

**CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HOMETOWN
JOURNAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS
January 12, 2021**

Call to Order: The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Hometown was called to order by Mayor Casey on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 8:00 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Alderman Barnhouse.

Roll Call: Roll call indicated that the following were present: Aldermen Kurysz, Reynolds, Banasiak, Beyer, Grochowski, Barnhouse, Zak and Walsh.

Absent: Alderman Smith and Alderman Finnegan.

Also present: Michael Cainkar, City Attorney, Bonnie Gesiakowski, Director of Public Health and Safety, Mark Trlak, Public Works Director and James Forbes, Building Commissioner.

Press: Kelly White, Hometown Hi-Lites.

Journal December 8, 2020: Moved by Alderman Kurysz seconded by Alderman Banasiak to approve as published the Journal of December 8, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting.
Roll Call Indicated:

AYES: (8) Aldermen Zak, Reynolds, Grochowski, Walsh, Beyer, Barnhouse, Banasiak and Kurysz.

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (2) Alderman Smith and Alderman Finnegan

MOTION DECLARED CARRIED

CITIZEN’S HEARING

NONE

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Office of the Mayor:

Mayor Casey turned the meeting over to Police Chief Louis Dominguez. Chief Dominguez stated as we all know we have a Part-time Police Department. Our officers have full-time jobs but also give us shifts week after week. Chief Dominguez stated this Police Department is doing good work and has done good work. Chief Dominguez called the following retiring officers forward to receive plaques honoring their service:

- William Henning.....11 years of service
- Brian Rowland.....11 years of service
- Michael Dill.....12 years of service
- John Strama.....29 years of service
- James Sullivan Jr.32 years of service
- Robert Conroy.....35 years of service

Chief Dominguez then asked John Borgens to step forward, John Borgens was then promoted to Commander of Investigations.

Chief Dominguez asked Joseph Hoenselaar to step forward, Joe Hoenselaar was promoted to Deputy Chief of Administration.

All officers were thanked for their service by the City Council. Mayor Casey stated he is very proud of the Police Department and the work they are doing. They are working with surrounding suburbs and the Eight District and getting the job done.

Mayor Casey stated as we start 2021 we have Ghosien's agreeing to a selling price, he signed a contract and it's in the lawyers hands. The proposed new business is Eco Brite Car Wash, Eco Bright, a family owned business. They currently have the same business at 12135 Cicero Avenue in Alsip. Mayor Casey and Alderman Barnhouse met with the proposed owner and they thought they would be a fit for our community. The closing date is anticipated next month.

The empty lot next to the bank has been sold, Mayor Casey and Building Commissioner Forbes met with the new owner who plans to open a small grocery store.

Mayor Casey met with a new business owner for the Shopping Center. He is planning on opening a chicken wing carry out store. He has been working on his unit. There is still a Hot Dog business opening, he has been remodeling his space.

Office of the City Clerk:

Clerk Hacker reported that her office received notification from the Department of Revenue that the Sales Tax collected in the month of August 2020 was in the amount of \$16,249.22 the amount collected in the month of August 2019 was in the amount of \$ 17,150.71.

Clerk Hacker reported that her office received notification from the Department of Transportation that the MFT collected in the month of August 2020 was in the amount of \$ 8,087.58 the amount collected in the month of August 2019 was in the amount of \$15,708.86.

Clerk Hacker wished everyone a Happy Safe New Year.

Office of the Treasurer:

Mayor Casey turned the meeting over to John Hoffman from the Auditing Firm of Wagner Sim. Mr. Hoffman addressed the City Council advising them to make sure they read the MDMA portion of the annual Audit Report he passed out. This will give them a snap of the city's financial picture. Mr. Hoffman thanked Clerk Hacker and her staff for their support during the audit process. Mr. Hoffman stated any questions can be directed to him. Mr. Hoffman stated one of the bright spots in the audit is the pension liability went from 322k down to 194k as the result of the markets, he advised you can also reduce this by paying some toward the balance annually. Treasurer Roti stated everyone should have a copy of the reports generated by his office and a copy of the tax collections. We will discuss that in more detail during the budget process. Everyone should also have a copy of the budget calendar.

REPORTS FROM CITY APPOINTED OFFICIAL

City Attorney: Michael Cainkar, City Attorney had no report.

Police: Louis Dominguez, Chief of Police had no report.

Public Works: Mark Trlak, Director reported they are doing routine jobs. Com Ed has been cutting trees through out town. Public Works has been exercising valves.

Building: James Forbes, Building Commissioner had no report.

Public Health and Safety: Bonnie Gesiakowski had no report.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Accounts Payable Payroll December 22, 2020: Moved by Alderman Beyer, seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve for payment the accounts payable vouchers in the amount of \$ 99,824.23 and payroll vouchers in the amount of \$59,805.60 for a total expenditure of \$159,629.83.
(List of vouchers marked "EXHIBIT A" attached to and made a part of this Journal)
Roll Call Indicated:

AYES: (8) Aldermen Zak, Reynolds, Grochowski, Walsh, Beyer, Barnhouse, Banasiak and Kurysz.

