

**CITY OF PROSPECT HEIGHTS
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
December 10, 2012**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Helmer at City Hall, 8 North Elmhurst Road, Prospect Heights, Cook County, Illinois.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Helmer, Aldermen Ludvigsen, Mendez, Styler, Williamson
Absent: Alderman Higgins

A quorum was present. Also present: City Clerk Adamson, City Treasurer Tibbits, City Administrator Marrin, City Attorney Zimmermann, Police Chief Dunne, Deputy Police Chief Steffen, Director of Building and Zoning Skiber, City Engineer/Public Works Director Johnson, Finance Director Hannon, and Deputy Clerk Sabo.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

City Clerk Adamson asked everyone to stand and join her in the Pledge.

INVOCATION

There was none.

SPECIAL AWARDS AND PROMOTIONS

A. Promotion of Corporal Mark Porlier to Sergeant of the Prospect Heights Police Department.

Mark Porlier was sworn in as a Sergeant of the Prospect Heights Police Department by Mayor Helmer, along with Police and Fire Commissioners Meyer and Wolf.

B. Police Unit Citation Awards.

Police Chief Dunne and Deputy Police Chief Steffen presented Police Unit Citation Awards to Corporal Michael Stone, Corporal William Caponigro, and Patrol Officer Jesus Duron.

A Life Saving Award was awarded to Patrol Officer William Suerth.

C. Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists Certificates of Appreciation.

Police Chief Dunne and Deputy Police Chief Steffen presented Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists Certificates of Appreciation to Sergeant Joseph Pawlicki, Corporal William Caponigro, Patrol Officer William Suerth, and Patrol Officer Jesus Duron.

D. Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Awards

City Administrator Marrin presented Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Awards to Public Works Foreman Jim O'Neill and Public Works Employee Adam Biondo.

Police Chief Dunne and Deputy Police Chief Steffen left the meeting at 7:10pm.

PRESENTATIONS

E. Water Rate Study – Christopher Buckley, Baxter & Woodman.

Mr. Christopher Buckley presented the water rate study done for the City of Prospect Heights by Baxter & Woodman. Mr. Buckley commented that Baxter & Woodman reviewed the Water Fund revenues and expenses for the last three years, discussed Water Fund cost drivers including staffing and health insurance, developed a base water capital improvement plan, performed an asset inventory of Prospect Heights' water system, developed annual expenditure targets based on average infrastructure service life, looked at projected anticipated revenue and expenditures over the next five years. The results show that the Water Fund balance is adequate now but will decrease rapidly over time based on predictions of expenses. There are three Water Fund reserves mandated by GASB 54. There is a committed operating reserve which is 15% of total revenue which covers any emergency operating expenses which may crop up in a given year, a debt stabilization reserve which is a sum of money that is kept in reserve equal to the debt service payments over the next few years in case revenues come short or there is an emergency, and there is an infrastructure reserve which is equal to 2% of the total asset value of the water assets in Prospect Heights which is for emergency capital such as replacing a broken water main. The current water rates are divided into four categories. There is a usage rate which is a volume usage based on the amount of water used which is \$6.08 per 1,000 gallons. There is a debt service charge which is a monthly fixed charge of \$5.97 which goes towards paying debt service. The infrastructure maintenance charge is an \$8.99 monthly flat fee which is a capital reserve which helps pay for water mains and hydrants. There is a delivery charge which is an \$18.99 per month flat fee to pay for daily operations of the water system. Each of these have been looked at and an evaluation was done on revenues versus cost. On usage rates, those funds are used to cover the water purchase from Illinois American Water. That rate is adequate at present for water purchases. Illinois American Water has raised rates slightly and they have not disclosed when they will raise them again but it is a sure bet that they will be raised. The debt service revenue is adequate for debt service payments. The operating and management expenses exceed the delivery charge revenue. The infrastructure maintenance charge is not sufficient for sustainable infrastructure renewal. Out of the four charges, two of them need to be looked at. The challenges that the Water Fund faces are that the operating and management expenses exceed revenue and that there is an \$800,000 bond which is what is sustaining the expenses over the revenues. There was a bond that was obtained several years ago that was supposed to be used for capital infrastructure but instead there were grants that offset the cost of the bonds. The bond is paying for day to day water operations. On the capital improvements plan, there is no solid plan. There should be a plan as to the cost allocations with respect to the infrastructure of the system and a reserve should be created so that if there is a major improvement needed, there will be money in place. On a year to year basis, expenses exceed revenues by about \$130,000 on average which is money used to run the water system. The AWWA recommends that year to year, money be put towards infrastructure to maintain it and keep it in good working order and replace things that wear out because it will reduce maintenance costs and improve service. There are water leaks which are occurring. The one IDNR report showed a leakage rate of 31,000 gallons per day. That water is being paid for but it is going into the ground and can't be billed for. If the leakage rate can be reduced, costs should go down based on the amount of water that is purchased per year. He has come up with an average of \$165,000 annually in water system improvements based on the asset inventory and by using AWWA guidelines for infrastructure renewal. There is a main pumping station which will require timely equipment replacement. There are underground water reservoirs which will need periodic inspection to extend the life of the structure and maintain water quality. The key difference on where the City is at now and where they

