

**JOURNAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE BLUE ISLAND CITY
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
JULY 11, 2024**

1) Call to Order

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the City of Blue Island was called to order by Mayor Bilotto at 6:01 p.m. on July 11, 2024.

2) Pledge of Allegiance

3) Roll Call

Roll Call indicates the following:

Present:	3	Carr, Roll, Fahrenwald
Absent:	4	Johnson, Montoya, Rita, McGee
Present Also:	4	Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, City Clerk Erin Blake, City Attorney Thomas Wogan, City Administrator Mark Patoska, Deputy City Administrator

4) Presentation of Journal of Proceedings

No comment.

5) Public Comment

Mr. Staub thanked the Mayor and Council for their time in the city. He thanked Neighborhood Watch for informing him of the boil water. He is concerned about the lack of communication from the City regarding the same and asked if the City had an appropriate communications plan for emergencies/disasters, as not all residents are on Facebook.

A resident congratulated the Council for the residential parking on Oak St.; but noted that she was dissatisfied that she had not received parking passes and that a guest had received a parking ticket. She also noted her displeasure with the one-hour parking on Western.

A resident complimented the Council for providing resident parking on Oak Street; nevertheless, she requested a new sign after her neighbor removed the permit parking sign. She took it upon herself to make passes for her guests who did not live on Blue Island. She

also thanked the City, particularly Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, for assisting with the Blue Island Stray Dog Project by organizing a parade in October. She invited everyone to a fundraiser on 8/17/24 at the Rock Island Public House for the organization. She also thanked Chief Farr for allowing them to walk to the dogs and feed them.

A Blue Island resident for the past 36 years congratulated everyone who participated in the Fourth of July Parade; however, he suggested doing a survey to see how to improve it each year. He advised making signs honoring both emergency and non-emergency responders, firefighters, and police. Second, he saw that there was communication on Facebook about the boil order; but did not see notification on the website. Third, there have been an ongoing issue with speeding on Walnut, which contributed to Penny's unfortunate death, as well as parking issues caused by the Cook County Center. He recommends setting expectations with the clinic. Finally, thanked the City for making improvements throughout the city. He hopes that the crosswalks are likewise painted.

6) **New Business**

No new business.

7) **Mayor's Report**

a. **Public Safety Registration Certificates.**

City Attorney, Erin Blake, indicated that after the Salvation Army incident, she was asked to look into the registration of non-profits in the City. She provided City Council with an example from another municipality – specifically public safety registration certificates. This would require non-profits to register with the City and supply necessary contact information and organizational information.

b. **Banquet Hall/Room Rental Regulation.**

City Attorney, Erin Blake, stated the current code relating to business licensing solely applies to commercial establishments, which are defined in the code as partnerships or corporations chartered with the state for the purpose of profit. Another option for dealing with non-profits would be to update the business license code to require business licenses for all organizations – for profit or non-profit – that run rental/banquet halls or rent space.

Alderman Fahrenwald advised contacting a handful of these non-profit groups and seeking their input to ensure that this is not harmful to them.

The Mayor mentioned that we must do it because it provides us with a different route to verify liability insurance and be a member of all businesses that are registered with the City. Some churches rent out their halls, but they do not publicize it; instead, they rent it to parishioners and control it themselves. He just revoked the Ozac Lodge's special use permit, and they have reapplied.

Alderman Roll supports licensing in order to ensure adequate liability. On that issue, he wondered if there should be a distinction between church and business, as well as parishioner vs rental for a birthday celebration where drinks are served.

Alderman Fahrenwald suggested churches should obtain insurance if they are not affiliated with a larger organization.

c. Business District Grant Applications.

The Mayor indicated that it has been at least four years since the applications for business district grants were updated, and that things have changed. He suggested increasing the amount awarded to \$10,000 rather than \$7,500 which would allow businesses to enhance their buildings and/or signage. He noted the granted money cannot be transferred to another fund and all businesses have been encouraged to take advantage. The Mayor and City Clerk strolled along Western to notify business owners about the application.

Alderman Fahrenwald agreed that the money provided via these grants should be increased, and that depending on the extent of the project, the PZBA may impose requirements because many of the Structures require significant work.

Alderman Roll is supportive but wants to know how the City is advertising the grant.

Alderman Carr recommended contacting the Chamber of Commerce.

d. Mayor's Announcements/Comments.

The Mayor stated that the Council has proposed adding speed bumps to any new streets longer than a block.

