

**CITY OF MARKHAM REGULAR
COUNCIL MEETING
July 20, 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
 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 15, 2022**

Motion to approve minutes with corrections of June 15, 2022, by Ald. Barron, seconded by Ald. McDowell

Roll Call: 4 Yes/0 No/0 Absent/1 Abstain-Motion Carried

AUTHORIZATION OF CLAIMS

Motion by Ald. Hampton-Houser, seconded by Ald. McDowell to adopt Authorization of Claims and Accounts Bill list, totaling \$711,570.01, with manual checks of \$316,630.44 for a grand total of \$1,028,200.45

Roll Call: 4Yes/0 No/0 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 (July 20, 2022)

**ADOPT RESOLUTION
22-R-686**

Motion by Ald. Hampton-Houser, seconded by Ald. McDowell, to adopt Resolution 22-R-686

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 (July 20, 2022)

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

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WAIVE READING OF ORDINANCE

22-0-2332

Motion by Ald. Barron, seconded by Ald. Jones to adopt Ordinance 22-O-2332

An Ordinance Of The City Of Markham, Cook County, Illinois, Approving The City of Markham 159th Street and Spaulding Avenue Tax Increment Financing District Redevelopment Project Area Redevelopment Plan And Project (159th Street And Spaulding Avenue TIF District)

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

ADOPT ORDINANCE

22-O-2332

Motion by Ald. Barron, seconded by Ald. Jones to adopt Ordinance 22-O-2332

An Ordinance Of The City Of Markham, Cook County, Illinois, Approving The City of Markham 159th Street and Spaulding Avenue Tax Increment Financing District Redevelopment Project Area Redevelopment Plan And Project (159th Street And Spaulding Avenue TIF District)

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

WAIVE READING OF ORDINANCE

22-O-2333

Motion by Ald. Barron, seconded by Ald. Jones to adopt Ordinance 22-O-2333

An Ordinance Of The City Of Markham, Cook County, Illinois, Designating The 159th Street And Spaulding Avenue Redevelopment Project Area Pursuant To The Tax Increment Allocation Act

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

ADOPT ORDINANCE

22-O-2333

Motion by Ald. Barron, seconded by Ald. Jones to adopt Ordinance 22-O-2333

An Ordinance Of The City Of Markham, Cook County, Illinois, Designating The 159th Street And Spaulding Avenue Redevelopment Project Area Pursuant To The Tax Increment Allocation Act

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

LAND DEVELOPMENT

Offer(s) to Purchase Surplus Municipal Real Estate Located at 2100 W. 163rd Street, Markham, Illinois 60428 (Permanent Index Number 29-19-308-014-0000)

One offer received – Clerk's Office received none.

Motion by Ald. McDowell, seconded by Ald. Hampton-Houser to prepare Resolution for next meeting to accept offer to purchase Surplus Municipal Real Estate Located at 2100 W. 163rd Street, Markham, Illinois 60428 (Permanent Index Number 29-19-308-014-0000)

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

CLERK REPORT

Special Events

The Indian Boundary Prairies Annual Picnic August 7, 2022, 12:00pm, Midlothian Meadows, Picnic Shelter #2, Bring your own lunch.

City Of Markham Upcoming Events

August 5th – Jazzing in the Park, 5:00-9:00 p.m. Roesner Park

August 6th – Back to School Parade and Car Show, 10:00 – 12:00 pm

August 15th – Back to School Event, City Hall, 10:00 – 12:00 pm

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Business Licenses

Jack Harris Transportation 2222 W. 162nd Street
Perose LLC 2298 W. 162nd Street
Millers Ice Cream – Mobile

OPEN FLOOR

Motion to open floor by Ald. McDowell, seconded by Ald. Hampton-Houser to open floor to Jack Harris Transportation 2222 W. 162nd Street

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

Mayor Agpawa - Mr. Harris, we have some questions about the nature of your business.

one that was aligned to the work we have just came up to see what the outcome was

Mr. Harris - We looked at a place that we could possibly bring revenue back to the city right now we have issues everywhere we go no matter what we had the same problem in the city. That they seem to have something against school buses. We've been here ever since 1972.

Mayor - Mr. Harris we do have an application; it's got your name on it. I do know a little history of you with the bus company for many years. This is in Ald. McDowell's ward; I know that she mentioned a visit to the site. Mr. Harris, I will say you are correct in terms of trucks and buses. It's a difficult task for some communities to want to take that on. If you want the Council to take action on this tonight. I'm sure they could., it's up to you, I'll say it publicly I love you Mr. Harris, but I don't know about all the buses.

Because that's just where we're at with buses and trucks in the community. If there's a way to help you, I think all of us want to help you, but I just don't know how to quite do that no matter where you go. We are up to our neck and trucks and buses. So, it makes it tough for you. You know and that's why I'm saying maybe you might want to let this go for tonight and see if we can visit at a later date.

Mr. Harris - What is going to be used for you know, is it seemed like is this industrial? Where do I go now?

Mayor Agpawa - I can't tell anybody how to run their business, but I can kind of tell them what I think. I think is that it'd be nice if these businesses would expand what they have, instead of trying to sublet land. out and just tear up the street., that's what we wind up with. We can't get tax off all the stuff that comes in our town, they just landed up in there and just charge you do here tax.

