

**JOURNAL OF THE PROCEEDING OF THE
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 9, 2024**

1) Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Blue Island was called to order by Mayor Bilotto at 7:00 p.m. on April 9, 2024.

2) Pledge of Allegiance

3) Roll Call

Roll Call indicates the following:

Present:	7	Carr, Roll, Johnson, Montoya, Rita, Fahrenwald, McGee
Absent:	0	
Present Also:	5	Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, City Clerk Jairo Frausto, Treasurer Erin Blake, City Attorney Thomas Wogan, City Administrator Mark Patoska, Deputy City Administrator

4) Presentation of Journal of Proceedings

Motion by Alderman McGee, second by Alderman Roll to approve the City Council Minutes from the March 12, 2024.

Ayes:	7	Carr, Roll, Johnson, Montoya, Rita, Fahrenwald, McGee
Nays:	0	
Absent:	0	
Abstention:	0	

There being seven (7) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

5) **Public Comment**

An unidentified person invited everyone to a rally to advocate for Thornton Township's transparency. She inquired who they would contact in the City to receive support.

An unidentified person emphasized the necessity of becoming active in the township and restoring it to its original state. She expressed that all residents should want to know what is going on with our tax dollars, and that their group would love for everyone to come out for the event.

Chief Farr welcomed a Jo Ann Armenta, a retired Illinois State Police sergeant who was the first Latina State Trooper in Illinois.

6) **Old Business**

No old business.

7) **New Business**

a. **Swearing in three police officers.**

The Mayor welcomed three new police officers: Soto-Rodriguez, Krell, and Poelsterl.

Jo Ann Armenta commented that In 1979, the City of Blue Island is making history by appointing Illinois' first DACA recipient as a police officer. Sgt. Armenta wished Ofc. Soto-Rodriguez every success in her work.

b. **Hospital PUD presentation regarding status of PUD requirements.**

Nick Standiford, the hospital's attorney presented an update to the City Council. He stated that at the preliminary PUD approval meeting on 1/23/24, conditions were approved by the City for payment of the water bill in 60 days. However, the hospital has only been paid \$50,000 within that timeframe. In addition, the hospital was to collaborate with the City regarding fire suppression and put an acceptable plan to ensure the building's safety within 60 days. Progress was made; but the fire suppression process has not been completed. Finally, the park has not yet been deeded to the City due to lien complications. Standiford therefore asked that an amended ordinance be passed to allow the hospital additional time to accomplish these conditions.

Alderman Johnson asked if he really believed the hospital could get title and transfer the park within 150 days. Mr. Standiford indicated that he cannot obtain financing to pay off all property taxes because the park is privately owned. He ordered the title to be generated and cleared, and in the interim, there is a license agreement for the City to use the park.

Alderman Fahrenwald thanked him for bringing the Council up to date. He stated he would rather not amend the ordinance; but that it was fine to extend the deadline. Mr. Standiford explained why an amended ordinance was required.

Alderman Roll praised Attorney Standiford for his presence and for keeping Council informed about the lender, in particular. Alderman Roll requested a detailed explanation of the financial condition of the owner, since he is concerned about liquidity, prior to making his decision regarding an ordinance amendment.

Alderman McGee stated is it a draw situation. Mr. Standiford stated loan needs to be approved by the lender, once approved, submit budget, budget item request then they will send the money.

Mr. Standiford invited everyone on a tour of the Aurora the facility.

8) Mayor's Report

a. Motion for Approval of Payroll for March 15, 2024, for \$407,791.15 (gross).

Motion by Alderman Carr, second by Alderman Roll to approve Payroll for March 15, 2024, for \$407,791.15 (gross).

Ayes:	7	Carr, Roll, Johnson, Montoya, Rita, Fahrenwald, McGee
Nays:	0	
Absent:	0	
Abstention:	0	

There being seven (7) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

b. Motion for Approval of Payroll for March 29, 2024, for \$405,428.42 (gross).

Motion by Alderman Johnson, second by Alderman Fahrenwald to approve Payroll for March 29, 2024, for \$405,428.42 (gross).

Ayes:	7	Carr, Roll, Johnson, Montoya, Rita, Fahrenwald, McGee
Nays:	0	
Absent:	0	

Abstention: 0

There being seven (7) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

c. Motion for Approval of Accounts Payable dated April 10, 2024, for \$969,975.01.

