



January 6, 2026

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF PALOS HEIGHTS, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Mayor called to order the regular meeting of the City of Palos Heights City Council at 7:00 p.m. in the City Administrative Center, 7607 W. College Drive, Palos Heights, IL

**II. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Mayor led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. ROLL CALL**

Roll call indicated the following were present:

*Mayor* Robert Straz

*Ward 1* Dan Brennan & Jeffrey Key

*City Clerk* Shannon Harvey

*Ward 2* Jack Clifford & Robert Basso

*City Treasurer* Jim Daemicke

*Ward 3* Brent Lewandowski

*City Attorney* Tom Brown

*Ward 4* Pat Scully & Michael McGrogan

Absent: Heather Begley

**IV. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

**V. CONSENT AGENDA**

- Approval of Minutes:
  - a. City Council Meeting – December 16, 2025.
  - b. Public Hearing on Proposed 2025 Tax Levy – December 16, 2025.
- Approval of Payroll and Voucher List for the period ending January 2, 2026.
- Approval of a Special Event request from Palos Baseball Organization (PBO) to conduct a 5K run on March 19, 2026 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Alderman McGrogan moved to approve the consent agenda seconded by Alderman Brennan.

On roll call, the motion to approve the Consent Agenda was:

Ayes: (6) Brennan, Basso, Key, Scully, McGrogan, Clifford,

Nays: (0) None

With six (6) affirmative votes the motion carried.

**VI. OPENING OF SEALED BIDS : None**

**VII. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS**

- Mayor:
  - General Remarks and Updates. Mayor Straz noted the retained consulting firm MKSK will be doing focused groups in the community on Monday and Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Please check out Palos website for further details.
  - General Remarks and Updates.
- Clerk: No Report
- Treasurer: No Report
- City Attorney: No report

**VIII. COMMUNICATIONS: None**

**IX. CITIZENS ADDRESSING THE CITY COUNCIL:**

- Rash Darwish: President of Arab American Business Association, located in Palos Heights. Mr. Darwish explained his Association helps small business achieve their American dream. He explained that one of their clients is before the City Council today relating to an auto repair shop. Mr. Darwish explained his support for this business.
- Ryan Carberry, resident of Forest Ridge Community. Mr. Carberry explained his opposition to the proposed auto shop based on the noise, pollution and safety.
- Nuer Alshaikh: Owner of proposed Chicago's Elite Automotive. Mrs. Alshaikh explained that her and her husband have already met with the ZBA and Committee and addressed the concerns made by the committees. Mrs. Alshaikh presented a recording that the sound within the building does not travel outside the building. Mrs. Alshaikh said she spoke to other businesses about the concerns raised by the residents, addressed them and explained she has solutions to the issues.
- Mrs. Alshaikh's Brother: He explained his support for his sister and brother in law and addressed the issues raised by the resident and prior boards.
- Relative of Mrs. Alshaikh who is also a business owner in Orland Park. He also explained his support for the business. He noted that this a good location for an auto repair shop because a gas station is located there and is an industrial area.

**X. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

- A. **Finance—*Chairperson Alderman McGrogan***: No Report.
- B. **Public Safety—*Chairperson Alderman Basso***: Alderman Basso wished everyone a Happy New Year and continued to urge residents to be diligent and aware of scams.
- C. **Municipal Grounds and Property—*Chairperson Alderman Begley***:
  - Motion to solicit bids for the 2026 Tree Removal and Trimming services.

Alderman Clifford moved to approve the Motion seconded by Alderman Lewandowski.

On roll call, the motion to approve the Motion was:

Ayes: (7) Brennan, Basso, Key, Scully, McGrogan, Clifford, Lewandowski

Nays: (0) None

With seven (7) affirmative votes the motion carried.

**D. Planning and Zoning—*Chairperson Alderman Scully:***

- Motion to direct City Attorney to draft an Ordinance allowing a zoning variance to allow an 8-foot setback variance from the 20-foot secondary front yard setback requirement. The 8-foot variance would create a 12-foot secondary front yard setback instead of 20-feet at the commonly known address at 12550 74th Avenue, and contained within the following PIN: 23-25-421-010-0000.

Comment: Alderman Basso asked for further details and Alderman Scully explained that the concrete ground already exist.

Alderman Scully moved to approve the Motion seconded by Alderman Key.

On roll call, the motion to approve the Motion was:

Ayes: (7) Brennan, Basso, Key, Scully, McGrogan, Clifford, Lewandowski

Nays: (0) None

With seven (7) affirmative votes the motion carried.

