

**CITY OF MARKHAM REGULAR  
COUNCIL MEETING  
June 15, 2022**

Mayor, Roger Agpawa called the Regular Meeting of the Markham City Council to order at 7:18p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Prayer led by Ald. McDowell. Roll Call was taken by City Clerk, Leslie Trimuel.

ROLL CALL: ALDERMAN PRESENT     Alderman William Barron (7:28 p.m.)  
   Alderwoman Wanda McDowell  
   Alderman Breanna Hampton-Houser  
   Alderman Rondal Jones

ALSO PRESENT:                             Attorney Steven Miller  
   City Treasurer, Belinda Richardson  
   City Administrator, Derrick Champion

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**June 1, 2022**

Motion to approve minutes with corrections of June 1, 2022, by Ald. McDowell, seconded by Ald. Hampton-Houser

*Roll Call: 2 Yes/0 No/1 Absent/1 Abstain-Motion Carried*

**AUTHORIZATION OF CLAIMS**

Motion by Ald. Hampton-Houser, seconded by Ald. Jones, to adopt Authorization of Claims and Accounts Bill list, totaling \$706,276.78, with manual checks of \$-0- for a grand total of \$706,276.78

*Roll Call: 3Yes/0 No/1 Absent-Motion Carried*

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

None

**CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Members of Council members of the public with respect to the City Attorney's report, starting with a proposed resolution approving the extension and renewal of the Re-Proclamation and Declaration of a continued local state of emergency, within the City of Markham, and approving the Mayor's Determination Regarding Modifications to In-person Meetings in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic (June 15, 2022)

**ADOPT RESOLUTION**

**22-R-683**

Motion by Ald. Hampton-Houser, seconded by Ald. McDowell, to adopt Resolution 22-R-683

A Resolution Approving the Extension and Renewal of the Re-Proclamation and Declaration of a Continued Local State of Emergency within the City of Markham and Approving the Mayor's Determination Regarding Modifications to In-Person Meetings in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic (June 15, 2022)

*Roll Call: 3 Yes/0 No/1 Absent-Motion Carried*

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**ADOPT RESOLUTION**

**22-R-684**

Motion by Ald. McDowell, seconded by Ald. Jones, to adopt Resolution 22-R-684

A Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Municipal Real Estate Located at 2100 W. 163<sup>rd</sup> Street, Markham, Illinois 60428. (Permanent Index Number 29-19-308-005-0000)

*Roll Call: 4 Yes/0 No/0 Absent-Motion Carried*

**MAYOR AGPAWA**

I just wanted to make a comment to the next two resolutions to try and make some short order, I think that most of us kind of know what some of these projects are. But I'd just like to mention the one that we're looking at now, just before you all decide to take action on the resolution is a strip XYZ footage next to Raco Steel, this is the legal description that the attorneys have is like an almanac. I was trying to make it simple and there are a couple of things that he'll point out but, there are a couple of high points to this. The strip of land that Raco was involved with is really kind of extending to us out of a courtesy to make sure that we're able to get the deal that we want with Connect Freight, so it's still kind of beyond me why Connect Freight was just so adamant about this little piece of land, but I don't really care. The bottom line is for us we stand as for the first time in a long time to really benefit and do some good things in terms of getting something for the land. Attorney mentioned about the appraisal matter and how that went, because we had to get another appraisal, this has been the ongoing matter that we've waited for a long time with Connect Freight. Finally, this is coming to fruition, and it's waited long enough to where we had to get another appraisal which came in our favor, so that worked out, any other comments?

**ATTORNEY MILLER**

Members of the Council if you recall, we did receive this property some years ago from Raco Steel and it was set up as a vacant lot for a period of time. By this resolution, you're authorizing the Mayor and the Clerk to initiate the process for the sake, if that doesn't happen in this evening's contact, it's going to happen at some point it will happen approximately a month from now. What is being asked this evening is just certainly to pass the resolution which will allow me to have this as a public notice for the availability of this land. The appraisal will be with the clerk's office for viewing to review all the specs with respect to what the appraiser looked at and how they came to the determination of value. Beyond that we will reconvene if their parties were interested, they will go ahead and prepare an offer with respect to the purchase the property. Therefore, the Council makes a determination as to one two or three offers if none it sits, but it seems as if there's interest in the property. At that particular point, once that has happened, you'll ask me to go ahead and prepare an agreement or work with them to fashion an agreement with that party whoever it happens to be at that point hopefully have closing shortly thereafter. The appraisal is in your packet to be a matter of public record, but it does indicate approximate \$580,00 in terms of value. So that's what it is.

