

The Berwyn City Council Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 27, 2024

Mayor Robert J. Lovero called the Regular City Council Meeting to Order at 8:00 p.m. Clerk Paul called the roll. The following Alderpeople were present in chambers: Lennon, Woywod, Leja, Fejt, Arenella, and Carmichael. Ald. Arenella made the motion, seconded by Ald. Carmichael, to excuse Alderpeople Ruiz and Pabon. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. Attendees rose to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was observed in memory of former Alderman Richard Toman and in support of the City's First Responders.

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

Ostito Avalos spoke stating there was a systemic problem with police pertaining to his personal domestic issue claiming he has been ignored by police personnel. He called for more training for police in the area of child abuse and asked that an oversight board be established.

Domingo Ramirez spoke on a myriad of issues including: Development money authorized to Realty Chicago; Money authorized to settle a law suit against a member of council sued in his governmental capacity; Deployment of Seat Belt Checks by the Berwyn Police Department alleging the practice is discriminatory against Hispanic people; Issues with the city's tree service policy; Dissatisfaction with the police department in handling a personal domestic issue; City staff using city vehicles for personal errands; A lack of Hispanic representation on the City Council. Mayor Lovero requested that Mr. Ramirez end his comments and invited him to make an appointment to discuss same.

Cook County Commissioner Frank Aguilar was recognized. He distributed a copy of his **State of the 16th District, 2023** brochure. He commented on his work as Berwyn's County Board representative. He emphasized funding to Berwyn (\$268,000 for roadway projects); joint funding to Berwyn and Riverside for Harlem roadway improvements and a grant to Youth Crossroads for violence prevention. Mayor Lovero thanked Commissioner Aguilar for his help and for attending the meeting.

Yadira Padilla, representing the Junior States of America – Morton West Chapter, spoke on her club's Voter Registration drive.

Natalia Perez spoke on the loss of former Alderman Richard Toman and extended condolences to Ald. Toman's family who were present in chambers.

Luz Chavez emailed comments to the Clerk's Office and elected city officials (received 2/27/2024 at 5:18 p.m.) requesting information on results of an inquiry into the Mayor's handling of a City of Berwyn employee firing for "racial harassment". Clerk's Note: Hard copies of the email were distributed to the elected officials and City Attorney on 2/29/2024.

C-1 Approval of Minutes: Ald. Lennon made the motion, seconded by Ald. Woywod, to approve the February 13, 2024 Minutes of the Committee of the Whole and Regular City Council Meeting as submitted. The motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Reports from the Mayor:

F-1: Clerk Paul read the Proclamation remembering former Alderman Richard Toman into the record. Ald. Leja made the motion, seconded by Ald. Lennon, to adopt the Proclamation as presented. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. Mayor Lovero presented a copy of

the Proclamation to Mrs. Sandy Toman and expressed the City's condolences. Mrs. Toman thanked the City Council and those attending the meeting for their appreciation of Ald. Toman's many years of service to Berwyn and the kindness shown to her and her family following Ald. Toman's passing. She expressed his love and devotion to the City and to 3rd Ward residents.

F-2: Mayor Lovero stated that Page 33 of the contract being considered between the City of Berwyn and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 1041 ("AFSCME") was included by error and should be removed prior to the vote. Ald. Lennon then made the motion, seconded by Ald. Arenella, to approve the contract as presented. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote in favor.

F-3: Clerk Paul read the Proclamation recognizing March 8, 2024 as International Women's Day in Berwyn and recognizing the month of March as Women's History month. Ald. Arenella made the motion, seconded by Ald. Woywod, to adopt the Proclamation as presented. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote in favor.

G-1 Reports from the Clerk: Ald. Lennon made the motion, seconded by Ald. Woywod, to approve the schedule of events for the Berwyn Park District as submitted and authorize any requested city services. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Reports from the Alderpeople, Committees, and Boards:

I-1: Ald. Leja made the motion, seconded by Ald. Woywod, to mark his Fire and Police Aldermanic Committee meeting Minutes for February 20, 2024 informational. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

I-2: Ald. Leja was recognized and commented on work done to increase safety near schools. He voiced his concern that there were insufficient numbers of School Crossing Guards. He explained his work with city departments to develop a hiring campaign to increase personnel in those positions. He then made the motion, seconded by Ald. Arenella, to mark his communication as informational.

Reports from Staff:

J-1: Ald. Fejt made the motion, seconded by Ald. Woywod, to approve the settlement, as discussed in executive session, of 22WC022671; 22WC022674; 22WC022681; 22WC022686; and 22WC022688 for \$20,917.25. The motion passed on the call of the role with all 6 Alderpeople voting AYE.

J-2: Ald. Fejt made the motion, seconded by Ald. Woywod, to approve the settlement, as discussed in executive session, of 21WC018664 for \$13,729.85. The motion passed on the call of the role with all 6 Alderpeople voting AYE.

J-3: Ald. Arenella made the motion, seconded by Ald. Carmichael, to concur with Police Chief Cimaglia and approve St. Mary of Cell's request to have a procession on city streets on March 29, 2024 and authorize requested city services. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

J-4: Ald. Arenella made the motion, seconded by Ald. Carmichael, to concur with Police Chief Cimaglia and approve North Berwyn Park District's request to have a parade on city streets on March 30, 2024 and authorize requested city services. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

J-5: Ald. Leja made the motion, seconded by Ald. Fejt, to approve Chief Cimaglia's request to promote two Patrol Officers to the rank of Sergeant due to the retirement of Sergeants O'Halloran and Shiavone. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

J-6: Ald. Arenella made the motion, seconded by Ald. Carmichael, to adopt the Ordinance entitled: An Ordinance Authorizing the Renewal of a Certain Agreement with Comcast of Illinois/Indiana to Provide Services for 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 with all 6 Alderpeople voting AYE on the call of the roll.

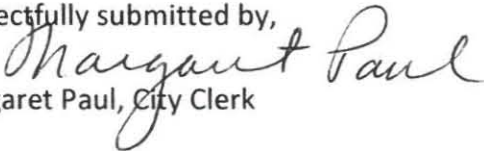
J-7: Ald. Carmichael made the motion, seconded by Ald. Arenella, to accept the Communication Department's information plan as informational regarding the change in garbage haulers from Waste Management to S.B.C. Waste Solutions. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Consent Agenda: Ald. Lennon made the motion, seconded by Ald. Arenella, to approve all items K-1 through K-3 on the Consent Agenda as submitted. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Aldermanic Committee Meetings / Events: Ald. Lennon announced a 1st Ward meeting for February 28, 2024. Ald. Leja announced a 3rd Ward Quarterly meeting on March 13, 2024. Ald. Arenella announced a College and Career Day sponsored by Berwyn School District 98.

There being no further business before the 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 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,


Margaret Paul, City Clerk