CLOSE FLOOR

Motion to close floor by Ald. McDowell, seconded by Hampton to Jack Harris Transportation 2222 W. 162nd Street

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

DENY LICENSE

Motion to deny license by Ald. McDowell, seconded by Hampton to Jack Harris Transportation 2222 W. 162nd Street

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

OPEN FLOOR

Motion to open floor by Ald. McDowell, seconded by Ald. Hampton-Houser to open floor to Perose LLC 2298 W. 162nd Street

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

Mayor - All right. The city council here may have some question of your business tonight. Looks like you want to do commercial truck parking and trailer parking and storage.

Ald. McDowell - Can you tell us a little bit from counsel a little bit more about your business that you want to bring in?

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Perose - We have more parking lots located in Harvey, and South Holland We do truck and trailer parking. Our customers are typically small trucking companies or independent contractors who drive over the road. They're on the road for about two to three days and then they come home to visit family, they return to will pick up the truck and trailer. I believe you and I met a couple of days ago here and I believe our engineer with Mr. Heuer submitted a plan of parking will it be paved as well, the fence to the south from the gate going east so that the whole parking lot will be good.

Ald. McDowell - Do you know how many trucks are going to be parked?

Perose -The maximum number of spots that we have planned for my experience, the parking is usually 30 to 50% occupied the whole time because those guys go over the road and drive the truck and trailer. If the truck is parked there for more than a week, they don't make any money so they must be on the road. Good three weeks or a month.

Ald. McDowell - So you really don't know how many trucks?

Mayor Agpawa - It looks like you've got 137 spaces. He just said that the percentages what would be there? Is that correct?

Ald. McDowell - Do you actually own this land now?

Perose - No, we do not, it's owned by K-5 and they're also the company who will pave the lot. We just recently did everything to Mr. Scharnhorst, assistant chief. I met with Mr. Champion as well, they just gave me information to attend the meeting tonight.

Ald. Jones - I'm trying to see the difference between Perose, Midwest and Harris Bus Company to get my vote you what are we getting out of this, all you want is the land? You need to put a building on there we need some revenue, property taxes, it's been an issue. I mean, almost everyone the big and small, but I don't see any way that this helps us bring revenue, you know, except turn this into a trucking company. What do you bring to the table, Mr. Joseph? What are you bringing to the City of Markham?

Perose - I don't know the city of Markham very well, but from our other businesses, obviously we pay taxes. I don't know where taxes go, but it's pretty high. But also, truck drivers get gas and diesel fuel.

Mayor Agpawa - We have no other questions then. Thank you. Mr. Rose and Mr. Joseph did you all have any other comment to us?

Perose - Yes, if I may just say a couple more things, we'll be more than happy to offer parking to Mr. Harris we'd like to help those guys as well. One thing we are very good at is maintaining a lot. We employ our own yard manage and crew.

CLOSE FLOOR

Motion to close floor by Ald. McDowell, seconded by Hampton to Perose LLC 2298 W. 162nd Street
Roll Call: 4 Yes/0 No/0 Absent-Motion Carried

DENY LICENSE

Motion to deny license by Ald. McDowell, seconded by Hampton to Perose LLC 2298 W. 162nd Street
Roll Call: 4 Yes/0 No/0 Absent-Motion Carried

OPEN FLOOR - FOR DISCUSSION - NOT PRESENT

Motion to open floor by Ald. McDowell, seconded by Ald. Hampton-Houser to open floor to Millers Ice Cream - Mobile

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

Mobile Miller's ice cream was not present

Mayor Agpawa -Well, here's what we'll do, for the sake of discussion let's go ahead and talk about this. They're not here, but there's enough information for us to decide. I'll open and then I'll yield Ald. Hampton for the food truck matter. This won't be anything that's mobile pertaining to the ordinance set has been around for the last 20-30 years now that that where you can't drive to the community. We're just

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treating them like a food truck.

Ald. Hampton-Houser They're getting treated same way. Mr. Champion and Ald. Hampton are working together with the building department. I definitely made sure that that informed him that we have the city ordinance that we don't actually mobilize throughout the community. But with this application I know we do have functions and events that actually come up and then we also trying to find good locations for the mobile trucks which he will be included in as a mobile food truck.

He will be available to solicit for his business which will be where the other mobile food trucks are located as well, that's sort of 167th Dixie Highway.

Mayor Agpawa - We have to get some more spots, when I really started this, I've always believed in it and you know, just I thought it would be a good ambiance for the community. The court building was where I originally wanted to put a lot of people was because they had no cafeteria, and they were open to having that down in that area. I thought it was a good idea for them to go there, we just haven't really gotten that off the ground. We were also trying to work on restaurants or shops down in that building out there and try and set up food depot if you will, that everybody follows them on. I have a truck I follow on my phone all the time. they're all over the place. They have an internet following and they just come to those locations because they know they can get food that particular day so that's how some of them will govern We are going to try and get other spots that don't affect other businesses, making sure it doesn't affect other brick and mortar. We're opening ourselves up to a different culture that's really what it's kind of been about. So, the ice cream would be just dessert. We can still check and make sure we're not conflicting with any other ordinance, but I think that Ald. Hampton vetted and made sure that this gentleman knows what the rules are. He's no different any other food truck. So are we have that old ordinance which is a good safety net for us, but I think I think they pretty much know there's not a lot of places they can go anymore. They have to be treated like food truck.

