

CITY OF PROSPECT HEIGHTS
City Council Workshop
May 13, 2013

CALL TO ORDER

The workshop was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Helmer at City Hall, 8 North Elmhurst Road, Prospect Heights, Illinois 60070.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Helmer, City Clerk Adamson, Aldermen Styler, Ludvigsen, Mendez.

Absent: Aldermen Higgins, Williamson

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

SPECIAL BUSINESS

A. Proclamation Acknowledging National Public Works Week in the City of Prospect Heights – Clerk Adamson read the Proclamation proclaiming the week of May 13th as National Public Works Week in Prospect Heights.

B. Proclamation Acknowledging the Month of May, 2013 as Building Safety Month in the City of Prospect Heights. – Clerk Adamson read a Proclamation proclaiming the month of May, 2013 as Building Safety Month in the City of Prospect Heights.

SCHEDULED BUSINESS

E. Discussion of Refuse Hauler Contract Extension and/or RFP for Commercial and Residential Waste Hauling Services (Mayor Helmer) – Rick Bulthuis of Republic Services discussed the extension of the current contract. He informed the Council of new recycling options regarding multi-family housing. He noted that convenience is a huge factor as regards to the quantity of recycling that people will participate in. He noted that there would be a benefit to the City, as there is a revenue sharing program. It was noted that all recycling is done on a volunteer basis.

Alderman Mendez said that it is difficult to get participation. Rick Bulthuis noted that this is single stream recycling so that all goods can be thrown into the same bin and do not have to be separated.

He noted the inclusion of a mail-in Sharp's program which allows for the safe recycling of needles.

City Administrator Marrin said that the contract is coming up on July, 2014, so there was nothing that had to be decided immediately. An extension would allow for five years from the expiration date.

Alderman Ludvigsen commended Republic for the service that they provide the City. He would, however, like to make certain that the franchise fee is tied to the something such as

the CPI. Republic would like to see the rates tied to the Transportation Index, which they felt was more indicative of actual costs. – **No action was taken.**

C. Setting of Procedural Processes and Agenda Order for the City Council Workshop Meetings (City Administrator Marrin) – Administrator Marrin said that this was the first meeting, and further direction would be needed as to how the agenda and process should flow. It was agreed that the layout of the agenda for the workshop meeting was good. – **No action was taken.**

D. Discussion of a Change in Meeting Times for the City Council Workshops (Mayor Helmer) – Mayor Helmer requested that the meetings be held beginning at 6 PM. There was a split reaction, as some Council members felt that the time change would difficult to be met due to their work schedules. – **No action was taken.**

F. Review of the Liquor Licenses for Blackhawk Restaurant Group at Two Additional locations in the City of Prospect Heights (Alderman Styler) – Alderman Styler would like three licenses for Blackhawk Restaurant Group. He noted that the City would be losing a considerable amount of revenue. Alderman Ludvigsen said that he was not in favor of increasing the number of venues that were based upon gaming. When it was noted that the City does have OTB, Alderman Ludvigsen noted that only one could ever reside in Prospect Heights as they needed to be at least 5 miles apart geographically. Video gaming, he noted, did not have such constraints.

Director of Building and Zoning Skiber said that the Blackhawk Restaurant Group had been very upfront with their plans; and that other venues, such as the Comfort Inn were already putting machinery in for video gaming.

City Treasurer Tibbits said that as long as they complied with City Ordinances, he did not see the Blackhawk Restaurant Group as any different from any other business in the City. There was discussion regarding the process of bringing liquor licenses before the Board. City Attorney Zimmermann reviewed the Procedure. – **No action was taken.**

G. Discussion of Contract Approval for A/V Department Media Production and Communications Technician (City Treasurer Tibbits) - City Treasurer Tibbits said that the City Attorney had some questions in regards to hiring an Independent Contractor. City Treasurer Tibbits asked if it would be easier to hire out his private firm, and have him pay Patrick Colvin out of the funds of the private company. The consensus was that this approach was fraught with legal issues, and not advisable. The discussion continued as to whether to make Patrick a part-time employee, and the implications of creating such a position. It was noted by City Attorney Zimmerman that when the line was crossed from volunteer to employee, a new set of norms and public discussion was required. And, that discussion needed to be open and public. Alderman Styler requested that a plan might be submitted for further discourse at the Regular Council Meeting. – **No action was taken.**

H. Discussion of the Old Town Sanitary District (Mayor Helmer) – Mayor Helmer removed this item from the agenda. **Off Agenda.**

I. Discussion of Conducting a Land Use Analysis (Alderman Ludvigsen) - Alderman Ludvigsen said that there were not as many vacant spaces as thought. Mayor Helmer said that the Chairman of the Economic Development Committee had just resigned, and that this Committee would be reconstructed. This would be a work in progress, as more needed to be done coming up with land use ideas. – **No action was taken.**

