

**CITY OF MARKHAM  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
January 2, 2020**

Mayor Roger Agpawa called the Regular Meeting of the Markham City Council to order at 7:15 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Prayer led by Rosie Hall. Roll Call was taken by City Clerk, Jennifer Coles.

ROLL CALL: ALDERMEN PRESENT   Alderman Rondal Jones  
  Alderman William Barron  
  Alderwoman Brenna Hampton  
  Alderwoman Wanda McDowell

ALSO PRESENT: Attorney, Steven Miller  
                          Treasurer, Belinda Richardson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR   Motion by Ald. McDowell, seconded by Ald.  
PUBLIC HEARING MEETING   Jones to approve Minutes of the Public Hearing  
DECEMBER 2, 2019           Meeting held December 2, 2019 with necessary  
  corrections and/or deletions.  
  Roll Call: 4 Ayes/0 Nays

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR   Motion by Ald. McDowell, seconded by Ald.  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING   Jones to approve Minutes of the Regular City  
DECEMBER 18, 2019         Council Meeting held December 18, 2019 with  
  necessary corrections and/or deletions.  
  Roll Call: 4 Ayes/0 Nays

AUTHORIZATION OF CLAIMS   Motion by Ald. Hampton, seconded by Ald. Barron,  
  to adopt Authorization of Claims and Accounts Bill  
  List \$105,380.40 with manual checks \$135,419.31  
  totaling \$240,799.71.  
  Roll Call: 4 Ayes/0 Nays

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING – JANUARY 2, 2020 – PAGE TWO**

SPECIAL PRESENTATION           None

CITY ATTORNEY’S REPORT       1 Resolution

PLUM CREEK

**Mayor Agpawa** – Doesn’t think it’s bad when they always don’t see eye to eye as a council. Wanted to mention in regards to the City Attorney’s Report section a regarding Plum Creek deeds. Had a conversation with the attorneys and thinks they would be putting the cart before the horse. Has already expressed where he was in regards to the project. Has had no one tell him different than what he thinks, so let’s have a conversation. He’s not getting feedback on what’s different and there needs to be communication about it. It was put on the agenda and if they want to pass it legislatively, he’ll just have to deal with it administratively. He’s not against the project, just where it stands currently. It’s not fair to him and it hasn’t taken other businesses six years to get going. Had issues with economic development and building documents, and \$400,000 worth of deeds should be reverting back to us and there’s no documents for that but have another project worth almost a million dollars so this should get something similar. Lost \$300,000 off tax roll for six years, has other projects moving much better than this. If there’s any comment, wants Aldermen to chime in.

**Ald. Barron** – What bothers him, has the Mayor reached out to Plum Creek to get a better understanding.

**Mayor Agpawa** – Doesn’t want to meet with them, wants to the board to tell him why. Has had dealings with them through the attorneys that hasn’t always ended well. At this point can’t sit down without the attorneys.

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING – JANUARY 2, 2020 – PAGE THREE**

**Ald. Jones** – property for the project is valued at an estimated \$200,000 on the high end. Would've gotten money from permit fees. Other senior building was a \$15 million project that was upside down losing \$200,000 per year, so when they came with another project, initially said no, so it wouldn't fall on the taxpayers and the agreements had no end dates. With this developer it costs the taxpayers nothing. The property off Pulaski had no end date and had been off tax roll for 10 years and the man died.

**Ald. McDowell** -- How can you say it won't cost the taxpayers?

**Ald. Jones** – Cook County gave him a \$14 million bond.

**Ald. McDowell** – He was also given a bond in Maywood.

**Ald. Jones** – that's not true and he won his case in court. They tried to sue for \$200,000. Can we open the meeting to him?

**Ald. Hampton** – Thinks this should be put on hold until a discussion can be had.

**Ald. Barron** – The discussion shouldn't be behind closed doors.

**Mayor Agpawa** – just a meeting with him and Ald. Jones.

**Ald. Jones** – doesn't understand the problem. It's not our money and this is a shovel ready project.

**Mayor Agpawa & Ald. McDowell** – the land is ours

**Mayor Agpawa** – They'll give \$14 million to anybody. Feels good about his position and help him out to see both sides.

**Ald. Barron** – With a new Mayor and two aldermen, and the previous council voted for this, is there a liability exposure if we don't move on this project?

**Attorney Miller** – Always have to be cautious dealing with contracts, are we bound? We are, but there's a workaroud, but he might decide to enforce his rights based on contract.

