

**JOURNAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE BLUE ISLAND CITY
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
AUGUST 15, 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 August 15, 2024.

2) **Pledge of Allegiance**

3) **Roll Call**

Roll Call indicates the following:

Present:	5	Carr, Montoya (6:17 pm), Rita (6:08 pm), Fahrenwald, McGee
Absent:	2	Roll, Johnson
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**

No comment.

6) **New Business**

No new business.

7) **Mayor's Report**

- a. **Ordinance 2024-___: An Ordinance of the City of Blue Island, Cook County, Illinois Amending Chapter 165 of the Code of Ordinances Regarding Use Dispersal Standards.**

The Mayor remarked that this rule imposes distance requirements for some types of established companies, including assisted living facilities, adult use cannabis, and barber shops.

Alderman Fahrenwald noted the distance between barbershops. City Attorney, Erin Blake, noted that 1,000 feet equals two city blocks for new businesses, but she can follow up with the PZBA Attorney for more information.

Alderman Carr inquired about the distinction between group residential and transitional living. City Attorney, Erin Blake, noted that senior housing or nursing home would be considered group residential living, while Guildhaus would be considered transitional living.

b. Class 6B Renewal Application – 13033 S. California Ave.

The Mayor stated that the corporation paid the \$1,000 application fee and provided Alderman Roll advance notice. The only constructive criticism is that the landscaping should be enhanced. The Mayor noted that there have been no noise complaints from residents.

BRJ Investments LLC's representative indicated that its objective is to recycle old automobiles. The representative further stated that the company: (1) it is not open to the public; (2) exports scrap components; (3) does not cause traffic issues; (4) has seven full-time employees; (5) has another facility in Chicago; and (6) has been in Blue Island for 20 years. He also produced a tax statement for the Council's review and consideration.

Alderman Rita remarked that she would not want any businesses to leave Blue Island and realizes that if they did not obtain this, the businesses would relocate.

c. Ordinance 2024-___: An Ordinance of the City of Blue Island, Cook County, Illinois Authorizing and Approving an Ordinance Regulation Public Camping and Other Actions in Connection Therewith within the corporate Boundaries of the City of Blue Island, Illinois.

City Attorney, Erin Blake, indicated that this ordinance emerged as a result of information and suggestions from the Illinois Municipal League related to public camping and that the City wants to get remain proactive in this matter.

Alderman Rita remarked that she strongly opposes this and cannot in good conscience penalize those who are already struggling without addressing underlying issues.

Alderman Fahrenwald noted that while he sympathizes with Alderman Rita's remarks, the City needs to get a handle on it. Erin Blake, City Attorney, indicated that fines are low, and the purpose is to direct individuals to housing.

d. Time Restriction for Parking on Municipal Streets.

City Attorney Erin Blake indicated that Alderman Fahrenwald asked her to research other municipalities and towns, such as Morton Grove, which has a three-hour minimum; however, Blue Island is proposing a 30-day period for abandoned, inoperable automobiles within the City.

Alderman Rita discussed overnight parking regulations. Alderman Fahrenwald discussed the lack remedies due to city stickers.

e. Ordinance 2024-___: An Ordinance of the City of Blue Island, Cook County, Illinois Amending Chapter 75 of the Code of Ordinances Regarding Unlawful Operation of Overweight Vehicles.

The Mayor reported that IDOT was redirecting heavy traffic down Division Street and that the City desires to limit the weight allowed on this street to five tons.

Public Works Superintendent Michael Schroeder stated that people travel to Riverdale and obtain permits from the State and that Division Street is the most convenient route; nonetheless, the weight presents problems with regard to the City's water mains.

f. Ordinance 2024-___: An Ordinance of the City of Blue Island, Cook County, Illinois Amending Chapter 165 of the Code of Ordinances Regarding Non-Conforming Buildings, Structures, and Uses.

The Mayor stated that this ordinance was previously tabled and does not permit coach houses.

The City will permit existing coach homes to remain, regardless of whether there is a change in ownership. However, the City will require repairs or modifications to coach homes that are hazardous or not otherwise in compliance with building and fire codes. A determination of those requirements can be appealed to the PZBA through the regular appeal process.

g. Mayor's Announcements/Comments.

No comment.

8) City Clerk's Announcements/Reports/Comments

a. City Clerk's Announcements.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, encourages everyone to attend this Friday's TGIF, which will highlight El Cortez restaurant.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, invited everyone to the Blue Island Local 3547 golf outing this Friday at the Meadows Golf Club.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, invited everyone to the annual health fair on Saturday, 9/28/24.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, urged everyone to mark their calendars for the Day of the Dead on Saturday, 11/2/24.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, invited everyone to Ruff Around Blue Island at the Rock Island Public House on Saturday to help stray dogs.

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 that 95% of the commercial lines are finished, which puts the City slightly under the 1.2 million budget. The goal of the City is to remove and replace 300 meters.

Alderman Fahrenwald asked if the water main and the meter would be changed simultaneously. Public Works Superintendent, Michael Schroeder, stated that the meter is separate, but the primary problem is that orders take several months to arrive. The Mayor added that they must apply for grants for specific areas one at a time.

b. **City Administrator's Announcements/Comments**

City Administrator, Thomas Wogan, announced that he will provide financial reports at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

City Administrator, Thomas Wogan, informed the Council that he is working on the corporate newsletter.

Alderman McGee inquired as to when the survey needed to be completed. City Administrator, Thomas Wogan indicated that it must be completed by October.

City Administrator, Thomas Wogan, stated that the Council will receive updates from the Police Department.

11) **Aldermanic Announcements/Reports/Comments**

Alderman Rita commented that it was refreshing to see something unusual in the third ward, such as the filming of the Chicago Police. She also praised the Police Department and Public Works for their assistance during and after the St. Donatus Carnival.

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 Rita second by Alderman Fahrenwald to adjourn the regular meeting.


Ayes: 5 Carrl, Montoya, Rita, Fahrenwald, Fahrenwald

Nays: 0


Absent: 2 Roll, Johnson

Abstention: 0

There being five (5) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.


Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, City Clerk

APPROVED BY ME THIS
10TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2024


Fred Bilotto, Mayor