

**CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
March 9, 2021**

Mayor Gallo called the Council meeting via Zoom Teleconferencing to order at 7:31 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL:

Present: McHale, Budmats, O'Brien, Vinezeano, Bisesi, D'Astice, Sanoica
Absent: 0

With 7 present and 0 absent there is a quorum.

Members of the virtual audience are reminded that these proceedings are being recorded for current and future broadcast.

Staff Members Present Remotely: City Manager Barry Krumstok, Finance Director Melissa Gallagher, Deputy City Clerk Judy Brose, Assistant to the City Manager Lori Ciezak, Police Chief John Nowacki, Fire Chief Jeff Moxley, Deputy Fire Chief Rick Acosta, Director Public Works Rob Horne, Assistant Public Works Director JoEllen Charlton, Business Advocate Martha Corner and City Attorney Melissa Wolf

Public comment will be afforded to the public who are joining us on this conference line as long as they provided their contact credentials and the subject matter for which they would like to speak about before the deadline as noted on tonight's agenda.

Members of the public present in the City Council Chambers listening to the meeting will be afforded the opportunity to provide public comment in accordance with the procedures applicable to public comment at an in-person meeting of the City Council. Namely, members of the public must have signed-in before the start of the meeting. In addition, any written comments that were submitted prior to the meeting will also be read.

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES:

The first order of business is to approve the minutes from the *February 16, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting*. Is there a motion to approve these minutes? Alderman O'Brien made the motion and it has been seconded by Alderman Vinezeano. Are there any corrections, additions, or deletions to the minutes? Seeing none, will the Clerk please call the roll?

AYES: O'Brien, Vinezeano, Bisesi, D'Astice, Sanoica, McHale, Budmats
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0

With 7 in favor; 0 opposed, the minutes are approved.

The next set of minutes to approve are from the *March 23, 2021 City Council Meeting*. Is there a motion to approve these minutes? Alderman McHale made the motion and it has been seconded by Alderman O'Brien. Are there any corrections, additions, or deletions to the minutes? Seeing none, will the Clerk please call the roll?

AYES: Vinezeano, Bisesi, D'Astice, Sanoica, McHale, Budmats, O'Brien
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0

With 7 in favor; 0 opposed, the minutes are approved.

MOTION TO DEVIATE: None

MAYOR'S REPORT: None

WARD REPORTS:

Alderman Sanoica – I was approached by the Creekside Subdivision to get in touch with the Public Works Operations Superintendent. Thank you very much for Public Works for reaching out to the homeowner's association President. Also, I heard from a resident in Fairfax Village who inquired about potentially working with IDOT to erect a sound wall along Route 53 and staff is currently discussing that matter at this time.

Alderman Bisesi – This item is not necessarily our jurisdiction but I did get a call or two on it. Last week on Friday there's a letter from the School District 214 regarding all the students going back to school. I've contacted the School District and they are supposed to be sending out a revised email to all the parents trying to clarify their original letter. There were a lot of questions on it making it sound like that the students have to come back and don't really have much of an option. For those residents that saw that letter there should be a revised letter in your email.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR 20 MINUTES:

The next step is to open the meeting to the public but I have been told that there were no requests for public or written comments and we do not have anyone in the Council Chambers requesting to speak so we will move forward.

➤ **PENDING:**

A) Ordinance No. 21-11 – Approve an Ordinance Confirming and Extending the State of Emergency within the City of Rolling Meadows Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic (2nd Reading)

Is there a motion to adopt this Ordinance? Alderman Sanoica has made the motion and it has been seconded by Alderman Budmats. Is there any discussion? See none, the question is shall the Ordinance be adopted, will the Clerk please call the roll?

AYES: Bisesi, D'Astice, Sanoica, McHale, Budmats, O'Brien, Vinezeano
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0

With 7 in favor and 0 opposed. This Ordinance is adopted.

B) Ordinance No. 21-12 – Amend the City Code in order to Reduce the Number of Class A-2 and Class A-3 Liquor Licenses Issued in the City of Rolling Meadows (Anna's Red Apple (A-2), 2121 S. Plum Grove and Bigby's Pour House (A-3) 1649 W. Algonquin) (2nd Reading)

Is there a motion to adopt this Ordinance? Alderman Budmats has made the motion and it has been seconded by Alderman McHale. Is there any discussion? See none, the question is shall the Ordinance be adopted, will the Clerk please call the roll?

AYES: D'Astice, Sanoica, McHale, Budmats, O'Brien, Vinezeano, Bisesi
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0

With 7 in favor and 0 opposed. This Ordinance is adopted.

C) Ordinance No. 21-13 – Amend the City Code in Order to Reduce the Number of Video Gaming Accessory Licenses Issued in the City of Rolling Meadows (Bigby's Pour House – 1649 W. Algonquin Road) (2nd Reading)

Is there a motion to adopt this Ordinance? Alderman Sanoica has made the motion and it has been seconded by Alderman O'Brien. Is there any discussion? See none, the question is shall the Ordinance be adopted, will the Clerk please call the roll?

AYES: Sanoica, McHale, Budmats, O'Brien, Vinezeano, Bisesi, D'Astice
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0

With 7 in favor and 0 opposed. This Ordinance is adopted.

D) Ordinance No. 21-14 – Amend City Pay Plan – Create Part-Time Fire Inspector (1st Reading) (postponed at 2/9/21 & 2/23/21 City Council Meeting)

Is there a motion to consider this Ordinance for 1st reading? Alderman O'Brien has made the motion and it has been seconded by Alderman Sanoica. Is there any discussion?

Alderman O'Brien – I would like to make a motion to waive 1st reading on this since it's been to Council several previous times, most recently twice in the past and there have been no changes made based on additional meetings Council had. I think it would help staff with being able to get this position posted sooner than later with the upcoming retirement and vacancy as well as being able to leverage the potential cost savings that have been discussed and noted in past meetings too. I would like to make a motion to waive the 1st reading.

Mayor Gallo - Is there a second? Alderman Bisesi has seconded the motion to waive 1st reading. Is there any discussion on this motion to waive the 1st reading? Seeing none, will the Clerk please call the roll?

AYES: McHale, Budmats, O'Brien, Vinezeano, Bisesi, D'Astice, Sanoica
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0

With 7 in favor and 0. This Ordinance does move forward for 2nd reading.

Ordinance No. 20-14 is now back for final approval. Is there a motion to adopt this Ordinance? Alderman Budmats has made the motion and it has been seconded by Alderman O'Brien. Is there any discussion?

Alderman Budmats – Just a quick comment for those members of the public who might be asking why is the Council looking at adding a position at a time like this. We've been assured that this will actually be a cost savings measure, that we will not be paying firemen overtime to do this instead we'll pay a person to do the job who will be making less then firemen's wages to do this and so there would be an overall cost savings. The City Council is in fact looking for that savings and wants to monitor and make sure the long term effect (*inaudible*).

Mayor Gallo – Is there any further discussion? See none, the question is shall the Ordinance be adopted, will the Clerk please call the roll?

AYES: Budmats, O'Brien, Vinezeano, Bisesi, D'Astice, Sanoica, McHale
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0

With 7 in favor and 0. This Ordinance is adopted.

E) Ordinance No. 21-00 – Amend Chapter 2, Article III of the Code of Ordinances to Authorize the City Manager to Execute Agreements Pertaining to Administrative Zoning Code Matters (1st Reading) (*Postponed at 2/23/21 City Council Meeting*)

Is there a motion to consider this Ordinance for 1st reading? Alderman Budmats has made the motion and it has been seconded by Alderman D'Astice. Is there any discussion?

