



REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
BURBANK CITY COUNCIL
MAY 13, 2015

CALL TO ORDER The meeting of May 13, 2015 was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Klein in the Council Chambers, 6530 W. 79th Street, Burbank, Illinois.

ROLL CALL Roll call indicated the following members present: Alderman Foy, Looney, Szymczak, Grider, Pacella Piznarski and Pyle. Also present: Mayor Klein, Clerk Roach, Treasurer Viverito and Attorney Vince Cainkar.

The meeting opened with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

JOURNAL Motion made by Alderman Grider seconded by Alderman Looney to approve the minutes of April 22, 2015 as presented was unanimously approved by voice vote and so declared by the Chair.

CURRENT BILLS Motion made by Alderman Grider seconded by Alderman Szymczak to approve the current list of bills. A roll call vote indicated 7 Ayes and 0 Nays. The Chair declared the motion carried. Voting Aye: Alderman Foy, Grider, Piznarski, Looney, Pyle, Szymczak, and Pacella.

TREASURER'S REPORT Treasurer Viverito handed out a Treasurer's report to department heads and City Council members on April's revenue and expense level vs. last year's revenue and expense level at this time.

CLERK'S REPORT Clerk Roach reported that we will be closed Monday, May 25th in honor of Memorial day.

DEPT. OF ZONING Alderman Foy made the motion seconded by Alderman Pacella to approve **Ordinance No. 17-5-15 authorizing a front yard setback variation to allow for the construction of an addition to the existing library building on the property located at 8449 South Moody Avenue.** A roll call vote indicated 7 Ayes and 0 Nays. The Chair declared the motion carried. Voting Aye: Alderman Szymczak, Looney, Pacella, Foy, Pyle, Grider and Piznarski.

Alderman Foy made the motion seconded by Alderman Pyle to approve **Ordinance No.18-5-15 amending Chapter 4, Buildings and Structures, by changing Section 4-574, Ceiling in Residential Buildings of the Municipal Code of the City of Burbank.** A roll call vote indicated 7 Ayes and 0 Nays. The Chair declared the motion carried. Voting Aye: Alderman Grider, Foy, Szymczak Piznarski, Pyle, Pacella and Looney.

DEPT. OF PUBLIC SAFETY Alderman Foy made the motion seconded by Alderman Piznarski to approve **Ordinance No. 19-05-15 amending Chapter 15, Traffic, Article XIII, seizure and impoundment of the Motor Vehicles, Section 15-200, Definitions and Section 15-201, Violations of the Municipal Code for the City of Burbank.** A roll call vote indicated 7 Ayes and 0 Nays. The Chair declared the motion carried. Voting Aye: Alderman Pyle, Piznarski, Foy, Grider, Looney, Szymczak and Pacella..

**CITIZEN'S
REPORT**

Mayor Klein recognized Bonnie L. Gall of 8642 S. Natchez who said she received a letter that the Water Reclamation was trying to purchase her property at market value and that it was said that under law they can do this. Her question was "is this a done deal?" Mayor Klein said that the letter she received was from him and he would like to talk about what lead up to him sending it. He then told her and the audience that the reason he sent this letter was that on May 5th the city engineer, the city attorney and himself attended a meeting at the downtown offices of the Water Reclamation district. At that meeting they presented to them an option for expanding the Melvina reservoir to make it twice as big as it is. That would accommodate millions of gallons of more water. In addition to that they were contemplating putting a spillway across 87th street which would take the water away if the pumps fail via gravity. All the people in that area who live in footprint of the Melvina reservoir were going to be sent notification by the Water Reclamation district that this was their contemplated scheme for alleviating the flooding throughout Burbank.

Mayor Klein said he sent a letter to all the residents involved so they would have prior notice rather than hearing it from a newspaper, etc. Your question is what recourse do you have? He then said he is not an attorney but he assumes you can go into the court system and ask what remedy they can provide for you. He then said the Water Reclamation under law can seize property and have it demolished to accommodate the betterment of any reservoir in the state to alleviate flooding throughout Cook County. She then asked if they had to have a public hearing. He said there will be a public hearing in June and he is trying to firm up the date. The Water Reclamation will be there along with their maps and their studies to show the residents throughout Burbank not just those impacted what their plans are for the reservoir. She then said the fact that her house doesn't flood is not a consideration. He said according to the Water Reclamation district the benefit is that the flooding will be alleviated throughout Burbank for 9200 other homes that are in Burbank.

