm we will be holding a meeting regarding fire pits for those who would like to attend.

**G. PARKS:**

Ald. Stratton, the new Recreation Brochure will arrive in the mail early next week. There are several new programs and trips being offered as well as Summer Day Camp.

**H. PLANNING & ZONING:**

Ald. Hanson, just a reminder that we have a couple of hearings coming up, one on April 22<sup>nd</sup> for a side yard variation, and the other is on April 29<sup>th</sup> for a garage addition.

Also you should all have the minutes from the Plan Commission Meeting from March 31<sup>st</sup> for property located at 8650 W. 103<sup>rd</sup> St., Units A & B, the request is to open a Fitness Center. I MOVE to accept the recommendation of the Plan Commission, and instruct the City Attorney draft the necessary ordinance. SECONDED by Kleefisch. Upon roll call the following Ald. voted:

AYE: Stratton, Pasek, Moore, Williams, Knox, Brachman, Hanson, Marrotta, Schultz, Kleefisch

NAY: None

MOTION CARRIED.

**I. PUBLIC SAFETY:**

Ald. Kleefisch presented and read the Palos Hills Police Department Activity Report for the month of March 2014 as follows: 493 traffic tickets were issued, 278 parking tickets were issued, there were 55 misdemeanor complaints and 11 felony complaints. There were 5 aggravated assaults, 2 burglaries, 4 thefts, and our C.I.D. Division handled a total of 95 cases.

Ald. Kleefisch, we received a check from Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court in the amount of \$74.67, and we received a check from N.C.I. Receivable Management and Recovery in the amount of \$2,944.50.

Ald. Kleefisch, I have short note that I would like to read into the record that highlights good police work on the part of our officers and it also brings light a serious problem that a lot of people are paying a lot of attention to and trying to help with. A mother of a young woman writes this and it reads as follows: My daughter passed away 2 years ago on New Years Eve; her boyfriend overdosed her on heroin. I called your office yesterday to say thank you so kindly for your officers catching him recently.

I have been in continuous contact with Cook County Officers regarding him particularly; he will kill another person and I am sure of it. I wrote the Cook County Sheriffs Department and asked him to be extradited. I am extremely saddened every day and miss my daughter dearly. I would not want another family to go through what our family has with loosing a child. Sincerely, please stay on him.

Ald. Kleefisch, just to remind everyone that Moraine Valley College is having an Environmental Protection Hazardous waste collection day on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8:00 am to 3 pm.

**J. PUBLIC WORKS/SEWER & WATER:**

Ald. Williams, the Public Works Commissioner reports the following in the Public Works/Sewer & Water Departments: We received a reimbursement check from AT&T in the amount of \$6,233.87 for overcharges to our lift station phone lines.

The City of Palos Hills has received its 26<sup>th</sup> consecutive Tree City USA award from the Arbor Day Foundation. The award is made possible through the combined efforts of the Community Resources Department for their educational programs and Arbor Day activities and the Public Works Department for promoting proper tree care programs and parkway tree maintenance.

In the past two weeks, public works is completing follow up repair work from water main breaks and fire hydrant damaged over the winter; crews replaced water main, valves and repaired fire hydrants at the following locations:

103<sup>rd</sup> St. east of Roberts Road – 2 locations totaling 85 feet of 6 inch water main  
104<sup>th</sup> & 83<sup>rd</sup> Ave. – 30 feet of 6 inch water main  
104<sup>th</sup> & 82<sup>nd</sup> Ct. – 40 feet of 6 inch water main  
90<sup>th</sup> Ave. & 99<sup>th</sup> St. – 10 inch water main valve replacement  
Waterfront & 111<sup>th</sup> St. – Fire hydrant and two valve repairs  
Los Palos & Wooded Path – Fire hydrant repair

Sod restoration work has started, and crews are currently repairing damage from tree stump removals. When completed they will start repairs due to water main repairs.

Crews completed painting in the lower pipe galley at the upper system pumping station.

Bids for aggregation of electric are scheduled to 10:00 am on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Once the bids are sent to the Public Works Commissioner a copy will be sent to your email addresses on the city web site.

**Oak Lawn Regional Water System Agreement:** The Commissioner was hoping to have an official response from Oak Lawn prior to night's meeting. Unofficially, the Commissioner has been advised our request for concessions totaling \$880,000.00 will be denied and the City of Palos Hills will be asked to pay its proportional share of the project estimated at \$7.9 million dollars. With an additional expense to modify the pump station and meter vault located on 103<sup>rd</sup> St. just west of Harlem Ave. estimated at \$800,000.00 to 1 million dollars.