**Ald. Barron** – Is the contract still in force?

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING – JANUARY 2, 2020 – PAGE FOUR**

**Attorney Miller** – Yes, there's some changes since that agreement like vacations of streets and alleys, etc. May need a new contract that includes the changes.

**Ald. Jones** – made reference to page four of the agreement stating how parts if declared invalid, the rest of the agreement would stand.

**Attorney Miller** – Say if by law we couldn't give away 61 lots, but only 40, would be a section declared invalid. Possible amendment of additional things that have been done. Can't say we're giving away the alleys and streets. But we've never allocated cost for anything.

**Ald. Jones** – Fees collected for permit fees would be \$300,000+. In order to move forward he needs the deeds. He can give the reverse clause. We'll end up in the paper the wrong way.

**Mayor Agpawa** – Understands that and has been in the paper. Needs to come up with what we need to do to move forward. There are too many open ends and need to close it.

**Ald. Jones** – We can call him up

**Mayor Agpawa** – There's all types of red flags, we need to do more work. Other project moving at lightning speed.

**Ald. Jones** – The project referred to moving at lightning speed has been going on for seven years and was part of the project.

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING – JANUARY 2, 2020 – PAGE FIVE**

**Ald. Barron** – Can one person talk at a time? Him and Jones were originally part of this. There was funding available that could've dried up and they rushed to get the commitment. The council didn't do due diligence then which is why we're having the conversation now. Each council member should submit questions and recommendation to the Mayor for a meeting with Plum Creek. Would like to put this to bed. We've been in enough lawsuits, originally voted for this and will not change vote. Maybe some questions raised, but not enough to change his mind. Learns something new every day as an alderman. Been here all his life and seen lots of change, still thinks the project is a good idea. Lost his mom last year, knows the value of senior living, assisted care and memory care. May need that care for himself one day.

**Mayor Agpawa** – open to meeting with the attorneys, Mr. Leontios and Ald. Jones.

**Ald. Hampton** – Let's bring the correct individuals to the table, see where we can get to, bring something to the public and agree to put an end to this and do it expeditiously.

**Mayor Agpawa** – Can arrange something as soon as possible.

**Ald. Barron** – We'll pass on item a under the Attorney's Report

V-LIVE

A hearing is scheduled for 1/15/2020 at 7pm for V-Live. Will see if it can be arranged to move up to 1/8/2020 special meeting, if not it will remain on 1/15/2020.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT

1 Business License

RAPID RECOVERY, INC

Motion by Ald. Barron, seconded by Ald. McDowell to open floor to Rapid Recovery, Inc.  
Voice Vote: 4 Ayes/0 Nays

**Ald. Barron** – Is this towing and auto repair?

**Mr. Said** – Yes.

**Ald. Barron** – Are you aware of the ordinance regarding hard surface?

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING – JANUARY 2, 2020 – PAGE SIX**

**Mr. Said** – Yes, emailed a plan to inspector. Wants to do it in zones. Summer 2020 to 2025, could be sooner, but is a lot of area.

**Ald. Hampton** – Type of towing company?

**Mr. Said** – Repossession and private towing – been doing 11 years in Chicago and Riverdale.

**Ald. Hampton** – There's a total of four businesses on the property? Truck Repair?

**Mr. Said** – Operating out of 12,000 sq. feet, the ultimate goal is to manufacture tow trucks, hoping in the next five years. Truck repair not in operation will be maintaining their own 10,000 pound trucks, curb weight 16,000, c class trucks. They're already plated. Auto storage for impound. State allows for ten air miles radius, border to 75<sup>th</sup> to lake to LaGrange. Truck repair won't be anytime soon but with 5800 sq ft building wanted to have option. Has already been operating as a repair shop.

**Ald. Jones** – formerly Stat Towing

Motion by Ald. Barron, seconded by Ald. McDowell to close the floor to Rapid Recovery, INC.

Voice Vote: 4 Ayes/0 Nays

**GRANT LICENSE**

Motion by Ald. Barron, seconded by Ald. Jones to grant Rapid Recovery, INC a license to do business in the City of Markham.

Roll Call: 4 Ayes/0 Nays

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Happy New Year. Going into the new year, the council will have a report from him the second meeting each month. More going on internally, doing some planning and organizing. Had a meeting with Ed from Public Works for a few hours trying to keep 15 to 20 guys ready operationally and administratively. Couple things with internal operations in Building Department. Special meeting coming up with regards to one development. Been back and forth downtown several times for this. You'll see at next meeting how intense it's been.

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING – JANUARY 2, 2020 – PAGE SEVEN**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ALD JONES**

Happy New Year. Excited for the city. Markham has come a long way. There's great things coming in the future.

