

**City Council Meeting**  
Of the City of Palos Hills  
held **Thursday, March 19, 2015**  
City Hall Council Chambers  
10335 S. Roberts Road  
Palos Hills, Illinois 60465

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Bennett called the City Council Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- 2) **PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:** Mayor Bennett led everyone in the Pledge to the Flag.
- 3) **ROLL CALL:** Upon roll call the following Aldermen responded as present: Knox, Brachman, Hanson, Marrotta via electronic attendance, Schultz, Kleefisch, Stratton, Moore, Williams

**ABSENT:** Pasek

- 4) **QUORUM:** Mayor Bennett declared a quorum was present.
- 5) **READING OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:**  
Ald. Kleefisch, I MOVE to approve the City Council Meeting Minutes dated March 5, 2015 as presented. SECONDED by Ald. Williams. Upon roll call the following Ald. voted:  
AYE: Brachman, Hanson, Marrotta via electronic attendance, Kleefisch, Stratton, Moore, Williams, Knox  
ABSTAIN: Schultz  
ABSENT: Pasek  
NAY: None

MOTION CARRIED.

- 6) **CITIZENS PETITION:** None.
- 7) **CITIZENS HEARING:**  
Mayor Bennett, the meeting is open to the public for any comments or questions.

There were no comments or questions from the public; the public portion of the meeting was closed.

- 8) **REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR AND OTHER CITY OFFICIALS:**
  - A. **CITY CLERK:** No report.
  - B. **CITY ATTORNEY:** No report.

**C. MAYOR:**

Mayor Bennett, Ladies and Gentlemen I have a couple of items this evening. The first item is I would like to present to the Council the City of Palos Hills 2015/2016 city budget; it is balanced at a total of \$8,034,308.00. The actual increase over last year is probably about less than 1.2% and that increase is basically based upon the salary increases of our employees and continued increase in our pension obligation.

The Sewer & Water budget is also included, which is also balanced and also the Golf Course, which shows a slight profit.

I will ask the Alderman of the Finance Chair to set some dates for the Committee hearings with the Department Heads regarding the budget; it is at your pleasure Alderman. I would hope obviously to have the budget presented no later than May 7<sup>th</sup>.

Ald. Knox, I will set those dates under my portion of tonight meeting.

Mayor Bennett, also to bring to your attention a matter that has taken a little time but I think in doing so is going to benefit the city in the long run. As you know the Community Resource Commissioner Mary Jo and stepped down in December and I began the process in January and up until a couple of weeks ago in interviewing various candidates for the position of Community Resource Commissioner.

The final 4 interviews took place a couple of weeks ago; Ald. Stratton sat in with me on those interviews and I present to you tonight, which I think is an outstanding candidate who will be an asset to that department with some of the upgrades that the Council has indicated to me individually. She has experience both in Administration of the department in both the areas of recreation and special events.

Mayor Bennett, at this time I ask for Council's consideration and approval of Kristin Violante as the new Commissioner of Community Resources. So MOVED by Ald. Knox, SECONDED by Ald. Hanson. Upon roll call the following Ald. voted:

AYE: Marrotta via electronic attendance, Schultz, Kleefisch, Stratton, Moore, Williams, Knox, Brachman, Hanson

ABSENT: Pasek

NAY: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Bennett, Ladies & Gentlemen I introduce to you Kristin who was given a warm Welcome from the City Council.

Mayor Bennett, Kristin will officially start on Monday, April 6, 2015. In the mean time there will be some conversations prior to that and it will give her an opportunity to stop by and meet our Department Heads and more importantly the Aldermen too. You will be working with two Chairs, the Chair of Resources Ald. Marrotta and the Chair of Parks Ald. Stratton whom you have met as part of the job interview.

Kristin I look forward to working with you, it will be an exciting new venture of taking the department to an even higher standards than it is now and obviously I a lot of luck because you will be working with me also.

Comm. Kristin Violante, I am just really excited I had great talks with Ald. Stratton and Mayor Bennett. I work right now for Willowbrook and I love what I do. I work there part time so I am ready to go full time. I am on the School Board so I know how (inaudible) in your seats. I am really, really excited to be given this opportunity by the Mayor, thank you.

Mayor Bennett, I saw your former boss, your Mayor last week and he said nothing but great things about you. I told him I am sorry I was taking you but he said that was okay.

