

**CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
August 25, 2020**

Mayor Gallo called the Council meeting via Zoom Teleconferencing to order at 7:30 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL:

Present: Cannon, 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 Director Public Works JoEllen Charlton, Business Advocate Martha Corner, 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, 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 *July 21, 2020 Committee of the Whole Meeting*. Is there a motion to approve these minutes? Alderman Cannon 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: Cannon, Budmats, O'Brien, Vinezeano, Bisesi, D'Astice, Sanoica

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 0

With 7 in favor and 0 opposed, these minutes are approved.

The next set of minutes are from the *July 28, 2020 City Council Meeting*. Is there a motion to approve the minutes? Alderman Bisesi made the motion and it has been seconded by Alderman Cannon. Are there any corrections, additions, or deletions to the minutes? Seeing none, will the Clerk please call the roll?

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

With 7 in favor and 0 opposed, these minutes are approved.

The next set of minutes are from the *August 11, 2020 City Council Meeting*. Is there a motion to approve the minutes? Alderman O'Brien made the motion and it has been seconded by Alderman Cannon. 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, Cannon, Budmats
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0

With 7 in favor and 0 opposed, these minutes are approved.

MOTION TO DEVIATE: None

MAYOR'S REPORT:

I just wanted to mention that this past Saturday was the City Market and it appeared that we had many more vendors than prior City Market's and I was pleased to see that. I like to see the flow that we've been augmenting too in these times. The other item I have is a nonpartisan item, the League of Women Voter's has reached out to the local Mayor's and the local Chambers of Commerce and they're asking to promote the upcoming election. It's a nonpartisan plea encouraging residents to participate in their civic and democratic duty to vote and their slogan is Your Voice, Your Vote and Your Choice Matters.

WARD REPORTS:

Alderman O'Brien – I do want to extend some thanks from some of the residents in Ward 3 for a great collaboration with the Park District. There was actually a meeting that I just ran from tonight, they had a community resident feedback meeting for the renovated Cardinal Drive Park that's occurring in the spring of 2021. There were a couple of residents there but it would have been great to see more but it was a great presentation from the Park District.

Alderman Cannon – I just wanted to let the Council know that last Thursday three of us, Alderman D'Astice, Alderman O'Brien and myself represented the City at the grand opening of Meadows Square. M/I Homes had a nice open house and they also announced that 23 units have been sold already so they're making great progress and it should be a win-win for the community.

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 on.

➤ **PENDING:**

A) Ordinance No. 20-36 – Amend Appendix B, Entitled “Schedule of Rates, Fees, Fines and Penalties,” of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Rolling Meadows Regarding Building and Construction Fees (2nd Reading)

Is there a motion to adopt this Ordinance? Alderman Budmats has made the motion and it has been seconded by Alderman Sanoica. Is there any discussion?

Alderman Budmats – I appreciate the work that Community Development put into the chart that they provided us which compares the rates for various permits from different municipalities both close by and of similar size. It was really appreciated and it gives me the freedom to vote for this with ease.

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

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

➤ **CONSENT ORDINANCES:**

The next item on the agenda are the Consent Ordinances. It consists of two (2) items, items B and C. I am going to pull item B as staff is requesting a waiver of 1st reading and there is only one item left so I will read each of these individually.

As I mentioned Staff is requesting a waiver of 1st reading for item E so it can be approved immediately. Is there an Alderman willing to make a motion to waive the 1st reading for this Ordinance? Alderman Sanoica has made the motion and it has been seconded by Alderman Bisesi.

B) Ordinance No. 20-37 – Approve an Ordinance Confirming and Extending the State of Emergency within the City of Rolling Meadows Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic (1st Reading)

Is there any discussion on the motion to waive 1st reading? Seeing none, the question is shall the Ordinance be moved forward for final approval, will the Clerk please call the roll?

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

With 7 in favor and 0 opposed, this Ordinance does move forward for final approval.

