CITY OF PROSPECT HEIGHTS
City Council Workshop
July 8, 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, Treasurer Tibbits, Aldermen Styler, Williamson, Higgins, Ludvigsen, Mendez.

A quorum was present. Also present: City Administrator Marrin, City Attorney Yehl, Director of Building and Zoning Skiber, City Treasurer Tibbits, City Engineer/Public Works Director Johnson, Finance Director Hannon, Police Chief Dunne, and Assistant to the Administrator Sabo, Assistant Director of Building and Public Works Cutaia, and Deputy Clerk Schultheis.

PUBLIC COMMENT
*Council agrees to hear Public Comment first –
Jeanne and Wayne Jackson – Complained about House of Music and Entertainment noise level. They said that between 1:15 AM and 3:30 AM the bass could still be felt in their homes. Alderman Williamson said that the noise was probably coming from the people. The consensus of the Council was that fines should be levied. Director of Building and Zoning Skiber said that tickets could be issued for violations, and that there could be a ticket per hour, if needed. Treasurer Tibbits said that the problem was the front sound system, which had no one controlling it. City Administrator Marrin said that the House of Music and Entertainment was sponsoring a luncheon to discuss issues on July 20, and that residents could speak to the managers directly.
Mariusz Folta – Handed out a copy of the July 4 Police Report from 2:47 AM. He said that after repeated efforts on his part to get help from the Council, nothing has been done to abate the noise issue from House of Music and Entertainment. Alderman Ludvigsen offered that the Police should make unannounced documented stops at Stratford and Rand in the early hours to issue citation to noise offenders. Police Chief Dunne said that he was looking for direction from the Council to initiate that. Mayor Helmer said that the Council was directing him to begin unannounced Police patrols in the early morning hours.
Nick Scheri – Discussed the flooding on his property on June 26. He said that the response from the City was not enough. Mr. Scheri would like pump help when he floods. Director of Building and Zoning Skiber said that Public Works only has six people and three pumps; and that it takes two to operate the pump. He offered that when there is flooding, the street can be closed. It was noted that Mr. Scheri lives in a former unincorporated area that was added to the City in 1980, and that it was not Prospect Heights that designed the area. He added that the road work being done would help divert the water.
Bernadette Soens – Handed out a "Response to City Council Information Requests and Comments." She offered her plan to reduce the cost of water. She said that certain charges could be removed. Finance Director Hannon said that OMB133 stated that all expenses must be allocated, and that there was an allocation methodology that the City was required to follow.

Ms. Soens asked about Public Works charges and questioned the findings of the Baxter Woodman water study. Alderman Higgins noted that there are areas in Prospect Heights that are paying twice the water rates of Rob Roy. It was warned that Ms. Soens plan, if miscalculated would bankrupt the water fund. It was noted that Ms. Soens' plan did not cover repair or the possibility of a water main rupture. Ms. Soens said that she would talk to Alderman Williamson and Ludvigsen; and continue her research regarding the water costs.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

A. Approval of Contract to Purchase Speed Signs for School Zones – Police Chief Dunne said that this is a well-researched proposal advocating the purchase of six speed measuring devices to be deployed in the City's three school zones. They would post the driver's speed. They are battery powered. Volunteers would be used to rotate the batteries. It was noted that District 23 would find half of the cost.

ROLL CALL

Alderman Mendez moved to Approve the Purchase of six speed signs for the School Zones; seconded by Alderman Styler. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call.

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

Motion carried 5 - 0

B. Update and Timeline of Phase III Roads Project (City Engineer Jim Johnson) - Engineer Johnson said that there is nothing glaring and that documents were being prepared. – **No action was taken.**

C. An Ordinance Granting a Variance for a Required Yard Variation of 5'9" and Required Yard Variation of 8'10" for an Attached Garage and Principle Dwelling Addition at 203 Prospect Court (Waiver of First Reading) –

ROLL CALL

Alderman Styler moved to Waive the First Reading; seconded by Alderman Mendez. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call.