CLOSE FLOOR – FROM DISCUSSION - NOT PRESENT

Motion to close floor by Ald. McDowell, seconded by Hampton to Millers Ice Cream – Mobile

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

DENY LICENSE

Motion to Deny license by Ald. McDowell, seconded by Hampton to,

Roll Call: 1 Yes/ 2 No/ 1 Abstain/0 Absent-Motion not Carried

MAYOR'S REPOR

I will do my best and as the mayor tonight to move things along. Every meeting and certainly every month that we go through from month to month, no doubt about it, that there's always there's always going to be mention of the challenge of the elements. We're not talking about snow right now; we're talking about heat. People really, really, really must be careful right now, this is some pretty dangerous heat. I just really, must caution people that are working and certainly people in the community to be careful we're definitely doing that at City Hall. Let me go back and just talk about for a minute, we went through three businesses tonight, actually out of three none of them were approved. I really have to say that we all want business, but I have to take the words of the City Administrator because I didn't coin the phrase a hard reset Derrick Champion the City Administrator came in, he's the one that says that Markham is going through a hard reset, like you reset your computer. Some people may not find that, we seem to be friendly, but I have to say that I believe that some residents do understand this. I say this with all due respect, there are male and female widows in this community, and I say that to say that sometimes that or man or woman they could choose to get married again and some say, well, I'm not going to get married again for one reason or another, I say well, I can do bad by myself, I say that here in the City of Markham, this is not the same business as usual Markham anymore. You just can't come by and pickup what you once did or pick up where you left off. Now somebody else, you know, beats me next election and have at it and vote me out and instead you go back

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to how I used to do it, I'm not going to be here for that. I won't be sitting here or in town, if we're going backwards, there's no point on it. That's why we all get elected to make these tough decisions, we don't want to hurt anybody. It's heartbreaking to see a guy like Mr. Harris, who's been here for 60 years, maybe 70 years here. We have to try and figure it out, but today is not a good day for his business and some of the others. I must make the statement that we are working on a plan, a comprehensive plan. We voted on a Buddy Bear Carwash, TIF, that's kind of what's going on 159th. We did some heavy duty lifting there, that you'll see the fruit of. I've seen emails today about Thornton's gas station, talk about these things it's still coming, but it doesn't happen overnight. It will take a while to see it. Now I understand why they say sometimes you need more time to be in office, all the aldermen need time to be where they're at to clean up their wards. They're just getting in touch with you all about that, there's some things I'm trying to rearrange at City Hall, that what we are sitting on this Diocese for, and I felt compelled to speak to the public about what we're doing here and why. We're here I said this before I believe this strongly about all the Council members, we're trying to make the quality of life better for everybody that lives here. Being told no, doesn't mean that we're wrong about it, I think that that's a good way, sometimes we just have to do it to make it better. I think that we are improving, I just wanted to mention that about business and our future of our comprehensive plan. Our Administrator is working to get our comprehensive plan in line with businesses throughout the community. I want to make mention we had have not met since our Fun Fest. We had a very good Fun Fest here in Markham, we've had some good festivals I know that the Alder ladies are having something upcoming; Alderman Jones has some things that he has ongoing Ald. Barron has talked to me about a couple of things he's planning, and I think that we're doing things in our wards and doing things in our community that are very good. I was hoping we would go into these wards and get people out to get him involved, Alderman Jones took it to another level to go block by block that is good that we're getting people in the wards engaged and that's how we build a community. The Fun Fest was very good, but there was something that was something that wasn't good on the Fourth of July, and we all know about like gun violence. Gun violence that happened in Highland Park has been huge across the country. We have to remain cognizant of what's going on with guns and violence, we've been pretty fortunate and blessed. I was limited to some of the things that I would say about the Police Department, the Fire Department, Public Safety, I'm pretty hard in that area because I've worked on public safety myself for so long so I don't give out praise to quick but I think our Police have come along a great stride to keep us safe and protected, I think that I hear that from the aldermen as well, I wasn't hearing that all the time. I would hear it from time to time about police and Fire as well. We always praise the Public Works people, but we say a lot less about to public safety, but I think we're there to be able to really encourage them more especially with all the violence that's out there. One of the things that I will say is that we're having a tough time in Public Works right now, maybe the public can't see it totally, but I see it. There are some places that were a little lax, and there's good reason for it. We had six people out today either by vacation or sick or something that was going on and when you have that many people out it's everywhere. Of course, it's not a trend, but you know that is something that we were dealing with we have still have turnover in that department. We've been pretty successful; we always praise them, and we will continue to do that. But I'm always honest about something that's not happening, there's some things in these wards that I've not just heard from the aldermen that are not happening, I see it and so we have to revisit that and not become complacent and that's my job to make sure they're moving. I'll tell you that there's some things now we're shifting, the Building Departments is doing well Police and Fire and I think Public Works we have to help them out a little bit more. We're trying to bring a few people in to get that department ramped up again and get it going because some of the things with the vacant properties, I hear from you all as an issue and we must keep going after it and addressing it. Let me go over to speeding I think that the speeding is starting to get a little better, the aldermen are working in their wards very diligently about the speed bumps and you all can continue to call them I'm liking that you're calling them. It's going very well, but you all the aldermen have done a great job, in my opinion, they've all done well in placing them and it's going well and there's more to come. If they're telling you that, I'm telling you the same thing, more to come in that regard. A couple of other things