Motion by Alderman Roll, second by Alderman Montoya to approve Accounts Payable dated April 10, 2024, for \$969,975.01.

Ayes: 7 Carr, Roll, Johnson, Montoya, Rita, Fahrenwald, McGee

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Abstention: 0

There being seven (7) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

d. Motion to Approve Mayoral re-appointments to the Civil Service Commission.

Motion by Alderman Roll, second by Alderman Johnson for the Civil Service Commission.

Ayes: 7 Carr, Roll, Johnson, Montoya, Rita, Fahrenwald, McGee

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Abstention: 0

There being seven (7) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

The Mayor re-appointed James Klinker to the Civil Service Commission.

e. Motion to Approve Mayoral re-appointments to the Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals.

Motion by Alderman Roll, second by Alderman Johnson to the Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals.

Ayes: 7 Carr, Roll, Johnson, Montoya, Rita, Fahrenwald, McGee
Nays: 0
Absent: 0
Abstention: 0

There being seven (7) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

The Mayor re-appointed Arthur J. Weir to the Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals.

f. Motion to Approve Mayoral re-appointments to the Historic Preservation Commission.

Motion by Alderman Roll, second by Alderman Johnson to the Historic Preservation Commission.

Ayes: 7 Carr, Roll, Johnson, Montoya, Rita, Fahrenwald, McGee
Nays: 0
Absent: 0
Abstention: 0

There being seven (7) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

The Mayor re-appointed Steven Carr to the Historic Preservation Commission.

g. Resolution 2024-010: A Resolution of the City of Blue Island, Cook County, Illinois, with Regard to Certain Executive Session Minutes.

Motion by Alderman Fahrenwald, second by Alderman Roll for Adoption of Resolution No. 2024-010.

Ayes: 7 Carr, Roll, Johnson, Montoya, Rita, Fahrenwald, McGee
Nays: 0
Absent: 0

Abstention: 0

There being seven (7) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

- h. Resolution 2024-011: A Resolution of the City of Blue Island, Cook County, Illinois, Authorizing a Request for Proposals for the Sale and disposition of City-Owned Properties.**

Motion by Alderman Montoya, second by Alderman McGee for Adoption of Resolution No. 2024-011.

Ayes: 7 Carr, Roll, Johnson, Montoya, Rita, Fahrenwald, McGee

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Abstention: 0

There being seven (7) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

- i. Ordinance 2024-013: An Ordinance of the City of Blue Island Amending Chapter 72 “Parking Regulations” of the Code of Blue Island, Illinois.**

Motion by Alderman Carr, second by Alderman Fahrenwald for Adoption of Ordinance No. 2024-013.

Ayes: 7 Carr, Roll, Johnson, Montoya, Rita, Fahrenwald, McGee

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Abstention: 0

There being seven (7) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

- j. Resolution 2024-012: A Resolution of the City of Blue Island, Cook County, Illinois, Authorizing the City to apply for the CY24-25 Rock Salt Contract Joint Participation Program.**

Motion by Alderman Johnson, second by Alderman Roll for Adoption of Resolution No. 2024-012.

Ayes: 7 Carr, Roll, Johnson, Montoya, Rita, Fahrenwald, McGee
Nays: 0
Absent: 0
Abstention: 0

There being seven (7) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

- k. Resolution 2024-013: A Resolution of the City of Blue Island, Cook County, Illinois, Authorizing and Approving an Executed Agreement with Chris Campagna based on the Proposal for Professional Mural Creation Services for the Western Avenue Bridge.**

Motion by Alderman Montoya, second by Alderman Carr for Adoption of Resolution No. 2024-013.

Ayes: 7 Carr, Roll, Johnson, Montoya, Rita, Fahrenwald, McGee
Nays: 0
Absent: 0
Abstention: 0

There being seven (7) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

- l. Resolution 2024-014: A Resolution of the City of Blue Island, Cook County, Illinois, Authorizing and Approving an Executed Agreement with Civic Plus based on the Proposal for Professional Website Design Services for the City website.**

Motion by Alderman Roll, second by Alderman Fahrenwald for Adoption of Resolution No. 2024-014.