Ordinance No. 20-37 is now back for final approval. Is there a motion to adopt this Ordinance? Alderman O’Brien has made the motion and it has been seconded by Alderman Sanoica. Is there any discussion? Seeing none, the question is shall this Ordinance be adopted, will the Clerk please call the roll?

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

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

C) Ordinance No. 20-00 – Approve an Ordinance Confirming and Extending the State of Emergency within the City of Rolling Meadows Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic (1st Reading)

Is there a motion to consider this Ordinance for 1st Reading? Alderman Sanoica has made the motion and it has been seconded by Alderman O’Brien. Is there any discussion? Seeing none, will the Clerk please call the roll?

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

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

➤ **NEW BUSINESS:**

D) MOTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS ON WARRANT 8/25/2020

The next item of business is a motion to approve the Warrant from August 25, 2020 as presented by the Finance Department. Is there a motion to approve the Warrant? Alderman Sanoica made the motion and it has been seconded by Alderman Cannon. Is there any discussion?

Alderman Cannon – I had a resident call me yesterday because he looked at the agenda packet and saw the bills and asked why we’re paying Mad Bomber \$8000 even though we didn’t do any fireworks this year and I didn’t know the answer to that question.

Barry Krumstok, City Manager – Originally Mad Bomber was supposed to do the fireworks for July 4th but since that was cancelled we rescheduled the fireworks for National Night Out and then that was cancelled. We had a discussion with Mad Bomber and they wanted payment however what we pay now will be for fireworks in 2021. They have been our lowest responsible bidder for over 25 years and we feel very comfortable with them. It's a good thing that we're paying now because we're working on the 2021 budget and it does have some concerns. This is an advanced payment continuing with the relationship we have with Mad Bomber.

Mayor Gallo – Is there any further discussion? Seeing none, will the Clerk please call the roll?

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

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

➤ **RESOLUTIONS:**

The next items on the agenda are the Consent Resolutions. It consists of five (5) items, items E through I. Does any Alderman wish to remove any item from the Consent Agenda for Resolutions? Seeing none, the Chair declares it in order for one motion to consider the five (5) Resolutions in one motion without debate. Is there such a motion? Alderman Sanoica has made the motion and it has been seconded by Alderman O'Brien.

- E) Resolution No. 20-R-81 – Approve Intergovernmental and Subrecipient Agreement for Coronavirus Relief Funds (CARES Act)**
- F) Resolution No. 20-R-82 – Award Contract for Fire Hydrant Painting**
- G) Resolution No. 20-R-83 – Award a Professional Design Engineering Services Contract related to the Proposed Water-main Improvements on Arbor Drive (Phase III)**
- H) Resolution No. 20-R-84 – Authorize Signature on a Plat of Easement 3604 Sigwalt for Drainage Related to the 2809 Owl Improvements**
- I) Resolution No. 20-R-85 – Award Contract for Phase II of the Public Works Parking Lot Improvement Project**

The question is shall the five (5) Resolutions be adopted? Will the Clerk please call the roll?

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

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

OTHER BUSINESS & REPORTS:

Mayor's Appointments: None

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) Thank you to everyone who donated blood at the Thursday, June 25th City Blood Drive here at City Hall. Because there is such a need, another City Blood Drive has been scheduled for Thursday, August 27th from 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm in City Hall (Council Chambers). Due to the need for social distancing, appointments are really needed for this event and may be scheduled by contacting Vitalant at 877-258-4825. Wearing of a face covering (mask) is required. Walk-ins will only be accommodated if no scheduled appointments are present in the Council Chambers. *Vitalant will also be conducting COVID-19 antibody testing for all those individuals who complete the donation process during this blood drive.*
- 2) Thank you to everyone who attended the City Market held on Saturday, August 22nd. The next one is scheduled for Saturday, September 26th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at Community Church (2720 Kirchoff Road). The Rolling Meadows Marching Band, for a period of time, will hopefully be joining the Market for this event. *(Face coverings, one way travel and social distancing will all be part of this event).* [There will be a tent for the Mayor & City Council at this event].
- 3) City Hall and Public Works will be closed on Monday, September 7th in observance of Labor Day. There will be no refuse collection on Monday. Refuse collection will be delayed one day for the entire week. We wish all of you a safe and happy Labor Day Weekend.
- 4) If you have not done so, please take a few minutes out of your day to respond to the U.S. Census Survey. Rolling Meadows is doing a great job at responding at this time. Rolling Meadows response rate is 78.6% and is outpacing the overall state response at 69.0% and Cook County rate of 64.5% (as of August 19th). Everyone "wins" when you respond to the 2020

