

**MINUTES OF REGULAR HARVEY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY – January 22, 2024 – 7:00 P.M**

Mayor Christopher J. Clark called the City of Harvey Regular Council Meeting to order Monday, January 22, 2024, at 7:06 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 Key asks for a motion to add discussion to the agenda for validation and procedures for removal from Council meetings.

Alderman Key made the motion to approve the discussion.

The motion was seconded by Alderwoman Chapman.

Voting Aye: Aldermen Key, Alderwoman Chapman.

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

Abstain: None

Absent: None

MOTION FAILED

Mayor Clark asks for a point of order to add Aldermen comments to Agenda as 8a.

A unanimous aye vote from all Aldermen to add Aldermen comments to Agenda.

Treasurer Aisha Pickett requests a Treasurer report to be added to the Agenda.

A unanimous aye vote was given from all the Aldermen to add the Treasurer's report as item 6a.

Time was provided for members to discuss items not on the Agenda.

Alderman Rogers gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes Dated: January 3, 2024.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED

Approval of Minutes Dated: January 8, 2024.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED

Approval of Bills for Payment: January 8, 2024

Mayor states that there was no finance meeting so this will be postponed until the next meeting.

Treasurer Pickett said she does take partial responsibility for not having a Treasurer's report but that there are things not being collaborated with herself, the comptroller and the Mayor's Office to present an accurate and complete Treasurer's report. She thanks the residents for asking for a report and states that this is not being overlooked.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS FOR THE CITY OF HARVEY

Old Business- None
New Business

Ordinance # 3484 – An Ordinance Regarding City Licenses and other Privileges

Alderwoman Chapman asks the Mayor if businesses will not being able to occupy a space if there are bills past due to the city or county.

Mayor states that the purpose of this ordinance is for those businesses or commercial property owners who owe property taxes, fines or fees will not receive a license, permit, or any privileges from the city. He commented on how the city, park district, library and many other districts throughout the municipality receive a portion of the property taxes.

Alderwoman Drewenski mentioned that the owners can appeal the process if denied a license. Alderman Key asks if the tenants can be denied a license if the landowner does not pay their property taxes.

Mayor said yes because some of these property owners have not paid taxes for 15 to 20 years, and they are benefiting from the tenants by charging them rent and not paying their property taxes.

Alderman Randle-El made the motion to approve the Ordinance.
The motion was seconded by Alderwoman Drewenski.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance # 3485 –An Ordinance Adopting the Illinois Vehicle Code by Reference and Providing Vehicle Impoundment Penalties for Certain Offenses

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

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

MOTION CARRIED

Public Comment:

1. **Melville King Jr.** – Mr. King inquired about why the City does not have Civil Service activated or block captains' meetings and active police community service. He continued to say that no one answers the phones at City Hall. He stated that no building should be boarded up without the police or fire department checking the buildings. He asked why there isn't a treasure's report.
2. **Vernon Scoop Turner-** Mr. Turner wants to speak on uplifting Harvey. He said we can move forward and gain some respect for this Council. He stated that he tried to get a contract for over a year and has been waiting for a settlement.
3. **Mauzkie Ervin-**Mr. Ervin commented on how he has seen scare tactics and manipulation toward the second Ward Alderwoman and other elected officials. He states that religion is being abused. He pointed out that the residents there do not deserve what is going on in Harvey and that there has to be a better way of doing things in Harvey.
4. **Ryan Sinwelski-** Ryan mentioned that he was from the Historical Society. He agrees with the residents that they do want a better Harvey. He mentions that the aldermen should advocate for their residents. He pointed out that he was baptized at Ascension church. He mentions that the City owns the building and that there have been many people going in and out of that building. He says that Harvey should secure it so that no will get hurt.
5. **Faye Kimes** –Ms. Kimes was concerned about the businesses that will no longer be in Harvey since the owners do not pay their taxes and the tenants will have to leave. She says she is worried about the treasurer not having a treasures report. She mentions that she sees the treasurer get discouraged and hopefully this will change.
6. **Chappell Hooks-** Ms Hooks spoke about the two alderpersons that were put out. She mentions that the residents for those two Alderpersons now had no one to advocate for them at that meeting. She stated that others have not been put out even though they do yell.

Aldermen Announcements:

4th Ward- Alderman Key appreciates everyone who came to the meeting. He mentions that he became an Alderman because he has a passion for the city. He states that he is doing the best he can. He pointed out that when he asked for clarification, he needed to know what to do and what not to do so he wouldn't get removed from a meeting. He wants to know on what grounds can the mayor remove an alderman from a meeting and when can he raise a question at a city council meeting as it relates to Ward and City concerns.