Ayes: 7 Carr, Roll, Johnson, Montoya, Rita, Fahrenwald, McGee
Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Abstention: 0

There being seven (7) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

- m. Resolution 2024-015: A Resolution of the City of Blue Island, Cook County, Illinois, Supporting a Class 8 Real Estate Tax Assessment Classification Application by Pat Rubino for the Property located at 12157 S. Western, Blue Island, Illinois.**

Motion by Alderman McGee, second by Alderman Fahrenwald for Adoption of Resolution No. 2024-015.

Ayes: 7 Carr, Roll, Johnson, Montoya, Rita, Fahrenwald, McGee

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Abstention: 0

There being seven (7) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Alderman Fahrenwald noted that he will vote in favor; however, he wanted to clarify that the application was submitted before the City developed and approved the new application process for Class 8 requests.

- n. Ordinance 2024-014: The Annual Appropriation Ordinance for the City of Blue Island for the Fiscal Year beginning January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2024.**

Motion by Alderman Roll, second by Alderman Carr for Adoption of Ordinance No. 2024-014.

Ayes: 7 Carr, Roll, Johnson, Montoya, Rita, Fahrenwald, McGee

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Abstention: 0

There being seven (7) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

o. Ordinance 2024-015: An Ordinance of the City of Blue Island Amending Chapter 71 (“Traffic Regulations”) of the Code of Blue Island, Illinois.

Motion by Alderman Johnson, second by Alderman Fahrenwald for Adoption of Ordinance No. 2024-015.

Ayes: 7 Carr, Roll, Johnson, Montoya, Rita, Fahrenwald, McGee

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Abstention: 0

There being seven (7) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

City Attorney, Erin Blake, remarked that this rule clarifies the parking of trucks in alleyways.

Alderman Rita inquired whether this was discussed at the Committee of the Whole. The Mayor stated that the subject was raised at past Committee of the Whole meetings; but was never included on the agenda. Ambulances, public works, and garbage trucks are authorized to park in alleys, but 18-wheelers are not.

Alderman Johnson inquired whether we will place an order for new signs to reflect the same. The Mayor announced that Public Works will place an order for signs.

p. Resolution 2024-016: A Resolution of the City of Blue Island, Cook County, Illinois, Authorizing and Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement by and between the City and Cook County related to participation in the Build Up Cook Program.

Motion by Alderman Johnson, second by Alderman Montoay for Adoption of Resolution No. 2024-016.

Ayes: 7 Carr, Roll, Johnson, Montoya, Rita, Fahrenwald, McGee

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Abstention: 0

There being seven (7) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

The Mayor mentioned this is in relation to the grant received to replace the roof at City Hall.

- q. Ordinance 2024-016: An Ordinance of the City of Blue Island, Cook County, Illinois, Amending Section 11.58 “License Classifications and Fees” of Chapter 11, “Alcoholic Liquor” of the Code of Blue Island, Illinois.**

Motion by Alderman Fahrenwald, second by Alderman McGee for Adoption of Ordinance No. 2024-016.

Ayes:	7	Carr, Roll, Johnson, Montoya, Rita, Fahrenwald, McGee
Nays:	0	
Absent:	0	
Abstention:	0	

There being seven (7) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

The Mayor stated this ordinance will limit the number of gaming cafes.

- r. Resolution 2024-017: A Resolution of the City of Blue Island, Cook County, Illinois, Awarding the Bid to the Lowest Responsive and Responsible Bidder, D. Construction, Inc. for the 2024 Road Program.**

Motion by Alderman Roll, second by Alderman Fahrenwald for Adoption of Resolution No. 2024-017.

Ayes:	5	Carr, Roll, Johnson, Montoya, Fahrenwald
Nays:	1	Rita, McGee
Absent:	0	
Abstention:	0	

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

Alderman Rita inquired about the percentage of the \$4.5 million that would be used to cover streets in the third ward. The Mayor indicated that CMAP and Burke Engineering chose the roadways based on the 5-year plan provided at the December

meeting. To his knowledge, none of the streets are currently being conducted in the Third Ward.

Alderman Johnson inquired as to whether the city had previously worked with D. Construction. The Mayor mentioned that they worked for Robinson Engineering in 2017/18. When they analyzed the BIDs, they came up \$900,000 short.

s. Ordinance 2024-017: An Ordinance of the City of Blue Island, Cook County, Illinois, Approving a Variance for the property located at 1830 Vermont Place.

Motion by Alderman Roll, second by Alderman Montoya for Adoption of Ordinance No. 2024-017.

