

Council Minutes

April 26, 2001

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ZION CITY COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2001, AT 4:33 P.M. IN THE CITY
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, ZION, ILLINOIS

Mayor Harrison called the meeting to order.

On call of the roll the following answered present: Commissioners Bennett, Taylor, Rogers, Monk and Mayor Harrison.

TAB OF BIDS

A Tabulation of Bids (01-DOC-53) was received from Captain Nugent, regarding the purchase of an AS400 computer server for the Police Department. The Police Department and Chief LaBelle, Chairman of The Technology Task Force, recommended awarding the contract to the sole and responsible bidder, Data Resource Group, in the amount of \$29,375.46. It was moved by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Rogers to award the contract for the purchase of an AS400 computer server for the Police Department to Data Resource Group in the amount of \$29,375.46, which is to be paid from the 911 fund. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Bennett, aye; Taylor, aye; Rogers, aye; Monk, aye; and Mayor Harrison, aye. Motion carried.

CITY'S LIABILITY INSURANCE

Proposals for the City's liability insurance were received from two companies as follows: Pitcher Insurance Brokerage - utilizing Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust insurance with an annual premium of \$187,000. Larry Pitcher stated this is a risk pool, but no member is responsible for any other member's losses or claims. There are no charges for endorsements, and this company has never cancelled a member due to claims. The initial premium would be prorated from May 1 through December 31, 2001, whereby the City's initial payment required would be \$110,800. Near North Insurance Brokerage - utilizing St. Paul Insurance Company with an annual premium of \$158,000. Robert Dufkis, along with Colleen King, would serve as the City's representatives. This firm offers risk management services, loss control programs and training at no extra cost. Due to the size of this firm and the large volume of clients, this company can offer insurance at a lower overall cost. It was noted that if the City had a legal reason to do so, both policies are cancelable. The Council questioned whether or not Mr. Pitcher would have been able to receive a comparable quote from St. Paul. Mayor Harrison

questioned why all documents had not been available to both firms. It was moved by Commissioner Taylor to table the discussion regarding liability insurance until Monday, April 30, in order to talk to a St. Paul representative. This motion died for lack of a second. Attorney Rolek stated the insurance renewal needs to be in place by May 1. Larry Pitcher noted that he could also pursue a quote from St. Paul, if he was made the agent of record for the City. Mr. Pitcher also stated, if the City approved his agency and later changed insurance companies, the premium paid to Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust could be prorated to the cancellation date. It was moved by Commissioner Monk, seconded by Commissioner Bennett to accept Pitcher Insurance Brokerage and Illinois Counties Risk Management for the City's liability insurance, effective May 1, 2001, for a 90-day trial period, granting a broker of records letter to Larry Pitcher. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Bennett, aye; Taylor, aye; Rogers, aye; Monk, aye; and Mayor Harrison, nay. Motion carried.

CITY EMPLOYEES' HEALTH INSURANCE

Dr. Ken Falkinham of Health Plan Management presented his renewal for the City's health insurance. The current carrier, Monumental, would be at a considerably higher cost for next year, so Dr. Falkinham recommended Fidelity Security. Fixed Costs Maximum Costs Current Costs with Monumental \$116,343 \$1,131,885 Proposed Costs with Fidelity Security \$120,031 \$1,362,846 The Council and staff noted several problems with Health Plan Management, mainly dealing with service and payment of claims. Attorney Rolek noted the insurance needs to be in place effective May 1, and suggested considering a renewal for less than one year. Dr. Falkinham stated the City could terminate the contract with 60 days notice, however, he believed past problems have generally been resolved. Effective July 1, claims will be able to be submitted electronically, resolving mail and turn-around-time problems. Attorney Rolek requested that Dr. Falkinham provide him with a percentage of rejections on the first round, and Dr. Falkinham agreed to provide this information. Attorney Rolek suggested renewing the contract, given the cancellation policy, allowing for a 60-day review period. Dr. Falkinham also stated he will personally meet with employees to review problems and complaints. Meetings will be set at a later date It was moved by Commissioner Monk, seconded by Commissioner Taylor to renew the City's health insurance coverage with Health Plan Management, effective May 1, 2001. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Bennett, aye; Taylor, aye; Rogers, aye; Monk, aye; and Mayor Harrison, aye. Motion carried.