- Motion to direct City Attorney to draft an Ordinance allowing a Special Use Permit for a B-1 Special Use in a B District for an insurance agency for auto, home, and life at 13420 S. Ridgeland Ave., Palos Heights, IL, and contained within the following PIN: 24-31-404-049-0000.

Comment: The owner of the insurance appeared and explained this will be a AAA insurance company. Alderman Scully explained that an insurance company already exist in this location.

Alderman Scully moved to approve the Motion seconded by Alderman Key.

On roll call, the motion to approve the Motion was:

Ayes: (7) Brennan, Basso, Key, Scully, McGrogan, Clifford, Lewandowski

Nays: (0) None

With seven (7) affirmative votes the motion carried.

- Motion to direct City Attorney to draft an Ordinance allowing an automotive service center to operate as a special use within the premises located at 6350 W. 135th Street, Palos Heights, IL, and contained within the following PIN: 24-32-300-013-0000.

Alderman Scully moved to approve the Motion seconded by Alderman Lewandowski.

On roll call, the motion to approve the Motion was:

Ayes: (2) McGrogan, Lewandowski

Nays: (5) Key, Scully, Clifford, Brennan, Basso

With five (5) nay votes the motion did not carry.

Comment: Mrs. Alshaikh asked about a different type of business at this location. Mayor Straz instructed her to talk to Amy Ingalls.

**E. Recreation—*Chairperson Alderman Key***

- Motion to adopt an Ordinance authorizing the sale of certain personal property owned by the City of Palos Heights: 2009 Chevy Express 2500 Work Van – VIN #1GCGG25C291141071 to be sold on i-Bid.

Alderman Key moved to approve the Motion seconded by Alderman Brennan.

On roll call, the motion to approve the Motion was:

Ayes: (7) Brennan, Basso, Key, Scully, McGrogan, Clifford, Lewandowski

Nays: (0) None

With seven (7) affirmative votes the motion carried.

**F. Roads and Construction—*Chairperson Alderman Clifford: No Report.***

**G. License, Permits & Franchises—*Alderman Lewandowski:***

- Motion to approve payment to Bradford Systems Corporation for Phase 2 Permit Document Digitalization for 2025 in the amount of \$37,600.20.

Alderman Lewandowski moved to approve the Motion seconded by Alderman Brennan.

On roll call, the motion to approve the Motion was:

Ayes: (7) Brennan, Basso, Key, Scully, McGrogan, Clifford, Lewandowski

Nays: (0) None

With seven (7) affirmative votes the motion carried.

**H. Water and Sewer—*Chairperson Alderman Brennan:***

- Motion to adopt an Ordinance amending the rates charged for water and sewer effective January 1, 2026 with new rates applied to billing cycles after said effective date.

Alderman Brennan moved to approve the Motion seconded by Alderman Key.

On roll call, the motion to approve the Motion was:

Ayes: (7) Brennan, Basso, Key, Scully, McGrogan, Clifford, Lewandowski

Nays: (0) None

With seven (7) affirmative votes the motion carried.

**XI. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

- A. Business/Economic Development—*Chairperson Alderman Key*: No Report
- B. Cable TV— *Chairperson Alderman Scully*: Alderman Scully noted that PHTV 4 produced and aired over 300 shows. Alderman Scully also urged residents to view the upcoming programming on the history of Palos Heights early developers.

**XII. OLD BUSINESS:**

**XIII. NEW BUSINESS:**

**XIV. CITIZENS ASKING QUESTIONS REGARDING THE EVENING'S BUSINESS**

- Harlen Wiota 7630 West 135<sup>th</sup> Street: Mr. Wiota discussed the recent purchase of properties near the Old Palos Harlem corridor. He also asked about special use permits and directed questions to the City Attorney re the same. Mr. Wiota also asked about status of Palos Heights Metra train station. Mayor Straz noted that Covid impacted the ridership and he has considered giving it back to MWRD.
- Alderman McGrogan noted Palos Heights should do something to celebrate the Bears.
- Alderman Key noted that he and Alderman Clifford discussed about this year's anniversary of the Country's 250<sup>th</sup> year and the 25 years since 9/11. Mayor Straz said he taking steps to acknowledge these events.

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:35 p.m. the Mayor requested a motion to adjourn that passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

**PALOS HEIGHTS CITY CLERK**

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Shannon M. Harvey

Date