Alderman Budmats – In discussions this week, this ordinance would only be for a very limited set of circumstances. This would only be for agreements regarding parking in multi-tenant buildings or properties and agreements between the City and multi-tenant property owners. When we do approve this it would be really nice if that were spelled out with a little bit more clarity in the wording of this. In addition, it would also be nice if we could require that the City Manager provide the Council notice of such an agreement being entered so that later it won't be a surprise to us is somebody says that they have an agreement with the City and we would have no knowledge that this had been entered into. If we could make a slight change in the wording that says that when in fact the City Manager executes such an agreement that he would provide the notice to Council that an agreement has been executed within 21 days of it being executed. I was told that JoEllen might be the person who might best be able to speak if these suggestions would in any way hamper the passage or the ability for the City Manager to freely function under this proposed ordinance.

Mayor Gallo – Are you requesting a motion to add additional language or parameters around this ordinance?

Alderman Budmats – Yes if it's required of me to do so, I can do that. It sounds like the first thing that I'm asking for though is not really a change it's just making a better job of defining the scope of the agreements that the City Manager would be able to sign. I was being told that is the scope, it's limited to just that. If it needs to have an amendment or an addition to asking that notice be required within 21 days of execution of an agreement to provide notice to the City Council in writing. If that needs to be an amendment I'm willing to make that amendment.

Melissa Wolf, City Attorney – Essentially what Alderman Budmats is requesting is clarity regarding the application of the City Manager authority to execute these types of agreements and my recommendation that there would be an amendment required to this ordinance. The amendment could simply refer to the provision of the Zoning Code that authorizes this administrative process so that would require an amendment. In addition, with respect to the notification to the Council after the City Manager has entered into an agreement on behalf of the City that would also require an amendment to this ordinance. You might want to take those two matters separately so that the Council can provide input in that regard. When Alderman Budmats and I were speaking on this matter earlier today, I advised that we should probably have the input of Assistant Director JoEllen Charlton with respect to the impact of these requested amendments. From a legal perspective, I don't see any negative impact but JoEllen may want to provide some input as to how this may impact the administrative process.

Mayor Gallo – I'm going to ask that Alderman Budmats choose one of the two, break them down and make a motion with a request for amendment and after the second is received on the motion, then during discussion I'm going to ask for Assistant Director Charlton to chime in and share some of her specific subject matter expertise.

Alderman Budmats - I would like to make a first amendment to this, that we provide greater clarity, define the agreements that the City Manager may enter into by citing the chapter, verse or whatever it is of the Zoning Code which allows for this agreement to be entered into.

Mayor Gallo – The motion has been seconded by Alderman Bisesi. Is there any discussion on the motion for the amendment for greater clarity and definition around the agreement?

Alderman Sanoica – Is this the item that we would want Assistant Director JoEllen Charlton to speak on?

Mayor Gallo – I don't know, I was hoping she would raise her hand if this is the one or if it's the latter. I don't know which one she would have purview on but she would raise her hand was my assumption.

Alderman Sanoica – I would request some guidance from the Assistant Director regarding this amendment with the impacts that the City Attorney had alluded to earlier.

Mayor Gallo - Assistant Director Charlton, do you have any information to inject around this first amendment?

JoEllen Charlton, Assistant Director Public Works - I think what I heard is something that's perfectly acceptable. As I understand it this is something that would be included in the 2nd reading of the ordinance.

It would just define what section of the Zoning Code is being referenced in which the City Manager could sign an agreement. It is very specifically limited as Alderman Budmat's indicated to only parking requirements and only multi-tenant shopping centers. There is no other part of the Zoning Code that even talks to this ability to be granted administratively with the City Manager's authority. It's very consistent with the discussion that the Planning and Zoning Commission had and their desire to help businesses fill some of the remaining vacancies in shopping centers which is kind of the whole reason we brought this forward. I think the solution that's being suggested tonight is a very good one.

Mayor Gallo – If there isn't any further discussion on this first amendment then I will have the Clerk call roll.

AYES: O'Brien, Vinezeano, Bisesi, D'Astice, Sanoica, McHale, Budmats
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0

With 7 in favor and 0 opposed. This first amendment is approved for this Ordinance.

Mayor Gallo – Alderman Budmats, go ahead and define your second amendment which defines the timeframe in which feedback has to be brought back to Council by the Manager, please do that now.

Alderman Budmats – If we could just add that upon execution of an agreement of this type that the City Manager would notify the Council in writing of the agreement so that we are aware of its existence and we're aware of what's been agreed to.

Mayor Gallo – Are you not looking for a specific timeframe? Or are you looking for Assistant Director Charlton to weigh in on the timeframe and what the potential impact or detriment is with that?

Alderman Budmats – If she would be willing to do so then that way I can make a better informed second amendment.

Mayor Gallo – Before we go ahead and put the second out there, Assistant Director Charlton, is there an issue that creates detriment for a timeframe (21 days, 15 days, 30 days), what is your recommendation?

JoEllen Charlton, Assistant Director Public Works – I think as he stated it which was upon execution of the agreement that we would ask the Manager to provide Council with notification, that's perfectly easy to do.

Mayor Gallo – Alderman Budmats, your second amendment is to notify in writing the Council upon execution, is that accurate?

Alderman Budmats – That would be great.

Mayor Gallo – With that, I'm looking for a second. Alderman Vinezeano has seconded the motion. Is there any discussion? Seeing none, will the Clerk please call the roll?

AYES: Vinezeano, Bisesi, D’Astice, Sanoica, McHale, Budmats, O’Brien
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0

With 7 in favor and 0 opposed. This second amendment is approved for this Ordinance.

Mayor Gallo – This now brings us back to the original Ordinance with the amendments. Is there any discussion? Seeing none, the question is shall the Ordinance be moved forward for 2nd reading, will the Clerk please call the roll?

AYES: Bisesi, D’Astice, Sanoica, McHale, Budmats, O’Brien, Vinezeano
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0

With 7 in favor and 0 opposed. This Ordinance with the amendments will be moved forward for 2nd reading.

F) Resolution No. 21-R-10 – Authorize the Execution of a Property Use Agreement with Rolling Meadows Community Church *(Tabled at 2/9/21 City Council Meeting)*

Staff is requesting that this item again be postponed since the Community Church will be discussing this matter at their council meeting tonight (March 9th) and then they will update Staff prior to our next meeting. At this time, I’m looking for a motion to postpone this Resolution to our next City Council meeting of March 23, 2021 for consideration? Alderman Budmats has made the motion and it has been seconded by Alderman McHale. Is there any discussion? Seeing none, the question is shall this Resolution be postponed to March 23, 2021, will the Clerk please call the roll?

AYES: D’Astice, Sanoica, McHale, Budmats, O’Brien, Vinezeano, Bisesi
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0

With 7 in favor and 0 opposed. This Resolution is postponed until March 23, 2021.

➤ **CONSENT ORDINANCES (1st Reading):**

The next item on the agenda are the Consent Ordinances. It consists of three (3) items, items G thru I. Does any Alderman wish to remove item from the Consent Ordinances?

Alderman Budmats – Item I.

Mayor Gallo – Any others? Seeing none, the Chair declares it in order for one motion to consider the remaining two (2) Ordinances in one motion without debate. Is there a motion to consider the Ordinances for 1st Reading? Alderman Sanoica has made the motion and it has been seconded by Alderman O’Brien.

G) Ordinance No. 21-00 – Approve an Ordinance Confirming and Extending the State of Emergency within the City of Rolling Meadows Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic (1st Reading)

H) Ordinance No. 21-00 – Authorize Reserving the City’s 2021 Home Rule Private Activity Bond Volume Cap (1st Reading)

Again, the question is shall the two (2) Ordinances be moved forward for 2nd Reading? Will the Clerk please call the roll?

AYES: Sanoica, McHale, Budmats, O’Brien, Vinezeano, Bisesi, D’Astice
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0

With 7 in favor and 0 opposed, the Ordinances will be moved forward for 2nd reading.

Item I was pulled by Alderman Budmats.

