

**CITY OF PROSPECT HEIGHTS
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
March 25, 2013**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Mayor Helmer at City Hall, 8 North Elmhurst Road, Prospect Heights, Illinois 60070.

ROLL CALL

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

A quorum was present. Also present: Administrative Assistant Schultheis (at 7:05 p.m.), City Administrator Marrin, City Attorney Zimmerman, Director of Building and Zoning Skiber, Treasurer Tibbits, Assistant Director of Building and Zoning Steve Cutaia, and Deputy Clerk Sabo (left at 7 p.m.)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Alderman Scott Williamson asked everyone to stand and join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

Alderman Higgins provided the invocation.

PRESENTATIONS

Deputy Clerk Sabo and Finance Technician Giese gave a presentation of the new, Prospect Heights website. Among questions asked by Alderman of Staff regarding website:

Alderman Mendez – Will there be an iPhone APP?

Deputy Clerk Sabo – The website will load in a format tailored for mobile technology.

Alderman Williamson – Does the website accept URL names if the incorrect address is used?

Deputy Clerk Sabo – CivicPlus ensures that the Prospect Heights, IL address is the first that pops up in a search engine. Staff will review URL issues.

Alderman Higgins - Does the "Community" section provide school district information so that new residents will know their school district? Is there a "Welcome Packet" section for new residents?

Deputy Clerk Sabo – The Community Section does have links to state and federal resources. It also has a new residents section. More information will be added to both to make them more interactive.

Alderman Styler – the Search engine is major improvement over the previous website.

Alderman Ludvigsen – Who is in control of the information that is provided?

Deputy Clerk Sabo – Certain staff members in each department will review the data and provide updates, but only Deputy Clerk Sabo and Finance Director Giese are in charge of updating the actual website.

Mayor Helmer – Are businesses able to post job opportunities online

City Attorney Zimmerman – That would force the City to accept any and all job opportunity listings.

Deputy Clerk Sabo – It is only a link to municipal job postings.

RESIDENTS COMMENTS (Agenda Matters)

Gary Kotsiris, representing Palwaukee Plaza, provided commentary on support for the Blackhawk Group.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

City Administrator Marrin that Moodys affirmed the AAA bond rating for the City. She thanked Finance Director Hannon for her efforts.

City Administrator Marrin said that Phase III of the roads program starts on May 1. She also said that on April 1, the sidewalks program would begin. She said that the sidewalk work was supported by a grant from the federal government the City was awarded. City Administrator Marrin said that affected residents had received letters about road disruption.

City Administrator Marrin noted that Village Cycle Sport would have a ribbon-cutting ceremony on March 30, 2013, Saturday for the grand opening at its new location.

Director of Building and Zoning Steve Skiber said that he had attended a construction meeting regarding Runway 1634 at the Chicago Executive Airport.

Director of Building and Zoning Steve Skiber said that he attended a Mount Prospect Crime Free Housing meeting to discuss ideas for crime prevention.

Director of Building and Zoning Steve Skiber said that Union Ale House would be opening in mid-April; and Ultra Foods, a table-tennis club, and an indoor child's playground facility were also nearing completion.

Director of Building and Zoning Steve Skiber told the Council that bid opening for Phase III roads would be on Thursday, March 28, 2013.

City Treasurer Tibbits reminded residents that City vehicle stickers, alarm renewals and pet licenses were being sold in City Hall during City business hours and Saturday, March 30.

Assistant Director of Building and Zoning Steve Cutaia said that all residents affected had been given letters regarding the sidewalk program.

Alderman Styler thanked City Treasurer Tibbits and Patrick for their work on the cable channel. Specifically, he liked the cable special on coyotes.

Alderman Ludvigsen – was concerned about safe routes being shown to residents during the construction that was about to begin on April 1. City Administrator Marrin said that the information would be uploaded on to the website immediately. Assistant Director of Building and Zoning Steve Cutaia noted that there were only two residents that had expressed their concern.

Alderman Williamson – no report.