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

Motion carried 5 – 0

It was noted that the Zoning Board had approved the case 6 – 0. Given that there was a time factor, the Council was being asked to expedite the process.

ROLL CALL

Alderman Higgins moved to Approve an Ordinance Granting a Variance for a Required Yard Variation of 5'9" and Required Yard Variation of 8'10" for an Attached Garage and Principle Dwelling Addition at 203 Prospect Court ; seconded by Alderman Mendez. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call.

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

Motion carried 5 – 0

PRESENTATIONS

D. Gruen and Gruen Draft Report – Aaron Gruen discussed potential uses for the 12 acres of city-owned land at the airport. It was noted that office space offered the least potential; non-traditional use such as recreational/sporting like Buffalo Grove was possible; and the industrial use offered the best potential. The advantage to an industrial site was that they only had to deal with one entity regarding the land needed. And, that the City provided the regulatory control that would be needed to attract industrial enterprises; for example, it could offer tax incentives. They also mentioned two other possibilities; one as a Natural Gas Fueling Station (Blu Stations); and the other as a hotel chain location (Value Place).– **No action was taken.**

E. Republic Services Contract (Rick Bulthuis) – Mr. Bulthuis discussed the extension of the contract. He said that recycling would be promoted, and that they would be more proactive in multi-family recycling. SHARPS will be offered. There was a question whether or not the City should go out to bid. Aldermen wanted to see the annual rate increases tied to CPI. **By majority opinion, Mayor Helmer said that the direction was to continue the contract extension discussion for the next meeting.**

F. Baxter and Woodman Study (Steve Verseman) – The discussion of water for the entire town included cost, connection and infrastructure improvements. It was asked if grant money could be obtained, and Mr. Verseman noted that low interest loans were easier to get than grants. It was noted that the water services being discussed would go to property lines, and residents would then need to connect at an extra cost, if the City decided to provide water. – **No action was taken.**

G. Welcome to Prospect Heights Signage –Assistant to the City Administrator Sabo. – Assistant to the City Administrator Sabo said that there would be five sites in the City where the signs would be installed and that they would be installed on Friday, July 12. - **No action was taken.**

SCHEDULED BUSINESS

H. Discussion of Purchase of a Vehicle for Building and Zoning/Emergency Response (Mayor Helmer) – It was noted that Director of Building and Zoning Skiber had to use his own vehicle for emergencies. Mayor Helmer said that the City Administration should have an SUV and that there should be someone assigned to emergencies. Alderman Williamson suggested that the Police might give their Ford Expedition to Building and Zoning and that a newer vehicle be bought for the Police Department. – **No action was taken.**

I. Discussion of Extension of a Resolution Establishing a Sales Tax Incentive Program for New or Expanded Businesses (Mayor Helmer) – Mayor Helmer noted that the Resolution expired November 20, 2012. He said that it would give a 20% tax rebate over the course of five years. Aldermen Mendez and Styler approved of the idea. Alderman Ludvigsen wanted to make certain that it would be used for new businesses not existing ones. – **No action was taken.**

J. Discussion of Drainage and Flooding Issues on Willow Road and Hillcrest Drive near Slough (Alderman Williamson) – Alderman Williamson said that Willow Road floods and that flood water leads into suburban areas. He said that the Slough and Willow Road are not owned by the City. He wanted to know if Cook County could be contacted about building a bridge. He added that flooding was so prevalent that even emergency vehicles would have trouble entering and exiting the subdivision. In addition to flooding the area around Slough needed to be cleaned up. A bridge was suggested as a possible solution. City Engineer Johnson said that there were six

entities that had to be contacted for coordinating such an effort. He believed that the cost could exceed $1,000,000. Engineer Johnson said that the City would have to look into grants. The County might have to enact a jurisdictional transfer of pavement to the City, but they would not transfer a bridge. Engineer Johnson said that the County, Army Corp of Engineers and IDOT would be reluctant to push forward this solution without direction from the Council. They would require Council Minutes and a letter from the mayor/City Administrator requesting that this process be set into motion. The City would then need to invest in an engineering study to validate the need for a bridge. It was noted that dredging would not have any effect on water level, only on water quality. Another possible solution, in lieu of a bridge, might be to raise the road. City Engineer Johnson said that even if the project were initiated today, it would be three-four years before actual construction began. - **The direction of the Council was to write a letter to the Cook County Board of Commissioners and begin the process.**