**MAYOR AGPAWA**

I think we really are a little further down the line, I know that you're being legal about this, but we're further down the road with this. So, with that you all can take whatever action you want at this point tonight.

**ADOPT RESOLUTION**

**22-R-685**

Motion by Ald. McDowell, seconded by Ald. Hampton-Houser, to adopt Resolution 22-R-685

Resolution Authorizing Execution of An Intergovernmental Agreement Between the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority and The City of Markham Concerning The Sale Of Excess Parcels. (North of 159<sup>th</sup> Street between Francisco Avenue and California Avenue)

*Roll Call: 4 Yes/0 No/0 Absent-Motion Carried*

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**MAYOR AGPAWA**

Again, before we move on to resolution I just want to comment again, this is another parcel. In this regard, we have to enter into inter government agreement to work with the toll road authority about this property this goes with the working of the travel plaza that wants to come in over there. I think attorney was going to say it better, there's no finance for us involved with this. It's just going to help manage moving the deal along for the travel plaza to come in. We've waited for a great while for some of these things to move and now they're moving. So that's really what this is another formality if you will, to some degree, similar to what we did with MWRD with Amazon.

**ATTORNEY MILLER**

Yes, in terms of the agreement, it calls for signature by the Mayor and Clerk for passage it also calls for a sum of money, however, that is to be held in abeyance and not to be anything charged against the city part of the deal between the developer and the city. As you know, the city has spent a number of years combining those properties east of the hotel. Of course, west of the expressway with sole purposes of setting us up in a position that we could just like would Amazon be able to sell an entire parcel to a prospective developer. At this point, we needed the Tollway to transfer or at least sell some of their land to us so that we could package it such that we would have to present to a developer. Any costs associated with the transfer is to be picked up by any developer who decides to move with the land.

**ALD. JONES**

Do we have a value, or has it been stated?

**ATTORNEY MILLER**

No, not we have not gotten the appraisal for the entire package yet. We know what the Toll Way's property is worth because they do have it listed in there as a value of about \$170,000 for 586 lineal feet, but we don't have it yet for the bigger parcel, which would be between Washington Street and the hotel. Once we get an appraisal of that, and then we'll know the value of that as well because that developer or a developer will have to pay for that in addition to the Tollway so we're doing the same thing that we did with them Amazon to some degree.

**CLERK REPORT**

No report.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Good evening, everyone, we're in a lot of heat. I had to tell someone if you don't like this heat, I can do what I do when I'm bothering my wife and I start singing Jingle Bells that will make you think about some snow. I understand how that can be I'd rather run from the heat don't than run from the cold but everybody's a little different. But I would tell everybody to be safe obviously we always talk about COVID, right out the gate, try to keep the mask and still try and keep distance, some people still get sick here and there, so be careful. We are still working here in the summer with cleanup. I can't say that it's still every year you still have struggled with trying to keep up and that's due to staffing and certainly what we're coming out of we had some people that didn't want to work at all, but we were pretty fortunate to keep some people that did want to work but some of the talent that we have, you know, it's just getting better and more consistent, and just getting them acclimated to routine. That's really what's kind of been missing, so we'll clean up some properties really good, next thing you know that property's back like we didn't touch it, but that's something that we just have to keep revisiting till we get it right. But we certainly have come a long way in terms of trying to deal with these matters in terms of cleanup, and I think that the improvements to the city overall, we're doing quite well. The policing efforts, I want to mention that I think that we've had definitely

