

**JOURNAL OF THE PROCEEDING OF THE
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 22, 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 7:02 p.m. on October 22, 2024.

2) **Pledge of Allegiance**

3) **Roll Call**

Roll Call indicates the following:

Present: 7 Fahrenwald, McGee (7:06 pm), Carr, Roll,
Johnson, Montoya, Rita

Absent: 0

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**

a. **Motion by Alderman Rita, second by Alderman Roll to approve the City Council Minutes from the October 8, 2024, City Council meeting.**

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 McGee

Abstention: 0

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

b. **Motion by Alderman Fahrenwald, second by Alderman Carr to approve the City Council Minutes from the October 10, 2024, Committee of the Whole meeting.**

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

Nays: 0
Absent: 1 McGee
Abstention: 0

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

5) **Public Comment**

A Blue Island homeowner wants alderman and department heads to hold property managers and owners responsible for the inside and outside maintenance of buildings, such as exit signs and fire extinguishers. She complained regarding the state of her building and the lack of follow-up by the City.

Blue Island resident demanded that building code issues be handled uniformly throughout the City, without preference to the historical district. She indicated that follow up is required by the building department for her apartment, as her heater/air conditioner should be on the wall rather than the floor.

Mission Covenant Church invited everyone to their cancer wellness event this Sunday, 10/27/24, at 10:30 a.m. They will have several guest speakers.

6) **Old Business**

No old business.

7) **New Business**

a. **119th & Vincennes Development Proposal**

Mr. John Mirkovic a former Deputy Clerk at the Cook County Clerk's Office, presented a proposal to the City Council regarding the City hosting a Cook County State Fair on the property at 119th & Vincennes. He proposed a private/public partnership with the City, that would have a three-person board governing the project and a private contractor managing the day-to-day operations. The City would receive 75% of the revenue from the event, a portion of which would be used to redevelop the land for future county fairs. The event would be a traditional county fair with rides and live entertainment, as well as a large-scale science and technology exhibits to keep everyone interested. The fair would be family-friendly and affordable for everyone. Sponsorships would come from governmental agencies and large corporations.

Alderman Roll said he loved the idea but wondered whether the focus would be on agriculture today or agriculture in general. Mr. Mirkovic indicated the County Fair will focus on general agriculture, including present-day farming and agriculture within Cook County.

Alderman McGee liked the idea, but noted his concerns regarding the environmental issues at the Property.

Alderman Johnson questioned what company would be managing the County Fair and inquired as to how much money would be invested into the project. He also inquired regarding security. Mr. Mirkovic claimed that he will do whatever is necessary and that he presently has over six figures if needed, with the goal of obtaining a million or two million grant monies to fund the project. He stated that it was critical to act promptly, to secure sponsorships for an October 2025 event.

Alderman Carr questioned the length of the County Fair.

8) Mayor's Report

a. Motion for Approval of Payroll for October 11, 2024, for \$446,754.45 (gross).

Motion by Alderman Carr, second by Alderman Roll to approve Payroll for October 11, 2024, for \$446,754.45 (gross).

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Abstention: 0

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

b. Motion for Approval of Accounts Payable dated October 23, 2024, for \$539,869.17 (gross).

Motion by Alderman Roll, second by Alderman Rita to approve Accounts Payable for October 23, 2024, for \$539,869.17 (gross).

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Abstention: 0

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

- c. **Ordinance 2024-042: An Ordinance of the City of Blue Island, Cook County, Illinois, Amending Chapter 51 “Streets and Sidewalks” of the Code of Blue Island, Illinois.**

Motion by Alderman Johnson, second by Alderman Rita for Adoption of Ordinance No. 2024-042.

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Abstention: 0

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

- d. **Ordinance 2024-043: An Ordinance of the City of Blue Island, Cook County, Illinois, Requiring Vehicular Traffic to Stop at the Intersection of Cochran Ave. and Greenwood Ave. and Providing Penalties for the Violation Thereof.**

Motion by Alderman Fahrenwald, second by Alderman Roll for Adoption of Ordinance No. 2024-043.

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Abstention: 0

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

- e. **Ordinance 2024-044: An Ordinance of the City of Blue Island, Cook County, Illinois, Requiring Vehicular Traffic to Stop at the Intersection of Birdsall St. and Ann St. and Providing Penalties for the Violation Thereof.**

Motion by Alderman Rita, second by Alderman McGee for Adoption of Ordinance No. 2024-044.

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

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

f. Ordinance 2024-045: An Ordinance of the City of Blue Island, Cook County, Illinois to Amend Ordinance Number 2023-018.

Motion by Alderman Johnson, second by Alderman Roll for Adoption of Ordinance No. 2024-045.

