THE CITY OF FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, July 21, 2026, 6:35 p.m.
Continued from the Operations Committee Meeting of Wednesday, July 15, 2026
Council Chambers
Fairview Heights City Hall
Fairview Heights, Illinois

Committee Members in attendance – Alderpersons Josh Frawley (arrived 6:49 p.m.), Jimmy Winkeler, Brenda Wagner, Bill Poletti

Committee Members absent – Alderperson Pat Peck

Other Alderpersons and Elected Officials in attendance – Mayor Mark Kupsky, Alderpersons Frank Menn, Anthony LeFlore, Barb Brumfield, Derrick King

Staff in attendance – City Attorney Andrew Hoerner, Deputy City Clerk Veronica Gabriel, Economic Development Assistant Ryan Jenkins, Finance Director Gina Rader – tele/conference, IT User Support and Systems Manager Zach Bartley – tele/conference, Police Chief Steve Johnson, Public Works Director John Harty

Recorder – Jill Huffman

Public Participation

The Mayor recognized Sharon Zajac, Edding Lane, to speak. Ms. Zajac relayed that at approximately 8:45 on Sunday, she had locked herself out of her house, could not get a local locksmith to help her unlock the door, contacted the police department's dispatch and ultimately a locksmith arrived from Missouri to unlock the door. When Ms. Zajac was waiting on the Missouri locksmith to arrive, a police officer knocked on her car door, and although he could not unlock her door, he stayed the entire time while the locksmiths were working on opening her door (approximately five minutes). Ms. Zajac stated that, not only was she impressed that the police officer stayed with her, but that his sergeant allowed him to stay with her. She stated that the police were not only protecting, but serving as well. She thanked Officer Teschendorf who stayed with her, the sergeant, and the Chief of Police who sets the attitude in the department that when someone needs help, the police respond. She also stated that coming from Edding Lane, a motorist either needs to travel on Highway 50 or IL Route 159 and said that if she does not see two police cars patrolling the area in a five-minute timeframe, she knows something is wrong.

Approval of Minutes, June 10, 2026

Motion and second to approve minutes were made by Alderpersons Poletti/Wagner. Roll call vote: Alderpersons Frawley – absent, Winkeler - yes, Wagner – yes, Peck - absent, Poletti – yes. Motion carried.

Law Enforcement Committee
Alderperson Brenda Wagner, Acting Chairman

Alderperson Wagner stated that this is her fourth consecutive month chairing Law Enforcement because the Chairperson has not been able, for whatever reason, to attend. She questioned the Mayor if there is anything within the City's ordinances to replace a chairman, and possibly someone on a committee, so that the committee does not face what happened last week with not having a quorum with consistently having one member not participating. Alderperson LeFlore concurred with Alderperson Wagner. The Mayor requested that the City Attorney review the statutes. He also questioned the Chief of Police if he had heard from the Chairman of Law Enforcement to which he replied he has not. He questioned the Chief if he had heard from the Chairman the other months to which he replied he had not. Alderperson Wagner stated that the City needs to make sure they have adequate representation.

The Mayor stated that when he was elected Mayor, with the Council's approval, he reset the committees to have five members so that every ward is represented. He relayed that the City Attorney will review and he will follow up.

STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT REPORT/CODE ENFORCEMENT/CEO REPORT/TEMPORARY FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS POLICE DEPARTMENT IL 7.7.26

The Chief presented his written report to the elected officials for their review to which there were no questions or comments.

The Chief stated that it is important in Law Enforcement to be prepared for the unpreparable. Recently, officers have been training in response to active shooters in schools, which is done annually and sometimes multiple times during the year. This month the police are at Holy Trinity Church performing rescue task force training; not only rapid response to an active shooter, but everything that happens afterwards – treating the victims who are severely injured and dying. The training of officers is not only to rapidly respond to stop the killing, but to prevent dying by getting fire, ambulances, EMS into zones that are not completely safe. The Chief stated that today and last week, the fire department, both ambulance services, dispatch and telecommunicators are participating in drills in schools with simunitions. Actors, students, and teachers are role players. The Chief stated that there is department training four times a year – training half of the department at a time and then the entire department. He believes when you train together you get better. He stated that the Union worked with the department as a training day is then given as a day off.

The Chief relayed that a community event is scheduled for Thursday night at Pontiac William-Holliday School. The next event will be in August.

KHP 2022 DODGE DURANGO RESOLUTION

The Chief stated that staff requests Committee approve sending a Resolution to Council to allow the purchase of a used vehicle utilizing the Police Department's escrow funds. He stated that escrow funds are seized money for drug dealers. The Chief stated for administration and detectives, used vehicles are purchased from the Kansas Highway Patrol, but does not know how much longer they will be purchasing from Kansas since the price and mileage is increasing. This vehicle will replace a vehicle that has a bad transmission and needs a lot of work. The vehicle is a 2022 Dodge Durango Police Vehicle costing $34,250.00.