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some improvements there, never hurts to get more equipment. But definitely we have more manpower that is coming along, and we have some people in the academy that are coming out. We picked up some more lateral hires. The police force is starting to build up and it's been a chore for everyone to get to that point, because of what we've been faced with, again, with pandemic and certainly what other communities can pay. So that's something we've been pretty good at, we've been competitive, but I think we may have to improve that again, to make sure that we keep our town just as we just passed these two resolutions tonight. Business Development is continuing, every day there isn't a day and Mr. Champion can attest to it, that we're not confronted with business knocking at the door. We had a pretty good meeting today about some business. I'll be in touch with you all individually about something that's pretty exciting, we've still got some good things that are on the horizon for development. So, you know, as I call each of you like I do and bring you up to speed, I'll continue to do that. As we get these developments that come business looks good. Let me go back to the policing matter before I finish my report, I only have one thing after this and the policing matter. I say this and I said it before some of the matters that we have in our community, we have crime where we have different acts of violence or different things that happen and everybody wants to live safe. They want to have tranquility, want peace., we all want that where we live and it's about being a good neighbor for sure, and knowing who your neighbors are. I go on the record saying and people can say what they want about it, when it comes to guns and violence, I do have one saying I'm not holding a gun anyone's head to live here. So if you do live here, that means that we're going to ask reasonably that you to try to follow what the standard of living is and live right we're going to do our part to try and make a good quality of life for everyone. That's what we're here to do is to try to make people's lives better, I just want to reiterate that because some of the problems we have in our communities because of who lives here. People where we've had trouble in the community, I'll say it over and over, it's not because they just randomly pick this community for trouble. We have to we have to be our brother's keeper here, that's kind of how that works. If we want a better community, we have to demand that we ask our neighbors to do better and you all can ask us to do better about helping that process. That's what we need to do, I just wanted to mention that that some of those things here. We have a housing department that's going to be knocking on people's doors and asking them to take care of their property to clean it up, turn down the music and quit speeding. I know we've got the speed bumps are in, we didn't want them at first but they're going go out so they're here, they're in there in the garage and we're ready to put them out with the signs in different places until we can get things under control. That's what we're going to do, just wanted to mention that. The last item I just want to by the way, Ald. Jones I won't take all your thunder, but it was good to be with you the other day. It's always enlightening and good to be with seniors I went down with Alderman Jones yesterday as I go with you all to your wards and I went this time with him to his ward with the seniors and Mr. Champion went down there and we had a good time with the senior staff and so that's always it's always a good thing. So, we heard from the public last year I don't know totally where it came from, I had a couple of comments when it came up but we're doing something here this Saturday, June 18. For Juneteenth, this is considered Freedom Day. We've got a lot of partners that have come in with us to celebrate it. I think that it's always good when we can celebrate our heritage and celebrate where we come from. I know that we did that with the Hispanic community for the first time. I'm just going to feel myself personally I'm going to feel spoiled by Juneteenth because I think that I've had many holidays and one more that we're going to get. So, I hope that other people that are going to be afforded this opportunity to celebrate, they come out. Some people request it they asked for it, I hope they show up, come out and be part of it, celebrate, that's what it's all about. You have some hair at the biggest thing. When Juneteenth came. I was kind of concerned because we went through different cultures where we had Malcolm X that and nobody knew who Malcolm X was. So, I hope people know what Juneteenth is, if not, we'll have some people on site to explain it. That's for sure. with that, we'd ask that some businesspeople come out, as well as the community and other people.

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Come out June 18 on this Saturday, and partner with us, celebrating Juneteenth, we'll have food trucks, and we'll have some different entertainment some things in indoors. We'll have some workshops for business and Mr. Champion if I miss something, you can elaborate on to your report.

