

**CITY OF PROSPECT HEIGHTS
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
May 28, 2013**

This Meeting was held on a Tuesday because of the Memorial Day Holiday on May 27

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, Illinois 60070.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: City Clerk Adamson

A quorum was present. Also present: City Administrator Marrin, City Attorney Zimmermann, Director of Building and Zoning Skiber, Police Chief Dunne, Treasurer Tibbits, Finance Director Hannon, Assistant Director of Building and Zoning Cutaia and Deputy Clerk Sabo.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

INVOCATION

Reverend Thomas Kim of the Korean Central United Methodist Church provided the invocation.

PRESENTATIONS – Chicago Executive Airport FY14 Budget, Airport Manager

A. A Proclamation Honoring Susan Blaese for her 33 Year Career as an Orchestra teacher at MacArthur Middle School and Naming May 31, 2013 as Susan Blaese Day in the City of Prospect Heights. – Deputy Clerk Sabo read the proclamation aloud.

Alderman Mendez moved to deliver the Proclamation to Susan Blaese; seconded by Alderman Styler.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried unanimously 5 – 0.

B. Police/Fire Commission Annual Report – Police/Fire Commissioner Wolf
Commissioner Wolf read the highlights and gave testimony to activities in the previous fiscal year, including the hiring of new positions. He said that there were currently 27 officers (four of whom were part-time). He asked that the Council approve the activities and the fiscal report of 2012/13.

Alderman Mendez moved to Approve the Police/Fire Commission Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2012-13; seconded by Alderman Ludvigsen.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried unanimously 5 – 0.

Alderman Mendez noted that the Police Department needed to update and improve the look of their facilities. Police Chief Dunne replied that there are developments underway for some immediate repair; most notably the construction of new stairs in front of the building.

Mayor Helmer noted that the Citizen of the Year is Don Smith, who volunteers at the Police Department.

RESIDENT COMMENTS (Agenda Matters)

There were none.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

-City Administrator Marrin requested assistance from residents to stop the State of Illinois from confiscating all of the revenue from the Local Government Distribution Fund to balance their own budgets. She said that residents should write letters to their legislators demanding that they distribute the funds to the municipalities, as the Fund was initially set up to do.

-City Administrator Marrin said that she attended the Lake Michigan Water Allocation meeting on May 22, 2013 and that the IDNR was planning to revamp its rules and requirements. This, she said, would have a deleterious impact on 75% of the members receiving allocation, including Prospect Heights. The most caustic regulation change would be the elimination of unavoidable leakage allowance or credits. Removing this allowance or credit will mean that municipalities like Prospect Heights will not be in compliance with the regulations. She noted that the deadline for the municipalities to voice their concerns was May 31, 2013; and that the City of Prospect Heights would be responding.

-Director of Building and Zoning Steve Skiber said that there have been between 10-20 permits issued per week.

-He said that the rain forecast was being monitored by the City to stay abreast of any possible flooding or weather-related issues.

- Director of Building and Zoning Skiber said that there had been 24 violations issued by the City for grass and weed violators.

- He said that the Union Ale House and Save A Lot Food store would be opening within the next few weeks.

- Assistant Director of Building and Zoning Cutaia said that a City hydrant had been repaired.

- He said that the MWRD had requested information regarding flooding areas in the City. That information had been sent to them.

- Assistant Director of Building and Zoning Cutaia said the Safe Routes to School Sidewalk project had experienced rain delays but that the grass had all been installed.

- He noted that there were 40 sites that would be mowed in the upcoming week. Alderman Williamson wanted to know the process for deciding which sites get mowed in what order. Asst. Director Cutaia said that there some were scheduled sites, and others were as needed.

He said that he was looking into improving the process, and benchmarking against other municipalities. He added that there was consideration of using some private firms for certain areas that were not really City property but were in the City.

-City Treasurer Tibbits – No Report.

- City Clerk Adamson – Absent

- Alderman Styler is working on plans for the Fourth of July parade. He noted that the route is the same as last year. He added that the Dollars for Scholars would be the Grand Marshals in honor of their 15th Anniversary of service. There will also be a “Best Decorated Bike” contest that will be entered in the parade as an organized group.

-Alderman Ludvigsen said that District 23 used private firms to mow the grass. Assistant Director of Building and Zoning Cutaia replied that he has not benchmarked private firms yet, but would consider them as a possibility.

- Alderman Ludvigsen said that he expects that there will be more complaints from residents regarding House of Music and Entertainment. As the weather has gotten warmer, there will be more people outside and more people with their windows open hearing the noise. He added that Police presence in front of the House of Music and Entertainment may be enticing patrons to park on residential streets to avoid the Police.

-Alderman Williamson said that he is dismayed by the amount of grass and weed violators, and that it represented a lack of courtesy for one’s neighbors.

-Alderman Higgins thanked the Council for their condolences regarding the loss of her mother.

-Alderman Mendez – No report

-Mayor Helmer said that he attended the Asian-American Pacific Islanders Association held at the FAA.

- Mayor Helmer noted that he had attended the 100th Birthday celebration of Helen Centella of Emeritus.