**9) PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, RESOLUTIONS  
ORDERS AND ORDINANCES BY ALDERMEN:**

**A. BUILDING & LICENSE:**

Ald. Brachman, I have no report this evening.

Mayor Bennett, other to mention if you noticed across the street the demolition has started on the thirteen million dollar improvement and addition to the nursing home. That is one of the largest projects we've seen in this city since I don't know when with that kind of dollar amount other than Moraine Valley Community College. We are excited to see them starting that project.

**B. CITY ADMINISTRATION/GOLF:**

Ald. Moore, I am very happy to announce our Golf Course doors are open and we are officially open and ready to go for the 2015 season. There is no winter damage to the course and spring-cleaning is proceeding.

The new Pro Shop carpeting was installed this past week and new staff members are beginning their training.

Mayor Bennett, Jay stopped by a couple of days ago and let me know he was going to open it up; the snow and the ice should have melted off that thing and we already got calls about people wanting to get out and golf and we needed a couple of days for that ground to dry.

Ald. Kleefisch, I seem to recall that part of the improvement included outside of the building, have we done anything with that?

Ald. Moore, I think we had a major clean up out there from last season; we did some major trimming and clean up out there.

**C. COMMUNITY RESOURCES: No report.**

**D. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: No report.**

**E. FINANCE:**

Ald. Knox, you all have before you a Vendor Warrant dated March 19, 2015 in the amount of \$328,383.35. I MOVE to authorize the expenditure of same. SECONDED by Ald. Williams. Upon roll call the following Ald. voted:

AYE: Schultz, Kleefisch, Stratton, Moore, Williams, Knox, Brachman, Hanson, Marrotta via electronic attendance.

ABSENT: Pasek

NAY: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Ald. Knox, I am looking at dates for the Budget Hearings starting with April 2<sup>nd</sup> and April 16<sup>th</sup>. We have 5 Thursday's so we are off the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. I am going go ahead and say April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 we will do 2 at least. What I will do is send an email to everybody letting you know after I make sure the Department Heads are there on certain dates and times.

We will probably do 2 budget hearings each night; I may try to do 3 depending. We've got 6 that we wind up doing so I will send everyone an email but do plan for April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 pm. I will speak with each Department Head to find out if anyone has preferences in case someone is going to be out of town on certain dates and then we will move forward. But again we will start on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and we will wrap up certainly by the 1<sup>st</sup> of May.

Mayor Bennett, in presenting you the budget obviously each departments budget are all pretty much zero based from last year. There is no increase in most of them if not all of them and in fact decreases in some of them. So hopefully the process will make it a little bit easier going through them.

**F. LEGISLATION & ORDINANCES:** No report.

**G. PARKS:**

Ald. Stratton, we will have our Health Expo on Friday, March 20, 2015 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Community Center, 8455 W. 103<sup>rd</sup> St. and there will be low cost screenings available.

Breakfast with the Bunny will be held on Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at the Community Center from 10:00 am to 11:15 am. Every child will receive a gift as well as breakfast.

The Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at the Community Center at Town Square Park beginning at 11:30 am and there is no cost for this event.

**H. PLANNING & ZONING:**

Ald. Hanson, I would like to inquire what the latest and greatest is; Gene what is happening with the 101<sup>st</sup> & 86<sup>th</sup> Ave. properties, anything new with that, the appraiser?

Comm. Nelson, I put a call into him (inaudible).

Mayor Bennett, as soon as we get the information we will get it to the City Attorney and hopefully go out to bid on that.

Ald. Hanson, Joan on the budget hearings am I to assume that we are going to do away with the Committee Meetings for that night, we will start at 5:30 pm and work through to the City Council Meeting?

Ald. Knox, I don't think so. I think we need the Committee Meetings I am assuming.

Mayor Bennett, if you want to do that, that's fine too.

Ald. Knox, we can but I think, I guess what we can do is to move Committee into Council at 7:00 pm. So we are still having the Committee Meetings and we are still giving everyone the ability to go through their reports.

**I. PUBLIC SAFETY:**

Ald. Kleefisch presented and read the Palos Hills Police Department Activity Report for the month of February 2015 as follows. We issued 595 traffic tickets, 279 parking tickets, there were 50 misdemeanor complaints and 4 felony complaints. There was 1 rape, 1 robbery, 1 aggravated assault, and 3 thefts and our C.I.D. Division handled a total of 88 cases.