Alderman Higgins said that since March 31st was a Sunday, the vehicle and pet licenses should be extended to Monday, April 1. The consensus was that there should be a last chance deadline of April 1. By consent the vehicle and pet license registration was extended to April 1, 2013.

Alderman Mendez – no report.

Mayor Helmer – discussed the Easter Egg Hunt, at 9:30 am at the Park District, on Saturday, March 30.

Mayor Helmer said that the Christmas tree was on order, and he reminded the Board that it was a donation from the Garden Club.

Mayor Helmer said that he had been appointed to the Cook County Land Bank Authority to help solve the foreclosure epidemic. He said that there were 200,000 boarded up homes in Cook County and 85,000 foreclosures pending.

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Minutes, Regular City Council Meeting, March 11, 2013

There was an amendment offered to the March 11, 2013 Minutes, asking that on page 2, striking the phrase “*hopes to record*” and changing to “*they are recording.*” There was consensus on the change.

Motion made by Alderman Mendez; seconded by Alderman Williamson to Approve Item A of the consent agenda as amended. Unanimously approved by roll call.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF EXCEPTIONS

C. Approval of a Renewal Agreement with Energy Choices for Electrical Rates.

APPROVAL OF CONTRACTS

Motion made to Approve Item C by Alderman Mendez; seconded by Alderman Higgins as submitted. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

LEGISLATION

D. Resolution Declaring Wednesday, May 8, 2013, the 25th Annual Senior Celebration Day at Arlington Race Track.

Motion made to Approve Item D by Alderman Styler; seconded by Alderman Mendez as submitted. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

E. An Ordinance Amending Title 2, Chapter 3, Section 9 of the Prospect Heights City Code for Allowance of Class C-3 Liquor License with Specific Hours for Restaurant Establishments (waiver of First Reading)

Motion made by Alderman Mendez; seconded by Alderman Styler to Approve Item E as submitted.

City Attorney Zimmerman noted that this was a work-in-progress. The Ordinance required that an amount be inserted and that the number of licenses be established. The Ordinance could not be a generic document.

There was discussion regarding the limitations of the classification. Mr. Mike Thiessen of Blackhawk Group said that he had requested (3) C1 licenses and for all three to stay open until 1 a.m. on weekends. Alderman Ludvigsen said that he was only in favor of one license currently.

Alderman Styler moved to amend the motion; seconded by Alderman Mendez for a C3 license with an annual fee of \$1650 and for a limitation of three (3) licenses.

ROLL CALL AYES Aldermen Mendez, Styler

NAYS Aldermen Williamson, Ludvigsen, Higgins

Amendment Motion failed 3 – 2.

Alderman Ludvigsen moved to amend the motion; seconded by Alderman Williamson to Approve an annual license fee of \$1650 for a C3 license and allow only one license.

ROLL CALL AYES Aldermen Mendez, Styler, Ludvigsen

NAYS Aldermen Williamson, Higgins

Amendment Motion carried 3 – 2

Alderman Ludvigsen noted that he wants the location to be at the Palwaukee site. City Attorney Zimmerman said that the applicant may now apply for one location where the liquor license will be considered. Mike Thiessen stated that his leases were predicated upon getting liquor licenses, and that the City might lose these locations as a source of revenue.

Motion by Alderman Mendez; seconded by Alderman Styler as amended to waive the first reading in Item E.

ROLL CALL AYES Alderman Mendez, Styler, Ludvigsen

NAYS Alderman Williamson, Higgins

Motion failed 3 – 2, requiring four (4) ayes to pass. It will be moved to the April 8, 2013 Regular Meeting for as Second Reading.