- Mayor Helmer was at the Hawthorne Groundbreaking ceremony. Betty Cloud, representing the CEA, said that it is due to be opened in Spring, 2014. When completed it will be a 30,000 square foot hangar with 10,000 square feet of office space. She added that the Chicago Executive Airport had won the 2013 Reliever Airport of the Year from the Illinois Department of Transportation.

- Mayor Helmer said that there are vacant storefronts in Prospect Heights. He said that the City was in the process of reorganizing the Economic Development Group, and that new appointments would be made.

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

C. Approval of Minutes, City Council Budget Hearing April 8, 2013

D. Approval of Minutes, Regular City Council Meeting, April 22, 2013

E. Approval of Minutes, City Council Workshop Meeting, May 13, 2013

Alderman Higgins moved for an omnibus Approval of Items C, D, and E; seconded by Alderman Mendez.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried unanimously 5 – 0.

LEGISLATION

F. A Resolution Approving an Amendment to the FY14 Budget for Chicago Executive Airport.

Alderman Mendez moved to Approve Item F; seconded by Alderman Higgins.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried unanimously 5 – 0.

G. An Ordinance Amending the Number of Class C-1 Liquor Licenses – Reduction for JK Gyros and Los Posadas (Waiver of First Reading) – City Administrator Marrin said that the two establishments no longer wanted to maintain liquor licenses. In order to expedite the process of reclaiming the licenses, City Administrator Marrin asked if there would be a waiver of the First Reading.

Alderman Styler moved to waive the First Reading; seconded by Alderman Williamson.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried unanimously 5 – 0.

Alderman Styler moved to vote on an Ordinance Amending the Number of Class C-1 Liquor Licenses; seconded by Alderman Higgins.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried unanimously 5 – 0.

Alderman Williamson questioned whether or not the establishments once having discarded their liquor licenses could establish a BYOB policy. City Attorney Zimmermann said that the City of Prospect Heights did not have a BYOB policy. Theoretically, it was stated, BYOB was accessible to anyone.

APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES

Approval of Warrants

General Fund	\$	25,297.59
MFT Fund	\$	0.00
Palatine/Milwaukee TIF	\$	0.00
Tourism District	\$	121,065.85
Development Fund	\$	1,493.18
Non-Home Rule Sales Tax Fund	\$	0.00
DEA Fund	\$	0.00
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	\$	0.00

SS Area Construction #6(Water Main)	\$	0.00
SS Area-Debt #6	\$	0.00
Road Construction	\$	0.00
Water Fund	\$	23,548.44
Parking Fund	\$	0.00
Road/Building Bond Escrow	\$	1,500.00
TOTAL Expenditures	\$	172,905.06
Wire Payments, Service Charges & Payroll	\$	149,164.52
TOTAL	\$	322,069.57

Deputy Clerk Sabo read out the expenditure totals.

Alderman Styler moved to approve as presented; seconded by Alderman Higgins for warrants in the amount of \$ 172,905.06 wire transfers, service charges, and payroll in the amount of \$149,164.52. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried unanimously 5 – 0.

RESIDENTS COMMENTS (Non Agenda Matters)

Resident Lawrence E. Rosenthal said that he had never received answers pertaining to his questions that were proposed in the April 22nd Council Meeting. The Mayor told him that the City has been inundated with FOIA's that required an enormous amount of work and time related to the matter. It was noted by City Administrator Marrin that she had spent an hour meeting with him, Finance Director Hannon and Kay Michaely from Roy Roy. When asked what remaining questions he had, Mr. Rosenthal would only reply that he had already sent them to the Council and Staff. He concluded that he would send them to the City Administrator, and she said that she would reply as soon as possible.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

I. Approval of Welcome to Prospect Heights Sign Panel Design

Mayor Helmer asked that Council which sign option they wanted and whether or not they wanted to license out the back of the sign for display by groups such as the Rotary, the Library and the Park District.

Alderman Styler moved to Approve Option #1; seconded by Alderman Williamson.

ROLL CALL: AYES – Styler, Williamson, Ludvigsen

NAYS – Higgins, Mendez

Motion carried 3 – 2.

Alderman Styler moved to Approve a license Agreement to license out the back of the Welcome Signage to certain groups; seconded by Alderman Mendez.

ROLL CALL: AYES – Mendez, Styler

NAYS – Williamson, Higgins, Ludvigsen

Motion Fails 3 – 2.

The Mayor was concerned about the ability to input the signage without the licensing. City Administrator Marrin said that the signage had already been proposed and approved, and had received IDOT and Cook County approval. The only question left to be voted upon was sign option and licensing.

Alderman Higgins moved to Approve Option #1 signage with Welcome to Prospect Heights on the front and Thank You for Visiting on the back; seconded by Alderman Mendez.

ROLL CALL: AYES – Higgins, Williamson, Mendez, Ludvigsen

NAYS – Styler

Motion carried 4 - 1

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:42 p.m., Alderman Higgins moved to go into Closed Session and as nothing would be voted upon after the Closed Session, Adjourn the Regular City Council Meeting; seconded by Alderman Mendez.

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

NAYS: NONE

Motion carried unanimously 5 – 0.

Approved by the Prospect Heights City Council this 24th day of June, 2013.

Stacey Adamson, City Clerk

Nicholas J. Helmer, Mayor