



January 20, 2026

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

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

City Attorney Tom Brown

Ward 4 Pat Scully & Michael McGrogan

Absent: Heather Begley & Brent Lewandowski

IV. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

V. CONSENT AGENDA

- Approval of Minutes:
 - a. City Council Meeting – January 6, 2026
 - b. Public Hearing on Proposed 2025 Budget – December 16, 2025.
- Approval of Payroll and Voucher List for the period ending January 16 , 2026.

Alderman Clifford 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 urged residents to check on neighbors during this cold weather. He also noticed that the Rec Center will serve as a warming center during the week.
Mayor Straz congratulated the Indiana University and Palos Resident Pat Coogan for winning the National Championship.
- Clerk: No Report, but Clerk Harvey also congratulated Pat Coogan and the Coogan Family on the great season.
- Treasurer: No Report
- City Attorney: No report

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS: None

IX. CITIZENS ADDRESSING THE CITY COUNCIL:

- Michael VanderWheele: 12205 South Nagle Avenue: Mr. VanderWhelle commented on the town planning meetings relating to Olde Palos Business District. He noted that parking is the biggest issue. He asked if the City could take the parking lots since they are owned by various businesses, but Mayor Straz noted that is not allowed.

X. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- **Finance—*Chairperson Alderman McGrogan:***
- Motion to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Palos Heights and the Metropolitan Alliance of Police Chapter #99 effective 1/1/26 until 12/31/29.

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

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

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

Nays: (0) None

With six (6) affirmative votes the motion carried.

- Alderman McGrogan noted that this is the contract with the Police Department and is an extensive agreement that can be found online.
- Motion to approve second loan payment to the Library in the amount of \$184,962.59.

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

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

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

Nays: (0) None

With six (6) affirmative votes the motion carried.

- Alderman McGrogan noted that this is bridge loan based on the County's delay in issuing tax funds to the library.
- Motion to approve sign grant application to Sanna Bin Hussien in amount of \$1,250.00.

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

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

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

Nays: (0) None

With six (6) affirmative votes the motion carried.

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

- Alderman McGrogan noted that this is the part of the sign program. Alderman Clifford noted various issues with the application.

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

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

Nays: (0) None

With six (6) affirmative votes the motion carried.

- Motion to approve business improvement grant to Carras Corporation, which includes all three parcels, in the amount of \$10,000.00.

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

- Alderman McGrogan noted that the owner spent much more than \$10,000, but this is part of the program the City offers. Alderman Clifford noted that we had to take this landowner to court to get him to fix his parking lot. Alderman Clifford noted that we should consider if providing taxpayer funds to assist, that we should talk to businesses about sharing parking spots.

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

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

Nays: (0) None

With six (6) affirmative votes the motion carried.

- Motion to approve engagement with Miller Canfield related to the Jewel redevelopment agreement.
 - Alderman McGrogan noted that certain issues in tax payment agreements need additional clarifications. Mayor Straz noted that they sought a tax appeal, but that impacts the TIFF funding.
 - Alderman Clifford noted that we should discuss entryway signage at Jewel when in these discussions.

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

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

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

Nays: (0) None

With six (6) affirmative votes the motion carried.

- Motion to approve Landmark Property Maintenance to manage the property at 12313 S. 71st Court.

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

- Alderman McGrogan noted that this is the house the City purchased, and this company will serve as property manager of property.

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

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

Nays: (0) None

With six (6) affirmative votes the motion carried.

- Alderman McGrogan thanked the Chicago Bears for the great season, as it was an economic boom for the Chicagoland area, including here in Palos Heights.
- Alderman McGrogan also congratulated Indiana and the Coogan Family on the great win.
- **Public Safety—Chairperson Alderman Basso:**
 - Alderman Basso discussed different scams noted in local media reports. He offered different tips given to him by the Palos Heights Police Department. He urged younger residents to work with their elderly residents and family to discuss different ways to protect themselves from different scams, including bitcoin scams. Alderman Basso noted that the Federal Trade Committee warns never to move money based on a text or phone call.
- **Municipal Grounds and Property—Chairperson Alderman Begley:** No Report.

- **Planning and Zoning—*Chairperson Alderman Scully:***

- Motion to adopt 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.

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

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

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

Nays: (0) None

With six (6) affirmative votes the motion carried.

- Motion to adopt 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.

- Alderman Scully noted that there was an established insurance business prior to this business.

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

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

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

Nays: (0) None

With six (6) affirmative votes the motion carried.

- **Recreation—*Chairperson Alderman Key:*** No Report

- **Roads and Construction—*Chairperson Alderman Clifford:***

Motion to approve payment to Builders Paving, LLC for the Harold Avenue and Cypress Lane project in the amount of \$229,074.81.\

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

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

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

Nays: (0) None

With six (6) affirmative votes the motion carried.

- Alderman Clifford noted information relating to the three snowstorms. He also discussed that the road program budget is under review. He noted the large costs and expenses

needed in road upkeep. Alderman Clifford also noted that new flashing lights will be installed at the Oak Park crossing at College Drive.

- **License, Permits & Franchises—Alderman Lewandowski:** Alderman Clifford read the report in Alderman Lewandowski's stead.
- **Motion to approve the purchase of Permit, Licensing and Code Compliance software from CivicPlus in an amount not to exceed \$58,650.00.**

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

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

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

Nays: (0) None

With six (6) affirmative votes the motion carried.

- **Water and Sewer—Chairperson Alderman Brennan:** No Report

XI. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- A. Business/Economic Development—*Chairperson Alderman Key:* No Report.
- B. Cable TV— *Chairperson Alderman Scully:* No Report but noted that PHTV 4 is running a program on how to winterize your home featuring Dan Harris from Ace Hardware.

XII. OLD BUSINESS:

- Alderman McGrogan noted that the City Council is looking into the Metra parking cost and revenue.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- Alderman McGrogan noted that the City Council should consider looking at poker machines in local restaurants.
- Alderman Clifford also acknowledged and wished Kendall Coyne good luck who will be playing in the US Olympics on the US Women's Hockey team.

XIV. CITIZENS ASKING QUESTIONS REGARDING THE EVENING'S BUSINESS

XV. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:28 p.m. the Mayor requested a motion to adjourn that passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

PALOS HEIGHTS CITY CLERK

Shannon M. Harvey

Date