F. An Ordinance Amending the Number of Class A Liquor Licenses – Reduction of Hangar 21 (Waiver of First Reading)

Motion made by Alderman Styler; seconded by Alderman Mendez to wait the first reading in Item F. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Motion made by Alderman Styler; seconded by Alderman Mendez to Approve Item F as submitted. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES

Approval of Warrants

General Fund	\$	117,432.73
MFT Fund	\$	5,706.86
Palatine/Milwaukee TIF	\$	2,436.00
Convention and Visitors Bureau	\$	0.00
Development Fund	\$	795.30
Non-Home Rule Sales Tax Fund	\$	0.00
DEA Fund	\$	2,450.00
Solid Waste Fund	\$	0.00
SS Area #1	\$	0.00
SS Area #2	\$	0.00
SS Area #3	\$	0.00
SS Area #4	\$	0.00
SS Area #5	\$	0.00
SS Area #8 – Levee Wall #37	\$	208.16
SS Area Construction #6(Water Main)	\$	0.00
SS Area-Debt #6	\$	0.00
Road Construction	\$	2,320.50
Water Fund	\$	23,242.30
Parking Fund	\$	137.53
Road/Building Bond Escrow	\$	2,402.00
TOTAL Expenditures	\$	157,131.38

Wire Payments, Service Charges		
& Payroll	\$	22,730.96
TOTAL	\$	179,862.34

Administrative Assistant Schultheis read out the expenditure totals.

Motion Made by Alderman Styler; seconded by Alderman Higgins to approve warrants in the amount of \$157,131.38 and wire transfers, service charges, and payroll in the amount of \$22,730.96. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call.

ROLL CALL AYES: Aldermen Higgins, Ludvigsen, Mendez, Styler, Williamson
NAYS: None

Motion carried.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

None

RESIDENTS COMMENTS (Non Agenda Matters)

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Players Pub and Grill. – City Administrator Marrin said that there had been a request for TIF money from Players Pub and Grill for the extension of the OTB facility. City Attorney Zimmerman said that the Council had previously approved \$200,000. They were looking for an additional \$300,000 that could be paid out over the course of a 2-3 year period. Aldermen wished to know what the anticipated revenue to the City would be with the addition. Aldermen also noted that there were other businesses that would be requesting TIF funds. Alderman Higgins suggested spreading the payout to five years. Aldermen wanted written documentation as to the agreement details, projected revenue and payout. Alderman Ludvigsen requested a schedule of values and a timeline to see how the money was being spent. Aldermen Higgins, Mendez, and Styler were not comfortable with proceeding; while Aldermen Ludvigsen and Williamson wanted to discuss it further after documentation was provided. **CONTINUED UNTIL APRIL 8, 2013 WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE APPLICANTS WILL PROVIDE THE INFORMATION REQUESTED.**

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Appointment of Betty Cloud to the Economic/Business Development Committee

Motion made by Alderman Williamson to Approve Item I as submitted; seconded by Alderman Higgins.

ROLL CALL Ayes – Aldermen Higgins, Ludvigsen, Williamson
Nays – Aldermen Mendez, Styler

Motion carried 3-2

RESIDENTS COMMENTS (Non Agenda Matters)

The president of Rob Roy thanked the Prospect Heights Police for responding to a request to stop speeders in the area. They were able to get officers and squad cars to patrol the area and ticket violators.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration of Holding a Monthly Committee of the Whole Meeting

Aldermen Styler and Mendez were against it. Alderman Williamson suggested that there be one monthly meeting that was a Committee of the Whole, and the other a Regular City Council Meeting. It was also noted that a Council of the Whole, as it was an open meeting with a schedule could also be flexible and allow some action items. The direction from the Council was to start a Committee of the Whole schedule in May, 2013. The Regular City Council meetings would entertain Ordinances; while the Committee of the Whole would only take action on items such as payables.

THE DIRECTION OF THE BOARD BY CONSENSUS WAS TO PROCEED TO CREATE AN ORDINANCE FOR A MONTHLY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE WITH THE FLEXIBILITY TO TAKE ACTION ITEMS.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:58 p.m., Motion made by Alderman Williamson; seconded by Alderman Mendez to adjourn Regular City Council Meeting. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Approved by the Prospect Heights City Council this 8th day of April, 2013.


Stacey Adamson, City Clerk


Nicholas J. Helmer, Mayor