Motion and second to forward a Resolution to City Council with recommendation of approval the Resolution to purchase from the Kansas Highway Patrol a 2022 Dodge Durango for the price of $34,250.00 by Alderpersons Poletti/Winkeler. Roll call vote showed Alderpersons Frawley - yes, Winkeler – yes, Wagner – yes, Peck – absent, Poletti – yes. Motion carried.

Public Works Committee
Alderperson Bill Poletti, Chairman

JOINT FUNDING AGREEMENT FOR FEDERALLY FUNDED CONSTRUCTION – LONGACRE DRIVE

The Director of Public Works stated that the City has received Federal and State funds just shy of $1.6 million. After this agreement is signed, some funding will remain and used for construction engineering.

Motion and second to forward a Resolution to City Council with the recommendation of approval the Joint Funding Agreement for Federally Funded Construction associated with the Longacre Drive project from Illinois Route 159 to Union Hill Road by Alderpersons Wagner/Winkeler. Roll call vote showed Alderpersons Frawley - yes, Winkeler – yes, Wagner – yes, Peck – absent, Poletti – yes. Motion carried.

LOCAL PUBLIC AGENCY ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT – LONGACRE DRIVE

The Director stated that the City Engineering and he are very busy this year. The City Engineer is currently on the Old Collinsville Road project and will be the Resident Engineer for the Old Collinsville Road turn lane onto Ashland Avenue. The Director relayed that he will be on the Pearson Drive Improvements project along with the Oak, Elm, Cedar & Kadlec projects. The Director will spearhead Home Rule funded projects and the City Engineer will spearhead Federally funded projects.

Since there will be funds remaining from the Longacre Drive project (stated previously), the Director thought it wise to employ a consultant to perform the documentation, testing, and daily inspection for Longacre Drive and believes Gonzalez will do a fine job.

The Mayor stated that this is the busiest time of year. Tom is doing an excellent job as the City Engineer and requested the Director pass the compliment onto Tom and also complimented John as they arrive to the jobsites early in the morning. Alderperson Wagner relayed that the Director is very responsive when she contacts him.

Motion and second to forward a Resolution to City Council with the recommendation of approval the contract with Gonzalez Companies, LCC for the Construction Engineering work associated with the Longacre Drive project from Illinois Route 159 to Union Hill Road for the sum of $135,801.00 by Alderpersons Wagner/Winkeler. Roll call vote showed Alderpersons Frawley - yes, Winkeler – yes, Wagner – yes, Peck – absent, Poletti – yes. Motion carried.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENT – WOOLPERT – COUNCIL CHAMBERS RENOVATION

The Director stated that 10 days ago, the City received the 95 percent complete plans for the renovation of the Council Chambers. The plans have been reviewed with zero comments from

the City. The project will be bid in August, legislated in September, and start construction early in October. The Director presented a Professional Service Agreement for an on-call, as-needed, type of agreement for architectural services. If there are requests for information from a contractor, Woolpert will be able to answer the questions, and will charge an hourly rate as listed in the agreement. Alderperson Wagner questioned if this is included in the grant that was received by the City to which the Mayor replied that the City did receive a grant that will cover a good portion of the construction and the City also budgeted funds for the project. He stated until the project is bid, the final cost is not known, but between the grant and what is budgeted, there should be enough money to more than cover the project.

Motion and second to forward a Resolution to City Council with the recommendation of approval the Professional Service Agreement with Woolpert on an as-needed basis for an hourly rate for the construction administration work associated with the renovation of the City Council Chambers by Alderpersons Wagner/Winkeler. Roll call vote showed Alderpersons Frawley - yes, Winkeler – yes, Wagner – yes, Peck – absent, Poletti – yes. Motion carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT/PROJECT UPDATES

The Director presented his written report to the elected officials for their review to which there were no questions or comments.

The Director stated that he attended a preconstruction meeting today at IDOT for the resurfacing of Illinois Route 159 from Lincoln Trail to just north of Fountains Parkway. The project will begin after the bridge work on Illinois Route 159 over Interstate 64 is finished, which is anticipated to be in early September, and hope to have a start date of September 15 for resurfacing Illinois Route 159. The Director relayed to IDOT that the resurfacing work needs to be finished by Black Friday to which IDOT confirmed.

A motion and second was made to adjourn the Operations Meeting by Alderpersons Poletti/Wagner. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Adjournment 6:56 p.m.

Submitted By:

Jill Huffman

Recorder