I) Ordinance No. 21-00 – Amend Division 32, Entitled “Video Gaming” of Article III, Entitled “Other Businesses” of Chapter 22, Entitled “Businesses” and Appendix B of the City Code in order to Clarify the Licenses and License Fees Required for Video Gaming (1st Reading)

Is there a motion to consider this Ordinance for 1st Reading? Alderman Budmats has made the motion and it has been seconded by Alderman Vinezeano.

Alderman Budmats you pulled this so you have first comments.

Alderman Budmats – The only thing I have is a question. In the ordinance it says we would be moving this from \$1000 to \$2000. It is my understanding that presently there is no cost for the gaming terminal operators, so are we charging them \$1000 or \$2000 or were we in the past charging them \$1000 and now we’re charging them \$2000? If I could just get some clarification.

Melissa Wolf, City Attorney – Currently the terminal operators do pay that \$1000 fee. What this does is establish the same fee with the clarification that this is the terminal operator’s business license fee. In addition, it increases that fee from \$1000 to \$2000 effective for the 2022 license moving forward. Every terminal operator that has already paid this \$1000 fee for the 2021 year everyone is on an equal playing field and it would be the same price as what has previously been established only increasing for the 2022 license.

Alderman O’Brien – Thank you to staff for providing the grid of comparisons. I know we’ve talked about this before, is raising fees at a time like this. I believe outside of Hoffman Estates and Algonquin charging \$1000, none of the other surrounding communities are charging anything for this unless I’m misinterpreting page 70 in our packet, the first column of the terminal operator business license fee. This is just something to be aware of because I know we’ve discussed this is the past. We would now be double of two of the current surrounding communities and six of the others don’t even have a fee based on the information provided.

Alderman Sanoica – In this regard I would rather have Rolling Meadows be a leader and not a follower. I think that this is commiserate of what we done in the past and it makes sense going forward. I’m in support of this ordinance.

Mayor Gallo – Any further comments? Seeing none, the question is shall is Ordinance be forward for 2nd reading, will the Clerk please call the roll?

AYES: McHale, Budmats, O’Brien, Vinezeano, Bisesi, D’Astice, Sanoica
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0

With 7 in favor and 0 opposed, this Ordinance is moved forward for 2nd reading.

➤ **NEW BUSINESS:**

J) MOTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS ON WARRANT 3/9/2021

The next item of business is a motion to approve the Warrant from March 9, 2021 as presented by the Finance Department. Is there a motion to approve the Warrant? Alderman Bisesi made the motion and it has been seconded by Alderman O’Brien. Is there any discussion?

Alderman Vinezeano – Myself and Alderman McHale noticed the same charge on the bill on warrants for two charges to Katco for water main breaks that stuck out in a total of close to \$13,000. I just wanted to give an update, I did reach out to Director Horne because I was curious as to why we would be outsourcing water main breaks when our Public Works normally does that work. He informed me that one of the breaks was deeper than we allow our crews to dig and the other one happened to be right when we got a snow storm so they had to outsource it so they can maintain our streets safely. Just wanted to give an update on that and then this way if any residents were wondering why we were outsourcing water main breaks.

Mayor Gallo – Thank you, I appreciate the attention to detail on that from both of you. Is there any further discussion? Seeing none, will the Clerk please call the roll?

AYES: Budmats, O’Brien, Vinezeano, Bisesi, D’Astice, Sanoica, McHale
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0

With 7 in favor and 0 opposed. This Warrant is approved.

➤ **CONSENT RESOLUTIONS:**

The next items on the agenda are the Consent Resolutions. It consists of six (6) items, items K thru P. Does any Alderman wish to remove any item from the Consent Agenda for Resolutions?

Alderman Vinezeano – Items L and N.

Mayor Gallo – Any others? Seeing none, the Chair declares it in order for one motion to consider the four (4) Resolutions in one motion without debate. Is there such a motion? Alderman O’Brien has made the motion and it has been seconded by Alderman Sanoica.

- K) Resolution No. 21-R-17 – Accept American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Council 31, AFL-CIO Contract**
- M) Resolution No. 21-R-19 – Authorize the Submittal of an Application for MWRD Stormwater Partnership Program Funding for the Northwest Industrial Area Drainage Improvements Preliminary Engineering**
- O) Resolution No. 21-R-21 – Award a Construction Contract related to the Replacement of Existing Water-main on Arbor Drive Phase 3 (Final Phase)**
- P) Resolution No. 21-R-22 – Award a Professional Engineering Contract for Construction Observation and Related Engineering Services for the Proposed Water-Main Replacements at Arbor Drive – Phase 3**

The question is shall the four (4) Resolutions be adopted? Will the Clerk please call the roll?

AYES: O'Brien, Vinezeano Bisesi, D'Astice, Sanoica, McHale, Budmats
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0

With 7 in favor and 0 opposed, the Resolutions are adopted.

Item L was pulled by Alderman Vinezeano.

- L) Resolution No. 21-R-18 – Authorize a Contract for the Purchase of a 2021 Freightliner Dump Truck with Snow Removal Equipment - (Replacement of RM034/T341)**

Mayor Gallo - Is there a motion to adopt this Resolution? Alderman Vinezeano has made the motion and it has been seconded by Alderman O'Brien.

Alderman Vinezeano you pulled this so you have first comments.

Alderman Vinezeano – From my understanding I believe the Committee for our equipment met before tonight's meeting and so I'm hoping to get some insight from their meeting, actually for both of these items that I pulled, and see what their recommendation is for both of these vehicle replacements.

Alderman Budmats – Yes, the Vehicle Replacement Committee met this evening prior to the Council meeting. This was one of the items that we discussed. The truck in question was originally slated to be replaced last year in 2020 and was deferred to this year due to trying to save money because of COVID. The topic came up about the importance of replacing this truck in this year. There are three other trucks that are in the budget to be replaced for Public Works this year and it is my understanding that of the four trucks that are slated to be replaced, this would be the most important one to get replaced as it is the greatest wear. Additionally, even if we agree to pay to replace this vehicle tonight it wouldn't be ready until November/December. It's a long lead time item and if we delay this by even a few months it will probably enter into next year's budget. The thought was that the Committee wants to recommend this with

the understanding that if times are tough and we have to cut other expenses that there are three other trucks that we could look at not approving or cutting later in the budget year.

Alderman Sanoica - Alderman Budmats, would it be your recommendation that the Council approves this Resolution tonight?

Alderman Budmats - Based upon the described conditions of the vehicle and the fact is we've already spent money trying to Band-Aid it together a few years ago just to keep it running I can see that this would be money well spent to make sure that we have the use of the truck. It seems to be one of the most used vehicles in the fleet.

Mayor Gallo - As you mentioned, there are a couple of others that they're willing to forgo for the critical nature of this specific truck. With that, is there any other discussion? Seeing none, the question is shall this Resolution be adopted? Will the Clerk please call the roll?

AYES: Vinezeano, Bisesi, D'Astice, Sanoica, McHale, Budmats, O'Brien
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0

With 7 in favor and 0 opposed. This Resolution is adopted.

Item N was pulled by Alderman Vinezeano.

N) Resolution No. 21-R-20 – Authorize a Contract for the Purchase of two (2) Police Patrol Vehicles

Mayor Gallo - Is there a motion to adopt this Resolution? Alderman D'Astice has made the motion and it has been seconded by Alderman Vinezeano.

Alderman Vinezeano you pulled this so you have first comments.

Alderman Vinezeano – Again, if we could hear from Alderman Budmats on what the Committee's recommendations were for the purchase of these two vehicles and what the plans are for our police vehicles since I don't think we really had an update since last summer.

