

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DES PLAINES, ILLINOIS HELD IN THE ELEANOR ROHRBACH MEMORIAL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, DES PLAINES CIVIC CENTER, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Des Plaines, Illinois, was called to order by Mayor Goczkowski at 7:00 p.m. in the Eleanor Rohrbach Memorial Council Chambers, Des Plaines Civic Center on Monday, September 16, 2024.

ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated the following Aldermen present: Lysakowski, Moylan, Oskerka, Sayad, Brookman, Walsten. Absent: Smith, Charewicz. A quorum was present.

Also present were: City Manager Wisniewski, Director of Finance Podbial, Director of Public Works and Engineering Oakley, Director of Community and Economic Development Rogers, Fire Chief Matzl, Police Chief Anderson, and General Counsel Friedman.

PRAYER AND PLEDGE

The prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America were offered by Mayor Goczkowski.

PROCLAMATION

City Clerk Mastalski read a proclamation by Mayor Goczkowski declaring September 17-23 as Constitution Week.

Mayor Goczkowski presented the proclamation to a representative of the Twenty-First Star Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Judy Sells from Bike & Walk Des Plaines invited the residents to their annual Community Bike Ride on September 28th at 9:00 a.m. starting at the campground woods forest preserve.

ALDERMAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Alderman Oskerka gave a shout out to the park district for a successful fall fest this past weekend.

Alderman Sayad thanked public works for the storm clean-up. He also stated there will be a fourth ward meeting on October 3rd at 7:00 p.m. at the Golf Road Baptist Church. He further mentioned the budget meetings are scheduled for October 10th and October 16th at 6:00 p.m., with a possible follow up meeting on October 24th. He mentioned the fire department is hosting a Fire Station Open House on September 21st from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at Station 63, and there will be a Food Truck Round-Up on September 17th from 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at Friendship Park Conservatory.

Alderman Brookman thanked the park district, chamber, history center, and police for a successful Fall Fest, and stated it also gave the residents an opportunity to look at the park district's newly completed shoreline restoration.

Alderman Walsten thanked public works for doing a great job on the clean-up after the storm.

MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Goczkowski mentioned that he thought the Fall Fest was great and well pulled off. He also reiterated that the Food Truck Round-Up will be held tomorrow, and that it will be the largest one to date with seven trucks.

CONSENT AGENDA

Alderman Walsten requested item #1 to be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Moved by Brookman, seconded by Sayad, to Establish the Consent Agenda without item #1. Upon voice vote, the vote was:

AYES: 6 - Lysakowski, Moylan, Oskerka,
 Sayad, Brookman, Walsten
 NAYS: 0 - None
 ABSENT: 2 - Smith, Charewicz
 Motion declared carried.

Moved by Sayad, seconded by Brookman, to Approve the Consent Agenda without item #1.
 Upon roll call, the vote was:

AYES: 6 - Lysakowski, Moylan, Oskerka,
 Sayad, Brookman, Walsten
 NAYS: 0 - None
 ABSENT: 2 - Smith, Charewicz
 Motion declared carried.

Minutes were approved; Ordinance Z-19-24, Z-21-24 were adopted; Resolutions R-154-24, R-155-24, R-157-24 were adopted.

City Clerk Mastalski read the item that was removed from the consent agenda – item #1.

AGRMT/ ST SWEEP
SVCS/ LRS
Consent Agenda

Alderman Walsten stated he was concerned with the quality of work especially dust control based on his previous experience with LRS. He stated he would like to defer the resolution to the next City Council meeting in order to obtain a few more answers regarding the service of LRS.

Resolution
R-154-24

City Manager Wisniewski recommending putting together a list of comments regarding the terms of the current street sweeping services and improvements so that the City can have a discussion with LRS, and bring the item back at the next City Council meeting.

Without objection, Resolution R-154-24 was deferred to the next City Council meeting.

SUPP APP/ ITEP GRANT
FUNDS/ IDOT
Consent Agenda

Moved by Sayad, seconded by Brookman, to Approve Resolution R-155-24, A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AN APPLICATION FOR ITEP GRANT FUNDS FROM THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION. Motion declared carried as approved unanimously under Consent Agenda.