are recommending the City to be is the level of capital investment annually in addition to the operating and management expenses. Baxter and Woodman is recommending an allocation of \$165,000 to \$185,000 annually budgeted for capital investments, specifically looking at water mains. This recommendation calls for making plans to replace water mains over time. As there has not been an identification on what water mains have deteriorated and where the money needs to go, they suggest that the City build up the infrastructure asset reserve to help pay for projects. There are allocations in that recommended figure based on the number of water meters, valves, and pump station improvements. Baxter and Woodman proposes that the City gradually increase the delivery charge and the infrastructure fixed charge over the next five years. The other rates do not need to change. They recommend that the City updates the Ordinance to automatically pass through any increases from Illinois American Water Company as water rates are generally being raised. If wholesale water rates are increased, those should be automatically passed on. They recommend reviewing the Water Fund financial situations again in two years to see whether the fund has stabilized and to see what major capital projects have been done and will be done. The usage rate is not predicted to be increased until 2016, 2017, and 2018 which is only if Illinois American Water increases their rate however if they don't, then there is no need to increase the usage rate. The debt service charge does not need to be changed as debt service payments are fixed annually and there is enough revenue to pay for that charge unless the City goes out and gets additional bonding or loans. The infrastructure maintenance charge and the delivery charge should be increased gradually by approximately 5% to 7% annually starting at the beginning of the fiscal year to start building back the Water Fund as the expenses start to drain it. Projected water bills for average residential use of approximately 3,000 gallons of use would be \$64.29 in five years, which involves an increase each year. Currently that same used would pay \$52.18.

Alderman Mendez commented that the City got a loan for \$800,000 and the City also has grants. What he has noticed is that the City didn't use the \$800,000. The City is still collecting the monthly debt service charge. He asked if the City issued bonds, is it legal to hold it and still charge customers.

Mr. Buckley explained that the water is being used to pay down capital expenses and for expense pay down. That bond can't be gotten rid of just yet. He is not privy as to how the bonds came about but that is the status of it currently. The City managed to get infrastructure grants to help pay for improvements which the City benefitted from. The problem is that there is still money for the bond. Those proceeds are in water fund and being used for that purpose. There is an annual debt service payment to pay on that bond until it is paid off.

Alderman Mendez commented that in 2010, the City pumped 59,441 gallons and the City billed 45,000 which is a huge difference. He asked if funds are used for street maintenance or street cleaning.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Johnson commented that water funds are only used for the water system and not for sewer repairs or any road maintenance expenditures.

Alderman Mendez commented that the gallons of water pumped that was lost had gone down tremendously over the last couple years.

Mr. Buckley commented that when there was water main construction and repair, there is higher than average usage that is not billed and also there were also water leaks that were fixed as well which is why there is a trend of decreasing water loss.

City Administrator Marrin commented that leak detection was done and several areas were fixed and more are being fixed this year.

Mr. Buckley commented that unexplained water usage includes firefighting and hydrant flushing.

Alderman Ludvigsen asked if there was a reason why Mr. Buckley didn't run the figures to get to 50% above the required reserves and he actually took it to zero.

Mr. Buckley commented that with financial projections, five years is about as accurate as they are comfortable going out to. They apply inflation factors to expenses including health insurance and IMRF. Five years is where he feels that the City will get to where it needs to be. Rates might need to be continued to be raised after 2018 but that is why they suggest looking at the Water Fund financials after two years. The reserves are pretty good and are higher than other places. There is a good basis currently. Another scenario could be raising all rates currently by 15%. Based on his experience, most rate payers do not like that. Usually, most rate payers like to pay around what they paid the year before.