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I want to mention, this is our year I think more, I'll be continuing to talk with the aldermen about different trees that you have in your ward. Let's continue to talk about them, I'm of the opinion, if possible, we do have an outstanding street debt. Let's talk more about trees this year and then streets and let's get some of them down let's talk about it. I know you all have list for me, I usually try to get out there and make I don't I don't micromanage everything, but I really try and get out there to make a difference with you all with those trees. It's part of my job I'll get out there put me to work I don't mind but let's get them cut, cut down. The other thing I want to mention I want to thank the council too, I made the Treasury Department a little nervous when I mentioned it, but we did have a meeting the Treasurer, myself and the Finance Director about revisiting city salaries, I'm for retaining and retention and keeping employees I don't want them to go. We want them to have a good market salary, where they're not thinking about leaving, we're going to pay them and we're going to make them work and ask them to work but we don't need to chase them down the street and try and revisit it and keep the wheel turning over and try and to reinvent the wheel and try and get the talent to up to speed and start over. We've gone through a lot of that, I thank the Council for your consideration and trying to make the Police salaries, better Building and the Public Work salaries. We can move those up, we did talk myself the Treasurer and Finance and we're going to talk tomorrow, and we'll get a report to you. I just want to commend you all for the courage to do it. The Building Department I did mention we've been doing some good things over there with rebuilding that department and I left out the Park District, I tend to forget sometimes how close they are to us, I mean no disrespect to the Park District. We had a couple of events we work with them. I'm not thinking about who's doing all the work and putting things together and they do a lot. I failed to mention that sometimes that those Commissioners have cooperated very well, they get their bills paid over there. We don't have issues and Miss Brown and her team always step up and they're a very integral part to what we do here. I thank the Park District and the Commissioners for what they're doing over there I want to say it publicly. So, you all are my witnesses, I'm just kidding. But no, I mean that sincerely. They were doing some things years ago. I commend the Park District where we were with was sketchy leadership from my seat, they did some things in town to keep us together and they did a good job.

DERRICK CHAMPION – CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Residents of Markham, I want to reinforce that we support small businesses here in the city, moreover we know that especially during a pandemic, a lot of small restaurants and businesses had to kind of rethink the way that they do business. Brick and mortar restaurants just had to kind reinvent themselves. They had to pivot and do like food trucks and that's how they survived. That's where incubators and commercial kitchen bases. Developed because those places kind of fed into that demographic, I think we should really think about ice cream trucks and any other small business because we support small businesses, so I just want to put that out there. I know that when I first came to Markham, it will be two years ago, August 5th I was just driving around the city, and each entry point introduces the mayor, but it says on the bottom a city with a new vision. We have to rethink the way that we do business, I know we're talking about trucks, but we actually have to think about our quality-of-life plan which includes technology and green space, I had opportunity to meet with Dr. Chatel, Crystal and Sonia about creating more green space in the city of Markham. We're talking about trucks, that means more pollution and how do we offset that we put more green space and we're talking about partnering with MWRD with the grant. We can partner with a grant to open up our green space and I know that I think the first phase you all are talking about when it says the nature look which is which is really great. So, you know at some point, I know that the group will come before the council but I think it's important that we all understand that buses, trucks, all of these create pollution but we have to find ways to protect the environment and I think we have the kind of think forward we have to have the vision to offset some of the pollution. We want to make sure that our human capital is taken care of first and foremost. Also just wanted to go into my report I had a call with the County President Preckwinkle just updated all the mayors and managers yesterday, as some of you may or may not know, Cook County set up a loan program to help local governments manage the tax delays yesterday they talked

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about the program it will be about \$300 million. But I'm just going to read a couple of bullet points. The collection and distribution of property tax revenues are expected to be delayed by four months and the delay will disproportionately affect disinvested taxing districts and subsequently residents in low-income communities like Markham. the mayor and I talked about this, and Christina is already on top of it. This is an interest free loan program we may not have to use it, but there's funding available in case we need to deal with day-to-day operations. Also, I want to thank the Council for approving the TIF Ordinances, I think now things can really move forward. One of the things that I know that we've been intentional about is bringing the right businesses to Markham the time is now to have some healthier options, had some great meetings with some great restaurants. We have a suite of incentives that we can offer individuals that want to do business here in Markham.

MAYOR AGPAWA

I will say to all of you, the CDBG grant application went through for 2021 in each of you've got I think one street but it's almost like a block so if you want me to let you know, I can give you that block, I didn't choose. I used to go out and do the cutouts that kind of thing with you all, but this just came off the grant. You know that comes off the qualification process for the street.

DERICK CHAMPION -CITY ADMINISTRATOR

So, they choose that, they did a study of the streets that needed the most work from aging infrastructure.

MAYOR AGPAWA

I talked with the Engineer Company, and the way that they had it I said I wanted to spread it out. I just sooner spread it to all four wards. Then you just have it. You know, I've seen it where we just did one Street, the way we're doing streets anyway might as well spread it out, everybody is going to benefit with it this the way I kind of talked to them about using the streets they pick. I just made him divided.

ALD. BARRON

One Street or one block?

MAYOR AGPAWA

It's all it really comes to a block for everybody.