Resolution
R-155-24

AUTH EXT/ LEASE
AGRMT/ 620 LEE ST &
1460 MINER ST
Consent Agenda

Moved by Sayad, seconded by Brookman, to Approve Resolution R-157-24, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXTENSION OF THE LEASE AGREEMENTS FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 620 LEE STREET AND 1460 MINER STREET, DES PLAINES, ILLINOIS. Motion declared carried as approved unanimously under Consent Agenda.

Resolution
R-157-24

SECOND READING/
ORDINANCE
Z-19-24
Consent Agenda

Advanced to second reading by Sayad, seconded by Brookman, to Adopt the Ordinance Z-19-24, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TEXT OF THE DES PLAINES ZONING ORDINANCE REGARDING MECHANICAL SCREENING. Motion declared carried as approved unanimously under Consent Agenda.

SECOND READING/
ORDINANCE
Z-21-24
Consent Agenda

Advanced to second reading by Sayad, seconded by Brookman, to Adopt the Ordinance Z-21-24, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TEXT OF THE DES PLAINES ZONING ORDINANCE REGARDING FOOD PROCESSING ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE C-4 ZONING DISTRICT. Motion declared carried as approved unanimously under Consent Agenda.

APPROVE
MINUTES
Consent Agenda

Moved by Sayad, seconded by Brookman, to Approve the Minutes of the City Council meeting of September 3, 2024, as published. Motion declared carried as approved unanimously under Consent Agenda.

APPROVE
MINUTES
Consent Agenda

Moved by Sayad, seconded by Brookman, to Approve the Closed Session Minutes of the City Council meeting of September 3, 2024, as published. Motion declared carried as approved unanimously under Consent Agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PUBLIC SAFETY – Alderman Oskerka, Chair

CONSIDER AMEND
CITY CODE RE FEES
FOR AMBULANCE
SVCS
Ordinance
M-14-24

Fire Chief Matzl reviewed a memorandum dated August 13, 2024.

The City charges a fee when a patient is treated by Fire Department paramedics to help offset the cost of providing the services. Fees have not changed since 2019, prior to the City's participation in the Ground Emergency Medical Transport (GEMT) program. Adjustment to the ambulance service fees to match the GEMT rate set annually by the GEMT program is proposed.

The current ambulance service fee for all residents and non-residents of Des Plaines is \$1,500 for the evaluation, treatment, and transportation of a patient by the Fire Department to a medical facility. In addition to the ambulance service fee, there is a charge of \$15.00 per mile during the transport of the patient. There is a \$250 "no transport" fee for patients who are medically evaluated and/or treated by the Fire Department but are not transported to a medical facility. There is also a lift-assist fee that can occur when the Fire Department responds and provides assistance with moving an individual who does not need ambulance transportation services related to illness or injury. The number of lift-assist occurrences determines the fee. These rates have historically been based on what fire departments in our area have charged and have not been increased since 2019. Fees are billed to the patient's private insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, or, when no medical insurance is available, the patient themselves. The City does not "balance bill" Des Plaines residents.

For several years, our ambulance billing company has been working with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) to participate in the GEMT program. The GEMT program is a federally funded program that allows Illinois fire agencies that perform emergency medical transport for Medicaid patients to submit for additional reimbursements for unrecovered costs associated with those transports. The standard reimbursement for ambulance transports for those covered by Medicaid is significantly less than the actual costs experienced by the City. Under the HFS Department's Transportation Fee Schedule, the standard reimbursement for ambulance transport of persons covered by Medicaid is approximately \$250 per transport. Participation in the GEMT Program offers a revenue sharing opportunity with HFS, which has helped to cover the funding gap between the reimbursement amount and the actual cost to provide services. These additional reimbursements are then split between the City of Des Plaines and the State of Illinois.

As part of the GEMT program, HFS annually sets a rate unique to our Fire Department that is based upon our Fire Department budget and the portion of our budget that goes towards providing emergency medical services. The 2024 GEMT rate for the Des Plaines Fire Department is \$2,647.47 for Advanced Life Support (ALS) care and \$2,756.19 for Basic Life Support (BLS) care.

Federal guidelines stipulate that Medicaid cannot be charged more than private insurance. Therefore, it is suggested that our ambulance service fees be equal to our GEMT rate to ensure the uniformity of billing rates. Many neighboring fire departments have already made

this change or are in the process of doing so as the GEMT program becomes more widespread in our area.