Alderman Budmats – I explained to the Committee that I have been hearing some pushback from the Aldermen about the expenditures given some of the shortfalls in the budget. The information that I have is also from last summer so the last that I know that the vehicles in question had roughly 88,000 miles on it and we didn't have the current mileage and it was assumed to be 100,000 miles but we weren't given an exact number so we as a Committee said that we would be willing to push this back a meeting and come back with more information to the Council so they can make a better informed decision about the purchase of this vehicle. These vehicles are not as long a lead time items and it could be pushed back for little while and still be able to get accomplish this year if that's what the Council voted to do. It may be that you would want to entertain a motion to table it for some length of time so that we can come back to you with more information.

Alderman Vinezeano – I will make a motion but my question would be, do you have a date for the next meeting for the Vehicle Replacement Committee so I can make a date for a recommendation for a motion?

Alderman Budmats – Presently, the next Committee meeting date is set for June 8, 2021. I do not know if we could still get the vehicles accomplished in a timely fashion for use this year if we wait all the way until the June 8 meeting. At your request whatever you want to delay the decision to but I think if we delay it that long we may get the information sooner and be able to vote on it sooner.

Mayor Gallo - Is there staff that can provide greater accuracy on a date that Alderman Vinezeano can utilize for this?

Rob Horne, Director Public Works - I just got off the phone about an hour ago with Supervisor Dwayne Schadd, he is the Supervisor for Internal Services which includes vehicle services. He believes that the cut off for the 2021 models is the second week in April. We talked about bringing this item back at the next meeting. I think it's important that we do bring it back at the next meeting because if we end up having to go with a 2022 model there could be several thousand dollars that we have to spend more than we have to spend this year for the 2022 model year and any potential changes in the body style would require us to buy new interior police equipment such as cages and equipment that goes into the vehicle after the vehicle is purchased. I think it would be important to bring this item back to the next meeting, we do have the information that Alderman Budmats was referring to. We expect to send that out to him tomorrow morning to make sure that it's the information that he was looking for and we will provide that to City Council at the next Council meeting.

Mayor Gallo - You gather that March 23 would be a sufficient time in which you could provide to the Council information with enough lead time for the Council to consume and digest, correct?

Rob Horne, Director Public Works - My expectation was to send it as part of the packet. The information that Alderman Budmats was looking for was simply how the numbers change as it relates to vehicle mileage and hours. Again, it's a very minor piece of information missing from the memo. If there's other information that the Council would like to see I would need to understand what that information is before establishing a date.

Mayor Gallo – Alderman Vinezeano, is March 23 feasible for you with your motion to postpone this Resolution?

Alderman Vinezeano - Yes. My motion will be to postpone this until our next meeting of March 23 and hope that staff will be able to provide us with more information.

Mayor Gallo – Alderman Bisesi has seconded the motion. Is there any discussion on postponing until March 23 City Council meeting?

Alderman O'Brien - My apologies if I'm missing something here based on the question that was asked. The point of clarification we're looking for is how miles translate into hours of use? Is that allowing enough time to go back to the Vehicle Replacement Committee prior to coming to us because that's what it sounds like from Alderman Budmats, the Committee was looking for more information so I'm concerned if it needs to go to them, even if it's an email review, since they're not meeting until June before gets to us. What I'm looking for is who the additional information was requested by. I'm comfortable as its written now but if Alderman Budmats is saying that the Vehicle Replacement Committee as a whole wanted more information that's my concern. I was just looking to clarify what additional information is going to who and by when.

Mayor Gallo – Alderman Budmats within the Vehicle Replacement Committee wanted that information. Alderman Budmats, if you want to inject if there were any other members of that Committee that wanted it, I understand that it's a very small ad hoc committee but are there any others within the Committee that wanted this information or solely you on the Council?

Alderman Budmats - I was more trying to bring the Committee the feedback that I heard from other Aldermen as much information as possible to verify the need. I came to the Committee and said can I for sure get these numbers which proves the need inasmuch as it wasn't available at tonight's meeting. If we have that information for the next meeting, it didn't seem like the rest of the Committee was as concerned as some of the feedback I received from other Aldermen. I completely understand their concern based on some of the budget reports that I read, it's good to be cautious and it's good to have all the information so that we can make a well informed decision.

Mayor Gallo - So connecting the dots, Alderman Vinezeano of the 4th Ward pulled this to discuss the question of spending on these two patrol cars and if there is a necessity at this time. It was also a request of Alderman McHale but Alderman Vinezeano had pulled it first. Then Alderman Budmats of the 2nd Ward who had the same concerns who is a resident of the 2nd Ward getting this information from the residents there and their concerns brought it back to the Vehicle Replacement Committee to get this information so that way the Council as a whole, Ward 2, 4 and 1 can go ahead and convey to their residents that we are exercising discretion with our spending as it relates to new equipment based on the year we've had and maybe what we're up against in the future potentially. Does that help Alderman O'Brien?

Alderman O'Brien – It does and thank you for that.

Alderman Bisesi - I was looking at the quotes for the vehicles and I was just curious why one of them is \$3500 more than the other when they look to be the same vehicle? Are we buying specific vehicles and taking them as is?

Rob Horne, Director Public Works - We had another resident ask about that issue. I'll just provide that information in the memorandum but ultimately there are two different vehicles, one is purchased as a hybrid vehicle and the other is not. We are looking at how the hybrid patrol vehicles which are the standard vehicle that's being offered through the Northwest Municipal Conference will work within our fleet as patrol vehicles. The Vehicle Replacement Committee made a conscious decision, I believe two years ago, to start implementing hybrid patrol vehicles on a trial basis to see what kind of issues might arise from those so that is why one is hybrid and one is not. I think we did that last year where we purchased one hybrid vehicle and two were not.

Alderman Bisesi - That's a great answer. I'm real happy that we're looking at more green alternatives.

Alderman Sanoica – Director Horne, in addition to all the information that's being requested at the Vehicle Replacement Committee and tonight, I would also request that Council receive a cost comparison to the difference of whether or not we defer this to 2022 and the cost that would be incurred through buying additional equipment as you had mentioned versus hitting this April deadline for 2021. Director Horne, are there any questions regarding that request?

Rob Horne, Director Public Works - No additional concerns on my end. We did talk about that in the Vehicle Replacement Committee meeting, the experts in the room were referring to a 4% to 8% increase just on the cost of the vehicle not including equipment. As we've learned over the last several years, the manufacture seems to change minor things every year which causes you to have to buy all new things and

it makes it impossible to reuse the old equipment in the new vehicle. That's just a reality of what we're dealing with as a result of what the manufacturers are doing with their vehicles. We'll take a look at that, it will be hard for us to make that determination as far as the equipment cost that would be incurred in 2022 but we can certainly determine what the actual vehicle cost would be. One other comment that I want to make, I want to make sure that the entire City Council recalls that we deferred vehicles last year to this year and this year to next and next year to the year after and the year after to the year after, for the entire six year program. Just to be aware that every time we push vehicles out it creates a stockpile of future replacements. In an effort to stay balanced with our expenditures we do try to maintain some sort of consistency with how we do the replacements because we don't want to be in a position where one year we have to replace eight vehicles because they all cannot be deferred. Just want that on everyone's mind when we talk about deferring vehicles.

Mayor Gallo – Thank you for addressing the component. Is there any further discussion? Seeing none, the question is shall this Resolution be postponed to March 23, 2021? Will the Clerk please call the roll?

AYES: Bisesi, D'Astice, Sanoica, McHale, Budmats, O'Brien, Vinezeano
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0

With 7 in favor and 0 opposed. This Resolution is postponed until March 23, 2021.

OTHER BUSINESS & REPORTS:

Mayor's Appointments:

Planning & Zoning Commission – Appointment

- Paul Chubirka

I would like Council's approval for the appointment of *Paul Chubirka* to the *Planning & Zoning Commission*. Is there a motion to approve this appointment? Alderman Sanoica made the motion and it has been seconded by Alderman McHale. Is there any discussion?

Alderman Sanoica – I really appreciate reading his letter of interest. Paul seems to be a very competent addition to the Planning & Zoning Commission and look forward to working with him in the future.

