

**JOURNAL OF THE PROCEEDING OF THE
SPECIAL MEETING
DECEMBER 17, 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 December 17, 2024.

2) Pledge of Allegiance

3) Roll Call

Roll Call indicates the following:

Present:	6	Fahrenwald, McGee, Carr, Roll, Johnson, Montoya
Absent:	1	Ruthenberg
Present Also:	5	Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, City Clerk Nancy Rita, Treasurer Erin Blake, City Attorney Thomas Wogan, City Administrator Mark Patoska, Deputy City Administrator

4) Presentation of Journal of Proceedings

a. Motion by Alderman McGee, second by Alderman Roll to approve the City Council Minutes from the November 26, 2024, City Council meeting.

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

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

5) Public Comment

A3E Environmental Consultants would like the opportunity to meet with City Officials and discuss options for potential solar ground fields.

Mission Covenant Church expressed gratitude to the Mayor and the City Council for their involvement in all events, appreciating their friendship and collaboration over the year.

6) **Old Business**

No old business.

7) **New Business**

a. **Announcement of the schedule for City Council and Committee of the Whole meetings in 2025.**

The Mayor stated that everything remains essentially the same except that in December, they will convene on the 3rd Tuesday to facilitate the tax levy.

8) **Mayor's Report**

a. **Motion for Approval of Payroll for December 6, 2024, for \$435,564.53 (gross).**

Motion by Alderman Carr, second by Alderman Fahrenwald to approve Payroll for December 6, 2024, for \$435,564.53 (gross).

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

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

b. **Motion for Approval of Accounts Payable dated December 18, 2024, for \$3,716,228.14 (gross).**

Motion by Alderman Fahrenwald, second by Alderman McGee to approve Accounts Payable for December 18, 2024, for \$3,716,228.14 (gross).

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

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

c. Motion to Approve Mayoral Appointment to the Blue Island Public Library Board vacancy.

The Mayor noted that he would like to appoint Rita Brown to the Blue Island Public Library Board vacancy.

Motion by Alderman Roll, second by Alderman Johnson to Approve the Mayoral Appointment of Rita Brown to the Blue Island Public Library Board.

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

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

d. Ordinance 2024-049: The Annual Tax Levy Ordinance of the City of Blue Island, Cook County, Illinois for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2024.

Motion by Alderman Carr, second by Alderman Johnson for Adoption of Ordinance No. 2024-049.

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

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

e. Ordinance 2024-050: An Ordinance of the City of Blue Island, Cook County, Illinois Approving a Variance for the Property Located at 2456 W. 122nd Street.

Motion by Alderman Roll, second by Alderman Montoya for Adoption of Ordinance No. 2024-050.

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

Nays: 0
Absent: 1 Ruthenberg
Abstention: 0

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

f. Ordinance 2024-051: An Ordinance of the City of Blue Island, Cook County, Illinois Approving a Variance for the Property Located at 12803 Highland Ave..

Motion by Alderman McGee, second by Alderman Roll for Adoption of Ordinance No. 2024-051.

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

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

g. Ordinance 2024-052: An Ordinance of the City of Blue Island, Cook County, Illinois, Granting a Special Use Permitting Platinum Assets Solutions, LLC to Operate a Motor Vehicle Service and Repair Shop within the Limited Industrial District (2320 138th Street).

Motion by Alderman McGee, second by Alderman Johnson for Adoption of Ordinance No. 2024-052.

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

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

The Mayor stated this application had passed planning and zoning.

Alderman Johnson hoped that the company was made aware that they would be operating in a residential area and requested that the police department keep an eye out for overweight vehicles.

Alderman McGee had the same concerns, as well as concerns regarding the noise level.

h. Ordinance 2024-053: An Ordinance of the City of Blue Island, Cook County, Illinois, Granting a Special Use Permitting Platinum Assets Solutions, LLC to Operate a Truck Terminal within the Limited Industrial District (2320 138th Street).

Motion by Alderman Johnson, second by Alderman Roll for Adoption of Ordinance No. 2024-053.

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

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

Alderman Johnson added that he hoped the company would be very respectful of residents' yards.

City Attorney, Erin Blake, claimed that the special use approved by the ZBA was quite detailed in its requirements relating to traffic and noise.

i. Mayor's Announcements/Comments.