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (2) Alderman Smith and Alderman Finnegan

MOTION DECLARED CARRIED

Accounts Payable Payroll January 12, 2021: Moved by Alderman Beyer, seconded by Alderman Banasiak to approve for payment the accounts payable vouchers in the amount of \$ 287,201.56 and payroll vouchers in the amount of \$69,954.48 for a total expenditure of \$357,156.04.
(List of vouchers marked "EXHIBIT A" attached to and made a part of this Journal)
Roll Call Indicated:

AYES: (8) Aldermen Zak, Reynolds, Grochowski, Walsh, Beyer, Barnhouse, Banasiak and Kurysz.

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (2) Alderman Smith and Alderman Finnegan

MOTION DECLARED CARRIED

Alderman Beyer acknowledged receipt of the City Treasurer's report and the Clerk Collector's report for December.

STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND MUNICIPAL BUILDING COMMITTEE

Alderman Glen Zak, Chairman had no report.

WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE

Alderman Walsh, Chairman had no report.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Alderman Smith, Chairman absent.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Alderman Barnhouse, Chairman gave the Building Report. Chairman Barnhouse reported that the Zoning Appeals meeting held on December 9th, 2020 requested by Don Coday and Vi Beybe to construct a gazebo in the front yard was denied by a vote of 7-0.

LICENSE COMMITTEE: Alderman Donna Grochowski, Chairman had no report.

CODE AND ORDINANCE COMMITTEE:

Alderman Bob Reynolds, Chairman had no report.

INSURANCE COMMITTEE: Alderman Rick Banasiak, Chairman had no report.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE: Alderman Luci Kurysz, Chairman reported that Friday Saturday and Sunday there will be Covid Testing at Patterson Park. Mayor Casey stated this was last minute, a Doctor reached out to him last week.

POLICE COMMITTEE: Alderman Finnegan, Chairman absent. Alderman Banasiak gave the report for December:

Incident Reports 257 P Tickets 372 State Tickets 55 Written Warnings 47 Verbal Warnings 74
Compliance 8

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Library: Alderman Grochowski reported the increase in the minimum wage effects two employees in the Library. They are working on the per capita grant. They ordered the new furniture with delivery in 6 weeks. Circulation in December 2019 was 407, December 2020 was 568. The next meeting will be held on February 3, 2021.

Legislation: Alderman Beyer had no report. There was discussion regarding mandates with no funds and a new bill on police reform.

Fire

Department: Alderman Rick Banasiak reported the district is looking for a new collection agency. The district is looking into a bridge loan for a month. They are looking into Federal Aid. The new ambulance arrives in 2 weeks with the first payment due in the fall. They are finding they now have approximately two Covid cases per week. The calls in 2019: 1351, 2020:1341.

Personnel Review: Mayor Kevin Casey, Chairman had no report.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS RESOLUTIONS, ORDERS AND ORDINANCES BY ALDERMEN

ORD. NO. Moved By Alderman Reynolds, Seconded by Alderman Walsh to Approve Ordinance
No. 1-2021: No.1-2021, an Ordinance Amending Chapter 19, Miscellaneous Offenses, by Adding Article 7, Chronic Nuisance Property, of the Municipal Code of the City of Hometown. On the question, Mayor Casey stated after the Police Department having many frequent calls at the same address and being Non Home Rule, it was decided we needed this ordinance,

which

a copy will be sent to all property owners. These calls are very taxing on the Police Department and Fire Protection District.

AYES: (8) Aldermen Zak, Reynolds, Barnhouse, Grochowski,
Banasiak, Walsh, Beyer and Kurysz.

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (2) Aldermen Finnegan and Smith

MOTION DECLARED CARRIED

Special

Events: Alderman Grochowski had no report.

Health, Welfare & Community Awareness: Alderman Grochowski had no report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: The City Council asked the Attorney to prepare an Ordinance changing the start time for the regular meetings of the City Council from 8:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. effective February 9, 2021.

NEW BUSINESS: Mayor Casey stated he recently met with a gentleman he has talked with a long time ago, regarding acquiring the Advocate building for a dispensary. He currently has two approved license, one he uses for a medical dispensary. If he does not have a license by March 2021 he loses the license.

Treasurer Roti announced that as of December 31, 2020 the Boy Scout Troop is gone.

CITIZEN'S HEARING: There was discussion regarding the scout trailers and memorabilia. Alderman Grochowski has some questions regarding the blood drive, Mayor Casey reported almost as soon as it is posted on social media the appointments fill up. This drive is coordinated by the Mayor, Chief and one of the Police Officers.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion made by Alderman Zak, seconded by Alderman Reynolds to adjourn the regular meeting of the Hometown City Council.

MOTION STATED CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm

Mary Jo C. Hacker, City Clerk