

CITY OF COUNTRYSIDE

803 Joliet Road
Countryside, IL 60525
www.countryside-il.org



Meeting Minutes **Regular Meeting of the City Council**

Wednesday, April 24 2024

7:30 PM

City Hall

City Council Members

Mayor, Sean R. McDermott

City Clerk, Elizabeth Kmet

Treasurer, Courtney Bolt

Aldermen Thomas Mikolyzk, Scott Musillami, John Finn
John Von Drasek, Mark Benson and Tom Frohlich

1. **CALL TO ORDER** –The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor McDermott. City Attorney Peck led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call: City Clerk Kmet called the Roll of those physically present as follows:
Present: Mayor McDermott, Alderman Finn, Alderman Von Drasek, Alderman Benson, Alderman Frohlich, Alderman Musillami, Alderman Mikolyzk, City Clerk Kmet, Treasurer Bolt
Also Present: Police Chief Klimek, City Attorney Peck, Assistant City Administrator Schutter, City Engineer Fitzgerald, Deputy Clerk Cordova
Absent: City Administrator Paul

2. OMNIBUS AGENDA

- a. Approval of the City Council Meeting Minutes of April 10, 2024.
- b. Statement of Bills submitted for payment through April 24, 2024 in the amount of \$112,018.85.

A motion was made by Alderman Musillami, seconded by Alderman Von Drasek that this matter be APPROVED as presented; motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 Alderman Benson, Alderman Frohlich, Alderman Musillami,
Alderman Finn, Alderman Von Drasek, Alderman Mikolyzk
Nay: 0

3. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC –

a. Nicholas Sutkus, 9501 W. 56 St. – thanked the Police Department for their quick arrival at a recent incident at his home. He is very appreciative. On another matter, most of his neighbors are upset about the truck stop; they are concerned about the project in a residential area. They still do not want it there. The Mayor thanked him for the comments.

b. Rosemary Dostal, 9521 W. 56 St. – if the Council decides to extend this development – she asked if the City is receiving interest from any escrow account set up for the property. The Mayor stated that this time period is for public comment. Please make your comment. That is her comment. Since two Aldermen are against this project, she asked that other Aldermen do the same. Thank you.

4. MAYOR'S REPORT

a. Discussion re: The Healthy Countryside Committee Activity – Kris Lonsway. The Mayor was approached by Ms. Lonsway and Liz Valdez some time ago; they discussed starting a Healthy Countryside Committee, not a committee of officials, but a committee of residents and other stakeholders in the area. Kris Lonsway has agreed to chair this committee and she is here this evening; we are very grateful for her leadership. She will provide a brief summary of some of the initiatives being undertaken to help Countryside become a healthier place in which to reside.

b. Ms. Kris Lonsway is a Countryside resident, 5615 So. Kensington. The committee seeks to improve the health of all the people living in Countryside. They will provide health information, plus access and incentives for people to make healthy choices and provide social engagement opportunities. The City is already providing a network of bike paths as well as a Back to School Festival on August 17 this year – the Third Annual Wellness Festival. The Healthy Countryside Committee kicks off May 13 with members who share a passion about health – the Mayor, Alderman Von Drasek, representatives from Aging Care Connections, and a leader from School District 105. They plan to engage all schools in

Countryside. Programs under development are – The Healthy Hot Spot Restaurant Program – geared towards independently owned local restaurants, incentivizing them to offer plant-based menu items. Customers who purchase those items will get a raffle ticket for prizes donated by local businesses. We know from research that eating less meats and more plants, vegetables, fruits, nuts, beans, grains, etc., aids in the prevention of long-term chronic health issues like cancer, diabetes, Alzheimer's and other dementias. The more people around you who practice healthy eating, healthy living, healthy exercising, the more likely you are to engage in those behaviors.

c. There will be a Speaker Series on Health in partnership with School District 105. All residents are invited to attend, at Ideal School gym with simultaneous Spanish interpretation (using headsets) -- listening to topics on nutrition and mental health. Lastly, they hope to build on Concerts in the Park -- be there beforehand to provide free exercises classes, age and ability inclusive - like chair yoga or Tai Chee or light aerobics – that could happen before the Concerts start. Those are some of the program ideas they have discussed; more to come. They have a page on the Countryside web site under the Resident Section called "Healthy Countryside" – updates and health info will be posted there and a segment in the Newsletter. She thanked the entire City Council for their support and thanked Liz for all her help. She believes these efforts will benefit everyone. The Mayor thanked her for moving this forward. It will be a beneficial initiative for the entire community.