The Mayor congratulated all of the city's officials and workers who took part in the annual Christmas Light Parade, as well as the organizing committee. He noticed the largest turnout he's seen in many years, and noted that the weather really helped with good attendance.

The Mayor stated that as the City concludes the 2024 year and enters the last first months of his first administration, he wanted to thank the City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, the City Treasurer, Nancy Rita, and all of the aldermen, city department heads, and staff for their efforts for Blue Island. He praised Jairo Frausto, former City Treasurer, for his service and wished him health and happiness. He highlighted that repaving 75% of the streets and 100% of the alleys will be completed by summer of 2025, Olde Western Avenue Streetscape has been completed, the Fire Department was converted to Advance Life Services (ALS), the City rebuilt first

responder vehicle fleets, assisted a dozen new businesses to open doors, demolished 30 properties in disrepair, improved code enforcement for residents and businesses, implemented City Code in the construction and repair of more single-family homes, strengthened partnerships with school districts and government partners, and reintroduced the 4th of July parade as well as added a variety of new community events. He noted that when everyone works together, the City can achieve a lot. However, he reiterated that this is not a victory lap, and there is much more work to be done within the City, such as public infrastructure, which will be more expensive to solve in the coming years. He noted the City’s water system, from pipes to meters, still requires major investment. He said that for the first time in a long time, all ten candidates are running on the same slate as a team. He thanked everyone and wished everyone a great holiday.

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

a. **City Clerk’s Announcements**

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, wished Chief Farr a happy birthday and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

City Clerk, Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, invited everyone to the Ball Drop on 12/31/24, from 11:30 pm to 12:30 am in front of the Lyric Theatre with Alderman Luiz Montoya providing DJ services.

10) **Treasurer’s Report**

a. **Motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report dated 11/30/24.**

Motion by Alderman Carr, second by Alderman Fahrenwald to Approve Treasurer’s Report dated 11/30/24.

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

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

b. **City Treasurer’s Announcements/Comments**

City Treasurer, Nancy Rita thanked the residents, volunteers, and committee members of the Christmas Light Parade and wished everyone a great holiday.

11) **City Attorney's Report**

a. **City Attorney's Announcements/Comments**

No comment.

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

a. **V3s proposal for Phase 2 remediation.**

City Administrator, Thomas Wogan, informed the Council that the City has not confirmed any specific development plan for this area. Currently, there is one solar and two industrial entities interested in the land. None of these companies are interested in owning the property and prefer to rent or lease it based on the environmental issues. Therefore, the City would likely need to engage in a Phase 2 remedial consideration appropriations process. V3 has provided a proposal for the same.

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

City Administrator, Thomas Wogan, reported that Harris Golf Carts had submitted two offers. We rotate 75 carts and receive 25 new carts, with a little price change from previous year. The second proposal includes an additional \$5 per cart to include windshields on each cart. This will go into effect sometime in February 2025.

City Administrator, Thomas Wogan, informed the Council that there will be a lot of staff effort and mastering the fundamentals of Civic Plus. The website will let citizens communicate more effectively, and the permitting procedure will be moved to online forms to boost staff productivity in the near future. It can save time by preventing users from submitting forms until they have completed all required line items.

13) **Aldermanic Announcements/Reports/Comments**

Alderman Fahrenwald congratulated the Mayor for his leadership over the past four years. He also reported that the Forestry Board planted 214 trees, which will be replaced and maintained over the following term.

Alderman McGee wished everyone happy holidays.

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

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

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

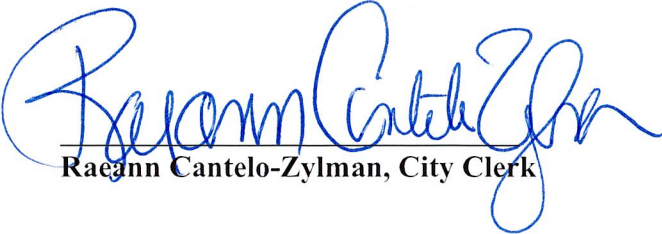
The meeting was adjourned 7:28 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the City Council is scheduled January 28, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.



Fred Bilotto, Mayor

**APPROVED BY ME THIS
28TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2025**



Raeann Cantelo-Zylman, City Clerk