8) City Clerk's Announcements/Reports/Comments

a. City Clerk's Announcements.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, welcomed everyone to join yoga on Mondays and Wednesdays at the Blue Island Park District. The Park District is also hosting a movie night this Friday at 7:30 p.m. on 7/19/24, everyone is welcome to make a sandcastle. Finally, National Hot Dog Day will be observed on 7/27/24 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, reminded everyone to register for the Community Garage Sale; please stop by the Clerk's office to sign up for free. It will be on July 26, 27, and 28th.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, encouraged everyone to attend the Christmas Light Parade Fundraiser at the Lyric on 7/26/24 at 6 pm.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, revealed that the City of Blue Island and the Park District will collaborate with the Lyric for August 4, 2024, to bring Grease to the Island, including a car show.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, invited everyone to the National Night Out on 8/6/24.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, stated the Blue Island Local 3547 golf outing will be on 8/16/24 at the Meadows Golf Course.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, reminded everyone that the St. Donatus Carnival will be on 8/7/24 to 8/11/24.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, invited everyone to the Blue Island Health Fair on 9/28/24 at the Blue Island Beer Company.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, invited everyone for the Howl O'ween parade for 10/19/24 at the Meadows Golf Course.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, stated the Blue Island Trunk or Treat will be on 10/26/24.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, reminded everyone that the Day of the Dead celebration will be held on 11/2/24.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, advised everyone to start preparing for the scarecrow decorations.

9) **City's Attorney's Report**

a. **Attorney Announcements.**

No comment.

10) **City Administrator's Announcements/Reports/Comments**

a. **Water Main Discussion.**

City Administrator, Thomas Wogan, stated he appreciates the comments regarding emergency communication.

City Administrator, Thomas Wogan, the Sacramento Street by Dwight D. Eisenhower High School is meant to be paved and paid for by both the City and the school;

however, they discovered that the water main underneath the street is severely damaged and being held together by twenty claps. To replace this water main will cost an additional \$680,000. However, if the water main is not fixed, it will have a wide-ranging impact, including problems with water pressure. This is one of ten water main lines that needs to be updated, making it the largest piece of infrastructure in the city. The goal is to apply for grants and everything else they might find to secure funding to make these necessary repairs.

Alderman Roll wondered about the capital plan moving forward, and whether the City was limited to only using monies in the water fund. City Administrator, Thomas Wogan, indicated that the city is dependent on the funding passed in March.

The Mayor previously indicated that the City had previously issued bonds for the water fund; but the administration had not been required to do so during the term. Currently, the city has a low debt ratio; nevertheless, in the future, the City may need to consider additional options such as loans for these major projects.

b. City Administrator's Announcements/Comments

City Administrator, Thomas Wogan, stated that the city received notification of the boil water alert from the Chicago Water Department at 1:30 a.m. The City did not receive clear communication from the City about how the City of Blue Island was affected or what the City's communication obligations were. However, the City proceeded with caution and informed the residents.

He indicated that the city does need a comprehensive crisis communications strategy. While all departments have good processes currently, the City needs to tighten up that process for specific emergencies i.e. mass shootings, flooding, etc. The City wants to use a 911 system to send messages to mobile phone numbers; but noted the limitations of that type of system.

11) Aldermanic Announcements/Reports/Comments

Alderman Fahrenwald noted that he never had clear information about the boil water and received various answers each time he called. He proposes recruiting additional workers and allocating funds for next year's budget.

12) Adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) to discuss litigation that has been filed and is pending before a court or an administrative tribunal and actions of probable or imminent litigation.

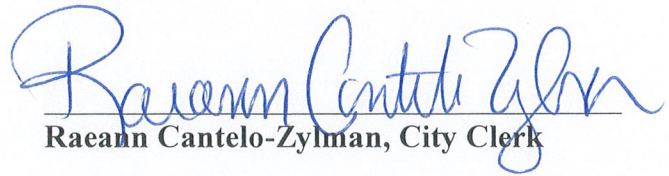
No Executive Session.

13) Motion for Adjournment

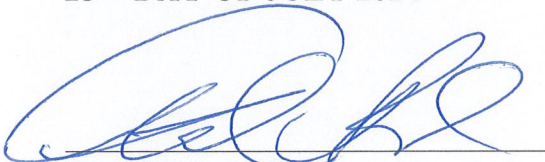
Motion by Alderman Roll, second by Alderman Fahrenwald to adjourn the regular meeting.

Ayes:	3	Carrl, Roll, Fahrenwald
Nays:	0	
Absent:	4	Johnson, Montoya, Rita, McGee
Abstention:	0	

There being three (3) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.


Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, City Clerk

**APPROVED BY ME THIS
23RD DAY OF JULY 2024**


Fred Bilotto, Mayor