

**City Council Meeting**  
Of the City of Palos Hills  
Held **Thursday, May 7, 2020**  
10335 S. Roberts Road  
Palos Hills, IL 60465

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Bennett called the City Council Meeting to order at 7:00p.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:  
**PRESENT:** Price, Brachman, Lebarre, Marrotta, O'Connell, Kleefisch, Stratton, Pasek, Abed, Nowak  
**ABSENT:** None
- 4) **QUORUM:** Mayor Bennett declared a quorum was present.
- 5) **READING OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:**  
Mayor Bennett entertained a motion to approve the City Council Meeting Minutes dated April 16, 2020 as presented. SO MOVED by Ald. Kleefisch. SECONDED by Ald. Marrotta. Upon roll call the following Ald. voted:  
**AYE:** Brachman, Lebarre, Marrotta, O'Connell, Kleefisch, Stratton, Pasek, Abed, Nowak, Price  
**NAY:** None  
**MOTION CARRIED**
- 6) **CITIZENS PETITION:** None this evening.
- 7) **REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR AND OTHER CITY OFFICIALS:**
  - A. **CITY CLERK:** No report this evening.
  - B. **CITY ATTORNEY:** City Attorney Pappas stated that the Racquet Club {inaudible} for July 7<sup>th</sup> and due to the pandemic the Clerk's office has been closed, so it'll be pushed back about three months. Within three months after that, the title to that property should be secured.
  - C. **MAYOR:** Mayor Bennett announced that the City of Palos Hills continues to operate with as much normalcy as possible, and we remain closed to the public. Mayor Bennett reported that there are no reported cases of COVID-19 among City employees, and thanked department heads, Police and Public Works in cooperation with his office for their continued practice of social distancing and keeping employees safe.

Mayor Bennett recommended everyone to follow the City of Palos Hills website for updates as they become available. As of mid-March, the City of Palos Hills has had approximately 109 cases of COVID-19, and unfortunately six people have lost their lives. On behalf of City Council we extend our condolences to those families.

Mayor Bennett entertained a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel changes. SO MOVED by Ald. Pasek. SECONDED by Ald. Marrotta.

Ald. Stratton asked if we can legally go into Executive Session, or would it be better to meet at City Hall one evening.

Mayor Bennett stated this falls under the Open Meetings Act, and we have the right to go into Executive Session under the same conditions. The YouTube channel will be turned off during Executive Session. Upon roll call the following Ald. voted:

**AYE:** Lebarre, Marrotta, O'Connell, Kleefisch, Pasek, Abed, Nowak, Price, Brachman  
**NAY:** None

Mayor Bennett announced that we were informed by IDOT that under the Capital Build Illinois plan (which took place over a year ago that allows us to receive additional monies monthly under the Motor Fuel Tax) is a Direct Capital Infusion of monies to cities and villages across the state for the purpose of enhancing or enlarging our road projects. Mayor Bennett is pleased to report that the City of Palos Hills will be receiving 1.2 million dollars over the next three years to be used for our Motor Fuel Tax or road funds.

Mayor Bennett stated that Commissioner Violante approached him advising that there was an opportunity for an Illinois Parks Grant for park improvements. An extensive report has been distributed which reflects that we are going to receive \$200,000.00 from the state of Illinois under the program that was sponsored by State Representative, Kelly Burke and Senator Cunningham. Additionally, Commissioner Violante is able to receive an additional \$66,000.00 in Grant funds from the Illinois Park and Recreation Association and the Game Time Playground Company. Submittal of this Grant from the Illinois Park & Recreation Association must be done by May 20, 2020 and the proposed equipment must be purchased before September 15, 2020. Due to the recent COVID-19 events, the monies may not be released until January 2021. Due to the delay in the \$200,000.00 state Grant, Mayor Bennett is asking that the money be allocated from the Capital Improvement Fund and will be reimbursed once the City receives money from the State.

Mayor Bennett entertained a motion to move forward with this project. SO MOVED by Ald. Price. SECONDED by Ald. Abed. Upon roll call the following Ald. voted:

**AYE:** Marrotta, O'Connell, Kleefisch, Stratton, Pasek, Abed, Nowak, Price, Brachman, Lebarre

**NAY:** None

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **8) PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, RESOLUTIONS, AND ORDINANCES**

### **BY ALDERMEN:**

#### **A. BUILDING & LICENSING:**

Ald. Price read the April 2020 building report and noted that 40 permits were issued for a total of \$18,584.00 in permit fees and \$2,000.00 in security deposits.

#### **B. CITY ADMINISTRATION/GOLF:**

Ald. Marrotta read the Administration report as follows:

City staff has been working hard to keep our residents informed with the most up-to-date information as we receive it by the Governor by posting to our website at [paloshillsweb.org](http://paloshillsweb.org).

Our City Hall staff is available by phone by calling or email Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., and we are encouraging our residents to please utilize our drop box in the front of City Hall for water bill payments, or to visit our website to make a payment. We have also relayed this message on our overnight phone message as well.

- o Allied Waste has resumed yard waste and bulk item pick up.
- o Business License renewals have been given an extension to submit their paperwork and payments.
- o We will be suspending our penalties on our water bills for May and will not be doing any shut-offs.
- o We have cancelled our May and June P-Ticket and RedSpeed court dates until further notice.

Ald. Marrotta mentioned that he and Ald. Abed have launched a Facebook page dedicated to the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward.

Ald. Marrotta read the Golf report as follows:

Extensive work has been ongoing and finally completed on hole number 6. We had serious drainage issues that have been rectified to the best of our ability; we will continue to master this project in the Fall of 2020.