Census because when everyone is counted, there are more opportunities for shaping our community's future. As a reminder, you may respond to the U.S. Census survey online at www.2020census.gov or by phone at 844-330-2020 or using your printed U.S. Survey to respond by mail. Please respond today because the field data collection will end on September 30th!

- 5) Second Installment Cook County property tax bills are out and property owners have until October 1st to pay without any late charges. (The second installment was actually due on August 3rd, but thanks to an ordinance passed back in May by the Cook County Board of Commissioners, property owners can pay without any interest charge through October 1st).
- 6) The Rolling Meadows Police Department is participating in a "Labor Day Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign that will run until the early morning hours of September 8th. This partnership with the State of Illinois Police is made possible by federal highway safety funds administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation. Motorist in Rolling Meadows can expect to see stepped-up impaired driving patrols and seat-belt enforcement, particularly at night.
- 7) A mailing has been distributed throughout the community that requires all water customers (residents & businesses) to participate in the City's Cross Connection Control Survey. This online survey is required by the IEPA every two years for all public water supplies. The survey helps to identify potential cross connections that may exist within the City's water system. The online survey portal can be found at www.backflow.com/rollingmeadows
- 8) The City does have some "Census 2020" masks in supply. If you would like a mask, while supplies last, please stop by City hall.
- 9) US Census 2020 takers are walking throughout the community. They will have US government ID's and Census 2020 bags. They only stop at locations that have not completed a census or information needs to be confirmed.
- 10) Another friendly reminder for residents and businesses, if you are having a hard time paying your utility bill or food & beverage payments, please contact Finance at (847) 394-8500 or by email at finance@cityrm.org and they may be able to place you on a payment plan.
- 11) Have you seen the August electronic "News & Views" or "e-News & Views?" If not, visit, www.cityrm.org and click on the News & Views tab. This is the sister publication to the printed newsletter.
- 12) 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.
- 13) On Thursday, September 24th, beginning at 7:30 pm in the City Hall Council Chambers, the Planning & Zoning Commission will be conducting a public hearing on recommended revisions to the Rolling Meadows' Zoning Code. Copies of the revised draft code will be available online at www.cityrm.org or at the Community Development Division at City Hall during normal business hours (8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday – Friday). Resident or businesses

who have questions about the proposed Zoning Code updates are welcome to contact Community Development Division Planning Assistant Elizabeth Payne at 847-870-9033 or paynee@cityrm.org. Community Development staff is also finalizing plans to complete the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance rewrite. As Council may recall this is one of the major recommendations that came out of the 2019 Comprehensive Plan update, especially how the Zone Code was. The Planning and Zoning Commission had a sneak peek at this new draft code at their last meeting and during the workshop session held with the City's consultant from Teska and Associates. The public hearing for this Comprehensive Text Amendment is scheduled again for Thursday, September 24th in the Council Chambers beginning at 7:30 pm. One of the major changes that is being considered is the elimination of the existing Transitional or "T" zoning district and the reclassification of the properties to a Commercial "C" zoning district. As this technically constitutes a rezoning of several properties within the community, individual notice letters are going out to each owner impacted by property and the proposed action. A copy of the actual letter will be provided in the Friday report that is sent out to the City Council and press. At this time, staff is requesting that anyone who receives the letter and has questions direct them to Elizabeth Payne at 847-870-9033 or paynee@cityrm.org.