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

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

g. Ordinance 2024-046: An Ordinance of the City of Blue Island, Cook County, Illinois, Amending Chapter 150 “Building Regulations/Construction” of the Code of Blue Island, Illinois.

Motion by Alderman McGee, second by Alderman Roll for Adoption of Ordinance No. 2024-046.

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

Abstention: 0

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

Alderman McGee stated he will approve pending conversation with the city attorney.

Alderman Fahrenwald asked for a quick summary of what was being amended in the ordinance. The City Attorney, Erin Blake, stated the amendment relates to a previously passed ordinance regarding fence requirements within the City. The present amendment will allow residents to seek variations to the previously passed ordinance.

h. Motion for Mayoral Appointment pursuant to 65 ILCS 5/3.1-20-5.

Motion by Alderman McGee, second by Alderman Roll for Mayoral Appointment of Nancy Rita to Treasurer of the City of Blue Island.

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Abstention: 0

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

The Mayor informed Council that Jairo Frausto resigned as Treasurer. He asked that everyone keep him in their thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. He reported his appointment of Nancy Rita to the role of City of Blue Island Treasurer. He noted that Rita has been a devoted alderman and has served on several committees such as finance and judiciary. Throughout her tenure, she has utilized her voice to speak for and guide Blue Island in the right direction, and he looks forward to working with everyone.

Nancy Rita was sworn into the position of Treasurer of the City of Blue Island.

Treasurer Nancy Rita, thanked the Mayor and Council for their confidence and trust. She is honored and enthusiastic to take Blue Island forward.

i. Resolution 2024-045: A Resolution of the City of Blue Island, Cook County, Illinois to Authorize and Approve an Agreement with Municipal Collections of America, Inc.

Motion by Alderman Johnson, second by Alderman Roll for Adoption of Resolution No. 2024-045.

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

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

j. Mayor's Announcements/Comments.

The Mayor thanked the City Council and noted that he looked forward to working together as a group and moving Blue Island forward.

9) City Clerk's Announcements/Reports/Comments

a. City Clerk's Announcements

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, thanked everyone for coming to the Blue Island Stray Dog Project's Howl O'ween event. She thanked all of the vendors, dog parade participants, the City of Blue Island, and The Meadows Golf Course's personnel.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, asked residents to attend the pardoning of two turkeys on 11/1/24 at 5 p.m. in front of City Hall.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, reminded everyone that the Blue Island Park District's trunk or treat will be held this Saturday, 10/26/24, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Memorial Park.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, encouraged everyone to attend the Blue Island Historical Society's annual Tea Harvest on 10/26/24 at 2 p.m.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, urged that everyone mark their calendars for the Eisenhower High School trunk or treat on Tuesday, 10/29/24 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, invited everyone to the Day of the Dead event on 11/2/24. There will be altars, merchants, and live entertainment, including mariachi.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, thanked everyone for building their scarecrows.

10) Treasurer's Report

a. City Treasurer's Announcements/Comments

No comment.

11) City Attorney's Report

a. City Attorney's Announcements/Comments

No comment.

12) City Administrator's Announcements/Reports/Comments

a. City Administrator's Announcements/Comments

City Administrator, Thomas Wogan, indicated that he spoke with the residents who issued complaints during public comment. He noted that the building in question has been on the city's radar for some time, and they have been dealing with them in court. He thanked the residents for attending the meeting.

13) Aldermanic Announcements/Reports/Comments

Alderman Roll reported that he and the City Administrator were able to view the new website, which looks wonderful. They are thrilled that financial reporting would soon be open to all residents. Former Treasurer Frausto continues to be a strong advocate for this, and he is seeing it through to completion.

Alderman Johnson reiterated to keep Treasurer Jairo Frausto in everyone's thoughts and prayers.

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.

No Executive Session.

15) Motion for Adjournment

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

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

Abstention: 0

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

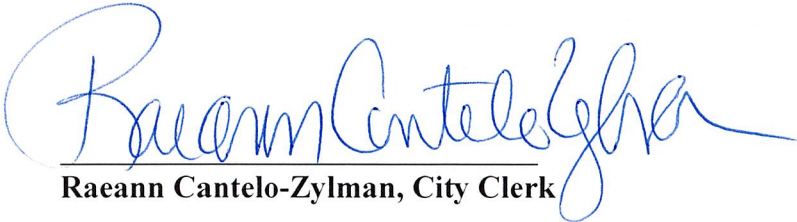
The meeting was adjourned 7:52 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the City Council is scheduled November 12, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.



Fred Bilotto, Mayor

**APPROVED BY ME THIS
12TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2024**



Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, City Clerk