Mayor Gallo – Thank you for sharing that sentiment. Is there any further discussion? Seeing none, will the Clerk please call the roll?

AYES: D'Astice, Sanoica, McHale, Budmats, O'Brien, Vinezeano, Bisesi
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0

With 7 in favor and 0 opposed, *Paul Chubirka* is appointed to the *Planning & Zoning Commission*.

Mayor's Proclamations: None

City Clerk's Report: None

City Staff Reports:

Barry Krumstok, City Manager went over the following:

1) Community Items of Interest

- 1) As mentioned during the January and February City Council meetings, at this time, due to COVID-19 continuing in the area, the St. Patrick's Day Dinner, which was scheduled for March 13th, has been cancelled.
- 2) March 14th – daylight savings time begins. Remember to spring forward one hour and it is also a smart idea to change the batteries in your smoke alarm & carbon monoxide detectors. [It is also a good time to test the devices you own and make sure they are working properly.]
- 3) Just a friendly reminder, yard waste collection starts on Monday, March 29th. In addition, please remember that this also marks the end of early refuse set out, which is allowed by ordinance from November 1st to March 31st. Beginning Monday, March 29th, residents should place refuse and recyclables at the curb after 6:00 pm the night before scheduled pick-up. For more information, please contact Public Works at 847-963-0500 or visit www.cityrm.org/PublicWorks.
- 4) Congratulations to Katrina Czerniak of Hoover Street (created a sea turtle) and Caiden & Lia Hays of Finch Court (created a snowman palace) for winning the City's "Snow Much Fun Sculpting Contest." The City appreciates all the effort and creations that were submitted for this event.
- 5) First Installment Cook County property tax bills are out and property owners have until May 3rd to pay without any late charges. (The first installment was actually due on March 2nd, but thanks to an ordinance passed back in November by the Cook County Board of Commissioners, property owners can pay without any interest charge through May 3rd).
- 6) Public Works has started a Facebook page and a Twitter account. This is a page for the Public Works Department to provide useful information to residents, businesses and friends of the Department, though not to engage. Please like Public Works on Facebook, and follow them on Twitter.
- 7) Community Development is starting a pre-submittal consultation program, where residents can meet with Staff for up to half an hour to discuss their summer projects. This will help residents be prepared with all the right materials for their project submissions. This is a new "annual project" that will run from December 1st to April 1st and is now open at this time.

- 8) Important Dates for the April 6th Election:
 - March 10th – Early voting begins;
 - March 21st – Deadline to register to vote;
 - April 1st – Final day to request a mail ballot; and
 - April 5th – Early voting ends.
- 9) *Please Shop, Dine and Order in Rolling Meadows (it is more important than ever). During these times, it is significant to remember our big boxes, restaurants and small businesses.*
- 10) The following is a reminder for all candidates and supporters about placing signs in the parkway. Rolling Meadows’ new Zoning Code regulates “Political Signs” the same as all other Temporary Yard Signs as follows:
 1. Temporary yard signs are allowed in all zoning districts.
 2. No signs are allowed in rights-of-way, including the grass areas between the curb and the sidewalk.
 3. In residential zoning districts, yard signs shall not exceed eight square feet in area per sign and six feet in height.
 4. In non-residential zoning districts, yard signs shall not exceed 20 square feet in area per sign and eight feet in height.
 5. Two yard signs are allowed per street frontage
 6. Yard signs shall not be closer than five feet (5’) to a property line.
 7. Yard sign displays are limited to a cumulative total of 120 calendar days per year per property. Removing election signs immediately after the election preserves days for other sales, events or notices.
 8. Yard signs shall not block the Clear Vision Triangle at intersection (25’) or driveway entrances to roads (10’).
- 11) The Rolling Meadows Police Department and the Illinois State Police will be participating in the St. Patrick’s Day ‘Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over’ campaign from March 12 – March 18, 2021. The campaign is funded by federal traffic safety funds from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.
- 12) Even though there are vaccines, please mask up. It’s not for you, it’s for everyone around.
- 13) Potentially, next week there may be a pop up vaccine clinic in partnership with Jewel/Osco and Northwest Suburban Illinois Joint Emergency Management System. Please check our website often for further information as it will happen very quickly.

Melissa Gallagher, Finance Director went over the following:

2) FY 2020 December Financials

This financial report shows results of operations as of December 31, 2020 (Unaudited) which represents 100% of the fiscal year completed (some entries are still being recorded for the City’s Audit). The Financial Report is based on data from revenue and expenditures at this point in time.

This report is not intended to be a financial estimate. However, the Fund Balance Summary Sheet details estimated ending fund balance for each fund for FY 2020. The data from this December report indicates that the estimates provided on the Fund Balance Summary Sheet are trending in line with that data. As a reminder, the City's Auditors will present the City's FY 2020 Audit at the June 15, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting.

For the General Fund, as of December 31, 2020, the City's revenues came in at approximately \$34.1 million or 96.4% (or approximately 3.6% below budget) and the City's expenditures came in at approximately \$34.5 million or 98.8% (or approximately 1.2% below budget).

Capital projects remain intact and continue to be done (some were delayed and some moved).

Fund balance policies are within parameters (for those Funds who have established Fund Balance Policy's).

Funds are holding their own even with declines in revenues. Some revenue sectors show sustained increases (e.g., big box and online sales).

The twelve months completed represent 100% of the year. The City's FY 2020 Original Adopted Budget was adopted with a planned use of reserves showing a "deficit" of revenues over expenditures of \$1,360,493. Due to COVID-19 and mitigation efforts, the City Council amended the FY 2020 Budget. The resulting budget amendments revised the FY 2020 Budget and the budget is shown as the FY 2020 Amended Budget (per Audit requirements).

The FY 2020 Amended Budget shows a surplus of \$446,432 for the General Fund for the fiscal year. As of December 31st, the General Fund's year-to-date data shows that the expenditures exceed revenues by approximately \$420,282 (deficit for the fiscal year). The current estimate for FY 2020 (as presented in the FY 2021 Adopted Budget) shows the General Fund's revenues coming in lower than the expenditures by \$399,123. (This is still better than the Original Adopted deficit of \$1,360,493, so less fund balance reserves are being used.) The General Fund continues to be in parameters at this point in time. For the General Fund, the estimate for the year-end is approximately \$10.3 million in fund balance reserves (or approximately three months of reserves). Remember that these results are unaudited and the City's FY 2020 Audit will be presented at the June 15th Committee of the Whole Meeting.

It is important to note that the months that follow the close of the year (January through March) are the months the City receives revenues from its major sources (State Sales Tax, Home Rules Sales Tax, Local Use Tax, Income Tax and many others). Due to COVID-19, there will still be uncertainty. However, there have areas of increases for some revenues.

Recall that legal marijuana sales taxes began in July 2020. Due to an Illinois Department of Revenue Rule – municipalities may not identify cannabis taxes as a detailed line item. The revenues are considered confidential similar to Sales Taxes. The City has updated the information on its financials to comply with this regulation and merged cannabis taxes with Sales Taxes. At this time, current estimates are trending with original estimates.

Local Use Tax (internet sales) exceeded the budgeted amount. Some offsets from these types of revenues will help with revenues such as Food & Beverage Taxes which are showing reductions a COVID-19 result).

With the City in receipt of the allotment of the property taxes, a corresponding expense is recorded for pension benefits of about 99% for the police and fire pension funds in the Police and Fire Departments' budgets. [As a reminder, the Fire Chief retired in March 2020.] All expenditures are being reviewed across all Funds and Departments. City Departments have been directed to hold the line on expenditures and reprioritize items (where possible). As a reminder, the majority of payroll expenditures are governed by one of the four labor agreements.

FY 2020 Revenue Budget Amendments: At the January 14, 2020 City Council Meeting, the City Council amended the FY 2020 Budget to accept a \$25,000 grant from Cook County for Census 2020 activities with a focus on the hard-to-count communities with Resolution No. 20-R-01.