5. CITY CLERK'S REPORT - no report

6. TREASURER'S REPORT – no report

7. COMMITTEE AND COMMISSION REPORTS FOR DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND, IF SO DETERMINED ACTION UPON:

a. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Alderman Von Drasek - no report

1. FYI – People should be aware of any ruse burglaries – this is the season – especially for the elderly – that's who are the most vulnerable – gain their trust, get in the house, take valuables. It's kind of scary when that happens; keep your guard up.

b. FINANCE COMMITTEE – Alderman Finn

1. Consideration to approve the Annual Appropriation Ordinance for the Fiscal Year beginning May 1, 2024 and ending April 30, 2025 in the amount of \$26,879,748. The Finance Committee met three times beginning in November 2023 to discuss the budget. It was determined that all operating and capital costs could be supported without the use of a property tax levy. Staff recommended, and City Council approved, the passage of an Ordinance abating the debt service levies for tax year 2023 on all outstanding bond issues. This marks the 10th consecutive year that operating budgets have been balanced without the use of a property tax levy. No other communities in Cook County can say that. The budget was presented at a Public Hearing earlier this evening. Mayor McDermott reiterated that the primary reason that the City is able to not levy a local property tax is for years the City has been very aggressive in bringing new sales tax retail dollars back to the City of Countryside. That is why proposed developments are so critical to the financial health of our community as they move forward.

A motion was made by Alderman Frohlich, seconded by Alderman Mikolyzk that this matter be APPROVED as presented; motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 Alderman Benson, Alderman Frohlich, Alderman Musillami,
Alderman Finn, Alderman Von Drasek, Alderman Mikolyzk

Nay: 0

City Clerk Kmet declared that this will be known as ORDINANCE 24-10-O.

2. Consideration of an Ordinance providing for Supplemental Appropriations for the Fiscal Year beginning May 1, 2023 and ending April 30, 2024. Finance Director Schutter stated that supplemental appropriations are really just budget amendments. The amendments affect three funds: the **General Fund** – allocate an extra transfer to the Capital Fund to create additional Reserves for future projects. The **MFT Fund** - final close out costs and engineering costs rolled over into this year, which were not budgeted, so it needed to be covered. And finally, the **Flagg Creek Fund** - profit sharing expense is being increased due to increased revenue.

A motion was made by Alderman Frohlich, seconded by Alderman Von Drasek that this matter be APPROVED as presented; motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 Alderman Benson, Alderman Frohlich, Alderman Musillami, Alderman Finn, Alderman Von Drasek, Alderman Mikolyzk

Nay: 0

City Clerk Kmet declared that this will be known as ORDINANCE 24-11-O.

c. **HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE – Alderman Mikolyzk – no report**

d. **INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE - Alderman Benson – no report**

e. **PLAN COMMISSION/ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - Attorney Peck**

1. Consideration of a Fourth Extension Request for an approved Preliminary/ Final Plat of Resubdivision at 5550 East Avenue – Luka Travel Center 1, LLC.

2. Consideration of a Second Extension Request for an Approved Special Use Variation at 5550 East Avenue – Luka Travel Center 1, LLC. In 2022 Luka received authorization to proceed with the Preliminary/Final Plat of Resubdivision and approval for a Special Use Variation to permit a PUD on the property commonly known as 5550 East Avenue. The Special Use PUD has a time frame of one year to commence operation; the Preliminary/Final Plat of Resubdivision has six months to commence the Plat of Resubdivision. Luka has been working with Staff to develop a plan with regard to the businesses and final end users; there have been many changes and previous requests to extend the timeframe. Each of these requests asks the City Council to extend the timeframe to October 27, 2024 – putting both requests on the same timeframe.

