

**CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HOMETOWN
JOURNAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS
February 10, 2026**

Call to Order: The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Hometown was called to order by Mayor Frank Finnegan on Tuesday February 10, 2026 at 7:00 P.M.

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

Roll Call: Roll call indicated that the following were present: Aldermen Rivas, Reynolds, Weber, Brookman, Kurysz, Forney, Dolan, and Barnhouse.

Absent: Aldermen Grochowski and Zak.

Also present: Michael Cainkar, City Attorney, Sal Roti, Treasurer, James Melnik, Building Commissioner, Chris Gatch, Director of Code Enforcement, and Louis Dominguez, Police Chief.

Press: Jan Forney, Hometown Hi-Lites.

Journal January 27, 2025: Moved by Alderman Rivas, seconded by Alderman Dolan, to approve as published the Journal of January 27, 2026 Regular City Council Meeting.

Roll Call Indicated:
 AYES: (8) Aldermen Barnhouse, Rivas, Kurysz, Weber, Dolan, Brookman, Forney and Reynolds.
 ABSTENTION: (0)
 ABSENT: (2) Aldermen Zak and Grochowski.
MOTION DECLARED CARRIED

CITIZEN’S HEARING

Phil Mottl, 9054 Corcoran, thanked Mayor Finnegan for getting the lights turned off at the dealership. The lights are turned off at about 9:30 now.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Office of the Mayor:

Mayor Finnegan turned the meeting over to Chief Dominguez. The Chief acknowledged Officer Soria for finishing the Academy, passing her certification and doing field training. Chief also acknowledged Corporal Gutierrez, he is the first D.A.R.E. officer in Hometown. Mayor Finnegan said he spoke to Tom Phelan from the village of Oak Lawn and the car dealership, and they took care of the lights right away. You all may remember when Hometown School did a fundraiser with Project Fire Buddies and raised money for a climbing wall. The climbing wall was installed at the school. The weather has been crazy. Public Works had 2 water main breaks to deal with this week. There may be more due to the weather getting a bit warmer and everything thawing out. Clerk Walker and I received an email from Flood Brothers about getting us information about their garbage service. Our contract with Republic is up in May. Something to think about.

Office of the City Clerk:

None

Office of the Treasurer:

Treasurer Roti reported you have received my reports. We received a huge property tax payment. We still have some trailing in. The Library received a big chunk as well. Residents that are waiting for

refunds from Cook County, they are not being issued until March. Regarding the budgets, wish lists were due but we need them by next week if you have not turned them in. Our first budget meeting is February 24. Come prepared. If you have any questions, let me know.

REPORTS FROM CITY APPOINTED OFFICIALS

City

Attorney: Michael Cainkar, City Attorney, had no report but announced this is my last meeting as I am retiring. It’s been over 40 years, and it was a pleasure. Everyone was always so nice and respectful. Thank you. It has been an honor. Mayor Finnegan thanked Michael and said you have made it easy and I call you a friend. The City appreciates your efforts.

Police

Department: Chief Dominguez reported that they are continuing to complete mandatory training.

Public Works: Mark Trlak, Director, was absent.

Building: James Melnik, Building Commissioner, had no report

Public

Health: Chris Gatch, Director of Code Enforcement, reminded residents that now that it is getting warmer, make sure you clean up after your dogs.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Accounts Payable/
Payroll
January
13, 2026: Moved by Alderman Forney, seconded by Alderman Barnhouse, to approve for payment the payroll vouchers in the amount of \$77,191.10 (List of vouchers marked “EXHIBIT A” attached to and made a part of this Journal)

Roll Call Indicated:

AYES: (8) Aldermen Rivas, Weber, Brookman, Kurysz, Reynolds, Dolan, Forney and Barnhouse.

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (2) Aldermen Grochowski and Zak.

MOTION DECLARED CARRIED

Accounts Payable/
Payroll
February
10, 2026: Moved by Alderman Forney, seconded by Alderman Reynolds, to approve for payment the accounts payable vouchers in the amount of \$94,601.65 and payroll vouchers in the amount of \$101,987.49 for a total expenditure of \$196,589.14. (List of vouchers marked “EXHIBIT A” attached to and made a part of this Journal)

Roll Call Indicated:

AYES: (8) Aldermen Rivas, Weber, Brookman, Kurysz, Reynolds, Dolan, Forney and Barnhouse.