City Treasurer Tibbits commented that the City has had two heavy rate increases over the last five years with a slight reduction last year. He asked why Arlington Heights, Wheeling or Buffalo Grove weren't included in the rate comparison.

Mr. Buckley commented that he used municipalities which were a closer comparison to Prospect Heights with respect to size. The larger communities spread their costs over a larger population so the comparisons are slightly different.

Mayor Helmer commented that it is his experience that there are Cities that have two rates for things such as sprinkling which is charged at a lesser rate than what is coming out of the tap. He asked if that is common.

Mr. Buckley commented that he has seen an irrigation credit that some communities do where the philosophy is that people are being billed for water usage. What is coming out of the tap is going into the sewer however what goes on the lawn may not get into the sewer but the idea is that water and sewer is connected but if water is used for irrigation, there could be an argument made that it shouldn't apply to a sewer bill. He has seen some communities do an irrigation credit where they discount the sewer bill based on sprinkling. Those communities that have some heavy users, there are tiered rates. Those rate structures are easily justifiable as the more water that is used, the more cost there is.

Mayor Helmer asked if the City can look for an irrigation credit.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Johnson commented that the City does not charge a sewer fee so there would be no irrigation credit. The City water bill is not tied to the bill. The City can look at tiered rates.

F. Proclamation Declaring the Month of December as Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month.

City Clerk Adamson presented the Proclamation.

CLOSED SESSION

There was none.

RESIDENTS COMMENTS (Agenda Matters)

Corinne Kelly, 207 E. Olive Avenue, Prospect Heights, Illinois.

Ms. Kelly commented on the engineering on proposed special service area and asked that the City Council resist pressure from those who are trying to push the special service area proposal as quickly as possible.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

City Administrator Marrin commented that the US Census Bureau has corrected the Cities population count to 16,327. Originally, the 2010 census showed 16, 256. The City is doing a review of the City's telephone system. The City disconnected one T1 line which is saving the City over \$1,069 per month for a total savings of \$12,848 per year.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Johnson reported that roads 2012 project is completed. The City is under a warranty period for one year. The City is starting phase three of the road program. Next year there will be some sidewalks going into the City.

Director of Building and Zoning Skiber commented that Village Cycle Sport at 1326 N. Rand Road is open for business. They did an outstanding remodeling of that building. Lexington Townhomes is moving forward rapidly. The foundation is in for the first five unit building. The Department is busy doing plan review for Ultra Foods at 1241 N. Rand Road. Penny's Café at 1253 N. Rand Road is under plan review as well.

Deputy Clerk Sabo reported that there will be a consolidated election in April, 2013 however no City of Prospect Heights elected offices are up for election. City Hall will be open the day after Christmas until 5:00pm per State of Illinois mandate.

City Treasurer Tibbits commented on doing a survey amongst those residents using ATT U-verse. The survey is trying to get a feel for what residents need and want. The survey can be accessed through the last e-news. There are sections of the City of Prospect Heights that do not have ATT U-verse service.

Alderman Ludvigsen commented that the levies are being passed for the special service areas tonight. He would like to keep special service area 8 on the radar for financial purposes. He also mentioned that he went to the House of Music and Entertainment at midnight and walked inside and went outside in the back and walked on top of the berm and identified where noise was coming from and he agreed with Bill Nazha that the doors need to be looked at as they are hollow core doors. If the doors were addressed, that could lead to a decrease in noise behind HOME.

Mayor Helmer commented that morale at the Police Department is high. The phase three road program will begin and will finish mid to the end of next summer. The City will continue to focus on economic development. More revenue and businesses will be focused on in the upcoming year and the focus will be on making Prospect Heights a force in the Northwest suburbs. Some people may not appreciate him being Mayor however he will work very hard until the end of his term and will aim to make real progress.

Alderman Styler commented that on December 3, there was a Special Meeting held at City Hall. There were two items to be addressed. One was approving 24 hour deliveries for Ultra Foods. Safe guards were built into the Ordinance to protect the residents behind the establishment. Without its passage in a timely matter, it would not have gone forward. The second item was a ratification of an Illinois Department of Revenue agreement on exchange of information. After the meeting, the audience became unruly and began shouting about the House of Music and Entertainment. The police needed to be called to City Hall for that meeting. Mayor Helmer discussed the issues with the residents out of session.