The City estimated a potential revenue loss of \$2.9 million to the General Fund at the end of FY 2020 (as discussed at the May 19th COW Meeting). To mitigate these losses, the City took action to release funds to the General Fund Balance overall fund balance (called Unassigned Fund Balance). The following Resolutions bring additional funds into the General Fund Balance:

- Resolution No. 20-R-56, Approved May 26, 2020, the City released the Committed Fund Balance of \$1.4 million in the General Fund to the Unassigned Balance in the General Fund.
- Resolution No. 20-R-57, Approved May 26, 2020, the City transferred \$500,000 from the Liability Insurance Fund to the General Fund.
- Resolution No. 20-R-58, Approved May 26, 2020, the City transferred \$1.0 million from the Health Insurance Fund to the General Fund.

Another budget amendment related to COVID-19 is the CARES Act Funding grant award acceptance. Cook County awarded the City \$316,925 in federal Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) from the CARES Act. The City Council approved this funding and the Intergovernmental Grant Agreement at the August 28, 2020 City Council Meeting with Resolution No. 20-R-81. (A total of \$900,000 was submitted to Cook County). Note: the additional \$12,000 of CARES Act Funding was received and recorded late in FY 2020.

FY 2020 Expenditure Budget Amendments: There are three expenditure-related budget amendments: (1) Resolution 20-R-60 provided \$5,000 for Temporary Family Assistance due to COVID-19; (2) Resolution 20-R-75 provided \$5,000 for a Business Assistance Program due to COVID-19; and (3) Resolution 20-R-91 provided a \$25,000 grant to the Salvation Army for Rolling Meadows residents due to COVID-19.

NOTE: As of December, the Salvation Army provided emergency assistance due to COVID-19 for five families totaling more than \$8,000. For the Business Assistance Program for December, there was one application received and approved.

COVID-19 Reimbursement Programs: The City is maintaining an accurate tracking of costs for the duration of the response to prepare for reimbursement. As of December 30th, the City has spent approximately \$165,000 on COVID-19 directly related expenditures (Payroll, PPE, sanitizing, protective barriers and other items). Potentially, the City may see a reimbursement back up to 75% of these total expenses. The first submittal to FEMA was completed. The amount for FEMA will not be included in the City's financials until FEMA provides the amount of the award.

Staff completed the CARES Act filing and a check was mailed from Cook County in the amount of \$316,925 in October. Subsequently, the City was notified that Cook County is seeking to award an additional \$12,000 from the CARES Act to the City. This amount was received by the City. Again, a total of \$900,000 was submitted to Cook County.

FY 2020 Fund Balance Estimates: All of the City's funds are trending, at this point in time, with the initial estimates set forth in the FY 2021 Adopted Budget. The Fund Balance estimate shows an ending fund balance of approximately \$10.3 million or 30.5% of expenditures (within range of the policy). It is important to note that the City's Auditors will be working with the City soon for the FY 2020 Audit (some work is starting now). Due to COVID-19, revenues coming in through March 2021 will be accrued (recorded to FY 2020). The City's FY 2020 Audit will be presented at the June 15, 2021 Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting.

Utilities Fund: Total year-to-date revenues for the Utilities Fund are \$11.3 million which is approximately 8.0% below the target for the budget for the year-to-date. Residents are still paying their bills and some have payment plans. Nearly 30% of the City's customers are on Automatic Bill Pay. As a reminder, the COVID-19 waivers of late penalties started late March 2020 and water shut-offs have not taken place. The lower revenues are also attributed to less office space occupied due to larger water users (as an example – A.J. Gallagher Insurance has the majority of their workforce working remotely.) The City continues to monitor the City's water usage and does show it lower with businesses using less water. [This is also a trend for electric use, too.] Expenditures are trending at about 20% below budget and total \$13.0 million year-to-date. There are some projects that have been deferred. Some projects are completed towards the end of summer. Current and future capital expenditures are being reviewed. The bond project funds will be spent down for the underground utilities projects.

Refuse Fund: Refuse Fund revenues and expenditures are fairly stable through the year. Revenues are \$2.3 million which is 1.8% below budget (some residents are on payment plans). Expenditures are trending lower with \$2.2 million spent to date which is approximately 4% below budget. The Fund's balance is on the lower end for its fund balance policy. While the Fund is within parameters of the policy, the Fund's reserves will need to be monitored seeing that it is currently near the bottom of the fund balance policy.

Economic Data: From the Illinois Department of Employment Security: The current unemployment rate for the Rolling Meadows' area is 8.2% https://www2.illinois.gov/ides/LMI/Pages/Year_to_Date.aspx.

Cash & Investments (Unaudited): The City's estimated, unaudited cash position at December 30, 2020 shows \$26.3 million across all funds. (Largest share of the City's cash position is in the General Fund and the Utilities Fund.) The City closely monitors the City's investments and cash position. The General Fund shows \$8.3 million which is approximately 33% of the total cash on hand is the primary source to pay salaries and City expenses. Continued monitoring of cash reserves will be essential in the upcoming months and in FY 2021. There were year-end debt service payments paid from the Debt Service Fund, Utilities Fund and the Fire Stations Fund.

3) Traffic Review Committee - February

There is no report because there was no meeting in February.

Barry Krumstok, City Manager went over the following:

4) March 16, 2021 Committee of the Whole Draft Agenda

- 1) *Procedures for Filling Vacant Committee & Commission Positions (Alderman D’Astice)*
- 2) *Brush Collection Survey Results and Discussion*
- 3) *Emergency Management – Coach Light December 2020 Fire Summary, Steps, Ongoing Items (Aldermen)*
- 4) *Leaf Program (topic requested by Alderman D’Astice at 11/10/20 CC)*

Barry Krumstok, City Manager went over the following:

5) March 23, 2021 City Council Meeting Draft Agenda

MOTION TO APPROVE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF MARCH 9, 2021 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MOTION TO DEVIATE:

MAYOR’S REPORT:

WARD REPORTS:

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR 20 MINUTES:

PENDING:

- A) *Ordinance No. 21-00 – Approve an Ordinance Confirming and Extending the State of Emergency within the City of Rolling Meadows Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic (2nd Reading)*
- B) *Ordinance No. 21-00 – Authorize Reserving the City’s 2021 Home Rule Private Activity Bond Volume Cap (2nd Reading)*
- C) *Ordinance No. 21-00 – Amend Division 32, Entitled “Video Gaming” of Article III, Entitled “Other Businesses” of Chapter 22, Entitled “Businesses” and Appendix B of the City Code in order to Clarify the Licenses and License Fees Required for Video Gaming (2nd Reading)*
- D) *Ordinance No. 21-00 – Amend City Pay Plan – Create Part-Time Fire Inspector (2nd Reading) (postponed at 2/9/21 & 2/23/21 City Council Meetings)*
- E) *Ordinance No. 21-00 – Amend Chapter 2, Article III of the Code of Ordinances to Authorize the City Manager to Execute Agreements Pertaining to Administrative Zoning Code Matters (2nd Reading) (postponed at 2/23/21 City Council Meeting)*
- F) *Resolution No. 21-R-10 – Authorize the Execution of a Property Use Agreement with Rolling Meadows Community Church (Tabled at 2/9/21 City Council Meeting)*

CONSENT ORDINANCES:

- G) Ordinance No. 21-00 – Approve an Ordinance Confirming and Extending the State of Emergency within the City of Rolling Meadows Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic (1st Reading)*
- H) Ordinance No. 21-00 – Approve Business Licenses and Development Fee Revision (1st Reading)*

NEW BUSINESS:

- I) MOTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS ON WARRANT 3/23/2021*

CONSENT RESOLUTIONS:

- J) Resolution No. 21-R-00 – Adopt the 2021 Zoning Map*
- K) Resolution No. 21-R-00 – Approve Phase II CDBG Arbor Drive Sub-Recipient Agreement*
- L) Resolution No. 21-R-00 – Award Contract for Curb and Sidewalk Program*
- M) Resolution No. 21-R-00 – Approve Green Infrastructure Green Opportunity (GIGO) Grant*

OTHER BUSINESS & REPORTS:

- Mayor's Appointments: Environmental Committee*
- Mayor's Proclamations:*
- City Clerk's Report:*
- City Staff Reports:*
 - 1) Community Items of Interest*
 - 2) FY 2021 January Financials*
 - 3) February 2021 New Businesses*
 - 4) April 13, 2021 City Council Draft Agenda*

MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

CLOSED SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT:

MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

Mayor Gallo – This now brings us to Matters Not On The Agenda and before we get into address any matters not on the agenda, I do have a matter that’s not on the agenda and at this time, I’m going to ask that a member of the Council provide a motion and second to amend the draft March 16, 2021 Committee of the Whole Agenda to remove an item. The item is Procedures for Filling Vacant Committee & Commission Positions. After the first and second motion during discussion I’ll explain to the Council the position for the decision and reasoning behind that. Is there a motion? Alderman Budmats has made the motion and it has been seconded by Alderman McHale to remove the item Procedures for Filling Vacant Committee & Commission Positions. A quick background for the Council, I did receive a copy of the background with discussion points on this subject and it contains numerous components that directly

restrict the Mayor's authority within our municipal code and state statute. As a result of the majority of discussion points in the background leaning that way, I need time to identify and remove the items which are immutable and therefore not relevant to be addressed during the discussion and in addition there are other components including that ask the Mayor to take additional or subsequent actions within the proposed process. In an effort to not expose the City to potential or unnecessary liability issues, these actions also need to be reviewed thoroughly before hand as well. The reason being is because they do have the potential to expose the City in a negative fashion and I want to make sure that this doesn't happen as we move this subject forward. Let me be clear that I am absolutely in favor of discussing procedures for filling vacant committee's and commissions and making opportunities or making it easier or efficient for residents to volunteer their time but I am not in favor of trying to discuss something that restricts Mayor's authorities or that could potentially damage the City as a response of a Mayor's subsequent follow-up response request or action item. With that, I need time and I would like to pull this off next week's Committee of the Whole to a future one after I've done my due diligence. With that discussion is there any other discussion on this subject?

Alderman D'Astice - Since I put this together I had reviewed it with our City Attorney and the City Attorney told me she found nothing that was wrong with the comments that I had put together. I don't know if the City Attorney had said something different you but she indicated to me when I reviewed it with her that it was fine.

Mayor Gallo - I did have a subsequent conversation with her on these and I did express to her that I was a bit concerned that nobody had informed you that a good deal of these were directly restricting the Mayor's authority based on our current municipal code and state statute and that it was unfortunate for you to be misled thinking that these are approachable subject points when they're not. Then there was miscommunication where the attorney thought that maybe Manager Krumstok was addressing those with you or that Manager Krumstok thought Attorney Wolf was addressing them with you so in any event there are components in here that directly restrict the Mayor's authority and they're immutable so we're not going to address them. I have to go through...

Alderman D'Astice – I would like to hear from Attorney Wolf please.

Melissa Wolf, City Attorney - Basically I did have a conversation with Alderman D'Astice when he first proposed these procedures regarding filling vacancies for the committees and commissions. I did express some concerns regarding certain provisions that were restrictive on the Mayor's authority to make appointments. Alderman D'Astice indicated he would make those changes to the document, whether those changes have been made I am not aware of. Manager Krumstok was not supposed to relay any further information in this regard. I had the one communication with Alderman D'Astice and then as you know Mayor a subsequent communication with you. My legal position is anything that infringes upon the Mayor's authority to make these appointments which he is authorized to do so by state statute is not legally recommended. If there are procedures that are put into place that create a mechanism to make those appointments easier or there were certain things that required notice to those individuals that may apply for such appointments those are decisions that can be made by the Council if those procedures want to be put in place. Anything that's restrictive on the Mayor's authority to make the appointments that he is authorized to do so by state statute and the City Code is not legally recommended and I stand by that position.

Alderman D'Astice - That's fine. Can you tell me what was restrictive?

Mayor Gallo - Now is not the time to get into each point. You guys can follow up with that off-line.

Alderman D’Astice - I didn’t ask for each point I just asked for what was restrictive because I sent Attorney Wolf exactly the changes she had requested.

Mayor Gallo – Again, this is not the time to get into specifics.

Melissa Wolf, City Attorney - Anything that is restrictive on the Mayor’s ability to make that appointment I would not recommend legally. I can’t identify those specific points at this (*unintelligible*).

Alderman D’Astice - When can we have a conversation, Attorney Wolf? So you can share with me what was wrong.

Melissa Wolf, City Attorney - We can have conversation anytime at your convenience after the meeting.

Alderman D’Astice - Okay.

Mayor Gallo - Any further discussion on this?

Alderman Budmats - I move to call the motion.

Mayor Gallo - With that said, the question is to remove the subject Procedures for Filling Vacant Committee & Commission Positions from the March 16, 2021 Committee of the Whole Draft Agenda. Will the Clerk please call the roll?

AYES: Sanoica, McHale, Budmats, Vinezeano, Bisesi
NAYS: O’Brien*, D’Astice
ABSENT: 0

**Note: The following conversation took place during Alderman O’Brien’s vote:*

Alderman O’Brien - Can we postpone it to have some date on it? I’m okay for adjusting it but I would like to put a date on it like we’ve done the other items we’ve postponed tonight. Apologies if this is out of order and should have been asked beforehand.

Mayor Gallo - My goal would be to get to it as soon as possible but if you want a date then I’m going to say the May Committee of the Whole, whatever the date in May is going to be.

Alderman O’Brien – If Alderman D’Astice and Attorney Wolf are speaking tonight after the meeting, I don’t know why it would have to be May.

Mayor Gallo – The reason, Alderman O’Brien, that it has to be in May is because I am the one that is going through this and like I said before, I’m absolutely in favor of going through this discussion and bringing even efficiency to volunteers giving their time and a procedure that enables that but I am not interested in discussing any of this process because it serves somebody’s emotional or personal position on the matter from a legacy. That’s not what I’m doing so I’m taking my time to review this and when it’s reviewed and we don’t have to address immutable items that can’t be changed based on state statute or municipal code then we will revisit it. For now, I’m just pulling it off of next week’s agenda. You can vote yes or no, Alderman O’Brien.

Alderman O’Brien – I would say no since we don’t have a confirmed date.

With 5 in favor and 2 opposed. This item for Procedures for Filling Vacant Committee & Commission Positions will be removed from the draft Committee of the Whole Agenda and not available for discussion on March 16, 2021.

Alderman Budmats – Last time under Matters Not on the Agenda I did bring up the subject of changing the date for the publication of the packet for the agenda and for information. My understanding is that it's still being reviewed but I would like to see that on an upcoming Committee of the Whole. I'm willing to wait until May if I have to or April whatever makes sense based on how it fits into everybody's schedule. I really don't want to see it take the back burner for another year or two. If we could get some movement on this that would be great.

Mayor Gallo – Do you have specific recommendation beyond your position on the matter here?

Alderman Budmats – Just that it's done in some kind of a timely fashion. If we can't get it done in April, if we could move it to May if that's enough time for staff to review it that would be great so we can have a discussion and at least make a decision as to what we're going to do.

Alderman Vinezeano - I do have one Ward 4 report. I am holding a Meet & Greet for Ward 4 residents on Monday, March 15 from 3 PM to 8 PM at our beloved Rep's for any of the residents that would like to come out and discuss community concerns or any type of questions you may have.