DERRICK CHAMPION – CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Just want to backtrack, I think it's going to be important for the city of Markham. to carve out some of the land for a food truck park so we can have a designated area just for food trucks. Then that way everybody can rally to that particular location, of course they have to move to you know, it's going to be a mobile truck because they have to move but they are stationary trucks. In that way, no accidents happen, and it doesn't have to be from a food truck or an ice cream truck could be a car, it could be one of the big trucks coming off the highways but things happen. But we just have to make sure that we're prepared for small businesses, and I think that this is a way that we can support.

MAYOR AGPAWA

Ald. Hampton-House was working on that, it was something we talked about. I thought I mentioned it to you, I apologize. We're working on all of logistics, we're going to pull you in with Rob. The only other thing I was going to mention since you mentioned about business, we do have one of the companies that we met in Vegas, the coffee shop. They have interests to do a coffee shop here I found a franchise a franchise person wants to enter into the franchise so will keep you posted. They're trying to compete with Starbucks. I think you've all heard of Scooters. They're really want to get the shops out.

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ALD. JONES

Good evening, I have a few items tonight, the first thing is that when people know in the city of Markham for businesses, ComEd has a great program right now only within the city of Markham, it allows major discounts on your lights. They're changing the style of the light to LED, for instance, they do a building that cost \$5,000, you can do for like \$1,000 down and they will take care of the other portion. I'd like to sit down with Mr. Champion to see if the city could benefit from this where they do all LED to give a cost savings to the city of Markham, but it's for businesses and municipalities so if you have a business that you want to update your lights, you can me, I'll let you know about the program, but it's offered in the city and Markham. ComEd has a pool of money that has been sitting there and because of COVID is doubled, so they need to get rid of it. Markham, Hazel Crest, CC Hills are some of the areas that can take advantage of this discount. I think that we need to look into that if we get a chance and any businesses in Markham, please give me a call and I'll let you know about the application. Thank you, mayor, once again for the speed bumps, I've been getting praise reports about the speed bumps. If any ward doesn't want them, please give it to me. It's funny that I put these strategically in locations where they speed, now on the other streets. The idea of Block Club is still out there and available for block club parties. 3rd Ward you just have a blast to a party have had three so far. So please, you know I would love to do more for the summer. Speaking about flyers, is it okay, if I put flyers out on different events like August 6th August 13th, sometimes people get the flyers and throw them away or didn't get it all. How are we getting the word out? Are we doing mailers?

MAYOR AGPAWA

The last mailer we did for the city function. If you're doing your individual functions, we could contribute to that. I mean, I'm not sure how they're doing the wards. They've done it by flyers themselves. I'm not sure if they're going to do mailers or not for the awards, but we can visit that budget wise and work as a team. If we're going to have a successful event, not good without notification, so we just have to budget that in. So how you want to do it you want to do it pay somebody to deliver it by hand or we can mail. Okay, whichever one you choose, okay. I think we did we did some mailers, and the Fun Fest was more successful. Well, it might have been too successful.

ALD. JONES

Also, mayor kudos on the beautification project, I see they cut the trees down. I liked the landscaping we are doing on 159th Street. My applause goes out to Vision Works. I love the work; it's looking really good. So, thanks again for that, I think it's an excellent job, beautiful people., great work. One thing though, coming down 159th Street, we have that Car Express the weeds are out of hand. And so, I give kudos to Todd for bringing the youth over there to cut those weeds down. But also, the Walgreens grass is growing everywhere on that vacant lot.

MAYOR AGPAWA

Mr. Champion, why don't we talk to them about it, tell them if they don't do it, we will and send them the bill.

ALD. JONES

How long are you going to have the youth because I still have a couple of vacant houses that need cutting. That's my next thing, they are cutting them and a great job, but I have more.

MAYOR AGPAWA

Until sometime in August. Okay, so just let us know what where.

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ALD. JONES

Are we doing anything with the vacant houses ourselves, to put them back on the tax roll?

MAYOR AGPAWA

I think we're getting towards the end of this court case, that was in my report, I would have taken me more that aren't illegal or attorney legal because that's what happened. We managed this time as we should. I don't want to get into dollar program because we didn't sell that property on Dixie Highway for a dollar tonight, that's not how it works. I think we could start the vetting process of investors that that have the capital, the experience, and the capacity to do it. They have a proven product, and they're going to put homeownership out there. We could start that and find out how quick we're going to close this case; I'm so frustrated I've had little fights with the attorneys myself to try and close it out. We'll do this the right way; I thank you for bringing it up. We've had no issues with commercial property, it's just all residential, about entering into agreements. Commercial, we've been working out fine, that's what happened tonight. If we can do, residential same way, it would be a 360. Mr. Champion can get busy on it, we'll report back to you all about trying to come up with the program to get a vetting process for letting them come in to interview with us.

DERRICK CHAMPION - CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Attorney Fountain has been engaged in the process of trying to put the framework together.

MAYOR AGPAWA

Thank you that we don't have to reinvent the wheel a lot because Cook County Land Bank did a lot of footwork. You can almost use them as a model we were doing with the land bank was doing years ago before I sat here, but I think we got too comfortable with it.

