Minutes-September 17, 2020

SSMMA BUSINESS MEETING
SEPTEMBER 17, 2020 - ZOOM
MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER
   Mayor Ward called the ZOOM meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
   Ward asked for a motion to approve the May 21 and July 16, 2020 meeting minutes. Mayor Kolosh moved and Mayor Gardiner seconded, motion was approved.

3. PRESIDENT’S REPORT
   A. Ward reported that SSMMA has canceled the December 3 Annual Holiday Dinner hosted by the Village of Lansing. Meetings moving forward will be held by ZOOM until further notice. We are hoping to hold the Member Appreciation Dinner on March 18, 2021.
   B. The deadline to submit the Notice of Intent regarding your municipality’s Coronavirus Relief Fund allocations from Cook County is September 30.
   C. Census Coordinator Victoria Nicholson reported that the Census deadline is September 30 and please call her for assistance.

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT
   A. Sean Garrett, CEO of United Way gave a presentation on leading the effort to strengthen communities and make a difference in the lives of neighbors across the region. Ways to get involved include Workplace Campaign, Employee Volunteer or Leveraging Resources. See the PowerPoint presentation here.
   B. Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle expressed thanks to United Way and the Chicago Community Trust for the Chicago Community COVID-19 Response Fund, deploying 22 million dollars to the region. The County has also set up a workplace campaign to support United Way. Out of the 429 million dollars from the CARES ACT, 50 million dollars was earmarked for the municipalities. The distribution is divided at 1/3 based on population and 2/3 based on social vulnerability. Preckwinkle echoed the comments to get the intent forms for the Coronavirus Relief Fund in by September 30 and all other paperwork by October 30. The funds are intended to be distributed by December 30.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS
   A. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
      Mayor Reinbold reported on the following topics:
      1. Veto session will be held for six days: November 17-19 and December 1-3. The main focuses are: Ethics Reform; Black Caucus Agenda (Police Reform and Social Justice); and Budget-with or without the Fair Tax Amendment. IML Bills include: Public Safety Pension Fund Reamortization; Exempt Local Pass-Through Revenues from GATA. If opportunity arises, SSMMA’s Southland Reactivation Act.
      2. South Triad Reassessment: The Assessor’s Office is reducing residential property values due to COVID by 10% and commercial/manufacturing assessments are increasing. These changes will be reflected on the second tax bill in 2021. Thanks to SSMMA’s Freddy Segura for updating the property tax charts. A discussion followed.
3. There will be a committee meeting via ZOOM on Tuesday, September 29 at 9:00 a.m.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mayor Kolosh reported on the following topics:

1. Thanks to the SSMMA members for participating is the COVID reimbursement briefings.

2. On September 3, a briefing was held with Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) to talk about FEMA reimbursement submissions. Please contact Travis Panareillo for questions or assistance.

3. On September 10, Cook County Bureau of Finance held a briefing on the overview of reimbursement for the Cook County Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF). As mentioned by Mayor Ward and President Preckwinkle, municipalities must have their notice of intent forms in by September 30 or you will forfeit your allocation. SSMMA is available for any questions about eligible costs or ways to maximize your allocation.

4. Will County Reimbursement deadline has passed, they are eligible to receive $41.25 per person for COVID-related expenses.

C. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Mayor Einhorn reported that the STP five year program is available for viewing with a call for projects in January. Leslie Phemister reported that the program was adopted in September at the committee meeting, 19 projects were awarded at 34.2 million dollars. Award letters will go out mid-October.

D. HOUSING COLLABORATIVE

Mayor Ford reported on the last meeting’s topics:

1. Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA)’s Director of Community Affairs Nicki Pecori Fioritt joined the meeting. With the South Suburban Housing Center as a partner, their Emergency Rental and Mortgage Assistance Programs will help about 40,000 people. After speaking with SSMMA, IHDA extended the deadline for application after severe storms caused lengthy power outages in the area.

2. IHDA has 10 million dollars available for their Strong Communities Grant Program for demo and rehab costs. The deadline is September 28.

3. Residents of Calumet City, Country Club Hills, Dolton, Flossmoor, Park Forest and South Holland have been awarded National Housing Services (NHS)’s Minority Business Grant Program to assist business owners with their mortgage payments.

4. The next meeting is November 12, 2020 via ZOOM at 9 a.m.

E. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/CSEDC

Reggie Greenwood discussed new development projects underway in Country Club Hills and Matteson. He is meeting with Amazon’s onboarding team in September about the robotics apprenticeship programs for maintenance technicians and they are looking to fill at least 3000 jobs of all levels. University Park is setting up a MOU to collaborate with all the Amazon communities and hire from within the region. There are four more projects that land has been acquired but have not broken ground yet. This is great opportunity with the e-commerce boom in the region. A discussion followed.
F. SOUTH SUBURBAN ECONOMIC GROWTH INITIATIVE

Liz Castaneda reported on the Southland Development Authority and their help in trying to stabilize small businesses and others that have been affected by COVID-19. The direct assistance is available by skilled professionals ready to help. The SDA is currently working with the City of Harvey on a mailer for their list of business license holders. The Southland Economic Recovery Stimulus Program information is at www.southlanddevelopment.org. Please continue to help get this information out to the public.

6. REGIONAL AGENCY REPORTS

Sam Balark of AT&T reported that they have adopted the Ten Shared Principles of police engagement and community along with the NAACP and IL Chiefs of Police and will be reaching out to municipalities on this issue.

Marcel Bright of Congressman Rush’s Office reminded the group that if there is anything he can help with please reach out.

Andrea Harkleroad of the Employee Resource Systems, the Employee Assistance Program coordinator, reminded us of the extra stress, substance abuse, etc. related to these tough times. Please reach out and use your programs that are available.

7. OTHER

None

8. ADJOURMENT

President Ward asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was moved and seconded, meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.