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## The Berwyn City Council Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 26, 2023

Mayor Robert J. Lovero called the Regular City Council Meeting to Order and asked Clerk Paul to call the roll. The following Alderpersons were present in chambers: Lennon, Woywod, Leja, Fejt, Pabon, Ruiz, Arenella, and Carmichael. Attendees rose to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Following the recitation, Mayor Lovero announced the sudden passing of former Alderperson Nora Laureto. He asked for a moment of silence in her memory and for her family. Ald. Laureto was currently serving on the Berwyn Library Board. Her service and dedication to the Berwyn community was unparalleled.

**Open Forum:** Mayor Lovero opened the floor for Open Forum.

In regard to Agenda Item I-2 (Council Members and Mayor Salary Increases for 2025) the following people rose to speak:

Former Alderperson Jose Ramirez – In favor but increase gradually.

Katie Jacobsen – In favor of raises but increased gradually.

Stephen Taylor – Read emailed comments authored by Michael Solway – Against raises.

**(Clerk's Note:** The following people sent emails to Clerk Paul speaking against Agenda Item I-2: Yesenia Servin, Linda Carrion, Michelle Ziemba, Barb Krasny, Jennifer Eckstein, Daisy Flores, Michael Solway, Julie Barcal, Luz Chavez, Cynthia Elisa Torres, Kaitlin Bujak, and Renee Knowles. Emails were forwarded to elected officials and copies of the emails were provided to the council members prior to the meeting.)

Natalia Perez thanked all for support of the Christian Life Center Food Pantry.

Yadira Padilla (Morton High School Junior States of America) passed out 1,500 ribbons at school to bring attention to Suicide Prevention Month.

Sandra Montez (In Motion Counseling) spoke on Suicide Prevention Month.

Ald. Leja reminded all about the Morton High School Homecoming Parade event.

Ald. Ruiz thanked all who supported and attended the Hispanic Heritage Parade and Festival.

Mayor Lovero announced the Walk and Roll to School Day on October 4, 2023.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

**C-1:** Ald. Lennon made the motion, seconded by Ald. Woywod, to approve the September 12, 2023 Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting as submitted. The motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

**Bid Openings:** Nothing submitted for the agenda.

### **BDC, BPHD, and Berwyn Township Submissions:**

**E-1:** Mayor Lovero recognized Crystal from Town Assessor Jacqueline Pareda's office. Crystal spoke about the Cook County Board of Review Residential Appeals. She also advised that residents might qualify for a reduced assessment due to the Flood event occurring on July 2, 2023. Residents may call the Township Assessor for more information. Ald. Leja made the motion, seconded by Ald. Pabon, to accept the item as informational.

### **Reports from the Mayor:**

**F-1:** Ald. Lennon made the motion, seconded by Ald. Woywod, to adopt the Proclamation recognizing October 1<sup>st</sup> through October 7<sup>th</sup> as Banned Book Week in Berwyn. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. Clerk Paul read aloud the Proclamation. Members of the Berwyn Library Board and library staff were presented with copies of the Proclamation.

**F-2:** Ald. Ruiz made the motion, seconded by Ald. Lennon, to adopt the Resolution entitled: A Resolution to Accept Planning Technical Assistance Services Delivered by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, and direct the Corporate Authorities to affix the necessary signatures to the Proclamation and Memorandum of Understanding for same to send it on its way to passage. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

**Clerk's Note:** City Attorney Bertuca advised Clerk Paul that Ald. Lennon is allowed to vote on agenda items while Temporary Chair of the council meeting. Thereafter, Clerk Paul included Ald. Lennon in all roll call votes.

**Reports from the Clerk:**

**G-1:** Ald. Lennon made the motion, seconded by Ald. Carmichael, to **adopt the Resolution** entitled: **A Resolution to Release Closed Session Minutes**, direct the Corporate Authorities to affix the necessary signatures and send it on its way to passage. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

**Reports from the Zoning Commission:** Nothing submitted for the agenda.

**Reports from the Alderpeople, Committees, and Boards:**

**I-1:** Ald. Leja made the motion, seconded by Ald. Carmichael, to reverse the previous denial of a handicap parking space for the residents at 6826 W. 26<sup>th</sup> Street. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

**I-2:** Ald. Ruiz commented on current salaries received by the Mayor and Alderpeople comparing them to salaries received by the Berwyn Township Supervisor and Assessor. She asked that the Alderpeople support the suggested increases for those elected to the terms of offices beginning in 2025. Ald. Ruiz then made the motion, seconded by Ald. Arenella to increase the salaries of Alderpeople to \$37,500 and a 1% cost of living allowance (COLA) annually with a cap at \$42,000 and increase the salary of the Office of Mayor to \$87,500 and a 1% cost of living allowance (COLA) annually with a cap set at \$92,000. The motion passed with Lennon, Woywod, Leja, Ruiz, and Arenella voting AYE. Fejt, Pabon, and Carmichael voted NAY. Ald. Ruiz then made the motion, seconded by Ald. Woywod, to refer the approved increases to the Legal Department to draft the appropriate Resolution memorializing the salary increases for elected officials in 2025. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

**Reports from Staff:**

**J-1:** Ald. Ruiz made the motion, seconded by Ald. Arenella, to **adopt the Ordinance** entitled: **An Ordinance Authorizing and Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement Between the City of Berwyn and the County of Cook for the 2023 Invest in Cook Program with the City of Berwyn, County of Cook, State of Illinois**, direct the Corporate Authorities to affix the necessary signatures and send it on its way to passage. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

**J-2:** Ald. Fejt made the motion, seconded by Ald. Leja, to approve the energy sales agreement for Electric Supply to Direct Energy for a term of 36 (Thirty-Six) months with a cost of \$.0605/KWh. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote in favor.

**J-3:** Ald. Fejt made the motion, seconded by Ald. Leja, to approve a sales agreement with Symmetry Energy Solutions, LLC for natural gas supply for a contract term of 36 (Thirty-Six) months with a cost of \$.47970/KWh. The motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote.

**J-4:** Ald. Lennon made the motion, seconded by Ald. Woywod, to waive the bidding process and approve and accept Contract #NASPO VALUEPOINT CTR058808 with Pitney Bowes for the RELAY 5000 Inserter Machine along with the Pitney Bowes Certified Mail software for a 60 (Sixty) month duration at a cost not to exceed \$1,063.46 per month. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote in favor.

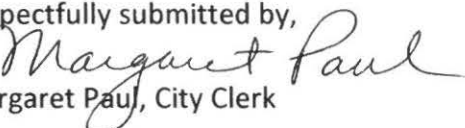
**J-5:** Ald. Lennon made the motion, seconded by Ald. Carmichael, to accept the 2022 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report as submitted. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote in favor.

**Consent Agenda (Items K1 – K3):** Ald. Lennon made the motion, seconded by Ald. Carmichael, to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

**Aldermanic Committee / Ward Meetings:** The council wished Ald. Leja a Happy Birthday. There were no announced committee meetings.

There being no further business before the City Council, Ald. Carmichael made the motion, seconded by Ald. Arenella, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by a unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

  
Margaret Paul, City Clerk