

**MINUTES OF REGULAR HARVEY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY – December 11, 2023 – 7:00 P.M**

Mayor Christopher J. Clark called the City of Harvey Regular Council Meeting to order Monday – December 11, 2023, at 7:10 p.m.

Mayor Clark asked City Clerk Rosa M. Arambula to call the roll of Council members.
Present: Alderwoman Shirley Drewenski, Alderwoman Colby Chapman, Alderwoman Telanee Smith, Alderman Tracy Key, Alderman Dominique Randle-El, Alderman Tyrone Rogers, and Mayor Christopher J. Clark.
Absent: None

Alderman Randle-El gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes Dated: November 27, 2023.

Alderman Rogers made the motion to approve the Minutes.
The motion was seconded by Alderwoman Drewenski.

Voting Aye: Alderwomen Drewenski, Chapman, Smith, Aldermen Key, Randel-El, Rogers.
Voting Nay: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

Approval of Bills for Payment: December 12, 2023

Alderman Randle-El made the motion to approve the Bill list.
The motion was seconded by Alderwoman Smith.

Voting Aye: Aldermen Key, Randel-El, Alderwomen Drewenski, Chapman, Smith, Alderman Rogers.
Voting Nay: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS FOR THE CITY OF HARVEY

Old Business- None

New Business

Discussion and possible action to approve the tax levy for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2023, and ending April 30, 2024

Alderman Smith made the motion to approve and ratify in the next City Council meeting in January 2024.

The motion was seconded by Alderman Rogers.

Voting Aye: Aldermen Randel-El, Rogers, Alderwomen Chapman, Smith, Drewenski.

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: Alderman Key

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

Executive Session-Pending Litigation

Time into Executive Session: 7:17 p.m.

Alderman Drewenski made the motion to go into Executive Session.

The motion was seconded by Alderman Rogers.

Voting Aye: Alderwomen Drewenski, Chapman, Smith, Aldermen Key, Randle-El, Rogers.

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

Back to Public Session: Time: 7:55 p.m.

Alderman Drewenski made the motion to go back into Regular Session.

The motion was seconded by Alderman Smith.

Voting Aye: Alderwomen Drewenski, Chapman, Smith, Aldermen Key, Randle-El, Rogers.

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

Public Comment:

1. **Glynis James-Watson** – Ms. Watson spoke about transparency. She provided a sample agenda from Flossmoor. She asked why the Council did not provide agenda packets and have the meetings on Zoom for the residents.

Alderman Key wished everyone Happy and Safe Holidays. He gave condolences to the Johnson family for the passing of Mr. Wardell Johnson who was 97 years old and a longtime resident of Harvey.

Alderwoman Chapman thanked Ms. Watson for her comments and residents for showing up at the meeting. She mentioned the Thornton Township Assessors' property tax workshop on December 13, 2023 and the 9th annual event, "Joy of Giving" that she partnered with school district 152 on December 16, 2023. She thanked the City for reaching out on her family's loss. She is hopeful that this administration will be transparent in the coming year. She wishes everyone a Safe and Happy holiday.

Alderman Rogers thanks everyone for attending the meeting. He says that the year 2023 has been a rewarding year. He sees vast changes in the City, more cleanliness, more police patrol. He wishes to be more productive in the year 2024. He is proud to be part of this change in Harvey. He mentions that he and his wife, Janet Rogers, are having their annual toy drive, food and bike give away at Bryant School on December 20, 2023. He wishes everyone to have a Safe and joyous Christmas and states that this will continue in 2024

Alderwoman Smith mentions that Jesus is the Reason for the Season, give, give, and give. She states that in the newsletter are the businesses that owe taxes. She mentions that this money could help improve our community by tearing down abandoned houses and fixing our streets. She thanks the residents for their patience and asks for prayers for our City. Alderman Smith wishes a Merry Christmas to all.

Alderman Randle-El thanks the residents that showed up to the City Council Meetings. He states that there are almost 20,000 people in the City and wishes that more residents would show up and voice their concerns. He mentions that we should all find a middle ground and push this City forward together. He wishes everyone a Blessed Holiday and will see everyone in 2024.

Alderwoman Drewenski states that she has had many jobs but that this is the hardest job she has had. She mentions that they are met with controversy all the time. There is always someone thinking of something. She tells them to keep thinking. Alderwoman Drewenski said she is an Alderwoman by the grace of God and that for whatever reason God wants her as an Alderwoman, she will continue to serve as one. She mentioned that on Saturday, December 16, 2023, she would have her annual Santa Visit and food giveaway and welcomed everyone to come. She gave her Ward number, 708-596-7470, and said that she is here to help but that together they could achieve so much more. She wishes everyone Happy Holidays.

Treasurer Aisha Pickett shows gratitude and appreciation to those who have shown their voice and opinions. She thanks everyone for their support and wishes everyone a Safe and Happy Holidays.

City Clerk Rosa M. Arambula wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. She commented that she wants everyone to be safe out there and to get their designated driver in place. She states that the best is yet to come in 2024.

Mayor Christopher J. Clark thanks everyone who actually took the time to attend the City Council meetings to voice their concerns. He states that as Mayor he has found out that things don't happen as fast as he would like. He comments on how he is very proud of this particular Council. He repeated what he has always said, "I have never promised you perfection, but I have promised you progress". He then mentions the opening of Castle Car Wash on 147th and Dixie Highway. He also commented on the Harvey Lofts having started their project next to City Hall. He states that even though it has the name Harvey in it, it is a private investor who is building these lofts. He mentions that the City is working on the comprehensive plan and the residents are welcome to come but to check the website for the next meeting on this (cityofharveyil.gov). He stated that it is very important for those businesses who have not paid taxes to pay them because the money helps fund the City, schools, libraries, park districts, township, and water reclamation district. He said that FEMA is taking applications online at fema.gov for the storms that took place in September. He wants to make people aware of fraudulent checks and said there is a page in the newsletter that is just dedicated to this to make people aware. He says that for the record this is not only a Harvey problem, but it is a nationwide problem. He then mentions the annual toy drive that will be held at City Hall on December 16, 2024, from 2:00-4:30 p.m. and the Christmas tree lighting at 4:30-5:00 p.m. He commented on how his favorite series is The Chosen and wished everyone could watch it.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:43 p.m.

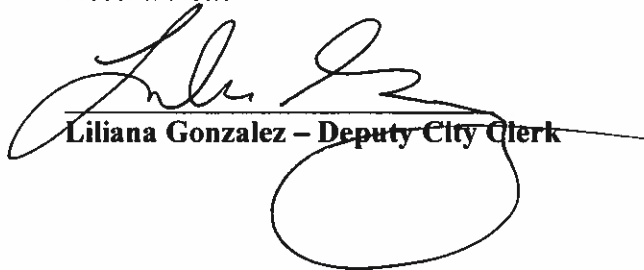
Alderman Drewenski made the motion to adjourn the meeting.
The motion was seconded by Alderman Smith.

Voting Aye: Aldermen Drewenski, Chapman, Smith, Aldermen Key, Randle-El, Rogers.

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None



Liliana Gonzalez – Deputy City Clerk

MOTION CARRIED