

## **MINUTES OF REGULAR HARVEY CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**Monday – January 8, 2024 – 7:00 P.M**

Mayor Christopher J. Clark called the City of Harvey Regular Council Meeting to order Monday – January 8, 2024, at 7:04 p.m.

Mayor Clark asked Deputy City Clerk Liliana Gonzalez to call the roll of Council members.

Present: Alderwoman Shirley Drewenski, Alderwoman Colby Chapman, Alderwoman Telanee Smith, Alderman Tracy Key, Alderman Tyrone Rogers, and Mayor Christopher J. Clark.

Absent: Alderman Dominique Randle-El

Alderman Key made a motion to add discussion of the board up that happen at 14435 Halsted on January 5<sup>th</sup>. The motion was seconded by Alderwoman Chapman.

Voting Aye: Alderwoman Shirley Drewenski, Alderwoman Colby Chapman, Alderwoman Telanee Smith, Alderman Tracy Key, Alderman Tyrone Rogers.

Voting Nay: None

Absent: Alderman Dominique Randle-El

Discussion is added after public comment.

Mayor Clark gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December 11,2023**

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

Voting Aye: Alderwoman Shirley Drewenski, Alderwoman Colby Chapman, Alderwoman Telanee Smith, Alderman Tracy Key, Alderman Tyrone Rogers.

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Alderman Dominique Randle-El

**APPROVAL OF BILLS PAYABLE: January 8, 2024**

Alderman Roger recommended to postpone the bills list to the next meeting.

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS FOR THE CITY OF HARVEY**

**Old Business- None**

**New Business**

**Resolution - #3067** - A resolution ratifying the execution of ordinance 3481 levying of taxes in the City of Harvey, Cook County, Illinois for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2023, ending April 30, 2024.

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

Voting Aye: Alderwoman Shirley Drewenski, Alderwoman Chapman, Alderwoman Telanee Smith.  
Alderman Tracy Key, Alderman Tyrone Rogers.

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Alderman Dominique Randle-El

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Ordinance - # 3483** - A ordinance authorizing the sale of surplus personal property owned by the City of Harvey.

Mayor requested that the surplus property be listed on the City website to allow the public to view what property is available for sale.

Alderwoman Smith made the motion to approve the Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Alderman Roger.

Voting Aye: Alderwoman Shirley Drewenski, Alderwoman Chapman, Alderwoman Telanee Smith.  
Alderman Tracy Key, Alderman Tyrone Rogers.

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Alderman Dominique Randle-El

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Melville King – Stated he is saddened by the board up that happened on Halsted. The City should be aware of the living conditions of seniors. There are several buildings that are in disrepair and the City needs to do better.

Ryan Sinwelski – Commented on behalf the Harvey Historical Society would like to address what happened at the apartments on Halsted. Commented on his disappointment with the owners and City regarding the handing of the residents at the building. Commented that Mayor and Council members that vote are following a corrupt agenda. Discontent with water basin project, unsold City owned parcels, and claims made that the City is poor.

Mauzkie Ervin – Comment on the lack of treasures report. Commented that the treasure is not receiving the information she requires. Comment on the apartments on 144<sup>th</sup> Halsted and need for a procedure when displacing seniors and expressed disappointment with the way it was handled.

Cheryl Jones – Commented on that on January 3, 2024 agenda claim the City violated OMA for the item was too vague and failed to provide the real subject mater of line b-1. The agenda was not clear on whether the item was an ordinance or resolution.

Al Kindle on behalf of the office County Board President Toni Preckwinkle reminds Cook County Residents who require disaster relief due to the past rain still have time to apply for resources and can contact him if they require any help applying and can call to apply. 30 million dollars is there for assistance and for businesses as well.

**Discussion of the board up that happen at 14435 Halsted on January 5th.**

Alderman Key – Stated his job is to stand up for the people and is embarrassed on how 14435 Halsted was handled. The alderman asked if proper eviction procedures were followed, were there County Sheriff's present, and where were the City representative when the news coverage took place.

Alderwoman Chapman – Stated that she is flabbergasted by what happened at the apartment building. Stated that due to the non-occupancy posted the City had a piece in what took place. The alderwoman recited municipal code 2-28-350 and asked counsel if the City violated the code and what the correct action is.

Alderwoman Smith – Commented on the businesses that owe the City thousands of dollars in taxes. The City can not afford what other communities have due to lack of funds. The City should be focusing its energy on what is owed so that the City can move forward.

Alderman Rogers – Commented that the building on 144<sup>th</sup> and Halsted was deemed uninhabitable by professional certified code enforcement officers. Alderman stated he believes that City acted responsibly. Letters were sent months ago, and the owners are responsible for letting the tenants know. The City would never board up anyone inside an apartment.

Alderwoman Drewenski – Stated that there is not a person that does not feel compassion for the tenants. The City did not do the boarding up. There is no record of any Harvey police officer onsite during the boarding up. Hope there is a resolution by the housing authority if those houses are section 8. Glad that there are individuals that are standing up when they see something is wrong.

Mayor Clark – Stated the City has a responsibility to protect the health safety and welfare of the people in the City and a duty to take action. Past years prior to this administration no inspections that should have been done, were done. Several residents complained about the building. There have been over 350 calls for service to the police at the building. The building went a long time with no maintenance or inspections. The City should not be blamed for performing inspections and finding deficiencies. The City has no right to anyone's private property. When watching the TikTok videos there are no Harvey employees. Harvey is getting vilified when employees were nowhere around in the first place. The City will start making some changes to the ordinances to ensure that those types of things don't happen again. The Mayor stated that he wished Alderman Key and Alderwoman Chapman to read and support those ordinances.

Mayor called Alderwoman Chapman and Alderman Key out of order and were escorted from council chambers at 7:43pm

Counsel addressed questions regarding 2-28-350 of the municipal code regarding retaliation of witnesses that are testifying in a code enforcement hearing and believes it is not relevant to this discussion. No person was threatened in response to testifying.

Mayor - Stated that he did not promise perfect but progress. Mayor commented that from 2003 to 2019 City employees were being charged and convicted of crimes and no one had anything to say. The previous administration ran the City to the ground. The City is being vilified now when it wants to follow the law. The City was not there and they did not do the board up. Mayor commented on the need to support each other more. The Mayor stated the people elected him and they elected these six people.

**ADJOURNMENT: 7:56 p.m.**

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

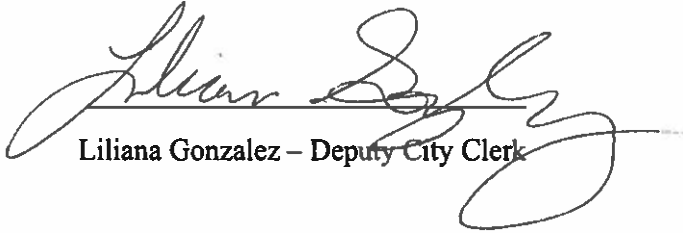
Voting Aye: Alderman Shirley Drewenski, Alderman Telanee Smith, Alderman Tyrone Rogers.

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Alderman Colby Chapman, Alderman Tracy Key, Alderman Dominique Randle-El

**MOTION CARRIED**



Liliana Gonzalez – Deputy City Clerk