14) Future topics at September Committee meetings:

Economic Development: (*Tuesday, September 3rd at 6:00 pm*): Tentative items scheduled for this meeting consist of: 1) Nomination & Election of a Chairman, 2) Business List feedback and distribution of new lists for contact, 3) Meet Chicago Northwest Presentation & New Representative Discussion, 4) Business Advocate Update, 5) "City Savers" Discussion; 6) City Events for 2020, 7) Continue Goal 2020 & 2021 Discussions, 8) Other items of interest, and 9) a Chamber of Commerce update.

Planning and Zoning Commission: (*Tuesday, September 3rd at 7:30 pm*): tentatively there's one item for hearing scheduled and that pertains to a Special Use to allow a video gaming café with variations for screening of refuse container at 2164 Plum Grove Road, C-2 General Commercial Services District, Charity Johns, Laredo Hospitality, Petitioner

15) Cook County has put out secured drop boxes throughout the area in 50 different locations. There is one in Arlington Heights and Palatine. Also, Cook County will be utilizing the 5 Regional Courthouses in suburban Cook County located in Rolling Meadows, Skokie, Maywood, Bridgeview and Markham but will not be available until October 9th. Drop boxes will be available at the Early Voting sites beginning October 19, 2020. Also, there has been some concern about Palatine Village Hall that has been used as one of the early voting locations in the past, early voting will not be at the Village Hall but will be at a different location, specifically the building south of the Metra Station. More information will be available at a later date.

Barry Krumstok, City Manager went over the following:

2) July 2020 New Businesses

- 1) Accomplished Plumbing – Plumber
- 2) 145 Ventures LLC dba I Mart (ownership change) – Gas Station/Food Mart
- 3) Dragons Lair Garage – Auto Restoration

MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

Alderman O'Brien – With the recent information out of Springfield where local municipalities can start enforcing the lack of masks worn through owners/entities not individuals. Do we need to adopt anything to give our officers in the Police Department the authority to enforce?

John Nowacki, Police Chief – No, we would not need any new ordinance passed, the law is pretty clear on that. It actually starts out with a warning process so it's a pretty long involved procedure before there would actually be any fines.

Alderman Cannon – Last month we had a long discussion regarding Old Public Works and we were told we would get a timeline about when the project might move forward and maybe an ending date. I haven't seen or heard anything since. I'm not expecting to get an exact date but it would be very helpful to find out what our plan is going forward. I was just wondering if Public Works or Manager Krumstok can get us a timeline on that very soon.

Barry Krumstok, City Manager – That would be Public Works Director Rob Horne but we heard you about the timeline so we will get you the information.

Alderman D'Astice – Several residents stopped me while I was at Jewel asking about when the City is going to have Council in person meetings at City Hall because they said they like to watch it on TV. At this point, I would like to make a motion that we begin Council meetings at City Hall starting in September.

Mayor Gallo – Attorney Wolf, I just need to get some clarification because the Mayor is the one that sets forth of whether or not we hold meetings virtually or physically. What is the protocol?

Melissa Wolf, City Attorney – You are correct Mayor. Under the statute of the Open Meetings Act, the head of the public body is the authority that determines whether or not an in-person meeting is not feasible at this time so you retain the authority to make that determination as to whether the meetings should be held remotely and continue that way.

Mayor Gallo – Alderman D'Astice, when I start seeing the numbers of COVID-19 in our community and neighboring communities go on the decline or optimistically at least plateau and not move in a more positive increase where they've been, where they are then I'll consider bringing us back in-person.

Alderman D'Astice – I disagree since we have Economic Development and Planning and Zoning are meeting in-person. That is your choice but I disagree with that and I'll let the residents know that it's your choice.

Mayor Gallo – That's fine. Thank you.

