

**CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HOMETOWN
JOURNAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS
April 13, 2021**

Call to Order: The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Hometown was called to order by Mayor Casey on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Alderman Smith.

Mayor Casey asked for a moment of silence in honor of Lt. James Kouski, a 34 year veteran of the Hometown Police Department who died in the line of duty.

Roll Call: Roll call indicated that the following were present: Aldermen Kurysz, Smith, Finnegan, Reynolds, Banasiak, Beyer, Grochowski, Barnhouse, Zak and Walsh.

Also present: Michael Cainkar, City Attorney, Bonnie Gesiakowski, Director of Public Health and Safety and James Forbes, Building Commissioner.

Press: Kelly White, Hometown Hi-Lites.

Journal March 23, 2021: Moved by Alderman Kurysz seconded by Alderman Zak to approve as published the Journal of March 23, 2021 Regular City Council Meeting.

Roll Call Indicated:

AYES: (10) Aldermen Zak, Reynolds, Walsh, Beyer, Barnhouse, Grochowski, Finnegan, Smith, Banasiak and Kurysz.

NAYS: (0)

MOTION DECLARED CARRIED

Journal March 23, 2021: Moved by Alderman Banasiak seconded by Alderman Beyer to approve as published the Journal of March 23, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Roll Call Indicated:

AYES: (10) Aldermen Zak, Reynolds, Walsh, Beyer, Barnhouse, Grochowski, Finnegan, Smith, Banasiak and Kurysz.

NAYS: (0)

MOTION DECLARED CARRIED

CITIZEN'S HEARING

NONE

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Office of the Mayor:

Mayor Casey reported that he just returned from a Critical Event Debriefing held at OLCCHS for all people that were involved in the critical event that took the life of LT. Kouski. Several surrounding agencies responded to the call and attended the debriefing today. It was a needed event that was put together by Chief Dominguez and there is continuing counseling available to all involved. In light of the emotional day Mayor Casey stated he excused both the Chief and Director Trlak from tonight's meeting.

Mayor Casey stated it has been a very sad week for the City of Hometown. There was a DUI accident car versus pole, Public Works was called out for the pole removal, Director Trlak was there regarding the pole while LT. Kouski was directing traffic in the area. Lt. Kouski was struck by another DUI driver and succumbed to his injuries. So our whole Police and Public Works Departments were impacted. Lt. Kouski was a 34 year Veteran with the Hometown Police Department; he went through the ups and downs with the department and stayed the course.

Jim did what had to be done, he did his job. I commend and honor him, he will be missed. The Chief put together a very professional, moving emotional tribute to Lt. Kouski and the Communities support was astounding. Driving down Southwest Highway in a procession that included 78 different Departments from all over the State and seeing the residents line the street was amazing, heartwarming and emotional. Again, our Police Department and the leadership of the Chief deserves all of our admiration and respect.

Mayor Casey reported we had a good event bringing the Easter Bunny around town for the kids, out of respect for our loss of Lt. Kouski we did not have a large police escort but we also wanted to let the kids see the Bunny. As far as the election, congratulations to the re-elected officials, the turnout was dismal, 195 voters but with most all races unopposed it was to be expected.

Office of the City Clerk:

Clerk Hacker reported that her office received notification from the Department of Revenue that the Sales Tax collected in the month of November 2020 was in the amount of \$17,932.75 the amount collected in the month of November 2019 was in the amount of \$16,429.22.

Clerk Hacker reported that her office received notification from the Department of Transportation that the MFT collected in the month of November 2020 was in the amount of \$11,884.09 the amount collected in the month of November 2019 was in the amount of \$13,893.72.

Clerk Hacker stated her office had received a request from Park Lawn for an ad in their annual fundraising booklet.

Moved by Alderman Grochowski, seconded by Alderman Kurysz to approve a Copper Ad in the amount of \$175.00.

Roll Call Indicated:

AYES: (10) Aldermen Zak, Reynolds, Walsh, Beyer, Barnhouse, Grochowski, Finnegan, Smith, Banasiak and Kurysz.

NAYS: (0)

MOTION DECLARED CARRIED

Office of the Treasurer:

Treasurer Roti stated everyone should have a copy of the reports generated by his office, as tax collections come in we are building up our funds again.

REPORTS FROM CITY APPOINTED OFFICIAL

City Attorney: Michael Cainkar, City Attorney had no report.

Police: Louis Dominguez, Chief of Police was not present.

