

**CITY OF MARKHAM
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
July 1, 2020**

Mayor Roger Agpawa called the Regular Meeting of the Markham City Council to order at 7:14 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Prayer led by Ald. McDowell. 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. Barron, seconded by Ald.
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING McDowell to approve Minutes of the Regular City
JUNE 17, 2020 Council Meeting held June 17, 2020 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 \$522,072.93 with manual checks \$5,568.64
 totaling \$527,641.57.
 Roll Call: 4 Ayes/0 Nays

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SPECIAL PRESENTATION	None
CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT	2 Ordinances, 1 Resolution, 1 Local Emergency
ADOPT RESOLUTION 20-R-602	Motion by Ald. Barron, seconded by Ald. McDowell to adopt Resolution 20-R-602 – A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE EXTENSION AND RENEWAL OF THE RE-PROCLAMATION AND DECLARATION OF 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. Roll Call: 4 Ayes/0 Nays
LOCAL EMERGENCY	Motion by Ald. Barron, seconded by Ald. McDowell, to approve RE-PROCLAMATION AND DECLARATION OF CONTINUED LOCAL EMERGENCY (BEGINNING OF PHASE 4 OF RESTORE ILLINOIS). Roll Call: 4 Ayes/0 Nays
WAIVE READING ORDINANCE 20-O-2274	Motion by Ald. Barron, seconded by Ald. McDowell to waive the reading of Ordinance 20-O-2274 – ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MARKHAM, ILLINOIS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING MAY1, 2020 AND ENDING APRIL 30, 2021. Voice Vote: 4 Ayes/0 Nays
ADOPT ORDINANCE 20-O-2274	Motion by Ald. Barron, seconded by Ald. McDowell to adopt Ordinance 20-O-2274. Roll Call: 4 Ayes/0 Nays *Note by Attorney Miller – Public Hearing was held this evening at 6pm allowing the public to submit written or oral comment related to the budget.*

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WAIVE READING ORDINANCE Motion by Ald. Jones, seconded by Ald.
20-O-2275 Barron to waive the reading of Ordinance 20-O-2275
– AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A PACE
AREA AND ESTABLISHING A PACE
PROGRAM IN MARKHAM, ACQUISITION,
CONSTRUCTION, INSTALLATION, OR
MODIFICATION OF ENERGY PROJECTS; AND
OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.
Voice Vote: 3 Ayes/1 Nay (McDowell)

ADOPT ORDINANCE Motion by Ald. Jones, seconded by Ald.
20-O-2275 Barron to adopt Ordinance 20-O-2275.
Roll Call: 3 Ayes/1 Nay (McDowell)
Mayor Agpawa – We’ll have a sidebar to Ald.
Hampton with the participants in place.

CITY CLERK’S REPORT 1 Business License

GS WIRELESS Motion by Ald. Jones, seconded by Ald. Barron, to
open the floor to GS Wireless.
Voice Vote: 4 Ayes/0 Nays

Owner Ahmad – opening a phone store. Has
background in working on computers from hardware
to software. Will work on phones, unlock phones, fix
phones, buy them, game systems and laptops.

Ald. Jones – Will you be by Fairplay?

Ahmad - Yes, it was a previous phone store.

Ald. Hampton – Will you be repairing phones for
any of the major phone companies like AT&T, etc?

Ahmad – Yes will be able to fix any kind of phone
no matter the carrier.

Ald. Hampton – Will you be fixing laptops and
desktops?

Ahmad – Laptops yes, no desktops.

Ald. Hampton – Will you be hiring as well?

Ahmad – There are two of them now and depending
on traffic would like to add a third person, preferably
bilingual.

Ald. Jones – do have a Sales Tax number?

Ahmad – Will have to talk to his accountant.

Ald. Jones – Will you be selling products?

Ahmad – Yes. Accessories for phones and gaming
systems.

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Ald. Jones – When do you plan to open?

Ahmad – As soon as possible. Applied before the pandemic, got the space April 1st but was unable to get a license. Reapplied once the city opened back up. Inspection has been approved.