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

G. Approval of Minutes, Regular City Council Meeting, November 26, 2012.

H. Approval of Minutes, Public Hearing, November 26, 2012.

I. Approval of Minutes, Special City Council Meeting, December 3, 2012.

Alderman Mendez commented that a change needed to be made on the November 26, 2012 Item G which shows that Alderman Mendez was present however he was absent.

Motion made by Alderman Styler, seconded by Alderman Ludvigsen to approve the consent agenda with the revision to Item G as stated by Alderman Mendez.

The motion was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

ROLL CALL AYES: Aldermen Ludvigsen, Mendez, Styler, Williamson

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alderman Higgins

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CONTRACTS

J. Approval of Quote from Appraisal Research Counselors in the Amount of \$3,900 for Appraisal Services and Report for 31-33 E. Palatine Road, 25 E. Piper Lane, and 29 E. Piper Lane.

Motion made by Alderman Williamson, seconded by Alderman Styler to approve a quote from Appraisal Research Counselors in the amount of \$3,900 for appraisal services and report for 31-33 E. Palatine Road, 25 E. Piper Lane, and 29 E. Piper Lane. The motion was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

ROLL CALL AYES: Aldermen Ludvigsen, Mendez, Styler, Williamson

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alderman Higgins

Motion carried.

LEGISLATION

K. An Ordinance Amending a Special Use for an Outdoor Open Accessory Playground Exclusively for Kiddie Academy at 1215A/1219 N. Rand Road (1st Reading).

This being first reading, no vote was taken.

L, M, N, O, P, Q, R Omnibus Motion to Approve Items L, M, N, O, P, Q, and R. Motion made by Alderman Styler, seconded by Alderman Williamson to approve items L, M, N, O, P, Q, and R by omnibus motion. The motion was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

ROLL CALL AYES: Aldermen Ludvigsen, Mendez, Styler, Williamson

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alderman Higgins

Motion carried.

- L. (O-12-44) An Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of 2012 Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2012 and Ending April 30, 2013 in and for the City of Prospect Heights Police Pension Fund (2nd Reading).

ORDINANCE APPROVED
OMNIBUS MOTION

- M. (O-12-45) An Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of 2012 Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2012 and Ending April 30, 2013 in and for the City of Prospect Heights Special Service Area Number One (2nd Reading).

ORDINANCE APPROVED
OMNIBUS MOTION

- N. (O-12-46) An Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of 2012 Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2012 and Ending April 30, 2013 in and for the City of Prospect Heights Special Service Area Number Two (2nd Reading).

ORDINANCE APPROVED
OMNIBUS MOTION

- O. (O-12-47) An Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of 2012 Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2012 and Ending April 30, 2013 in and for the City of Prospect Heights Special Service Area Number Three (2nd Reading).

ORDINANCE APPROVED
OMNIBUS MOTION

- P. (O-12-48) An Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of 2012 Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2012 and Ending April 30, 2013 in and for the City of Prospect Heights Special Service Area Number Four (2nd Reading).

ORDINANCE APPROVED
OMNIBUS MOTION

- Q. (O-12-49) An Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of 2012 Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2012 and Ending April 30, 2013 in and for the City of Prospect Heights Special Service Area Number Five (2nd Reading).

ORDINANCE APPROVED
OMNIBUS MOTION

- R. (O-12-50) An Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of 2012 Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2012 and Ending April 30, 2013 in and for the City of Prospect Heights Special Service Area Number Eight (2nd Reading).

ORDINANCE APPROVED
OMNIBUS MOTION

APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES

S. Approval of Warrants.

General Fund	\$ 349,426.91
MFT Fund	\$ 0.00
Palatine/Milwaukee TIF	\$ 1,967.28
Convention & Visitors Bureau	\$ 693.69
Development Fund	\$ 12,620.21
Non-Home Rule Sales Tax Fund	\$ 0.00
DEA Fund	\$ 22,732.68
Solid Waste Fund	\$ 25,918.18
SS Area #1	\$ 442.00
SS Area #2	\$ 294.67
SS Area #3	\$ 1,199.72
SS Area #4	\$ 168.38
SS Area #5	\$ 1,186.42
SS Area #8–Levee Wall #37	\$ 18.86
SS Area–Constr #6 (Water Main)	\$ 0.00
SS Area–Debt #6	\$ 0.00
Road Construction	\$ 267,467.20
Water Fund	\$ 13,987.69
Parking Fund	\$ 3,704.91
Road/Building Bond Escrow	\$ 0.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 701,828.80
Wire Payments, Service Charges, & Payroll	\$ 550,280.91
TOTAL	\$ 1,252,109.71

