

**CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HOMETOWN
JOURNAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS
June 13, 2023**

Call to Order: The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Hometown was called to order by Acting Mayor Finnegan on Tuesday June 13, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.

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

Roll Call: Roll call indicated that the following were present: Aldermen Banasiak, Reynolds, Acting Mayor Finnegan, Kurysz, Barnhouse, Forney, Walsh, Zak, Grochowski and Brookman.
Also present: Michael Cainkar, City Attorney, Mark Trlak, Public Works Director, Bonnie Gesiakowski, Public Health Director and James Forbes, Building Commissioner.

Press: Kelly White, Hometown Hi-Lites.

Journal May 23, 2023: Moved by Alderman Zak, seconded by Alderman Banasiak to approve as published the Journal of May 23, 2023 Regular City Council Meeting.
Roll Call Indicated:
AYES: (10) Aldermen, Brookman, Banasiak, Reynolds, Walsh, Barnhouse, Zak, Grochowski, Kurysz, Acting Mayor Finnegan and Forney
NAYS: (0)

MOTION DECLARED CARRIED

CITIZEN’S HEARING

Phil Mottl of 9054 Corcoran Road had questions regarding the new meter/valve check and appointments. Acting Mayor Finnegan responded, this was the first week, we ran into some issues, and we want Public Works to get things in order so there is not a 2nd trip for the installers. There was discussion regarding hot water tanks having to be moved. Director Trlak stated, if they can see it, they can do it.

Jan Forney of 8765 Kilbourn stated she did the math and we have gained approximately \$18,000.00 With the increase put on the gaming machines. Acting Mayor Finnegan stated the businesses were very grateful for the small increase we imposed. Jan Forney then asked when we would be putting in an increase in the gas tax. Acting Mayor Finnegan stated we are focusing on the Crime Free Housing aspect right now. Jan Forney asked what was happening with that. Police Chief Dominguez stated he met with several certified officers last week and getting us up and running is in the works. There was a full discussion on Crime Free Housing.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Office of the Mayor:

Acting Mayor Finnegan thanked all the people involved with the 70th birthday concert held on June 3, 2023. He opened the concert with comments about Kevin, getting the Gazebo and having the dream of holding concerts at the Gazebo. There were approximately 75 attendees, and we have 5 more concerts planned. July 2nd will be Jaycee Strelow. The dumpsters were not delivered when they were supposed to be, there was a misstep with paperwork at Republic, our Rep. was out of town and his replacement called in sick, so no one was available. The dumpsters were brought on Monday, and we have gone through four so far, 2 more coming. Calls have been made to the Dispensary but no contact yet. Public Works cleaned up around the building and we will bill them. A resident asked about shutting down the Splash Pad on concert nights and Acting Mayor Finnegan stated they are working on a Golf Cart.

Office of the City Clerk:

City Clerk Hacker reported her office received from the Department of Revenue that the Sales Tax collected in the month of March 2023 was in the amount of \$21,861.39 the amount collected in the month of March 2022 was in the amount of \$22,096.88.

City Clerk Hacker reported her office received from the Department of Transportation that the MFT collected in the month of March 2023 was in the amount of \$15,429.83, the amount collected in the month of March 2022 was in the amount of \$14,593.62.

Clerk Hacker stated she had received a request from Park Lawn for an ad in their Fundraising Booklet for the A Rhapsody in Blue event. After full discussion, Moved by Alderman Barnhouse, seconded by Alderman Kurysz to approve a \$250.00 ad for the Park Lawn booklet.

Roll Call Indicated:

AYES: (10) Aldermen, Brookman, Banasiak, Reynolds, Walsh, Barnhouse, Zak,
Grochowski, Kurysz, Acting Mayor Finnegan and Forney

NAYS: (0)

MOTION DECLARED CARRIED

Clerk Hacker stated her office had received a request for a foursome and sponsorship for the District 123 Educational Foundation Golf Outing. Moved by Alderman Banasiak, seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve a foursome and sponsorship for the District 123 Educational Foundation in the amount of \$600.00.

Roll Call Indicated:

AYES: (10) Aldermen, Brookman, Banasiak, Reynolds, Walsh, Barnhouse, Zak,
Grochowski, Kurysz, Acting Mayor Finnegan and Forney

NAYS: (0)

City Clerk Hacker stated sticker sales are going well, we are ahead of last year.

Office of the Treasurer:

Treasurer Roti stated everyone should have the reports generated from his office. You will notice we received some CBDG reimbursement funds. The appropriation documents will be out in July. Alderman Forney asked Treasurer Roti what the cannabis funds related to, and Treasurer Roti responded, that is our share of the state collection. Alderman Forney asked about the Cell Tower rent if that was for one of the two towers. Treasurer Roti responded that is for the Cicero Avenue tower only and the rent increases each year.

REPORTS FROM CITY APPOINTED OFFICIAL

City Attorney: Michael Cainkar, City Attorney had no report. Alderman Forney asked the City Attorney if there is liability if flowers or decorative rocks are placed on the island. Attorney Cainkar stated that the City could be liable for creating a unreasonably dangerous condition on the islands, like any public property, if the City had notice of the dangerous condition and took no action. Acting Mayor Finnegan stated he felt rocks was a bad idea because that would bring kids crossing the street to see them. Acting Mayor Finnegan stated he had already discussed this with a resident. Attorney Cainkar stated that the City would generally not be liable for a person hit by a car crossing the street to observe a condition on public property. Alderman Forney stated he would like to beautify the islands. Acting Mayor Finnegan stated it would not be good to put things to entice children to cross a street to get to it. Alderman Forney asked Attorney Cainkar if the city is liable for the rubble the garbage trucks are causing along the curbs if someone gets out and twists an ankle, Attorney Cainkar stated yes if the city is aware.

