

CITY OF COUNTRYSIDE

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



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

Wednesday, November 13, 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. Alderman Frohlich 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 Frohlich, Alderman Musillami, Alderman Mikolyzk, City Clerk Kmet, Treasurer Bolt
Also Present: Police Chief Klimek, City Attorney Peck, City Administrator Paul, Asst. City Administrator Schutter, City Engineer Fitzgerald, Recording Secretary Prokop
Absent: Alderman Benson, Deputy Clerk Cordova

2. OMNIBUS AGENDA

- a. Approval of the City Council Meeting Minutes of October 23, 2024.
- b. Statement of Bills submitted for payment through November 13, 2024 in the amount of \$941,182.81.

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

Aye: 5 Alderman Frohlich, Alderman Musillami, Alderman Von Drasek,
Alderman Finn, Alderman Mikolyzk
Nay: 0
Absent: 1 Alderman Benson

3. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC - none

4. MAYOR'S REPORT

Consideration of Appointment of Jack Benton to the Plan Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals. Jack has expressed an interest in serving our community by serving on the PC/ZBA. We need a motion to appoint him to the Zoning Board. He will be sworn in at a later date.

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

Aye: 5 Alderman Frohlich, Alderman Musillami, Alderman Von Drasek,
Alderman Finn, Alderman Mikolyzk
Nay: 0
Absent: 1 Alderman Benson

5. CITY CLERK'S REPORT

- a. Consideration to Approve the 2025 Schedule of City Council and Committee Meetings.

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

Aye: 5 Alderman Frohlich, Alderman Musillami, Alderman Von Drasek,
Alderman Finn, Alderman Mikolyzk
Nay: 0
Absent: 1 Alderman Benson

- b. Consideration to Approve the 2025 Calendar of Paid Holidays for full-time employees.
Motion was made by Alderman Musillami, seconded by Alderman Finn that this matter be APPROVED as presented; motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 Alderman Frohlich, Alderman Musillami, Alderman Von Drasek,
Alderman Finn, Alderman Mikolyzk

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 Alderman Benson

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

b. FINANCE COMMITTEE – Alderman Finn

1. A Finance Committee meeting took place earlier this evening. The Audit Report showed that the City's finances were given the highest level of assurance an auditor can give. The Police Pension is now funded at 96%, thanks to the plan that was put forth by City Staff which will save the City taxpayers \$6.4M over the next 15 years. The Preliminary Budget for 2025 again indicates that all property taxes will be abated with no levies on taxpayers for the 11th straight year – unheard of for municipalities. The final piece of good news is that revenues are up for the current fiscal year and expenses are down with a surplus of \$1.2M. All around great news from the Finance Committee. The Mayor thanked Committee members for doing an excellent job.

c. HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE – Alderman Mikolyzk

1. Request to hire Donna Krzebiot for the position of Senior Clerk in the Finance Department.

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

Aye: 5 Alderman Frohlich, Alderman Musillami, Alderman Von Drasek,
Alderman Finn, Alderman Mikolyzk

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 Alderman Benson

d. INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE - Alderman Benson – no report

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

1. Consideration of a Second Extension Request for an Approved Special Use Variation at 9655 W. 55th St – Highline Automotive.

2. Consideration of a Third Extension Request for an Approved Variance at 9655 W. 55th St. – Highline Automotive. Attorney Peck stated that both items are related. Highline Automotive has previously appeared before the PC/ZBA and received both extensions for the subject property until November 2024; those requests have expired and they are seeking a one-year extension for both the Special Use Automotive Variance and the Building Variance for reduction in landscaping and driveway access. They are dealing with IDOT and having difficulty Due to the extensive IDOT R-O-W construction and seek an extension to November 2025.

Motion was made by Alderman Finn, to grant both requests, seconded by Alderman Frohlich that this matter be APPROVED as presented; motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 Alderman Frohlich, Alderman Musillami, Alderman Von Drasek,
Alderman Finn, Alderman Mikolyzk
Nay: 0
Absent: 1 Alderman Benson

f. SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE – Alderman Musillami

a. FYI - The Countryside Christmas Party will take place on Saturday, December 7 2024 from 9:00 – 11:30 a.m., Premier Catering, Local #150. Happy Thanksgiving to all!!

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 – Ms. Gail Paul – no report

10. STAFF REPORTS

a. Chief of Police

1. Request to approve the 2024-2025 Organized Retail Crime Grant Program Agreement between the Illinois Attorney General’s Office and the City of Countryside. The City was awarded a grant of \$30,000 from the Attorney General’s Office to purchase vehicle mounted GPS tag systems. The Mayor met the Attorney General last evening and thanked him for approving the grant to the City of Countryside.

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

Aye: 5 Alderman Frohlich, Alderman Musillami, Alderman Von Drasek,
Alderman Finn, Alderman Mikolyzk
Nay: 0
Absent: 1 Alderman Benson

2. Consideration and Approval to waive the formal bidding process and purchase four (4) StarChase GPS Vehicle Mounted Launcher Systems for \$30,000. These systems are used to track fleeing vehicles using GPS technology so officers don’t have to engage in pursuits.

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

Aye: 5 Alderman Frohlich, Alderman Musillami, Alderman Von Drasek,
Alderman Finn, Alderman Mikolyzk
Nay: 0
Absent: 1 Alderman Benson

b. City Engineer Fitzgerald

1. Consideration of pay estimate #3 and semi-final to Lindahl Brothers’, Inc., Bensenville, IL for the 2024 CDBG Street Rehabilitation Program in the amount of \$84,490.03. Question re: retainage for punch line items. Mr. Fitzgerald stated those items were completed and he will review that work; it is not included in this payment. The retainage is 5% or \$35,000.

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

Aye: 5 Alderman Frohlich, Alderman Musillami, Alderman Von Drasek,
Alderman Finn, Alderman Mikolyzk
Nay: 0
Absent: 1 Alderman Benson

2. Consideration of awarding a contract to the lowest responsible bidder for 2024 Water Main Replacement Project to Unique Plumbing Co., Brookfield, IL in the amount of \$\$998,938.00. for the LaGrange Road water main from 55th St. to 53rd St. as well as a new water main through Soehrman Park, which goes underneath Willow Springs Road. Bids were opened at 2 p.m. on November 7; four bids were received. The low bidder was Unique Plumbing. The contract amount is \$998,938.00, which is 17.6% or \$214K below engineer's estimate. Happy to see pricing coming back to pre-COVID levels; competitive numbers; 15 contractors picked up bid packages but only four submitted actual bids. Happy thanksgiving!

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

Aye: 5 Alderman Frohlich, Alderman Musillami, Alderman Von Drasek,
Alderman Finn, Alderman Mikolyzk
Nay: 0
Absent: 1 Alderman Benson

11. BUSINESS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL FOR DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND, IF SO DETERMINED, ACTION UPON:

a. Mayor McDermott noted that "Coffee with the Mayor" is scheduled for December 7 as well. State Representative Rashid will speak at this event and Kris Lounsway will also speak on behalf of the "Healthy Countryside" initiative.

12. ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 5 Alderman Frohlich, Alderman Musillami, Alderman Von Drasek,
Alderman Finn, Alderman Mikolyzk
Nay: 0
Absent: 1 Alderman Benson

Mayor McDermott declared the meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/fp

ELIZABETH KMET, CITY CLERK