Mayor Klein then recognized Janet Bennett of 6441 W. 85th street who said she heard him say the word "option" from the Water Reclamation district and asked him what is the other option other than taking people's homes. She said she is one of the homes that floods terribly and she would be interested in another option. Mayor Klein said the only option that he understands is that they are going to offer fair market value for their homes that are involved. She said she has been looking into other methods and feels that there are other options out there than taking people's homes. Mayor Klein told her that at one time the MWRD thought of building the reservoir up that was economically not feasible according to them. He said what they are planning on doing right now is going to cost approximately 28 million dollars. We received as you pointed out through Governor Quinn and the Clean Water Act a grant who gave the MWRD ten million dollars to study the problem and come up with solutions.

He said all of us know, the flooding that happened here in July and August. He said we had five inches of rain in one hour and all told seven inches of rain in two hours. He said we had a meeting here and he said he might add a very contentious meeting where people were crowding in and he had no idea there would be that many people and they were all yelling at the MWRD to give us a solution.

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Janet Bennett said she hated to interrupt the Mayor but she said she was at that meeting and the first time she flooded we had 17 inches of rain in 1996 and she understood everyone's frustration. She said she didn't understand how the whole town could get flooded. She then said as our Mayor I would ask you to fight the **MWRD** on our behalf and on behalf of these people who live in these homes to find another option before they start buying up property and sending people who knows where. She said Burbank is starting to look like a ghost town because people are trying to get out. Mayor Klein said that he disagreed with her and that he was not going to argue but Burbank is no ghost town, and is not looking like one.

Mayor Klein then recognized Christine Kent of 8620 S. Natchez who said she attended the meeting last September and nothing was said at that meeting about taking our homes. She said she has lived in Burbank all her life. She said her backyard is the reservoir and she doesn't mind looking at it. She said she received his letter the day before Mother's day and it spoiled her day. He told her that what was said at that meeting was that the reservoir's capacity had to be increased. He then told her he had the greatest empathy in the world for these residents and he said that his reason for sending the letter was so they would be aware. He felt it was his duty to inform them. She said she couldn't afford to lose her home.

Mayor Klein then recognized Robert Joyce of 8631 Normandy who said his backyard is on the left side of the reservoir and he has lived in Burbank for over 48 years and he said he heard rumors about this last fall. He said he doesn't understand this and then compared it to the deep tunnel project and then talked about a reservoir on 77th street which is half as deep as this and is surrounded by factories. Mayor Klein informed him that the reservoir he is referring to is in Bedford Park and while it is not as deep as the one on 87th street is twice as big and holds more water than the 87th street reservoir. The Mayor informed him that he has been told by our engineers and the engineers from MWRD that if you dig below where the reservoir is on 87th street you hit ground water which is going to fill up the reservoir so you cannot dig deeper you have to expand it. He expressed some other ideas and concerns.

Mayor Klein said he expressed that the reservoir should be at least what it was in 1965 and it has been brought to that depth. The resident also complained that they cut the grass but never pick up the clippings. Mayor Klein said he has brought that up at the last meeting in August.

Mayor Klein recognized Janet Bennett who wanted to know if there was anything he could do to see that the reservoir was the same as it appeared in 1965. She feels it does not and then she wanted to know how does Bedford Park own their reservoir and have control over their sluice and Burbank doesn't. Mayor Klein answered her that the MWRD operates the sluice but they do not own the reservoir. He then told her that FED EX has an underground storage which stores a lot of their water. She then reiterated that there has to be more than one option. He told her all your concerns will be heard at Reavis in June with a public meeting and with the MWRD there to address all your questions.