K. Discussion of Existing Liquor License Hours, Limitations on BYOB, and License Classifications (Alderman Ludvigsen) – Alderman Ludvigsen thought that BYOB would cause the City to lose control on regulating liquor. He added that the liquor ordinance needed to be updated. Alderman Ludvigsen said that municipalities like Arlington Heights were moving away from late hours. He said that the City's standard closing hour of 3AM was too late. City Administrator Marrin said that the Council would also need to examine how early these establishments should open. BYOB policy and the hours needed to be reviewed. City Attorney Yehl said that all liquor licenses in the City were on a one-year renewal, and that no establishment need to be grandfathered in. All establishments would need to adhere to whatever restrictions the City imposed when they renewed their licenses. – **No action was taken.**

L. Discussion of Land Use Analysis (Alderman Ludvigsen) – Alderman Ludvigsen said that it was premature to be discussing the topic at this workshop. – **No action was taken.**

M. Discussion of Alderman Compensation for Fiscal Year 2015 (Alderman Mendez) – Alderman Mendez said that it was time for the elected officials to receive greater compensation. City Attorney Yehl said that the Council could increase compensation but that it would not apply until the next term. – **No action was taken.**

N. Discussion of Recycling in Multi-Family Dwellings (Alderman Higgins) – Alderman Higgins said that the topic had already been discussed in the Presentation Section. - **No action was taken.**

O. Discussion of Downtown Redevelopment Area (Alderman Williamson) – Alderman Williamson said that the discussion was premature. - **No action was taken.**

P. Discussion of Fourth of July Parade Special Events Director, Fourth of July Parade Report (Alderman Styler) – Alderman Styler said that the Parade was a huge success. He said that several residents had asked why Rob Roy did not enter a float for its 30th anniversary. – **No action was taken.**

Q. APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES

Approval of Warrants

General Fund	$	106,804.17
MFT Fund	$	6,196.63
Palatine/Milwaukee TIF	$	524.00
Tourism District	$	54,000.00

Development Fund	$	7,565.37
Non-Home Rule Sales Tax Fund	$	0.00
DEA Fund	$	0.00
Solid Waste Fund	$	33,779.34
SS Area #1	$	0.00
SS Area #2	$	0.00
SS Area #3	$	0.00
SS Area #4	$	0.00
SS Area #5	$	102.28
SS Area #8 – Levee Wall #37	$	159.02
SS Area Construction #6(Water Main)	$	0.00
SS Area-Debt #6	$	0.00
Road Construction	$	1,199.72
Water Fund	$	350.00
Parking Fund	$	4,727.60
Road/Building Bond Escrow	$	1,877.21
TOTAL Expenditures	$	95,145.93
Wire Payments, Service Charges & Payroll	$	123,639.41
TOTAL	**$**	**218,785.34**

Deputy Clerk read out the expenditure totals.

Alderman Styler moved to approve as presented; seconded by Alderman Mendez for a TOTAL in the amount of $ 218, 785. 34 and wire transfers, service charges, and payroll in the amount of $123,639.41. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call.

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

Motion carried 5 - 0

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:05 PM, a motion was made by Alderman Higgins; seconded by Alderman Ludvigsen to adjourn the Council Workshop and go into Closed Session to Discuss Personnel, Closed Session Minutes and Property Acquisition. The City Council Workshop motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

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

Motion carried 5 - 0

Approved by the Prospect Heights City Council this 22nd day of July, 2013.

Stacey Adamson, City Clerk

Nicholas J. Helmer, Mayor