Motion made by Alderman Styler, seconded by Alderman Ludvigsen, to approve warrants in the amount of \$701,828.80 and wire payments, service charges, and payroll in the amount of \$550,280.91, for total expenditures of \$1,252,109.71. The motion was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

ROLL CALL AYES: Aldermen Ludvigsen, Mendez, Styler, Williamson

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alderman Higgins

Motion carried.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

There were none.

RESIDENTS COMMENTS (Non Agenda Matters)

Corinne Kelly, 207 E. Olive Avenue, Prospect Heights, Illinois.

Ms. Kelly commented on the Mayor's comments at the November 26, 2012 Regular City Council Meeting regarding a case reviewed by the Plan/Zoning Board of Appeals and voiced her concern of the relevance of the comments made by individuals at the October 25, 2012 Plan/Zoning Board of Appeals Regular Meeting.

Edward Madden, 611 N. Elmhurst Road, Prospect Heights, Illinois.

Mr. Madden commented on the Mayor's recent remarks regarding the proposal for the used car lot at the corner of Elmhurst Road and Palatine Road. He voiced his concern with statements made by Mayor Helmer at the November 26, 2012 Regular City Council Meeting. He commented on his concerns with respect to the property located at the corner of Elmhurst Road and Palatine Road. He commented on his support for various economic developments within Prospect Heights and his involvement with the Economic/Business Development Committee.

Darlene Zaier, 104 E. Kenilworth Avenue, Prospect Heights, Illinois.

Ms. Zaier thanked the City Council and the Mayor for the job they have done and for their time commitment and hard work.

Mariusz Folta, 1225 N. Stratford Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois.

Mr. Folta commented on his concerns regarding excessive noise coming from House of Music and Entertainment located on Rand Road in Prospect Crossing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

T. A Motion to Authorize the City Engineer to Request Proposals for Engineering on a Proposed Special Service Area for Water Service.

Alderman Ludvigsen commented that he wanted to make sure that when the City goes out for the study, that the study not just look at what has been proposed but also other potential options.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Johnson commented that he prepared a draft request for proposal. The request would be for one study. It would review the master plan from 2007, to review the Toberman report from 2011, and to look at three different scenarios which are the special service area nine as proposed, the special service area nine plus an additional three hundred services with location to be determined, and citywide. He refers to this as a sensitivity analysis. Based on the Toberman report, it seems like the existing infrastructure can be used for special service area nine. His concern is that if the City adds ten more services, does the City need elevated storage or a new pump station. Once the reports are reviewed, plugging in the numbers should identify the answers.

Alderman Mendez asked how the City Engineer came up with \$125,000 for the cost of the study.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Johnson commented that he contact some people he knows in the industry with the description of the scope of services that the City is looking for. They gave him a number that they felt would be a budget number to use. He met with the Finance Director and came up with a budget that works for the City. It includes ancillary costs. All the soft costs are not known. The project number is capped but all inclusive costs are above the cost of just the proposal due to conference calls with attorneys and other soft costs. Until the proposals come in, the City won't know how much this study will cost. What he is asking for is the Council's approval to issue requests for proposals and work through the work plan outlined in the memorandum.

Alderman Williamson asked how much of the work that is being asked to be done will be redundant.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Johnson commented that he would be shocked if Toberman didn't use some of the Baxter and Woodman model. He thinks the biggest discrepancy will be in the cost estimating and also in the sensitivity analysis. The way the proposal is created asks for man hours and fees for the tasks. He is guessing the task of the master plan for 2007 and 2011 will not be as significant as one would think. The request for proposal will have two attachments which are the master plan and the Toberman report.

Alderman Williamson asked if a special assessment can be done for the special service area.