Ald. Jones – Is this your first business?

Ahmad – Yes. Has experience working in other shops and working for other carriers such as Boost, etc.

Ald. Hampton – How soon can you get the Business ID number to us?

Ahmad – Tomorrow or day after.

Motion by Ald. Jones, seconded by Ald. Barron to close the floor to GS Wireless.

Voice Vote: 4 Ayes/0 Nays

GRANT LICENSE

Motion by Ald. Jones, seconded by Ald. Barron to grant GS Wireless a business license to do business in the City of Markham contingent on receiving Sales Tax ID Number.

Roll Call: 4 Ayes/0 Nays

MAYOR'S REPORT

We're in some hot days in terms of weather which is good. Getting some dry out, rain has been spotty. Still have some areas that we couldn't get to in terms of grass cutting but thinks it's improving. Doing things with equipment. Want to commend the Council in this last year in what we've done in terms of equipment to help us improve. Had a meeting with Public Works just to remind them how they've raised the bar and everyone has a level of expectation for what they do. Reminded them the horn blowing is people saying thank you. Reminded not to pass by anything. A stop sign that's bent, branches in the yard, pull over and give it attention. The Council was gracious enough to give them a good contract with good salaries so they can be competitive. Glad about what they're doing.

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Concerned we don't get problems with COVID the way the rest of the nation has. We've gotten past the civil unrest matters. COVID matter is still alive. Hoping we can continue some of the phases of reopening. Will be sending out an email to you all in terms of what we're doing with the bars in how we're going to manage them. Has a meeting scheduled to remind them how we're going to carry things out. Thank you Council and Treasurer and Finance people for trying to get a balanced budget. If we cut a million dollars last year, that means we cut a million dollars this year. We're trying to continue to come out of a deficit and continue to operate. We scaled down all things in the city without affecting our main three departments, Police, Fire and public Works to keep things going while we try to rebuild. Proud of the Council. We'll be having some meetings with Amazon. What this Council has done to bring Amazon to the City of Markham. There were a lot of people that trailblazed before us, we'll give kudos to those as well, but as the Council, we had to take current events and be the closers. There were some nights where it was not going to happen, but we got through, In holiday season unlike any other. The calls of service to the police department has been astronomical in terms of calls for service with a department that is already short. We're doing everything we can to make sure we're on top of things. We have some flyers and some data going out. Notifications on how we should conduct ourselves. Fireworks are illegal in the state of Illinois, not just the City of Markham. We have a local ordinance but it is also in compliance with state law. All the departments are doing their very best in all areas. Building and Housing is in a good restructuring phase considering where we have to get with code enforcing, Happy 4th of July and remember fireworks are illegal in the state of Illinois and the City of Markham.

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NEW BUSINESS

ALD JONES

Very excited about Amazon, new transition we're going into, a new phase. I remember when this first started there were houses over there twelve years ago and now we have the final results. Also, Mayor we need a groundbreaking ceremony in Markham, I saw you had one in Matteson. The City of Markham folks want one too, we're planning that and we have a variety of people that can be represented and we all can be invited.

Mayor Agpawa – We're working on that as we speak. We'll have something planned for after the holiday.

Ald. Jones – We know there will be 1,000 jobs after it's open but what about currently? We do have union laborers and laymen in Markham. We have Union laborers 134 for example, are they hiring now?

Mayor Agpawa – Yesterday was on site. Everything over there is union labor. There's three minority organizations dealing with minority, not just black or brown but all minorities. Get me the information and will be sure to take that information.

Ald. Jones – Thank the Council Members that supported the Plum Creek project. This is something for our seniors. Thank you Mayor and Attorney Steve Miller for work in the background. Thank Public Works, Ed. Has seen an improvement 100% in Public Works and the direction it's going in. Thank you Mayor for cutting the trees back on Kedzie Parkway. What a difference, you can see the view now and brings a different look. Thank you for your vision in cutting that back. Now we do need some more trees cut in different areas, but that's a start. On July 10th, produce mobile giving out free produce at Bremen Township, Happy 4th of July.