GASOLINE PURCHASING

Commissioner Taylor compared current gasoline prices at local service stations with installation of a fuel tank. Commissioner Taylor recommended installation of a fiberglass underground gasoline storage tank. Commissioner Taylor stated there is a substantial savings in utilizing

a fuel tank versus paying gasoline pump prices, and there wouldn't be the concern of 24-hour availability. Attorney Rolek noted the City's liability would be limited to \$10,000 for this type of tank and there is a good warranty. Attorney Rolek did question whether or not this tank would be subject to federal reimbursement. Attorney Rolek noted, if the City decides to purchase gasoline through a wholesaler, he recommends guaranteeing an allocation. Brian Usher noted the diesel tank at Public Works is not adequate for current needs. Commissioner Bennett stated there are several additional costs related to underground fuel tanks, including spillage, maintenance, theft, and insurance. Commissioner Rogers recommended utilizing the Wright Express Universal Fleet Card. This system would help control costs, is tax exempt, monitors and screens usage. Commissioner Rogers stated the company provides tax-exempt billing and reporting, and there would be no tank liability or possible contamination. The cost for this program includes a one-time set up fee of \$40.00 plus \$2.00 per card per month, and the City would pay the fuel price at the gas pump. The total cost would be \$2,412 per year plus the cost of gasoline. Attorney Rolek stated, if the Council is interested in Commissioner Rogers' proposal, the City should consider entering into an agreement with the Park District, as a back up in case of emergency. It was moved by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Monk to approve adding \$120,000 into the budget, authorizing City staff to draft specifications for the installation of a 12,000 gallon underground double wall fiberglass storage tank dispensing system, including a fuel management system and a canopy with lighting, and to bring the specifications back to the Council for final review prior to advertising for bids. The Council also agreed in the interim to utilize the Wright Express Universal Fleet Card on a trial basis. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Bennett, nay; Taylor, aye; Rogers, nay; Monk, aye; and Mayor Harrison, aye. Motion carried.

FIRE PREVENTION

The Fire/Rescue Department recommended the adoption of the 2000 International Fire Code, 2000 International Building Code and the 2000 National Fire Prevention Association Book of Codes, as well as additional regulations pertaining to fire prevention and safety. Commissioner Taylor stated he can't support the requirement of a sprinkler system in duplexes. Firefighter John Lewis stated new National Code will require new construction of multi-family buildings to have sprinklers, stating they are relatively inexpensive during construction. It was noted that with the exception of a few senior residences/complexes, no large multi-family buildings in Zion have sprinklers. Mayor Harrison stated he is opposed to sprinklers being required in duplexes, as fireproof block walls can help to contain fires. Mr. Lewis stated firefighters also have many concerns entering buildings, which are made out of less substantial materials today. Commissioner Bennett stated many older multi-family buildings could create a bigger threat to safety. Mayor Harrison suggested that sprinklers and fire alarms be required in multi-family residences over 4 units, also

noting that any current Planned Unit Development (PUD) has a 20-year maximum. Mayor Harrison stated all large multi-family units should also have alarm systems, which are hard-wired to the Fire Department. Chief LaBelle stated he will bring back another ordinance with this recommendation at a later date. Attorney Rolek suggested adopting the ordinance for residences over 4 units, and making it effective in 6 months, in order to publicize the changes. It was moved by Commissioner Monk, seconded by Commissioner Rogers that an Ordinance (01-0-21) be passed regarding Fire Prevention and Safety, amending Section 4, Additional Regulations, (b) Sprinkler Systems to be required in new residences over 4 units, and (c) Fire Alarms to be required in new residences over 4 units. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Bennett, aye; Taylor, nay; Rogers, aye; Monk, aye; and Mayor Harrison, aye. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, it was moved by Commissioner Monk, seconded by Commissioner Taylor and unanimously approved the meeting be adjourned at 9:35 p.m. Motion carried.