Public Works: Mark Trlak, Director was not present.

Building: James Forbes, Building Commissioner had no report.

Public Health and Safety: Bonnie Gesiakowski reported that now is the time for residents to clean up around their garages.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES
FINANCE COMMITTEE

Accounts Payable Payroll April 13, 2021: Moved by Alderman Beyer, seconded by Alderman Banasiak to approve for payment the accounts payable vouchers in the amount of \$52,397.94 and payroll vouchers in the amount of \$80,920.41 for a total expenditure of \$133,318.35.

(List of vouchers marked “EXHIBIT A” attached to and made a part of this Journal)

Roll Call Indicated:

AYES: (10) Aldermen Zak, Reynolds, Walsh, Beyer, Finnegan, Smith, Grochowski, Barnhouse, Banasiak and Kurysz.

NAYS: (0)

MOTION DECLARED CARRIED

Alderman Beyer acknowledged receipt of the City Treasurer’s Report and the Clerk Collector’s Report for January.

STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND MUNICIPAL BUILDING COMMITTEE

Alderman Glen Zak, Chairman had no report.

WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE

Alderman Walsh, Chairman had no report.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Alderman Smith, Chairman had no report.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Alderman Barnhouse, Chairman gave the Building Report.

LICENSE COMMITTEE: Alderman Donna Grochowski, Chairman reminded residents that vehicle stickers and animal tags will be on sale May 3, 2021 until June 30th, 2021. Clerk Hacker asked about the Cook County Rabies program and Alderman Grochowski stated she will find out if they will be coming this year.

CODE AND ORDINANCE COMMITTEE:

Alderman Bob Reynolds, Chairman had no report.

INSURANCE COMMITTEE: Alderman Rick Banasiak, Chairman had no report.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE: Alderman Luci Kurysz, Chairman reported the J&J vaccination has been stopped.

POLICE COMMITTEE: Alderman Finnegan, Chairman stated he commends the Mayor and the Chief.

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Library: Alderman Grochowski reported the April 7 meeting that was cancelled will be held on April 14, 2021, they were having the new desk installed.

Legislation: Alderman Beyer reported there is discussion regarding the Rescue Plan being dispersed in two phases.

Fire Department: Alderman Rick Banasiak reported at the meeting they discussed how tight the finances are. They are hoping to be able to delay the January ambulance payment until tax funds come in. They are applying for the FEMA Covid grant and anticipate receiving \$10,000.00. The Ice Damage to the Firehouse will be covered by insurance.

Personnel Review: Mayor Kevin Casey, Chairman had no report.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS RESOLUTIONS, ORDERS AND ORDINANCES BY ALDERMEN

Resolution No. 4-2021: Moved by Alderman Banasiak, seconded by Alderman Walsh, A Resolution of The City of Hometown Fixing the Pay and Pay Period of all City Officials and Employees.

Roll Call Indicated:

AYES: (10) Aldermen Zak, Reynolds, Walsh, Beyer, Finnegan, Smith, Grochowski, Barnhouse, Banasiak and Kurysz.

NAYS: (0)

MOTION DECLARED CARRIED

Resolution No. 5-2021: Moved By Alderman Beyer, Seconded By Alderman Zak, a Resolution Providing for the Annual Budget of the City of Hometown for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2021 and Ending April 30, 2022.

Roll Call Indicated:

AYES: (10) Aldermen Zak, Reynolds, Walsh, Beyer, Finnegan, Smith, Grochowski, Barnhouse, Banasiak and Kurysz.

NAYS: (0)

MOTION DECLARED CARRIED

Special

Events: Alderman Grochowski had no report.

Health, Welfare & Community Awareness: Alderman Grochowski reported on upcoming events.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Mayor Casey reported that the Car Wash is moving forward, Mayor Casey was part of a conference call with IDOT and they requested a traffic study which the Car Wash people ordered right away. There is a potential new business coming to former Women’s Work Out World. The sale of the church is in the hands of the two property owners. Residents are asking me about Home Rule and I tell them we need it and they can form a committee. Mr. Mottl in the audience stated he would like to be a part of the committee. Alderman Kurysz thanked the officials for their support on the Easter raffle.

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

CITIZEN’S HEARING: NONE

ADJOURNMENT: Motion made by Alderman Finnegan, seconded by Alderman Reynolds to adjourn the regular meeting of the Hometown City Council.

MOTION STATED CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm

Mary Jo C. Hacker, City Clerk