J. Discussion and Review of Existing Liquor License Hours and Classifications (Alderman Ludvigsen) – There was no discussion of this item. **No action was taken.**

NON-AGENDA ITEM

Alderman Mendez inquired about OTB signage. It was noted by City Engineer/Public Works Director Johnson that any OTB that already is fronted by a highway or state road could not have a signage unless grandfathered in. He said that the OTB in Prospect Heights is fronted by a Milwaukee Avenue, which is a state road. – **No action was taken.**

Mayor Helmer wants to look into reimbursement for Council members that mirrors the reimbursement for the Chicago Executive Airport Board members. He noted that the current Council could not benefit from any Ordinance that increased reimbursement. – **No action was taken.**

City Treasurer Tibbits asked for direction regarding the 35 cents PEG fees for Comcast customers. City Administrator Marrin would look into PEG fees. – **No action was taken.**

APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES

Approval of Warrants

General Fund	\$	270,210.56
MFT Fund	\$	12,056.35
Palatine/Milwaukee TIF	\$	1,217.97
Convention and Visitors Bureau	\$	1335.22
Development Fund	\$	14,817.96
Non-Home Rule Sales Tax Fund	\$	0.00
DEA Fund	\$	0.00
Solid Waste Fund	\$	33,861.34
SS Area #1	\$	370.35
SS Area #2	\$	246.90
SS Area #3	\$	1005.23
SS Area #4	\$	141.09
SS Area #5	\$	1,129.91
SS Area #8 – Levee Wall #37	\$	190.97
SS Area Construction #6(Water Main)	\$	0.00
SS Area-Debt #6	\$	0.00
Road Construction	\$	97,580.26
Road Construction Debt	\$	700.00
Water Fund	\$	22,170.00
Parking Fund	\$	4,142.38

Road/Building Bond Escrow	\$	0.00
TOTAL Expenditures	\$	461,176.49
Wire Payments, Service Charges & Payroll	\$	272,985.91
TOTAL	\$	734,162.40

City Clerk Adamson read out the expenditure totals.

Alderman Styler moved to approve as presented; seconded by Alderman Ludvigsen for warrants in the amount of \$ 461,176.49 and wire transfers, service charges, and payroll in the amount of \$272,985.91. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call.

ROLL CALL AYES: Aldermen Styler, Ludvigsen, Mendez

NAYS: None

Motion carried 3 – 0 (Alderman Higgins and Williamson absent).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Bernadette Soens discussed water rates, and her findings regarding statistics and history of the City's water rates. She said that there had been two big increases in the rates, and claimed that Prospect Heights' rates were double the second highest municipality in the suburban area. She also said that Workers Compensation insurance for Public Works regarding water, Audit Expenses for water, and liability insurance, and professional services for water were out of proportion. She would like the Budget redone. She also complained that information was either missing online or difficult to access regarding the Budget and Ordinances, and that was why she would continue to present the City with FOIA's.

The Council rebutted her argument saying that Budget information and Ordinances are online.

Residents Rosenthal, Michaely and Soens said that the information was difficult to access; and said that they were angry that their names were not mentioned on the agenda as speakers. The Mayor noted that they were speaking in a public forum, and that their comments were being heard on television and, in person, by the Council.

Alderman Ludvigsen pointed out that the statistics being quoted as being out of proportionally high, were misleading when stated by Resident Soens. He said that of the ten Public Works employees, one was assigned to water; therefore the 10% Workers Comp budget assigned to water made perfect sense. He noted that the statistics she quoted were perfectly proportioned to the manpower assigned, and that just reading out numbers distorted the real situation. Finance Director Hannon noted that Audits were based on the number of funds, and that all of the numbers were supportable based on independent studies. City Administrator Marrin reminded the residents that one of the bumps in the water rates that Resident Soens had mentioned was due to a major City project – the 2010 Camp McDonald water main project.

When asked what numbers she felt should be reflected in the Budget Reserves, Resident Soens said that she had the numbers at home and could not provide them presently.

Mayor Helmer said he appreciated her comments and the work that she had done regarding the water rates. He said if any mistakes had been made, they would be

corrected; but noted the work and rates presented by the Council had all been supported by the hard work of the Council and Staff, as well as an audit. **-No action was taken.**

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:04pm motion made by Alderman Styler; seconded by Alderman Mendez to adjourn . The City Council Workshop motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

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

Motion carried 3 – 0 (Alderman Higgins and Williamson absent)

Approved by the Prospect Heights City Council this 28th day of May, 2013.


Stacey Adamson, City Clerk


Nicholas J. Helmer, Mayor