We received a check from N.C.I. Receivable Management & Recovery in the amount of \$2,193.75. We received another check from Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court in the amount of \$560.00.

**J. PUBLIC WORKS/SEWER & WATER:**

Ald. Williams, the commissioner reports he has recalled temporary seasonal employees effective March 9, 2015 for work in our city parks and public works department. The seasonal staffs along with regular full-time employees were sent to task performing ash tree removal in city parks and parkways, cleaning park sites and picking up trash.

In the last two weeks crews have removed a total of 66 ash trees from city parks and parkways.

Superintendent Oeffling has been nurturing a stand of Catalpa trees in a secure location of the city and will be transplanting 20 to 25 trees into Indian Woods Park in April where a mix of approximately 35 ash trees, box elder and cottonwood trees have been removed. While the Catalpa trees are young they will soon grow into beautiful trees providing years of enjoyment for our residents.

A water system leak survey is being performed by M.E. Simpson & Company to locate hidden water leaks in the city water system. The leak survey started this past Monday. Survey crews have located three hidden water leaks to date with only 20% of water system surveyed. Hidden water leaks result in millions of gallons of water loss that if left undetected cost the community tens of thousands of dollars in lost water. A leak survey report will be generated at the completion of the survey and a final report will be presented to the City Council.

Following up on water main breaks over the winter Public Works crews replaced 40 feet of 6-inch water main on 103<sup>rd</sup> St. at 76<sup>th</sup> Ave. this week. Additional water main is scheduled for replacement at the following locations, 86<sup>th</sup> Ave. just south of Sun Valley Dr., and Sun Valley Ct. and Vail Dr.

NiCor Gas is in our community performing gas service line replacement at many addresses throughout the city. NiCor is working closely with the city and our residents.

Com Ed is scheduled to start trimming trees in the next week or two along electric transmission lines on Com Ed right of ways.

The city chipper program starts March 23<sup>rd</sup>. A chipper schedule was mailed with the February water bill. The chipper schedule is also posted on-line.

Allied Waste's yard waste program starts Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> and ends Monday November 30th 2015.

The City received reimbursement checks for damage to city property from the following companies. Safeco Insurance Company for damage to city street light and parking lot lights at Roberts Road and Paxos Dr. in the amount of \$8,477.58, and Lighting Express Trucking Company for damage to a city street light located at 112<sup>th</sup> Pl. & Roberts Rd. in the amount of \$961.70

**10) REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:** None.

11) **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**12) MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:**

Ald. Kleefisch, has there been any inquiries with regard to the properties on 111<sup>th</sup> & Roberts Rd. by anyone?

Mayor Bennett, no, the last time I talked to the developer who owns the property he was still trying to reach out. Retail has still not come back to the point of aggressive, and I am talking about national retailers or major (inaudible).

We potentially have 3 parcels over there to be united; that is our goal that that can be done to make one nice plaza.

Ald. Kleefisch, and we have a developer who is trying to do that?

Mayor Bennett, the guy on the corner who owns that property has tried to reach out again to both the old Burger King owners and then that vacant piece next to that is kind of that L shaped piece that goes back to the racquetball club.

Again, the problem has been certainly with the old Burger King property the price they are asking for the property and this market has been a major reason why that is not (inaudible).

Ald. Kleefisch, how about the empty lot on Roberts Rd. where the (inaudible) Bank was suppose to build years ago and never did.

Mayor Bennett, that is actually owned by Jim Roupas whether or not he wants to develop that I am not sure.

Ald. Williams, is there any new development on the overnight parking?

Mayor Bennett, no, nothing, no calls, and I have a report on my desk from the Chief, and the average tickets and I would not call it average but there have been one or two a night, three maybe on the weekends. Most people comply with the Ordinance in the long run so it has not been a really major problem.

But again we are going to try and work on a program that we will still attempt to make it a little easier for somebody after hours or on the weekends to be able to contact us regarding over night parking (inaudible) it's an emergency.

**13) ADJOURNMENT:**

No further business, Mayor Bennett entertained a motion to adjourn. SO MOVED by Ald. Stratton. SECONDED by Ald. Moore. By voice vote, all voted AYE.

The Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Submitted by

Rudy A. Mulderink  
City Clerk  
City of Palos Hills