ALD. BARRON

I will echo the sentiment, I know we have stayed away from residential properties, but I have houses in my ward that have been there for over 10 years. I think it's time for us. to come up with a newer program with more safeguards. I have a couple of builders that took over houses that I swore couldn't be save, and they did. I tip my hat to them, maybe we have to vet a dozen or so companies and then at a Council meeting we can throw them into hat pull up three or four of them and award them three or four of the properties apiece. As long as we have strong safeguards and when I mean strong safeguards, that the tax bills are cleared up, the water bills are paid, and any fines that are associated with the property. If they're willing to do that and they're willing to go on an agreement with us, that after they take over that property six months later, it will be up for sale. I'll be part of the oversight committee if you need it, but I just got houses that have been sitting, I've got one sitting over by the church 164th, on 163rd Street but that house was livable at one time. Now I don't even know if it can be saved, I don't know how many times it's been boarded up by us, the basement has flooded full water so there's health concerns. I've got a house at Rosemanor the back of the building is falling we just got it on the 24th, now we are applying for the demo permit. Hopefully we have the next 12 days because I have a neighbor over there that she checks in with me every two weeks, I just had a conversation with her yesterday.

The Family Fun Fest was wonderful, had a great time. While we have a bit of heat today, which is why I'm not in person after meeting, I just caution anybody senior citizens around, just check on them they absolutely won't use their air conditioning. Public Works, I know that they've been trying to get through all this stuff, but it's like these weeds and this grass is growing faster than they can keep up with it but our guys are putting on a valiant struggle. I thought as a personal observation, at least in my neighborhood, it was the best 4th of July, I did not hear any fireworks after midnight. I thought the fireworks that did go off were

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minor. I really think that the increase of the police patrols and the warning signs that we put out on the corners and the postcards that were mailed were successful. I'll sum up my report saying that I thought it was one of the better July 4th I've been a part of. Kudos to you and your administration.

MAYOR AGPAWA

I was going to say the same thing about the Fourth of July but then I was going to joke and say they were all over in Jones ward, that's where all the noise was, we got a charge out of being Alderman Jones because once it got quiet I think it worked out for him over there because he only had one or two spots that were bad for him but you're right, Ald. Hampton-Houser said it was okay by her. I had to call the police twice though, myself, my neighbor would not stop in the middle of the street, and I called, but I didn't know it was my neighbor. To be honest, it was far enough down the street, I did not know who it was it was just too late. You can't stop it, totally, it's kind of hard, but you're right. So, but it was it was better.

ALD. HAMPTON-HOUSER

Well, good evening, Mayor City Council. Good evening residents. Those online as well. I just want to start off in reference to the 1st Ward Fest which will be August 27, which is a Saturday. Please make sure you mark your calendars for the Ward 1 Festival basically you will be receiving information via mail in reference to all the details the activities that will be taken place as well. So please mark August 27 on your calendar. I also want to state that our bingo which is held in Ward 1 at the Park District gymnasium is actually going very well. We will not have a bingo for the month of August. August is truly a very busy month. The City of Markham has a lot of activities going on so it has been canceled for August and it will resume in September. Also, I want the residents to know we have already started thus far cutting down a lot of the tree debris that are actually in our easements and in our field. So, if you see debris on the side of your home on a parkway or whatever, please be aware that we are cutting down the easements and the trees in certain areas and public works will come around and pick it up. I've had some phone calls, one resident called and said I just saw this landscaping company from some other city or dumping. So just please be aware that we are cutting down in the easements and in our fields as well. I'm asking for your permission to briefly speak in reference to the incident on the Hermitage. For the residents that have called or stopped by my home, yes, we did have an incident on Hermitage. The city of Markham police officers are handling that at this present moment. Once they get an opportunity to release some information, I can bring that information to the residents in Ward 1. I know all the residents in the city want to know what's going on also. Ward 1 will get information when I can share more. But right now, it was an isolated.

I have gone back to the residents where the speed bumps are strategically placed to get a report on how they are being affected in the Ward. I must honestly say they are very effective on the streets, but I must agree with Alderman Jones as well. We found a lot of the cars that go down a different street now, they don't go down the street where the speed bumps are. I have also informed the residents to please be aware that we are strategically placing more speed bumps down in areas where I felt that were more crucial or a bigger concern. We're moving forward and you'll see more speed bumps now. Also, in Ward 1 we have a speed warning sign as well showing you exactly what your speed is on that particular street. Hopefully that will have help slow them down a little bit more as well, that should be coming next week. I just want to give kudos out to our police department. I thank you Mayor we're getting the opportunity to hire more police officers, which is well needed. I'm sure that they're being trained correctly, a lot of them are a lateral move, which is which is awesome because they don't require a lot of basic training. I want to thank our police chief and our Deputy Chief as well for moving forward with expeditiously getting them hired on with the city of Markham. I have seen an increase in my ward but looking forward to seeing more of an increase with more police officers on hand as well.

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ALD. MCDOWELL

Good evening, Mayor and City Council, I want to thank the city of Markham, the mayor along with the council and all those that worked with our Family Fun Fest, which was great, kudos to the director, Quintina Brown and her staff. It was absolutely fantastic, and the residents really enjoyed being able to come out and be a part of that. Also, all Markham residents had an incident in the 2nd Ward with one of our residents. I want to encourage you all if you have a problem with your neighbor any you're not able to talk, you can come to Building and Housing. We had a longtime resident in Markham, it broke my heart I found out about it on my way here tonight where the resident ended up getting arrested. I think we can avoid some of this with the tempers of people, it's a little hard trying to address people and I'm just asking you all if there's a problem, try coming to city hall, we need to rectify this without calling the police. You can call your alderman and see if they can give you some advice of how you can resolve the issue. This really kind of broke my heart what took place. Also, Mayor we need some funding in the 2nd Ward, I have some really bad streets, before I came here, I had a call the sewer line on Honore, is very bad public works was out there before I came in to try to rod that out from 167th to 165th driving down the street is really bad. They just fixed the cave-in on Wolcott in front of St. John. We have another cave-in getting ready to take to place on Winchester from 167 to 165th. It's almost like we're riding on a roller coaster.