**DERRICK CHAMPION – CITY ADMINISTRATOR**

Good evening, Council and members of the public just to kind of backtrack a little bit regarding some of the what's going on in the police department, we have 10 additional cars that are on one order so we should be receiving those sometime later this year. We want to make sure that we focus in on our police department since we have new hires in that department. Also radar guns as well to kind of curb some of the speeding that's going on around Markham. We want to make sure that we can focus in on that. The city of Markham is applying for a Department of Commerce grant for roadway improvements under the rebuild Illinois grant so there will be some going after this particular grant to continue to improve some roads here. Also the Mayor mentioned about a meeting earlier today, the city of Markham we are really serious about business development here and anything that we can accelerate it, we will accelerate but we want to make sure that we are focusing on viable businesses coming here to Markham, but the right businesses I think the Council would be very proud in the city of Markham on some of the things that are coming down the pipeline, so stay tuned for those announcements. Also in regard to the food truck festival this week, you know, we're celebrating Black entrepreneurs and we want to definitely highlight, I know the mayor kind of touched on it a little bit but my background, I actually worked for the Department of Commerce as Deputy Director with the Office of Minority Economic Empowerment., that particular office was established to help communities like this but they will have individuals talking about access to capital. If you are trying to start or grow a business, this is the room that you really want to be in this Saturday. The workshop will take place between 10 and noon right here in the city council chambers.

**MAYOR AGPAWA**

Yes, thank you, Mr. Champion. And I hope that some of the people as they roll through town, they see that we put up some nice banners around town. I've heard a little bit of feedback about it.

**ALD. JONES**

Yes. Just to piggyback off of both of you on the Markham Senior Breakfast that we had, thanks for coming out. I appreciate that and voicing your opinions concerns. Also, I'd like to say thank you to Markham Fire Department had an event at the Roesner Park, with a boxing match it was the police departments and the fire departments all over it was well attended. It was great entertainment, even though we had a traffic jam. We have more festivals to come one of the things that we may want to do is get the word out more, a lot of my constituents didn't know about Juneteenth event. Can we start putting events back in the water bill, it really picked up and I was wondering if some kind of way we can get the word out because a lot of people don't know. I'm just trying to figure out how we can get the word out, is it possible that you can give the Alderman a supply of flyers? I know we do social media, we do the TV, but some people like snail mail they like the old-fashioned way.

**ALD. BARRON**

Good evening my report will be very brief. The one thing right now seems to be you know, we're a very dangerous time, I would just like to remind the citizens if you've got any elderly neighbors, please check on them, one of the cooling places is city hall and also the library. The Public Works Department has been doing a great job, they've worked on several homes that I gave them a list of last week, it's definitely an improvement over what it's been. I know with the rain it's been a challenge. I see that they're getting a lot of properties in my ward done. I'm very pleased with that. That would be my report for tonight.

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**ALD. HAMPTON-HOUSER**

Good evening, Mayor, Council and residents. I do want to start off by saying in Ward One, we have the mail-in ballot applications. If you're interested in receiving an absentee mail in ballot please give me a call, I do have those available. Also, I want to give kudos to our police department. I see myself personally how we are improving in each ward, basically in ward one because it's the ward that I'm actually in, we have made huge, huge improvements. Thank you for taking the opportunity to have us increase our police department, increase our vehicles because that's definitely what we need at this present moment. Also, I want to give kudos out to public works they actually have been in the wards for the last couple of days, in Ward 1 removing tree branches, easements, abandoned homes. Again, I also ask the residents to please be patient, again these weeds turn into trees, that did not happen overnight. We are diligently trying to work on it, we do have a small crew that's actually working on that, so please be patient. Also, thank you mayor, we have our youth out at this present time in the different departments working so I think that's the awesome thing that they are actually getting hands on. training with the municipalities of the City of Markham which is greatly appreciated. I did see them out there today they are actually working. I humbly appreciate that and I'm looking forward to us doing that again next year as well. Thank you to the individuals that came out to the bingo, the game of bingo is held in Ward 1 in our gymnasium the first Monday and Thursday of each month. So please if you get the opportunity, it's for 18 and over, please join us for our next one which will be in July. That concludes my report.

**MAYOR AGPAWA**

I'm glad you mentioned about the Summer Youth Program, you all wanted that. We have we have a ton of kids, it's a good thing. Well, it scared me because I had them all in here and I'm giving a speech to them and it took a while for them to warm up. Amazon is sponsoring summer camp program at the park district.