I going to guess that my next announcement might bring up some questions. Alderman McHale and I along with the Park District and the Library have been doing some great teamwork these last couple days and we found a great need in our community with our seniors and getting them registered for their COVID-19 vaccine. As many of you may know, that registering for this vaccine has become a real challenge even for us tech savvy people and for our seniors it's a real challenge. We've partnered with the Park District and the Library and we are starting a new event, it's going to be called *The Vaccine Registration Tech Support Event*. It's going to be ran by volunteers at the Library and it will be by appointment only. The seniors are going to call a hotline number to make their appointment and they will come to the Library and we will have volunteers assist them in signing up with the various online platforms to get registered to get an appointment. This does not guarantee any appointment for a vaccine, it just gets them in line and registered which is the biggest challenge our seniors are experiencing. We are excited that this is going to be starting and we're actually going to roll this out next Tuesday, March 16. There will be shorter hours next week March 16 and March 18 from 11 AM to 1:30 PM and we will have that hotline number announced tomorrow when we know it's working properly as it has some glitches today. We will get that out via the Park District, the Library and through City Hall. We would also say that if there's any of our residents out there that are tech savvy and would love to volunteer with our seniors we would gladly accept your help and you can call that hotline as well and we will gladly take your assistance along with any of our Council members or any staff within our City, we will gladly take any help we can get. If you have any questions in the meantime, you can certainly email myself or Alderman McHale with any questions.

Mayor Gallo - Thank you Alderman Vinezeano and Alderman McHale. As I said before, I think that's phenomenal. I'll be a happy to offer my assistance with scheduling or volunteering, if needed. Not to be reductive to the efforts going on in the county level and things but it's always ironic with this first group 1B is the demographic that struggles with using online platforms or technological literacy struggles so I appreciate what you're doing to try and take a different approach to help these folks get the services they need. Thank you very much.

Alderman Bisesi - I would like to commend Alderman McHale and Alderman Vinezeano for setting up that program. It's a much-needed thing and I kind of wish I would have thought of it. The one thing I do have a question on, is it going to be limited to only 1A and 1B or whatever phases we're in at the time of the event?

Alderman McHale - I think right now we're going to be focusing on our senior group and anybody who's having difficulty registering online is more than welcome to leave a message for us and will be happy to get back and assist. There may be some people who still have challenges or don't have the proper equipment at home so it won't be completely limited to those in those groups.

Alderman Bisesi - I just wanted to make it clear so people didn't think they were prohibited from getting the assistance.

Alderman O'Brien - Just a real brief update regarding the Economic Development Committee. We did meet last week and happy to share as we close out last year that one of the main items for the Committee this year is goals for 2021. We had very, very basic discussion regarding what previous the EDC started a couple years ago is an incentive program to get businesses back in. We just took a snapshot of the Kirchoff Road stretch here and I think Mike Reppe counted 13 storefront vacancies. We are in very early discussions about some type of incentive that in the past had done for restaurants, we're not looking to limit it to restaurants it might be any small business type thing. We're going to work with staff over the coming months about some type of incentive program to fill some of the vacancies. Working with landlords because we know a lot of it goes back to landlords and what the cost of rent is as well. We have determined that it is a big goal for the Committee during 2021. As updates continue we'll certainly bring them back. That's how we laid out the plan for 2021, to help fill the vacancies and not lose more given the COVID times.

Alderman D'Astice - Based on residents requests, I would like to add a discussion item onto the March 16 draft COW meeting, to discuss that the City Council return to in session meetings beginning March 23 provided COVID restrictions continue to be relaxed and the situation continues to improve.

Mayor Gallo - So you're looking for a second to your motion to bring that forward?

Alderman D'Astice – Sure.

Mayor Gallo - Alderman O'Brien seconded the motion. There is now time for discussion. Regardless of what the outcome is, as the Chairman of these meetings and I dictate when we go back in to this environment and my goal is to see more vaccinations in the arms of residents because genuinely nothing has changed. We are showing a decrease in infection rate but that doesn't mean anything if we can't get the vaccine distributed and increase the population that has that in order to make the next appropriate steps forward. It goes back to the conversation that I don't care what other communities are doing, what schools are doing, I'm concerned about the well-being and best interests of this City and for the individuals who participate in physical proximity during these meetings under my control and that's where it will stay regardless as the Chairman who calls that. Is there any other discussion?

Alderman D'Astice - I would still like to have a discussion since residents have brought it up to me and other members of the Council.

Mayor Gallo - I do want you to bring these residents information, they don't have to be made public, but I would like to know the names of these residents. If it's a genuine interest they won't be afraid to...

Alderman D'Astice – Dale Engelking came up last week and said it.

Mayor Gallo – Of course, I know that so thank you. Is there any other discussion?

Alderman Budmats - Right now City Hall is open for residents who want to come and listen to the meeting and comment at City Hall they're welcome to do so, is that correct?

Mayor Gallo - Yes.

Alderman Budmats - I don't see a point in discussing it if the options are already available for those who want to choose it.

Alderman O'Brien – It looks like Alderman D'Astice is at City Hall this evening. We've talked several month ago and I'm just wondering from a technology perspective have you gotten any more information on that Mr. Mayor? I know that was part of your apprehension if we were to do a hybrid version, have you heard of any other impacts from that when you mentioned it?

Mayor Gallo - Alderman O'Brien, I told you from the start that hybrid is not an option in my mind as you heard the echo when Alderman D'Astice and his race to mute after he speaks. That's not what I'm interested in doing. We've been doing this since March 13, 2020 and that was the first time it was a hybrid with the state of emergency call, it's not conducive. Residents can see our face on TV here and if they want to go to City Hall to participate in the meetings they are more than welcome to sit in the Council Chamber and participate. There are monitors on where they can see us and so it has nothing to do with technology it has to do with my concern and my decision to keep us as volunteers in physical distance as appropriate until enough vaccine is out in the community.

Alderman O'Brien - Thank you, I just know that we had that as open question from before that there might be some technology challenges.

Mayor Gallo – Yes, you're right, there are technology challenges with hybrid and I won't do that.

Alderman Sanoica - Given that the Council has unanimously approved week after week our state of emergency as a City I think it would be inappropriate for us to meet in person so I will be voting against this item for further discussion.

Mayor Gallo - Again, let's be clear this is not ideal, this isn't my ideal. I don't want to have to host City Council meetings from my office and I don't necessarily want to welcome the world into my backdrop but I think it's the most appropriate for the times that we have. I want to be back there. I want to be in physical proximity with everyone else but in my opinion and as Chairman of these meetings and conducting these meetings I don't feel it's appropriate yet. That's where I stand with this. If there isn't any further discussion on adding this subject to the March 16, 2021 Committee of the Whole agenda, will the Clerk please call the roll?

AYES: O'Brien, D'Astice
NAYS: Budmats, Vinezeano, Bisesi, Sanoica, McHale
ABSENT: 0

With 2 in favor and 5 opposed. That item will not be on the March 6, 2021 Committee of the Whole agenda.

CLOSED SESSION:

- 1) Personnel – 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act
- 2) Litigation – 5ILCS 120/2 (c) (11) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act

I would like to entertain a motion to go into closed session under section 2(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act regarding Personnel and under section 2(c)(11) of the Open Meetings Act based upon the finding that Litigation against the City on a certain matter is probable or imminent. Is there such a motion? Alderman Sanoica has made the motion and it has been seconded by Alderman McHale. Is there any discussion? Seeing none, will the Clerk please call the roll?

AYES: O'Brien, Vinezeano, Bisesi, D'Astice, Sanoica, McHale, Budmats
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0

With 7 in favor, 0 opposed. We will now enter into Closed Session. The audience and press are advised that we do not anticipate taking any action upon returning to open session.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, by unanimous consent the City Council meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Judy Brose, Deputy City Clerk

March 9, 2021 City Council Minutes Approved by Council on April 13, 2021.

Judy Brose

Judy Brose, Deputy City Clerk