MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ZION CITY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2003, AT 4:10 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 Flammini, DeTienne, Taylor, Bennett and Mayor Harrison.

2003/04 BUDGET

As requested by the Council, Greg Schneider stated he has made the budget changes in the areas of Economic Development and Industrial Development. Economic Development now indicates a deficit that was previously in the General Fund. Delaine Rogers had recommended transferring certain Economic Development costs, which could be reimbursed from TIF Districts 1 and 3. The General Fund now indicates a positive balance of $317,377. Economic Development indicates a deficit of $2,380,537, which could be reimbursed over the life of the TIFs. Mayor Harrison stated this reimbursement allows the city to pay itself back at attractive rates. The total amount, which could be put against TIF District #1, would be $3,668,801. The total amount, which could be put against TIF District #3, would be $2,638,989.

Mr. Schneider stated $500,000 was requested for utility relocates for the Streetscape Project. Mr. Schneider stated he deleted this amount from the budget, and will place funds in the Appropriation. Public Works would be required to request funds from the Council when exact figures are available. Commissioner Taylor noted utility relocates were not an option for this project.

Attorney Rolek stated funds need to be included for the Administrative Adjudication process, estimating an annual expense of $25,000. After one year, it is anticipated that the collection of fines will offset the costs. This program will probably not begin until the fall, so the current year’s costs could be budgeted at $12,000 in the Police Department budget. Mr. Schneider noted the cost of palm pilots, software and licensing for top-end equipment would be $3,000 per unit.

The Council agreed that the Police Department staffing should indicate 44 full-time and 1 part-time sworn officers, which will be reflected on the next Personnel Authorization.

Attorney Rolek stated insurance costs should be budgeted for Police and Fire sworn personnel who suffer catastrophic injuries, as this is a potential liability. Attorney Rolek noted there is a two-prong test as to who qualifies. Mayor Harrison stated cities are going to have problems paying for this. Commissioner DeTienne stated there are still questions as to how this is going to be applied.

Mr. Schneider stated he reduced the Fire and Police Commission testing from $25,000 to $10,000. Commissioner DeTienne stated $10,000 will not cover the additional testing. Chief Malcolm stated the extra $15,000 is needed for the assessment center, as this is an added component to help the Fire and Police Commission. Commissioner DeTienne recommended, and the Council agreed, to maintain the $25,000 for the Fire and Police Commission testing.

Mr. Schneider stated he deleted $5,000 for Fine Arts Maintenance, $6,000 for Fine Arts Utilities, and $6,000 for Fine Arts Center. Mayor Harrison recommended, and the Council agreed, to delete the Fine Arts line item 10-06-1-04-790, $5,000, and to add a line item with $5,000 for Board and Commissions under Public Affairs.

Commissioner Bennett stated the differential increase request of $7,800 in Fire and $11,700 in Rescue has been removed from the budget. Chief LaBelle stated this increase request would keep the pay differential between the ranks as previously discussed. Mr. Schneider stated the actual request would have to be presented to the Council prior to any approval, so the dollar amounts are there for budget purposes only.
Commissioner Taylor stated the Council had previously analyzed the differences in the ranks. The Council agreed to eliminate the differential increase for the Fire/Rescue Department.

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Chief Malcolm stated he anticipates eliminating one Lieutenant position in the fall, and replacing this position with a Police Officer.

The Council agreed to add Shiloh House to the TIF District #1 expenses in the amount of $50,000.

The Council agreed to add $5,000 for expenses incurred for the Downtown Maintenance Program.

Commissioner Bennett noted funds have been transferred from the General Fund to Festival of Lights and Jubilee Days Commission, so that these funds operate on their own. The Council agreed to include $5,000 in expenses and $4,000 in revenue for the Jubilee Days Commission community picnic.

Commissioner Flammini stated a line item appears for Nostalgia Days Police security, noting that the Nostalgia Days Committee is looking to have the carnival pay the extra cost next year. Chief Malcolm stated he would like this item to be reflected under Special Duty, wherein Nostalgia Days Committee would pay $1,000 and the City would pay $1,000. The Council agreed to eliminate the $4,000 Nostalgia Days Security line item, adding to the Special Duty line item with a total of $4,200.

Commissioner Flammini proposed adding $2,000 to the Building Department over-time budget, so that inspectors could work part-time on Saturdays and some Sundays, in order to stop illegal weekend construction. Commissioner Taylor stated illegal construction signs should be picked up, noting he would like to see monthly reports regarding this kind of weekend activity. John Jones stated he would prepare letters to contractors, informing them that inspectors would be working on weekends. The Council agreed to add $2,000 to the Building Department over-time budget, as requested.

It was moved by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Bennett to approve the Budget for Fiscal Year 2003/04, as amended, pending receipt of the final document. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Flammini, aye; DeTienne, aye; Taylor, aye; Bennett, aye; and Mayor Harrison, aye. Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

It was moved by Commissioner DeTienne, seconded by Commissioner Flammini that the Council recess to Closed Session at 6:14 p.m. to discuss personnel, pending litigation, probable litigation, purchase and sale of real estate. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Flammini, aye; DeTienne, aye; Taylor, aye; Bennett, aye; and Mayor Harrison, aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner DeTienne, seconded by Commissioner Taylor to reconvene the Special Council meeting at 7:27 p.m. with all members present. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Flammini, aye; DeTienne, aye; Taylor, aye; Bennett, 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 Bennett, seconded by Commissioner Flammini and unanimously approved the meeting be adjourned at 7:27 p.m. Motion carried.

City Clerk
Approved July 1, 2003