The fairways and greens continue to be cut on a regular basis. We have been spraying for crabgrass and weeds which includes the removal of dandelions and planted various plants and flowers through our course. We repaired the existing irrigation leak and replaced sprinkler heads; laid mulch around the entire clubhouse, cleaned up the shop, install new flag sticks around the course. The creek at the south end of the course has been cleaned by Public Works and a lot of large debris has been removed. Using CDC recommendations we have installed makeshift cup guards in all the holes using foam swimming noodles. We continue to sanitize and clean to ensure we stay in compliance with what has been mandated to us.

Ald. Marrotta stated that he has seen a complete turnaround since Pat, Marty and Luis have been a team in the aesthetics as well as the functionality of our course.

Ald. Marrotta scheduled a virtual Golf meeting for Thursday, May 28, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

#### **C. COMMUNITY RESOURCES:**

Ald. Nowak announced that PLOWS Council on Aging is providing grocery shopping for Palos Hills seniors; they will also pay for the groceries. This is open for seniors who cook, but have no transportation to and from the grocery store. Please call Palos Hills Community Center at 430-4500 for more information.

#### **D. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

Ald. O'Connell announced that Sacred Heart Church is having a blessing every Sunday by car at 1:00 p.m.

Ald. O'Connell stated that the local salons are anticipating re-opening in the next phase.

Ald. O'Connell mentioned she has a magazine from PLOWS Council on Aging that recognizes some of the residents who volunteered services that have made a difference in the lives of others.

Ald. O'Connell informed all that if they wish to receive updates via email from the Hickory Palos Chamber of Commerce to email them directly at [info@thehillschamber.org](mailto:info@thehillschamber.org).

Ald. O'Connell stated that the Riveria residents have asked her to thank Public Works for the great job on the patching and fixing the areas that were impacted by the water main break over the winter.

#### **E. FINANCE:**

Ald. Lebarre MOVED to authorize the expenditure of a Vendor Warrant dated, May 7, 2020 in the amount of \$709,840.01. SECONDED by Ald. Brachman. Upon roll call the following Ald. voted:

**AYE:** O'Connell, Kleefisch, Stratton, Pasek, Abed, Nowak, Price, Brachman, Lebarre, Marrotta

**NAY:** None

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **F. LEGISLATION & ORDINANCES:**

Ald. Abed had no report this evening.

#### **G. PARKS:**

Ald. Stratton reminded everyone to refrain from using any of the playground equipment within City parks.

#### **H. PLANNING & ZONING:**

Ald. Nowak had no report this evening.

**I. PUBLIC SAFETY:**

Ald. Kleefisch stated that there was a check received from CarFax in the amount of \$115.00.

Ald. Kleefisch stated that there was a fence petition request at 10502 S. Aspen Drive for replacing the existing fence and also adding a new section on the south side of the yard, and requesting to extend the north side of the fence closer to our City sidewalk. The fence committee looked at the property and their opinion is to grant the petition with the exception of extending the north side yard fence toward the City sidewalk.

Ald. Kleefisch MOVED to grant the petition with the exception of extending the north side yard fence to the City sidewalk. SECONDED by Ald. Marrotta. Upon roll call the following Ald. voted:

**AYE:** Kleefisch, Stratton, Pasek, Abed, Nowak, Price, Brachman, Lebarre, Marrotta, O'Connell

**NAY:** None

**MOTION CARRIED**

Ald. Marrotta stated Country Insurance has issued \$1500.00 vouchers at Peppo's for both Police and Fire Departments.

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

Ald. Brachman read the Public Works Commissioner's report as follows:

- o We have resumed full staffing during regular work hours.
- o All employees have been following state mandated social distancing and PPE guidelines.
- o Chipper service has resumed as has all standard maintenance activity.
- o Due to the restrictions of the six weeks of rotating staff the department is behind on some restoration work, but crews are moving quickly to catch up.
- o IDOT has told the City that we will be receiving an additional \$1,150,000.00 in Motor Fuel Tax funds over the next three years through the Capital Grant. We should be receiving the first of six installments of \$192,000.00 within the next week or two. These funds can only be used for Capital type projects such as street paving and sidewalk replacement. This will not impact our normal monthly MFT allotment.

**9) REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:** None this evening.

**10) UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None this evening.

**11) MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:** Ald. Pasek asked Mayor Bennett if the Friendship Fest is cancelled.

Mayor Bennett announced that for the first time in thirty-nine years we're going to have to cancel the Friendship Fest. The only outstanding costs were deposits for the bands; Kristin has done a great job getting back to all the bands and they have agreed to play next year using the security deposits we have this year. There is no cost to the City in this year's Friendship Fest.

City Attorney Pappas asked if all the deposits were returned.

Mayor Bennett stated that most have been returned, but there are a couple that were going to hold it with the guarantee that they're coming back next year.

Ald. Pasek asked if the Day Camp at the Parks Department is cancelled.

Mayor Bennett stated that Day Camp is cancelled and most of the activities in the Park Department will not be taking place.

Mayor Bennett stated that he will be addressing this regarding personnel and the operations in Executive Session.

Mayor Bennett, the City Council has to go into Executive Session. We will come back to close the meeting.

The City Council went into Executive Session at 7:30 pm

The City Council returned from Executive Session at 7:40 pm.

Mayor Bennett stated the purpose of going into Executive Session was to discuss personnel matters regarding the COVID pandemic.

**12) ADJORNMENT:**

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 7:41 p.m.

Submitted by

Rudy A. Mulderink  
City Clerk  
City of Palos Hills