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Mayor Klein then addressed Marvin Hoogstraten of 8642 Natchez who questioned if there was to be additional diggings. Mayor Klein said there would be additional work on the reservoir. Mr. Hoogstraten asked what the previous digging cost and the Mayor said that came out of the ten million dollars. Mr. Hoogstraten wanted to know what the exact cost was and Mayor Klein told him it would be a matter of public information if he wanted to call MWRD. He then asked if the City of Burbank had to give them permission to work on that reservoir. Mayor Klein said we don't control the reservoir at all. He then asked how can they come on private property to do their surveys? Mayor Klein said we had to give them permission to do this so we can find out what they can do. This was done after the last meeting in August where the people were clamoring for them to do something. He then asked how many homes there were and the Mayor told him fourteen and two property index numbers that were on this list which would make fifteen.

Another resident said he lived on Natoma off of 87th street and was told his house was not on the list but he said he was concerned about the traffic and what could be done about the speeding. Mayor Klein told him that it would be looked at aggressively with the police chief and they would address the problems he mentioned.

Mayor Klein then addressed Mrs. Bennett and she said I think you said this was a done deal and that there are no options. Mayor Klein said he didn't say it was a done deal what he said was the MWRD indicated to him that this is their plan to knock down these houses. She then said he was playing on words and then she said he is rolling his eyes because you don't like me to talk. She then said no one else wants to speak. She then said you and your council were voted in by us and you have an obligation to talk to the MWRD. I have tried to call them and they won't respond to me but they would respond to you.

Mayor Klein then recognized Jerry Synoga of 8109 S. Normandy who said he agreed with previous speakers that it was much deeper years ago. He then said he felt Bedford park should be represented at the meeting to be held at Reavis so they could all share their views and maybe 14 or 15 houses could be spared. Oak Lawn was represented at the meeting too. Mayor Klein told him the water does not only impact the City of Burbank and it does not only impact around the reservoir. Reavis high school at the last flood in August had \$200,000 in flood damage and that is at 77th and Austin which is far from 87th street, It is not just the people who live near the reservoir, It is the people throughout Burbank. When you have a reservoir that doesn't have the capacity and you have water coming from the north to the south and that is the way it flows going into Stony Creek and ultimately into the Cal Sag channel, when it hits a barrier it has no where to go and it backs up and goes into the homes. It is just that simple.

Mr. Synoga said again he feels the community meeting at Reavis is the way to go. He said the answers should be at the meeting in June and Mayor Klein said he knows how devastating this is and said he tried to send the letter out so that no one would be shocked.

Another resident who lives at 77th and Major said they have had their flooding problems and she suggested that the underground tunnel made things worse. He said we have paid for this project with out taxes and we are not connected to this. He said he has been told we cannot be connected by the MWRD.

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Mayor Klein then recognized Marvin Hoogstraten of 8642 Natchez who wanted to know if the apartments on the other end of the reservoir received a notice. He said they did not. Mr..Hoogstraten went on to say that you have a pie shaped reservoir and he felt there was more land there and Mayor Klein told him that their engineers and ours felt that this was the footprint they needed to increase the capacity of the reservoir..

Mayor Klein then recognized Bonnie Gall again and she said she didn't get a letter for 8640 which she owns. She said that the house next to that did not get a letter also. He said he didn't send out the addresses that he was given because he did not want someone that was not involved to have problems that their homes were going to go also. He said he tried to be as honest as he could be.

Another resident said he felt the deep tunnel went right through the center of Burbank. He said Ridgeland on one side and Narraganset on the other side. He said if we are not connected can you get us connected to alleviate this problem. Mayor Klein said we are not connected and we will not be connected according to the MWRD because they have no capacity to connect us.

Mayor Klein recognized Pete Terrazino of 86th and Lockwood who was concerned about a Tribune article that talked about 13 suburbs that a Company was going to be buying and rehabbing property, Mayor Klein said he has not been contacted even though we were mentioned so he would say it was a "No".

Mayor Klein then recognized Charles Bandusky of 8548 S. Lavergne who lived next door to a house bought by Warren Buffet. He said this house was totally rehabbed seven months ago and they moved in then and moved out April 30th. He said he talked to someone from the company that bought it and was told it was rented to section 8 families and they literally took everything that wasn't nailed down. His question was Burbank has a tax when you move out can't you have one when you move in to control these kind of people. Mayor Klein told him we cannot do that.

