

CITY OF COUNTRYSIDE

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



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

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

7:30 PM

City Hall

City Council Members

Mayor, Sean R. McDermott
City Clerk, Elizabeth Kmet
Treasurer, Courtney Bolt

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor McDermott. Treasurer Bolt 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: Alderman Mikolyzk, Alderman Musillami, Alderman Von Drasek, Alderman Frohlich, Alderman Benson and Alderman Finn

Also Present: Mayor McDermott, City Clerk Kmet, Treasurer Bolt, Assistant City Administrator Schutter, Police Chief Klimek, Deputy Clerk Cordova, City Attorney Peck, and City Engineer Sledz

2. **OMNIBUS AGENDA**

- a. Approval of City Council Meeting minutes of March 11, 2026.
- b. Approval of the statement of bills submitted for payment through March 25, 2026: \$65,909.31.

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 Mikolyzk, Alderman Musillami, Alderman Von Drasek, Alderman Frohlich, Alderman Benson and Alderman Finn

Nay: 0

3. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC - None.**

4. **MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor McDermott**

Mayor McDermott said this month's coffee with the Mayor was canceled. I'd like to report that it has been rescheduled for April 25th. We will have two presenters, one will be Finance Director Schutter and he will be giving an overview of the newly approved budget and the other speaker soon to be announced.

I am very pleased to see the work that is beginning done outside at Joliet and Brainard. We have been waiting a long time for that intersection improvement and it looks like it's moving forward and that is a great sign.

On behalf of the City of Countryside we would like to express our condolences to the Musillami family. Scott we will be keeping you and your family in our thoughts and prayers and with fond memories of your wonderful brother Donny.

5. **CITY CLERK'S REPORT – City Clerk Kmet - No report**

6. **TREASURER'S REPORT – Treasurer Bolt – 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 – No report**
- c. HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE – Alderman Mikolyzk – No report**
- d. INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE – Alderman Benson**

Consideration to award a contract to Do-All Fence, Inc. in the amount of \$22,880 for the construction of two dugouts at City Park.

Mayor McDermott said that this is part of the \$100,000 grant money that we were able to secure with the assistance of our State Representative Abdelnasser Rashid. We are utilizing some of the funds for this project and the remainder for the park improvements.

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

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

Nay: **0**

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

Consideration of an Ordinance granting a special use to permit a Banquet Facility/Meeting Hall (Noto Event Center) at 6420 Joliet Road – Case #PSU26-0001 (King, Razor Leasing LLC)

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: **6** Alderman Mikolyzk, Alderman Musillami, Alderman Von Drasek, Alderman Frohlich, Alderman Benson and Alderman Finn

Nay: **0**

City Clerk Kmet declared that this will be known as Ordinance 26-03-O.

Consideration of an Ordinance granting a special use to permit an outdoor patio (Noto Restaurant) at 6420 Joliet Road – Case #PSU26-0001 (King, Razor Leasing LLC)

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

Nay: 0

City Clerk Kmet declared that this will be known as Ordinance 26-04-O.

Consideration of an Ordinance adopting 2025 Zoning Map (Case #PTA26-0001).

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

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

Nay: 0

City Clerk Kmet declared that this will be known as Ordinance 26-05-O.

- f. **SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE – Alderman Musillami – No report**
- 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 – Assistant City Administrator Schutter**
- 9.a. Presentation of the 2025 Annual Report of City Operations.

Assistant City Administrator Schutter said that this is the 12th Annual Operations Report.

The Finance Committee recommended no property taxes for 2025, this was the 12th consecutive year without property taxes.

Just three years ago the City’s police pension fund was only 68% funded. This prompted the City Council to adopt an accelerated funding plan. As of 2025 the police pension fund is now 100% funded.

Over the past three years the general fund has achieved very significant surpluses. We took those surpluses and did two things with them. First we accelerated the police pension funding as noted, and the second thing we did was increase the reserves in the capital fund. As of the end of 2025 we amassed \$6M in the capital fund reserves that we could use towards future projects, including but not limited to potentially a public works facility.

During 2025 two new water mains were installed one at LaGrange Road and 55th Street and one at Soehmann Park. We resurfaced South Kensington Avenue, 6th Avenue, and Terry Lane.

Last year the City issued 626 permits with a construction value of just less than \$17M. We held fourteen special events at no cost for our attendees.

We welcomed several new businesses in the City including El Alebrije, Don Javi Taco Grill, Ducks Travel Stop, Caraways, and Jack in the Box.

On behalf of the Department Heads and staff we want to thank the City Council for your support.

10. STAFF REPORTS

a. Chief of Police – Chief Klimek

Chief Klimek said he would like to present a summary of the 2025 Annual Report for the police department. I'd like to thank all the elected officials and City staff for all their support through 2025. We are very fortunate to work here and enjoy the kind of support we do as a police department.

In 2025 the police department was fully staffed. We hired two new police officers that completed all their initial academy and field training. We also hired a third experienced police officer. Recruiting is very difficult for police departments this day and age and having a City Council and City that supports us as much as you do really sets us apart and makes it easier to recruit quality people.

In 2025 we had over 16,000 calls for service throughout the year. That is a slight increase over prior years. The total number of reported criminal offenses and ordinance violations was down nearly 30%. A significant reduction in theft and burglary offenses.

In 2025 we also contracted with a social worker to work alongside the police department and provide service for our residents. Social Worker Mariah is available to all residents and City employees. Anyone can make an appointment with her, but she also assists the police department. Mariah follows up with residents or people in the community who might need a little more assistance than a police officer can provide. She is also a singular point of contact for all the different social service agencies in the area.

For Capital projects this year we purchased new patrol rifles and bulletproof shields. All of our officers have been trained on this equipment. Every patrol vehicle has a shield and a brand new patrol rifle in it.

We also installed the HAAS alerting system. This system alerts drivers to approaching and stopped emergency vehicles. It's proven to reduce crashes involving emergency vehicles and enhances the safety of our officers and the motoring public in general. The project was funded by a traffic safety grant that was given by the Illinois Department of Transportation.

We were also awarded a little over \$27,000 in grant funding by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board which paid for all of the ongoing subscription costs for our body worn cameras and car cameras.

We received another \$30,000 grant money from the Attorney General's Office which paid for the majority of costs to install surveillance cameras at 55th and East Avenue and Joliet and LaGrange Road.

We replaced two administrative vehicles, a 2013 Ford Taurus which was traded in and a 2016 Ford Explorer which was transferred to the Building Department for their use.

Members of the Narcotics and Currency Interdiction Task Force won an award in 2025 for being the best team of its nature out of 26 similar teams in the Chicago area. They seized over \$2.8M in cash and assets from drug trafficking organizations in the Chicago area in 2025.

Our officers took over 3,400 hours of training hours in 2025. A lot of those classes were taught by our own instructors that were trained and certified through the State of Illinois as well as having their curriculums certified by the Training and Standards Board in the State.

b. City Engineer – Lukasz Sledz – No report

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

12. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Alderman Von Drasek, seconded by Alderman Benson that this meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

Mayor McDermott declared the meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.

APPROVED:

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Kmet, City Clerk

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