2nd Ward-Alderman Chapman stated that what happened at the last meeting was very serious and not a laughing matter. She read part of the constitution that mentions Freedom of Speech. She pointed that she went to the Sheriff's' office and mentioned how she felt intimidated as a woman to be removed from the City Council meeting. Chapman looked at the rest of the alderpersons and said that she was upset because they did not go along with her motion to open discussion on what had happened. She tells her residents that their voices will be heard and that she will continue to be their alderwoman. She gives out her Ward number: 708-320-9214.

6th Ward- Alderman Rogers mentioned that if anyone in his 6th Ward needed snow removal to call him at 708-516-2276. He praises the Harvey police department and the Fire departments for doing a good job and tells them that hopefully they will soon get a raise. He pointed out that he has lived in his house in Harvey for over 51 years and continued to say that he knows everyone and knows everything about his Ward. Alderman Rogers again gave out his number for anyone who needed help with snow removal in the 6th Ward.

3rd Ward- Alderman Smith states that she smiles a lot because she is grateful. She says that anyone that knows her knows that she is genuine but that if anyone is disrespectful, she will say something. She points out the taxes that have not been paid by businesses. If these taxes are paid, they can help tear down houses and fix streets in the city. She mentions that real estate taxes are public record and that anyone can look up who's paid and who has not. Smith comments on how they cannot move forward with all the fighting going on in Council meetings.

5th Ward- Alderman Randle-El said that in the future there had to be time limits on Aldermen comments. He commented on how he didn't make the last meeting but when he heard about it, he was truly surprised and disappointed. He points out how people hear it, and they don't know it, and he doesn't necessarily expect them to know. But he does expect them, the council, to know because they took the seat. He tells the council that it is their job to be educated in their job. He also says that they have to know that this is the legislative body. They learned this in 2019 when they passed the rules in Government conduct. He pointed out that the answers are right there that's why the mayor didn't answer you. He continues to say that this council is not an uneducated council. He tells them to let the mayor do his job and for them to do theirs. Lastly, he mentioned that his senior residents have said that they do not want all that name calling. They want him to act in a professional manner and he tells the council to conduct themselves respectfully also.

1st Ward- Alderwoman Drewenski states that there were wonderful comments and that residents are speaking up for what they believe in. She points out that in the last administration they didn't speak out because of fear. She mentions how the residents in her first ward and the rest of the city can call her and she will get back to them in within 48 hours. She points out that she lets the residents from other wards know to call their alderman and if they don't get back to them within 48 hours, she will try to help them. She comments on how in the last administration the sheriff's had to come to a meeting because she been threatened by someone showing her their gun. She states how everyone should be respectful when someone is speaking and not have a discussion on the side. Drewenski mentions on how she sees the passion and not to stop but to be realistic. She states that if anyone has a question on how she voted to just ask her. She says that she may not be black or hispanic but that she is Harvey. She mentions on how she is the first polish woman to be 1st Ward Alderwoman and how City Clerk Rosa M. Arambula is the first Latina to hold office in Harvey.

Corporation Counsel- Keri-Lyn Krafthefer stated that at the last City Council meeting the Mayor had given all the Alderpersons a chance to speak with a time limit set. When it was his turn to speak, Alderwoman Chapman interrupted him, and he told her she was out of order 5 times and Alderman Key stood up in protest and the Mayor removed them form the meeting. Krafthefer then mentioned that Robert Rules of Order, 61:20, states that when someone is disruptive, they can be removed from a meeting. She then quotes MLK, "We must live together as brothers or die together as fools." Then she stated that brothers is what everyone wants to do here.

Mayor- Mayor Clark stated that he is happy that people have freedom of speech. He said there was a time you couldn't speak because of fear. He mentioned how in 2019 he spoke out and you could hear a pin drop. Someone then said he better watch out when he turns on his engine. The Mayor continued to say that that was then, and this is now. He will continue to do better each and every day. He points out that the city is improving. He wants to see that everyone conducts themselves in a professional manner so that we do not scare businesses away. He states that he will continue to talk about God. He leans on God to fight his battles. Mayor points out to the people to not let anyone who is not Harvey divide them from Harvey.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:03 p.m.

Alderman Randle-El made the motion to adjourn meeting.
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


Rosa M. Arambula – City Clerk