Police: Louis Dominguez, Chief of Police reported the body cams are in, they are finalizing the policy for them. The solar stop signs came in, they will be placed on 90th Place eastbound and Main Street westbound. Six of the seven mosque apprehensions have been cited and have court next month. We continue to have staffing issues. The 5.0 race for Special Olympics is July 22nd and donations are coming in slow, checks can be made out to City of Hometown and dropped at City Hall. Alderman Grochowski asked about the Mosque Carnival being advertised. Acting Mayor Finnegan stated that apparently, they are advertising 1 ride. He is playing phone tag with him and will get details. Alderman Grochowski asked about security and Acting Mayor Finnegan stated security is on them.

Acting Mayor Finnegan stated the Guard Shack on Southwest Highway needs to be revamped and he had a friend that would do it in a day, pour concrete and revamp it.

Public Works: Mark Trlak, Director reported the branch program was going well. The street sweeper was out. We have been helping the library move shelves for the new carpet. We have been installing LED lights in the building. We have been doing daily stumping and daily meter checks. Alderman Banasiak asked if we considered sealing the street like we do our driveways. Director Trlak stated we currently use hot tar for the cracks.

Building: James Forbes, Building Commissioner was not present.

Public Health: Bonnie Gesiakowski had no report.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES
FINANCE COMMITTEE

Accounts Payable Payroll June 13, 2023: Moved by Alderman Forney, seconded by Alderman Banasiak to approve for payment the accounts payable vouchers in the amount of \$130,362.64 and payroll vouchers in the amount of \$97,304.00 for a total expenditure of \$227,666.64.

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

Roll Call Indicated:

AYES: (9) Aldermen, Grochowski, Reynolds, Banasiak, Barnhouse, Brookman, Acting Mayor Finnegan, Kurysz, Walsh and Zak.

NAYS: (0)

ABSTENTION: (1) Alderman Forney.

MOTION DECLARED CARRIED

Alderman Forney acknowledged receipt of the City Treasurer’s Report and the Clerk Collector’s Report.

STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND MUNICIPAL BUILDING COMMITTEE

Alderman Glen Zak, Chairman had no report.

WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE

Alderman Daniel Walsh, Chairman reported The City of Hometown Ordinance No. 3-1989 provides for passing the Chicago Water and Sewer increase onto the residents of Hometown. The City of Chicago increased the water rate as of June 1, 2023. The current minimum water is \$38.16, with the City of Chicago increase of 5% it will bring the new minimum charge to \$40.06. So, the minimum bill for water and sewer will now be \$64.44 per month. You will see this increase on the July bill, due in August, which is for June usage.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Alderman Brookman, Chairman reported the meeting was pushed to June 21, 2023.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Alderman Barnhouse, Chairman gave the building report.

LICENSE COMMITTEE: Alderman Donna Grochowski, Chairman reminded residents the Vehicle stickers and animal tags go on sale May 1st to June 30th at the regular price, after that the price doubles.

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, had no report.

POLICE COMMITTEE: Alderman Finnegan, Chairman gave the activity for May 2023.

Total incidents: 268 State Tickets:102 P Tickets:261 C Tickets: 8 Written Warnings 111 Verbal Warnings:36 (46 HT Residents) Arrests 19

Moved by Acting Mayor Finnegan, seconded by Alderman Banasiak to approve a foursome for the South Suburban Chiefs of Police in the amount of \$560.00.

Roll Call Indicated:

AYES: (9) Aldermen, Grochowski, Reynolds, Banasiak, Barnhouse, Brookman,
Acting Mayor Finnegan, Kurysz, Walsh and Zak.

NAYS: (0)

ABSTENTION: (1) Alderman Forney.

MOTION DECLARED CARRIED

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Library: Alderman Grochowski reported the library received their per capita funds. They sent their annual report to the state. The Reading Program is June 12-July 12 for all ages. They are still working on their renovation; they have been laying carpet.

Legislation: Alderman Forney stated he wanted to piggyback on the earlier discussion regarding the increase in the Gas Tax. Alderman Fortney stated if Kevin was here, it would already be done. Acting Mayor Finnegan stated we are not going to reap the cost you think. There was full discussion on the gas tax.

Fire

Department: Alderman Reynolds reported the meeting will be June 19, 2023.

Personnel Acting Mayor Finnegan, Chairman, had no report. Chief Dominguez had no report.

Review:

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

SPECIAL

EVENTS: Alderman Grochowski reported plans for the 9-11 memorial service was underway to be held on Sunday September 10, 2023.

HEALTH, WELFARE & COMMUNITY AWARENESS: Alderman Grochowski reported the VFW will be hosting a Cruise Night, the first, third and fourth Wednesday of the month 5pm to 9 pm through September. On June 24 there will be a band in the beer garden starting at 7 pm. Branch Pick-up remaining dates are June 19 & 26.

Our Lady of St. Germaine will be holding a blood drive August 10, 2023. Crazy Joe is having a Christmas Toy Drive on August 9th from 4 pm to 11pm at the Hometown Shopping Plaza.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Alderman Forney asked if Acting Mayor Finnegan planned to change the Aldermen Committees, Acting Mayor Finnegan stated yes, he does. Alderman Forney asked about a Home Rule Committee, Acting Mayor Finnegan stated yes, a committee of Aldermen, the rules for Home Rule are already in place.

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

CITIZEN'S HEARING: Cody of 4637 W. 88th Place addressed the City Council regarding the Website, Cody offered to assist with the website. City Clerk Hacker asked him to stop by City Hall to discuss this.

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

MOTION STATED CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm

Mary Jo C. Hacker, City Clerk/Collector