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ALD BARRON

Happy & Safe 4th of July. Had to call in last week at 11pm and 11:30pm because of fireworks. Has a lot of seniors around him, but also knows we're working shorthanded. Police, Fire and Public Works have been working at their potential. It's been a little bit crazy. Get calls daily about Amazon, hasn't seen this much excitement in this town since they built the court building. Believe it's our turn. Working on a newsletter, we have a lot moving pieces right now and don't believe they'll all come together at one time but we're moving in the right direction.

ALD. HAMPTON

Ald. Barron and Ald. Jones hit it right on the head in reference to employees that work for the City. Public Works is doing a wonderful job. The individuals in the Housing Department, they are actually out doing their job. Police and Fire are on it. Looking forward to getting the easements done in Ward 1. The names and streets are in already. Looking forward to continuing with lawn cutting services as well. They've been on top of it in Ward 1. Have a safe weekend.

ALD. MCDOWELL

See wonderful change in Building Department. Want to thank our Director Sonia that's doing a fantastic job in her leadership and the new inspectors are really out there doing a good job and really excited about our new inspectors for the City. Want to thank that department for what they're doing. Want to extend her condolences to the Butler family. Ms. Butler passed this week, she was a resident for 61 years. We will greatly miss her on our street and out in her yard planting her flowers. Happy and Safe 4th of July.

OPEN FLOOR TO PUBLIC

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

Rosemary Calvert –

Good evening Mayor Agpawa, the Markham City Council, and residents of Markham.

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Unfortunately the residents were unable to view the last council meeting on Wednesday, June 17, 2020.

At this time we are still unable to view the meeting at the present time.

1. I did ask questions which you probably did answers.

2. One question I would like to know what do I do with 4 old TV's I have? They were replaced with flat screen TV's

3. Cook County property tax second installment was mailed out June 30, 2020. The second installment is not due August 1, 2020. Will be due October 1, 2020 because of the Covid-19 (Coronavirus). For the seniors their (Senior Freeze, Senior Exemption, Disable Exemption, Veteran Exemptions for the seniors to save on their property taxes were not taken out because of the closing of the Cook County offices. I was told they will be working on correcting these issues. Any questions please contact Thornton Township Assessor's office Monday-Thursday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. 708-596-6040 X3111 You will be transferred.

4. If you are under 65 years of age like me, always do your Tax Appeal for your property taxes every year. This year starting July 25th. It does make a different. I received a letter telling me they agreed with me and my taxes would be lowered for the next 3 years. After that time I am happy to say I will be 66 and I can then do Senior Freeze and Senior Exemption. SO BLESSED!

5. CEDA for light and gas assistance ended on June 30, 2020. It will reopen again in July 2020 we haven't been given the dates. They are looking at having customers doing it on line. CEDA at this time don't want any intake site to do face to face because of the Covid-19. Give me a call after July 13, 2020 we should have that information. Rosemary Calvert 708-596-6040 X3211

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6. My question today is did Amazon get a tax break for coming to Markham? Will Markham property taxes go up or down because Amazon is moving here?

Mayor Agpawa – We did address the flat screen issue last meeting, with making contact with Homewood Disposal. Reminds him to get it on the water bills about Homewood Disposal and electronics.

Ald. McDowell – Rep. Will Davis had so you could bring old tv sets last Saturday, she can contact to see if he's still taking them.

Mayor Agpawa – Amazon is in a TIF (Tax Increment Financing), so there were some incentives there but it should affect taxes on the individual. She shouldn't see any increases on this and with some changes in the area we should our taxes be reassessed and go down. That would be the hope. Any other questions she can ask.

Ald. Hampton – Spoke with Rosemary in reference to some homes. Thanks for repeating what Homewood Disposal will do.

CLOSE FLOOR TO PUBLIC

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

Voice Vote: 4 Ayes/0 Nays


ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ald. Hampton, seconded by Ald. McDowell, to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

Voice Vote: 4 Ayes/0 Nays

DATED: _____

7/15/2020


Jennifer Coles, City Clerk