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (2) Aldermen Grochowski and Zak.

MOTION DECLARED CARRIED

Alderman Forney acknowledged receipt of the City Treasurer’s Report and the Clerk Collector’s Report.

STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND MUNICIPAL BUILDING COMMITTEE:

Alderman Zak, Chairman was absent.

WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE: Alderman Dolan, Chairman reported there were 2 water main breaks this week. One on the access road outside of City Hall and one on 89th St.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE: Alderman Brookman, Chairman had no report.

BUILDING COMMITTEE:

Alderman Barnhouse, Chairman gave the building report.

LICENSE COMMITTEE: Alderman Grochowski, Chairman was absent.

CODE AND ORDINANCE COMMITTEE: Alderman Reynolds, Chairman had no report.

INSURANCE COMMITTEE: Alderman Weber, Chairman had no report.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Chairman Kurysz, Chairman had no report.

POLICE COMMITTEE: Alderman Rivas gave the January police report.

C Tickets: 112 LO Tickets: 15 State Tickets: 73 Verbal Warnings: 0 Written Warnings: 159
Hometown Residents: 19 Misdemeanor Arrests: 21 Felony Arrests: 5 Traffic Stops: 294 Total
Incidents: 257

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Library: Alderman Dolan reported they had a meeting February 3. They received \$39,000 in real estate taxes. Thank you to Clerk Walker for changing our phone service. On February 23 they are having a book discussion. The winter reading program goes through February 28. Their next meeting is March 3 at 7pm.

Legislation: Alderman Weber had no report.

Fire

Department: Alderman Reynolds reported they met today. They had 125 runs: 63 fire, 62 EMS. On March 2 they will be switching their dispatch over to Oak Lawn. They are still waiting for real estate taxes. They are looking to hire 2-4 new firemen. Their next meeting is March 11.

Personnel

Review: Mayor Finnegan, Chairman, had no report. Alderman Rivas thanked the City for their condolences for the passing of his mother-in-law. He also gave a special shout out to the Fire Department. They were so wonderful and did an outstanding job.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 1-2026 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO SIGN THE APPLICATION AND VARIOUS FORMS REGARDING THE CDBG APPLICATION FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2026 TO RECONSTRUCT SOUTHWEST HIGHWAY FRONTAGE ROAD FROM DUFFY TO THE NORTHEAST END IN THE AMOUNT OF \$485,000.00.

Roll Call Indicated:

AYES: (8) Aldermen Rivas, Weber, Brookman, Reynolds, Dolan,
Forney, Kurysz, and Barnhouse.

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (2) Aldermen Grochowski and Zak.

MOTION DECLARED CARRIED

SPECIAL

EVENTS: Liaison Grochowski was absent.

HEALTH, WELFARE & COMMUNITY AWARENESS: Liaison Grochowski was absent. Alderman Dolan reminded everyone that City Hall and the Library will be closed on February 16 for President’s Day. The VFW is having an Italian Night on February 14. They are also having Trivia Night on February 20 at 7pm and a Comedy night on May 2. St. Germaine School is having a Comedy Night on February 13. The Illinois General Primary Election is March 17. Happy Valentine’s Day!

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Mayor Finnegan informed everyone that our Deputy Clerk, Sharon Harland, lost her son last week. Clerk Walker and I did a collection within the building to help her out, as she had to take an Uber to Rush Hospital every day. Please keep her in your thoughts.

CITIZEN’S HEARING: Robert Tietz, 9073 Corcoran, asked about the ordinance regarding the vacated property. He wants to reposition his garage. There was a full discussion on the ordinance and the repositioning of his garage.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion made by Alderman Kurysz seconded by Alderman Reynolds to adjourn the regular meeting of the Hometown City Council. MOTION STATED CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm

Christina M. Walker, City Clerk/Collector