Mayor Klein said if this does take place where these fourteen-fifteen houses are sold, he is going to waive the tax that people pay when they leave Burbank. It is \$5.00 per thousand dollars on the selling price so if you sell your home for \$100,000 you won't have to pay \$500 and if you sell it for \$300,000 you will save \$1500. Another resident asked if they could have this in writing. Mayor Klein said this is being recorded and the news media will pick this up. He says he doesn't spew falsehoods. He says it is hard to take but that is the only thing he can do.

He recognized another resident from 86th and Natchez and he said we actually filter in Chicago Ridge, Oak Lawn and Worth. Why don't they get their own retention basin. Mayor Klein told them that Oak Lawn is contemplating looking at a retention basin by St.Casmir's cemetery, but he said he cannot speak for Oak Lawn. He then asked why do we filter in other towns into that reservoir? Mayor Klein told him that it flows from north to south Stony Creek, Cal Sag. He also told the resident that it only flows into Burbank when it reaches its maximum capacity and backs up.

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Mayor Klein then recognized Linda from 77th and Natchez. She wanted to know why the neighboring suburbs that filter into Burbank she said why can't they accommodate their residents and their flooding situation. Mayor Klein told her that the reservoir on 77th street in Bedford Park does not overflow. It gets to capacity but it doesn't overflow. Fed Ex who is a major property owner in Bedford Park has underground water storage which alleviates that filling up into the reservoir. She then asked about the park on 77th and Natchez and Narragansett. He explained to her that anything that is being built in Burbank currently has to have water retention in any construction. The park district is a separate taxing body and we have nothing to do with that. She also brought up a chemical that is being released in Bedford Park and she said she is not sure what company is releasing it, but in the afternoon about 2:30 in the afternoon at 77th and Natchez the smell is so bad you would need a mask. He told her that the Environmental Protection agency is responsible for any emissions that come from any property and he said he will ask about it.

Mayor Klein then recognized Mary Ann from 4949 west 85th street who said they are having a serious rat problem. She said she called the Health department and a couple of weeks ago she was walking into her driveway and the rats ran across. She said she called the Health department two days ago and they did not respond so her husband set the traps. Mayor Klein assured her that they would check into this.

Another resident asked if there was a time line because she could not pack up her whole life in a short period of time. Mayor Klein assured her that the MWRD will be contacting all of the residents that will be impacted and they will address all of your questions. Mayor Klein said he felt she would have plenty of time.

Mayor Klein then addressed another resident who said he hoped that this City Council would go back to the principles of this government are to protect the people. He said you are trying to do your best but you have to help these people. You are supposed to take care of each and every single resident in this community. He then said Mrs. Gall just spent \$60,000 on two properties to renovate them, she just retired and paid off her mortgage. She assumed that she was going to die there. Her father before her was one of the founders of this community and went to World War II. He said that he told him to take care of her. He said I hope that you will all show up and back us up because that is why we put you into office at the meeting in June. He said he would like to see the blueprints of that reservoir and Mayor Klein said at the meeting in June the MWRD will have pertinent information available. He also said he would like to have everything postponed now.

Mayor Klein recognized another resident who wanted everything stopped till they had more options. He said referring to his letter again the MWRD will be carrying the ball and the money they receive from the State of Illinois will be guiding them. He said he is very sympathetic and can only do so much. No matter what he says these are your homes and you are the ones that are hurting.

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DEPT. OF ADMINISTRATION Mayor Klein then invited the Reavis students in the audience to come up front after the meeting is adjourned and have their government class papers signed by someone at the front table or at the Council table. He then told the students they got to see a real Council meeting in action tonight.

MOTION TO ADJOURN There being no further business to be brought before the City Council, the Chair asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Alderman Grider seconded by Alderman Foy to adjourn was agreed upon by voice vote and so declared by the Chair.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

PATRICIA E ROACH
CITY CLERK

APPROVED