**ALD. MCDOWELL**

Good evening, Mayor City Council, and those that are present tonight. The second Ward lost two residents, Mr. Lewis Peace a longtime resident, I had a chance to visit his sister today who took good care of his passing. His service is on tomorrow at WW Holt from three to five. All lost Mr. Maurice Stevenson who lives directly across the street from me who's been battling for a while. Continue to pray for these families. They were both good resident in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward. On the 25<sup>th</sup> we're having pancakes with the Alderwoman, which is going to take place at our fire station. I encourage you all to come out from 10 to 1 we will have people on hand if you need your booster shots. We're going to give you some updates of things that are taking place in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward, we also hear from you we'll do a q & a. Any information that we need to be aware of or maybe I have not been aware can be shared, of so please come out on June 25<sup>th</sup> from 10 to 1 and have pancakes with myself along with your mayor so we can get to know a little bit more about you and give you some updates is going on in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward.

**MOTION TO OPEN FLOOR TO PUBLIC**

Motion by Ald. Hampton-Houser, seconded by Ald. McDowell to Open Floor to Public.

*Roll Call: 4 Yes/0 No/0 Absent-Motion Carried*

**RESIDENT – AISHA SCOTT**

Good evening, Mayor and Council, I did leave Markham and now I am back, I live on 162<sup>nd</sup> Homan, I don't know who my Alderman is.

**MAYOR**

That's Alderman Barron. He's on-line, but we'll make sure you get his information

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**RESIDENT – AISHA SCOTT**

Second, I am very happy to hear you are addressing the speeding. There are between 16 to 20 children on my block and a lot of people are running the stop sign. I'm afraid I have my daughter and niece here, there are a lot of kids that are riding their bikes and playing, so if we could get a sign put up "Children Playing" on that block and if possible, speed bumps to force people to slow down, so none of the children are injured it would be appreciated.

**MAYOR AGPAWA**

Absolutely, I spoke with Ald. Barron earlier today, he was going out with Public Works, either tomorrow or the next day. He has your address.

**RESIDENT – AKILAH HUISAR**

Good evening, I would like to speak to the Council about Markham joining the South Suburban Special Recreation Association Special Needs (SSRA). I have an autistic son, I know many parents in the city of Markham who have special needs children, The SSRA is basically like a co-op with various districts that offer programs to special needs children. They make sure that the counselors are in the sector of going into the that sector as well as receiving a level of professional development to deal with our children. My son can be extremely aggressive at times as well as aloof, for me to send him to summer camp right now is extremely expensive right now without Markham being a part of their co-op it is \$1,100 for the 2-week period, it is more than my daughter's private school tuition. I just think these types of things should be provided to parents who do have issues like me, with children like me, who have a certain level of special needs, that need to be addressed by people who understand and have a passion for children.

**MAYOR AGPAWA**

Well, definitely, it's good that you brought it to our attention. I'm going to suggest Mr. Champion the City Administrator get together with you, and we'll definitely get online and get on board with it. We do have a lot of families that have special needs throughout the community. So, this is something that we just didn't know, but it's good to know so we can get involved because everybody can benefit.

**RESIDENT – AKILAH HUISAR**

Their actual building is located in Tinley Park, I know, it's in Mokena, Frankfort, Country Club Hills and also, Hazel Crest. There are several different ones, I know Markham is a part of their area. It takes a long time to actually register with them, it would be great if these types of programs could be offered to our children, because they do offer not only summer camps, swimming lessons, horseback riding, basketball camp, but Special Olympics as well.

**MAYOR AGPAWA**

All right, thank you so much for that. See Mr. Champion he will see you after the meeting here.

**MOTION TO CLOSE FLOOR TO PUBLIC**

Motion by Ald. Barron, seconded by Jones to Close Floor to Public.

*Roll Call: 4 Yes/0 No/0 Absent-Motion Carried*

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ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ald. McDowell, seconded by Ald. Hampton-Houser to adjourn at  
8:10p.m.

Roll Call: 4 Yes/0 No/ 0 Absent-Motion Carried

Submitted by:

DATED: July 20, 2022

Leslie D. Trimuel  
Leslie Trimuel, City Clerk