**ALD BARRON**

Great New Year, the weather was favorable. Been busy in Public Works with water main breaks. Police and Fire have been busy and in Harvey a lot. 2020 is going to be an exciting year for the City, thrilled to be a part of it.

**ALD. HAMPTON**

Happy New Year. Has been an exciting 8 months as Alderman. It's been a learning experience, many lessons learned and decisions to make to help more. Looking forward to 2020. Kudos to Public Works, getting easements cleaned up, seeing some huge improvements in the City with the Mayor. Praying God helps to make good decisions for the City. Happy Holidays.

**ALD. MCDOWELL**

Happy New Year. Excited about 2020 in Markham to work with the Council and all the residents.

**OPEN FLOOR TO PUBLIC**

Motion by Ald. Barron seconded by Ald. Hampton, to open floor to public.  
Voice Vote: 4 Ayes/0 Nays

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING – JANUARY 2, 2020 – PAGE EIGHT**

**SPEAKING OF VARIOUS**

**DiAnn Stewart** – Spoke in August and September about flooding. There was \$1.3 million in the budget for city streets and sidewalks, can we have an update on what's happening as we're coming up on the raining season. What will be done, don't want to be put on the back burner. The Treasurer previously talked about the city being upside down, so there is concern about the monies for this. Doesn't want to offend anyone, but the sitting council reflects each one of us. Would've thought six years of a development there would've been notes left so this administration would know what's going on.

Realizes some are new, but going forward this would be taken care of and the language spoken to each other is discouraging to future businesses and should be mindful how we address the business community.

**Ald. Jones** – Plum Creek has been here time and time again. John Thompson had been working on things, we had a ground breaking ceremony. They've gone to planning and zoning board, everything has been done in line.

**Mr. Lofton** – lot of people don't know what Plum Creek is all about.

**Ald. Jones** – It's a supported living center, provides assistance, has information and documentation. It was in the Southtown paper for the ground breaking. Planning and Zoning Board meetings are open to the public.

**Mr. Lofton** – There needs to be regulations, noticed a lot of asking if they offer jobs, but are they and who is following up to see. And if you made a mistake voting for it, how can you make a mistake and vote for it again.

**Ald. Barron** – Said he likes the concept, doesn't think he made a mistake, but more could've been done.

**Ald. Hampton** – Wants to apologize on behalf of the Council because they were unprofessional. They are by no means perfect and won't agree on everything. Some have more information than others, so we're trying to figure out how to move forward.

**Mayor Agpawa** – saved a lot of words trying to be a better ambassador, but is not ashamed of some of it.



**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING – JANUARY 2, 2020 – PAGE NINE**

**Ald. McDowell** – last council meeting a lot was addressed with Plum Creek, some were here and some weren't. Hopefully all can come to an understanding, but looked into the project deeply. If the council can show her where she's wrong, show her.

**Mayor Agpawa** – To Ms. Stewart regarding economic development. He administratively tries to direct traffic and how they exchange information and ideas. They're not full time legislators. \$1.3 million is the capital bill, the rate they're smoking marijuana, should be seeing funds in no time. Talked to lobbyist last week about how can they release the money. Some work will need to have a study and we can take \$200,000 to do a study. Challenges faced are combined storm water and sewer. Will give an update in a week. Don't hesitate to call.

**Eugie Thompson** – agree with Mr. Lofton to give a quick overview would help. What's going on with the skating rink?

**Mr. Agpawa** – still closed. Met with the insurance broker trying to help with the numbers to see what it qualifies for, wants to get it open and going and running it better.

**Theresa Cannon** – wants to extend a Happy Holidays and a safe New Year to Mayor, Council Members, Department Heads and citizens. Been here 57 years, recap progress, remember library was a hole in the wall in Canterbury and now have a state of the art library and still we rise. Prays for the city every day. Been through three mayors and one city manager. Strength of power is in unity. Every step should be unity for the community, our motto. Will be 91 on 1/5, has seen lots of progress in the city in the past year. Every time she looks out the window, sees the street sweeper, used to see it maybe once a year. Wants the council to remain focused, keep your eyes on the prize.

**CLOSE FLOOR TO PUBLIC**

Motion by Ald. Barron, seconded by Ald. Jones, to close floor to public.

Voice Vote: 4 Ayes/0 Nays

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING – JANUARY 2, 2020 – PAGE TEN**

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ald. Barron, seconded by Ald. Jones, to  
adjourn at 8:45 p.m.  
Voice Vote: 4 Ayes/0 Nays

DATED: 1/15/2020



Jennifer Coles, City Clerk