Ayes:	7	Carr, Roll, Johnson, Montoya, Rita, Fahrenwald, McGee
Nays:	0	
Absent:	0	
Abstention:	0	

There being seven (7) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

t. Ordinance 2024-018: An Ordinance of the City of Blue Island, Cook County, Illinois, Approving a Variance for the property located at 12700 Sacramento Avenue.

Motion by Alderman Johnson, second by Alderman Roll for Adoption of Ordinance No. 2024-018.

Ayes:	7	Carr, Roll, Johnson, Montoya, Rita, Fahrenwald, McGee
Nays:	0	
Absent:	0	
Abstention:	0	

There being seven (7) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

u. Mayor's Announcements/Comments.

No comments.

9) **City Clerk’s Announcements/Reports/Comments**

a. City Clerk’s Announcements

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, invited everyone to attend the Forestry Board Town Hall Meeting on 4/16/24 at 6 pm.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, announced that the deadline for the Hometown Heroes applications has been extended to 4/15/24.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, invited everyone to celebrate “Dia del Nino” hosted by the Blue Island Public Library at the John D. Rita Center on 4/27/24 from 1 pm until 3 pm. There will be food, dj, dancing, and a bubble show.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, informed everyone Misericordia will be tagging in Blue Island on 4/26 and 4/27/24.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, informed everyone that the Community Clean Up will take place on 4/27/24.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, announced that the Junior Golf will begin 6/11/24 and registration begins at 8:30 am.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, invited everyone to the Flower sale and Chalk Walk in May on York and Western.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, invited everyone to the Mai Fest on 5/11/24.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, invited everyone to attend Arbor Day on 4/26/24 at Whittier and ends at Blue Cap.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, stated the 4th of July parade is coming back. We encourage everyone to participate with a float, antique cars, etc. For more information, please contact the Clerk’s office.

10) **Treasurer’s Report**

a. Motion to Approve March 2024 Treasurer’s Report.

Motion by Alderman Roll, second by Alderman Fahrenwald for March 2024 Treasurer’s Report.

Ayes: 6 Carr, Roll, Johnson, Rita, Fahrenwald, McGee

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 Montoya

Abstention: 0

There being six (6) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

b. City Treasurer's Announcements/Comments

No report.

11) City Attorney's Report

a. Attorney's Announcements/Comments

No report.

12) City Administrator's Announcements/Reports/Comments

a. City Administrator's Announcements/Comments

City Administrator, Thomas Wogan, advised the Council that another batch of red tags had been mailed out and that they are being handled on a case-by-case basis, with a payment plan available for past due balances above \$500.

City Administrator, Thomas Wogan, explained that an alley has a lifespan of roughly 10-15 years, and the goal is to have 100% of alleys completed within 15 years.

City Administrator, Thomas Wogan, informed the Council that he will send out information and the Civic Plus presentations regarding the website proposal, including styles/presentation formats as well as two samples of other government websites created by Civic Plus. He requested that the Aldermen provide him with feedback.

13) Aldermanic Announcements/Reports/Comments

Alderman Carr thanked the Fire Department for their quick response to a fire that affected an apartment building.

Alderman Rita also thanked the Fire Department for their quick response to Dwight Eisenhower High School for a small fire.

14) 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; and pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6) to discuss employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of certain employees.

No Executive Session.

15) **Motion for Adjournment**

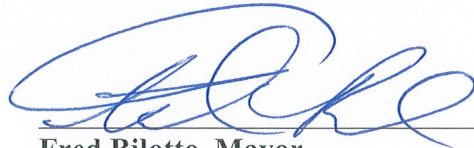
Motion by Alderman Rita, second by Alderman Roll to adjourn the regular meeting.

Ayes: 6 Carr, Roll, Johnson, Rita, Fahrenwald, McGee
Nays: 0
Absent: 1 Montoya
Abstention: 0

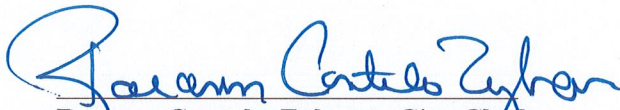
There being six (6) Affirmative Votes, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned 8:10 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the City Council is scheduled April 23, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.


Fred Bilotto, Mayor

APPROVED BY ME THIS
23rd DAY OF APRIL, 2024


Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, City Clerk