MAYOR AGPAWA

I had a similar conversation with Alder lady about the grant, we're going to get busy on the federal dollars.

DERRICK CHAMPION – CITY ADMINISTRATOR

We're working with an engineer to identify some funding to deal with that issue.

I would have not forgiven myself had I not mentioned our Treasurer, Belinda Richardson, and her teammates over at Wintrust who created the South Suburban Community Leadership Council, it is comprised a lot of stakeholders from the region. But one of the things that I focus in on is the CRA the Community Reinvestment Act, and one of the things that they are focusing is really wanting to make an impact in the city of Markham with some of the things we discussed. We talked about consumer financial education, first time homebuyer ownership, credit building, community social services family support, elder abuse awareness, feeding the hungry, business literacy. Also, business networking, economic enhancement, job fairs mock interview and resume workshops. So that's just the beginning but I wanted to just let everybody know that Wintrust is really stepping up and wanting to give back in an impactful way in the city Markham.

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 – MICHAEL SMITH

I have a couple of issues to bring up for you today, you kind of touched upon one of the topics this evening. But one of them is new, due to significant health issues this year, I discovered I can no longer cut grass, I also used to cut the grass for my sister and brother-in-law and a crippled individual lives across from them. Between us we found somebody that comes from city that was a reference from a neighbor this is a retired guy who cuts so we hired him to cut our grass. Today, a code enforcement car drove down about two or three times and finally pulled over and looked at his truck and said you don't have a sticker and says you have to have a permit. He came to get a permit. He went to City Hall, and he was given a form, the form is for landscapers having to put up million-dollar surety bond for the city of Markham, proof of insurance, etc. for a gentleman who's retired and simply cutting grass based on word-of-mouth references, he is not a business. We have similar issues around the area because our neighborhood has a significant number of seniors, there happens to be a gentleman around the corner who is a handicapped person. He has at least a half a dozen people in our neighborhood, that for years he has cut grass for. I saw somebody that is a

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business owner in Markham cutting grass for a neighbor. I don't believe that simple grass cutting should fall on the city if we have the resources to be able to give somebody a little bit of pocket change. It isn't any different than when I was a teenager that I went around and cut grass for pocket money as a teenager. This gentleman comes who lives in the city the only comfort just my home in my sister and brother in law's home to cut her grass for a few bucks in his pocket during these hard times. Should we treat it like a landscaper when he simply cuts grass?

MAYOR AGPAWA

Let me let me get the information, I can give you a call, and you can give me the information and we'll work it out. It doesn't seem like it's going to be that difficult. I'll talk with the Building Department about code enforcement and the logistics of what we should do.

RESIDENT – MICHAEL SMITH

The other issue you talked about it, this is an issue that I promised my brother and sister I would bring up, that years ago they've actually talked to you and Ald. Baron about but it didn't go anywhere that time and Mayor you and I have talked about abandon uninhabitable homes. Next door to them is an abandoned uninhabitable home, the overgrowth is unbelievable. My brother-in-law would like to buy that property. He would tear down the uninhabitable home and just leave the lot clear, because it adjoins his property it's been stalled and gone nowhere. I hear you talking about wanting to do something about these types of properties, I'm wondering where you stand on that issue?

MAYOR AGPAWA

Well, that might be easier lift and some of the other things that we're contending with when we're trying to develop property in terms of residential development. If it's something to tear it down, that's probably easier than anything else. We'll still take that in consideration. I will give you a call on both.

We'll work some things out because all these young folks that are cutting grass, I don't think we should be holding them as landscapers.

RESIDENT – DAVID SPARKS

I came today for a specific issue, regarding a project that I'm working on in Markham, I think most of you guys are familiar with what I do with development here in the city Markham, I'm also a third ward resident, here. A few other things that piqued my interest that were discussed today, but I'll try to be as succinct as possible. One of the issues that we were running into with our projects that in kind of had a catalyst for an that event that brought me here today is water. The water policy currently, is if you do not have an occupancy permit, you are not allowed for water service. What you guys do for houses that are under construction is you guys offer a temporary two-week service before turning off, and you allow that twice, during these projects that we're involved in, a lot of them are four or five, six months old. We need water for grout, cement, paint, landscaping, etc. We basically do not have the opportunity to add any water so we're hauling buckets from a different property. My mom does landscaping at a lot of these properties. She's coming to my house, to haul the buckets of water to the properties for our projects. That's kind of been our experience of course we got to have places for our guys to use the washrooms, we don't want to put a porta potty because that gives a different look to the neighborhood, and we don't want it to look like a full commercial construction site. We just want to figure out there's an option we don't have a problem paying a flat fee, a flat rate we put a deposit down. We've shown a willingness to obviously pay for the service. We want to find some workaround, because we ended up getting ticketed, we redid the plumbing system to check the plumbing system you have to make a connection to water, we ended up getting a ticket because there was a connection without meter and that's a problem. It came to that point could be cut down here today because of that particular issue we have no problem taking care of the of the ticket. We feel we're acting responsibly we just need water service.