Alderman Vinezeano – I just wanted to touch base with staff and find out, I believe it was at a Committee of the Whole meeting that we had taken a straw vote that old station 16 on Plum Grove Road that we would hold off on putting that property up for sale and I had just drove by it two days ago and there is a for sale sign in front of the property so I'm a little confused.

Barry Krumstok, City Manager – There is a sign and we've been very clear with Colliers that it is not for sale at this time but they are just seeing what the interest is. That sign was put up at the same time the others were put up. We have more people looking at the old fire station on Meadow Drive.

Alderman Vinezeano – I understand that but I guess I'm a little confused then why we had a straw vote as to why we wouldn't put it up for sale and then staff went ahead and kind of did the opposite. I guess it still has be a bit confused but I guess thanks for the explanation.

Alderman Budmats - As a result of being informed this week of a recent Appellate Court decision regarding Freedom of Information Act requests, it seems that we as Council people would be subject to a greater level of scrutiny of our personal phones, texts, emails, etc. As a result, I think it's appropriate at this time for the City to consider furnishing adequate means of communication to the Aldermen. If the City were to provide the Aldermen with smart phones capable of texting, phone calls and sending and receiving emails off the City's web server the barrier between personal and public communications for Aldermen would be readily established. Those phones can travel from Alderman to Alderman as there were changes as a result of elections or as Aldermen to roll off. The continuity would be the same that the people in our Ward would always be able to dial the same number for their Alderman regardless of who is their Alderman. As people's home phones become less and less common this would provide them with a way of always being able to get in touch with their Alderman. I like to request that the City look into this and then based on emails that I read today it looks like that could be a subject of discussion potentially at the upcoming COW meeting next month, if it isn't then I would like to see it as an agenda item on the upcoming meeting to approve those expenses for the Aldermen so they can have an established and defined line between our personal and private communications.

Mayor Gallo – As you know and are aware we are going to be having a Committee of the Whole meeting regarding that subject and with that there will be discussion about devices for communication and a greater bifurcation between our individual and our voluntary rolls here with the City and so those devices will be a subject within that topic.

Alderman O'Brien – I know we're going to talk about it in September based on the emails, I would also ask Attorney Wolf, the way I understood and just talking with some other people in the legal field, the it's understood is that it could still be affordable for our personal phones that it could even if the City does issue and takes on the cost, say \$50 per elected official so potentially \$400-\$600 a month, but even the additional cost it could still trace back to personal items based on the requester as well as affidavits and things. If we could look into that as well for future discussion. If that would exempt staff or council members from the requirements from a personal device. I'm open for personal devices, I do it in my professional life as well so I'm not worried about that personally so I don't if I would be in favor of this going forward that we can continue to use our devices and use them for what they're meant to be used for, government business on government email addresses and personal business on personal email. That's just from my outside perspective looking at some of the legal stuff that was passed is that it would not exempt us fully even if the City was to incur the cost to give each Alderman a cell phone. Attorney Wolf, I don't think we need an answer now but that is something that I would like to be investigated too prior to us making this decision.

Mayor Gallo – I imagine it's going to be a very comprehensive conversation at that time. This is a pretty significant topic for all of us who volunteer our time here to be put under such an unnecessary microscopes

potentially. Just keep those questions coming until the time of the Committee of the Whole so we can have full articulate conversation.

CLOSED SESSION:

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

There is a request to go into closed session. It does require a motion and roll call vote. Is there a motion to go into Closed Session? Alderman Sanoica has made the motion and it has been seconded by Alderman Bisesi. Is there any discussion? Seeing none, will the Clerk please call the roll?

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

With 7 in favor, 0 opposed. We will now enter into Closed Session.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, by unanimous consent the City Council meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Judy Brose, Deputy City Clerk

August 25, 2020 City Council Minutes Approved by Council on September 8, 2020.

Judy Brose

Judy Brose, Deputy City Clerk