While the GEMT program will bring additional funding to the City, it will not add any new costs to our residents. The City will continue to accept payment by the resident’s insurance company and/or Medicare and will continue to not require the resident to pay any additional costs out of pocket. The City will continue to not “balance bill” our residents.

It is recommended that the City changes the ambulance billing rate from the current fee of \$1,500 to the GEMT rate set annually by this GEMT program. The primary benefit of this change would be that this rate will adjust annually as our costs to provide emergency medical services inevitably rise each year. Additionally, the GEMT rate determined by HFS will provide a third-party analysis of what it costs the City per call. On an annual basis, when the City of reviews and approves its fee schedule, the Des Plaines Fire Department will update the ambulance service to reflect the most recently ascertained GEMT rate.

Moved by Oskerka, seconded by Sayad, to Approve First Reading of Ordinance M-14-24, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 3-3-8 OF THE DES PLAINES CITY CODE REGARDING FEES FOR AMBULANCE SERVICES.

Upon voice vote, the vote was:

- AYES: 6 - Lysakowski, Moylan, Oskerka, Sayad, Brookman, Walsten
 - NAYS: 0 - None
 - ABSENT: 2 - Smith, Charewicz
- Motion declared carried.

NEW BUSINESS

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION – Alderman Sayad, Chair

WARRANT REGISTER
Resolution R-156-24

Alderman Sayad presented the Warrant Register.

Alderman Sayad stated the current general fund balance is \$26,584,431.00

Moved by Sayad, seconded by Oskerka, to Approve the Warrant Register of September 16, 2024, in the Amount of \$4,374,766.95 and Approve Resolution R-156-24.

Upon roll call, the vote was:

- AYES: 6 - Lysakowski, Moylan, Oskerka, Sayad, Brookman, Walsten
 - NAYS: 0 - None
 - ABSENT: 2 - Smith, Charewicz
- Motion declared carried.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT– Alderman Moylan, Chair

DISC RE PILOT PERMIT PROG FOR BEE HIVES & APIARIES

Chairman Moylan requested the item be deferred to the next City Council meeting so the discussion can occur with the whole City Council present.

Without objection, the discussion was postponed to the next City Council meeting.

CONSIDER AMD ZONING ORD RE OFFICE USES IN C-4
Ordinance Z-22-24

Director of Community and Economic Development Rogers reviewed a memorandum dated September 5, 2024.

The petitioner requests a consideration of a Zoning Ordinance amendment to amend Footnote 17 in Section 12-7-3.K. to exempt medical clinics and laboratories from restrictions for office uses in the C-4, Regional Shopping District.

Greater Family Health, Inc is seeking to open a community health center in a combined tenant space in The Oaks Shopping Center at 1515 Lee Street. This property is zoned C-4, Regional Shopping District. The proposed type of use has historically been classified as an “office”. In the C-4 Zoning District, this use is permitted if the floor area is below 5,000 square feet and is not contiguous to another office use.

The four areas of the city within the C-4 zoning district are generally devoid of medical facilities offering comprehensive medical care. The existing regulations in this zoning district allow this use by right, but limit the overall size of the office space; this amendment would make medical uses exempt, and allow for filling of larger tenant spaces with medical offices.

The PZB voted 6-0 to recommend that City Council approve the Text Amendment request, with the language drafted.

Moved by Moylan, seconded by Brookman, to Approve First Reading of Ordinance Z-22-24, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TEXT OF THE DES PLAINES ZONING ORDINANCE REGARDING OFFICE USES IN THE C-4 ZONING DISTRICT.

Upon voice vote, the vote was:

AYES: 6 - Lysakowski, Moylan, Oskerka,
Sayad, Brookman, Walsten

NAYS: 0 - None

ABSENT: 2 - Smith, Charewicz

Motion declared carried.

**OTHER MAYOR
COMMENTS FOR THE
GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Mayor Goczkowski acknowledged the Patriot Day Ceremony and the staff who put it together, and stated he is grateful for everyone who attended.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Brookman, seconded by Sayad, to adjourn the meeting. Upon voice vote, motion declared carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

/s/ Jessica M. Mastalski
Jessica M. Mastalski – CITY CLERK

APPROVED BY ME THIS 7th
DAY OF October, 2024

/s/ Andrew Goczkowski
Andrew Goczkowski, MAYOR