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MAYOR AGPAWA

We can visit the policy. It makes sense. Totally makes sense that you know we got to have some construction meters available. We probably just need to extend the time and probably even the deposit to it, maybe it's a little higher so you don't run down the street or live on it because that's all they try to do is stop you from living on it. In your case, you're more than proven yourself. I think that we can either change the policy and make extensions and put some other parameters in there, or we have some discretion as to how we apply it to a company like yours that has proven itself.

RESIDENT – DAVID SPARKS

Appreciate that. I just wanted to as a younger member of the community, as a millennial just offer some perspective on some of the things that were talked about like for example with regard to food trucks, as you know, you guys are in a public sphere. You studied statistics and everything a lot of people my age are moving to South Texas, one of the things that I can think about if you guys are talking about food trucks is Austin if you guys familiar with Austin it is a staple there. One of the unique things that we have in Markham as part of the vision with our business with is that we have an opportunity because of the housing structure that we have, we fall in that affordable housing range, so none of the properties that are redeveloped the highest price I have so sold is on Sawyer, it's a nice brick bungalow was \$220,000, which is below the median home price for Americans and we're for redeveloping these properties to get a brand new home people are getting a good deal. The point is that if we if we have an opportunity with the homes that we have redeveloped, we can attract a younger crowd, a responsible crowd out of the 8 or 9 properties I've done here most of the buyers have been millennials, mostly young women, a few young men in the tech space and one of the friends of mine that I graduated high school with. These are the folks that are going to be interested in services like food trucks, we have a designated location exactly what he was talking about where you can have a nice ambiance and a nice environment to attract that kind of thing, that's really the biggest thing that I've seen run around. I like a nice coffee shop, or cafe that I can go and work at, I think, again, just kind of tying in the housing, we're going to create that affordable housing look and you're going to have younger buyers coming, a lot of the baby boomers retiring as well so you know, we have to do something to keep people from leaving the Midwest. I think we have an elite position here Markham in order to do that. We've put office spaces in them for work from home because we noticed that trend from COVID. I just wanted to share that with you, and I think that's whether it's a food truck, an ice cream, you know, school service truck it doesn't matter it's sitting there, I think that's a nice thing to have in the community.

MAYOR AGPAWA

We're very proud of you here in the community, you really spoke to us, and you make us all proud of where we are, and where we're heading, you're telling us we're doing pretty much the right thing. We need to listen to what you're saying, it's very important to all of this, so thank you.

RESIDENT – DAVID SPARKS

Just to wrap up in regard to the development situation, obviously I'm aware of is the issues with the development deals. My solution to that which I've talked to Ald. Jones about is bringing the Cook County Land Bank in as a third party as the intermediary to kind of help with that structure to take the lift off you guys to manage that process. I proposed to them a specific plan, like kind of what's going on with Harvey I have some involvement in the Harvey thing too. But separately, I didn't come them to come here to look at not only Markham, but other towns because they really focused on Chicago and its Cook County zones. I asked why don't come out here, and they're interested in a specific plan to where we want to have more specific neighborhoods. The last meeting, I had with them they requested that I set something up if you guys just didn't restart the initial conversation. We're willing to put our proposal forward just like anybody else, but that's kind of I thought the land bank would be a good opportunity to put some structure around it. It takes all the funny stuff out with us.

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MAYOR AGPAWA

We're familiar with them. In fact, to be quite honest, you may not know that we were kind of doing the Land Bank before they were thought of and now that's kind of what Markham's was problem was, we were just too smart. I kid you not I wasn't sitting on this Diocese, but I worked here so before the Land Banks was doing any of what they're doing, we were doing it in Cook County. We have the capability to do what they do. We can still have a conversation, but I know that we like holding the authority if we can hold it. We have to be open to let some things move. As long as you know, we can talk about it and it doesn't affect us, because we want home ownership. That's what we're after, so the control if we can, have it so we should talk. I think we can have a conversation for sure. Just kind of give you an update, Attorney Fountain is in contact with the land bank. We kind of know what the needs are, we'll invite you along, but we'll just have to make you kind of a neutral guy because we don't want to have you as a developer. You're getting the inside track and we'll say that we were tipping a bit to yourself, but we'll do a disclaimer with you. South suburban mayors, managers council, I'm going try to do this with Barb. strive trying to be a fair arbitrary so everybody has equal opportunities.

RESIDENT – CALVIN HODGES

Good evening, I stay on Spaulding lately at nighttime we have more traffic parked the end of the street last night, I came around 11 o'clock there was a truck sitting there, lights off, everything dark. We don't know, if are they trying to break or what they're trying to do. What I want to know is, is it possible to get a streetlight? We pull up they leave, so there's no reason to call the police. I really don't want them to see me or my wife going in the house timing us.

MAYOR AGPAWA

That's something we could do. We can work on that for you. That's not a hard fix.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ald. McDowell, seconded by Ald. Hampton-Houser to adjourn at 9:20p.m.

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

Submitted by:

DATED: Aug 3, 2022


Leslie Trimuel, City Clerk