Should we decide to seek water elsewhere the Village of Oak Lawn will work with us as we go through the process of disconnection. While this is happening Oak Lawn would convert Palos Hills from a wholesale customer to a retail customer and start charging Palos Hills a retail rate, currently at \$5.70 per 1,000 gallons. Our current wholesale rate is \$3.14 per thousand gallons.

The Commissioner states the City of Palos Hills has no other reasonable option other than accept the terms presented by the Village of Oak Lawn for cost participation in the construction and maintenance of the Oak Lawn Regional Water System.

In the next few days to weeks the Village of Oak Lawn will be presenting a time line with requirements the City of Palos Hills will need to complete in order to become a member of the regional water system.

Mayor Bennett, unfortunately yes as we left that meeting thinking that we did have an agreement, Oak Lawn informed us that they had to go back to the other members and the other members did not accept that agreement. Both at the percentile as indicated from the beginning of which (inaudible) objected to because we weren't really part of any conversation (inaudible) our proposal was not to be accepted. So we are back to what the estimated cost is, which the Commissioner indicated is \$7.9 million dollars.

Ald. Schultz, there are other municipalities that are involved in this I don't understand why we can't get together with them because obviously from everything I am reading in the news papers they want to fight this thing too. As a group try do to something instead of rolling over and saying okay this is what we have to do because the City of Chicago is going to dictate to us.

Mayor Bennett, Alderman first of all we didn't roll over; in my presentation last week we were the last, in fact everybody else is on board except us.

Ald. Schultz, not by everything that I am reading in the newspapers, Tinley Park, Mokena and all of them are really up in arms about this. Don't we share other municipalities, don't we

have 11 or 12 that share the water from Oak Lawn, and they are all going to say yes we are going to pay this.

Mayor Bennett, the problem is they did say yes without inviting us to the table. That was my whole point of the conversation; in fact we are the last to sign on. Whatever you have been reading in the paper may have been because they are reacting to rejecting our proposal of increasing their costs as we decreased ours in the construction. That is the only thing that has been in the paper but they already have unanimous approval of all those other communities; we were the last to hold out.

We gave every effort we could in explaining our situation as a part of this new system. We have objected since 2007 when this program first came out. However it is their system and to be a part of it they've gotten agreements from everybody except us. As I explained to you our options are limited if not none, and any option that we would take other than to go along with the contract would mean higher costs.

Ald. Schultz, how are we going to pay for this and do we have enough money to do this?

Mayor Bennett, as far as the cost of the capital improvement as I indicated last week we have a capital billing on our water bills that will have to remain but this won't dramatically affect or cause us to affect large increases in water rates other than what's again passed on to us by Chicago and Oak Lawn. It will be a 20 or 30 year bond that Oak Lawn will pass, and all communities as part of this consortium will pay their percentile to Oak Lawn over the 20 or 30 year period. So yes we will be able to finance it.

Mayor Bennett, again I am not happy about this, we objected from day one (inaudible) it is their system and I was frustrated because it was their system, their design and we are a customer of them. So we are subject to at least not being part of the design and secondly part of that we feel again was what was suppose been all the towns we thought sitting down. It didn't turn out that way, it was segmented to the 5 users southwest, the 3 users southeast, and them the remaining, meaning us, Palos Park and Chicago Ridge, after they decided the percentile of the main pipe going through.

As I indicated last week that because this involves a bond issue that we have to be a part of the City Council will hold a Special Meeting just for the passage of the paperwork that is involved and I will inform everyone of that date.

**10) REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:** None.

**11) UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Ald. Knox, when we had the finance meetings we had the Horizon Club come up and I told them that I would be in touch regularly to just open the lines of communication and so I talked Mary Ann; I am not getting to the meeting the way I wanted to and she thought that was not a big deal. Everything seems to be fine I will report back once a month when I talk to them and they know if there is any trouble in the mean time (inaudible) they can call the Community Resource Dept.

Ald. Schultz, Chief I don't want to put you on the spot but since they passed a law against hand held cell phones are we giving out tickets?

Chief Madigan, Ald. Brachman asked me a couple of months ago, and since he asked me that question we have issued over 350 local tickets.

**12) MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:** None

**13) ADJOURNMENT:**

No further business, Mayor Bennett entertained a motion to adjourn. SO MOVED by Ald. Stratton. SECONDED by Ald. Pasek. By voice vote, all voted AYE.

The Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Submitted by

Rudy A. Mulderink  
City Clerk  
City of Palos Hills