A motion was made by Alderman Benson, seconded by Alderman Musillami that the Preliminary/Final Plat of Resubdivision be APPROVED as presented; motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 Alderman Benson, Alderman Musillami, Alderman Von Drasek, Alderman Mikolyzk

Nay: 2 Alderman Frohlich, Alderman Finn

A motion was made by Alderman Musillami, seconded by Alderman Benson that the Special Use Variation be APPROVED as presented; motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 Alderman Benson, Alderman Musillami, Alderman Von Drasek, Alderman Mikolyzk

Nay: 2 Alderman Frohlich, Alderman Finn

f. SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE – Alderman Musillami – no report

1. **FYI** – Last Sunday the School District Foundation for 105 had its dash in Countryside; it was a welcome sight. The Police Department was well represented. He thanked them for all they do. He is proud to be a resident of Countryside.

g. SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE - Alderman Musillami – no report.**h. FLAGG CREEK ADVISORY BOARD – Alderman Frohlich – no report****8. LEGAL REPORT – City Attorney Peck – no report****9. CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT – no report****10. STAFF REPORTS****a. Chief of Police**

1. Chief Klimek sought consideration and approval to waive the Formal Bidding Process and purchase 25 body-worn cameras and 7 in-car cameras with a Software and Data Storage Subscription from Motorola Solutions in the amount of \$149,000 payable over five years. Chief Klimek was notified by Motorola that the product they currently use for body-worn cameras will reach their end of life sometime this year. They will no longer be supported or repaired by Motorola. They also ran out of storage with the current system; they have been moving videos to external storage – a very time-consuming process. In order to remain compliant with the SAFE-T Act provisions which go into effect in January 2025, the P.D. sought quotes from three vendors for the purchase of new cameras. Motorola provided the lowest price quotes for the five-year contract. He seeks Council approval for the purchase.

A motion was made by Alderman Von Drasek, seconded by Alderman Finn that this matter be APPROVED as presented; motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 Alderman Benson, Alderman Frohlich, Alderman Musillami,
Alderman Finn, Alderman Von Drasek, Alderman Mikolyzk

Nay: 0

2. Consideration and Approval for the Police Department to apply for the “Stop the Bleed” Grant Program to receive a “Stop the Bleed Training Kit.” This is a public/private collaboration to educate the public about how to prevent trauma-related deaths from uncontrolled bleeding. If awarded the Grant, the Training Kit valued at \$1,000 would be used by a police instructor to train members of the community to stop bleeding following a trauma-related incident. The P.D. would like to apply for the Kit.

A motion was made by Alderman Musillami, seconded by Alderman Frohlich that this matter be APPROVED as presented; motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 Alderman Benson, Alderman Frohlich, Alderman Musillami,
Alderman Finn, Alderman Von Drasek, Alderman Mikolyzk

Nay: 0

3. Consideration and Action to hire one Probationary Police Officer. Officer April Bisignani submitted a letter indicating her intent to retire on July 11, 2024, shortly after her 20-year anniversary. The Police Department would like to begin the process of hiring another Police Officer to take her place after her retirement.

A motion was made by Alderman Finn, seconded by Alderman Von Drasek that this matter be APPROVED as presented; motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 Alderman Benson, Alderman Frohlich, Alderman Musillami,
Alderman Finn, Alderman Von Drasek, Alderman Mikolyzk
Nay: 0

b. City Engineer Fitzgerald – no report

11. BUSINESS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL FOR DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND, IF DETERMINED, ACTION UPON: none

12. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Alderman Benson, seconded by Alderman Finn that this meeting be ADJOURNED; motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 Alderman Musillami, Alderman Von Drasek, Alderman Finn,
Alderman Mikolyzk, Alderman Benson, Alderman Frohlich
Nay: 0

Mayor McDermott declared the meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/fp

ELIZABETH KMET, CITY CLERK