City Attorney Zimmermann commented that a special assessment is not one that he would recommend as opposed to the flat special tax roll which is available under Statute. He understands that Treasurer Tibbits has had some arm wrestling with Cook County over that. A special assessment is difficult to do because the time it takes to get the special assessment put in place and the time costs are estimated, things can change fairly dramatically. The special assessment process has been replaced by the special service area process.

City Treasurer Tibbits commented that two things came to mind. One was that the feasibility study had two proposals, one from Toberman and one from Baxter and Woodman. He asked if the intention here is to see what an additional three hundred connectors to the special service area would do and asked if this will become a feasibility study to include special service area nine and the extended area when its done.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Johnson commented that the intention is to analyze and validate the 2007 water master plan, to analyze and validate the special service area nine feasibility study, and to opine on the impacts of putting water to the City. They will provide one alternative on what their opinion is as to cost, regulatory, and any other applicable measures to put in special service area nine from the engineering side of things. Alternative two is special service area nine as proposed plus three hundred additional services. The third alternative is to do city wide.

City Treasurer Tibbits asked what level of engineering will come back.

Alderman Williamson asked if this report would be shovel ready.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Johnson commented that the report would be similar to the Toberman report. This would not be shovel ready. After this, the process would need to take IDOT phase concepts with an engineering report and engineering plans. For the study, he would anticipate approximately six months to complete the process. Once the engineering explains the cost estimate, the special service area needs to be established which is also a timely process. A shovel will not be put in the ground in 2013. Even if the City Council tonight said let's use the Toberman study, a shovel would not be put in the ground until 2014 the earliest with all the steps that are required. If the proposal figures are too large, staff can discuss the figures with the proposers and identify what they did not understand.

Alderman Mendez asked why the City Engineer wants to change what Mr. Tibbits is proposing.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Johnson commented that he does not want to change it. He has a lot of questions. He received a direction that there are perhaps some residents to the west that would want water. That brought forth the question of what happens if the special service area adds three hundred more users. The City Council directed him to do so.

Alderman Williamson commented that it would be shortsighted to look at special service area nine as just its own special service area. What is happening in this special service area will affect anything else that happens moving forward. This will tell us at what point the City would need a water tower and how many water towers would be needed to feed the City as a whole.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Johnson commented that what is being discussed is step by step. This process would evaluate at what point additional infrastructure would be needed to support the water system. He wants a firm that is independent to see what is feasible. There is no intention of stopping the water. It is to evaluate how much it will cost.

City Attorney Zimmermann commented that at the front end of a special service area, you need to establish the upper limit for the bond issue that will build the system. Because there are so many contingencies that go into such a large special service area, you need to get that number right. You can't get half way through the process and decide you need more money.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Johnson commented that all he is asking for is to issue the request for proposal. There is no expenditure on this request. The proposals will come to the City Council for approval.

Alderman Ludvigsen commented that this is the first City Council that has ever had unanimous support of expansion of the water system. The only concern is that it be done correct in the first place. The report that Toberman prepared said that as long as the pumps can keep up, it can deliver to the proposed special service area. To him, that is not enough to know. He wants to make sure it is right. This is large expansion. He feels there may be future expansions as well. The City needs to know when a water tower would need to be in place. He likes the idea of spreading the cost evenly instead of using equalized assessed valuation. He wants to make sure that the Council moves forward with a studied proposal.

Alderman Williamson personally supports the water system. He wants to make sure that everything is right moving forward. He asked for complete transparency through the process.

Motion made by Alderman Styler, seconded by Alderman Mendez, to authorize the City Engineer to request proposals for engineering on a proposed special service area for water service. The motion was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

ROLL CALL AYES: Aldermen Ludvigsen, Mendez, Styler, Williamson

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alderman Higgins

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Styler wished the family of Thomas Shirley sympathy in his passing. He was a former City Council member, an educator, and a member of the board of Dollars for Scholars.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Alderman Styler, seconded by Alderman Williamson to adjourn the Regular City Council Meeting. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

VOICE VOTE AYES: Aldermen Ludvigsen, Mendez, Styler, Williamson

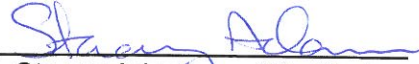
NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alderman Higgins

Motion carried.

Motion carried by voice vote at 8:46 p.m.

Approved by the Prospect Heights City Council this 14th day of January, 2013.


Stacey Adamson, City Clerk


Nicholas J. Helmer, Mayor

