

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE ZION CITY COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2012, AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, ZION, ILLINOIS

Mayor Pro Tem Jim Taylor called the meeting to order.

On call of the roll the following answered present: Commissioners DeTienne, Shantal Taylor, Flammini, and Mayor Pro Tem Jim Taylor. Mayor Harrison was absent.

Mayor Pro Tem Jim Taylor led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

AGENDA CHANGES

It was moved by Commissioner DeTienne, seconded by Commissioner Shantal Taylor to approve the Council agenda with amendments as follows:

- Table Item 8a - “An ordinance establishing and implementing a program to charge mitigation rates for the deployment of emergency and non-emergency services by the Fire Department”, until the April 17, 2012 regular City Council meeting
- Table Item 9a – “Consider proposals for Cell Tower Leases per Rich Ianson”, until the April 17, 2012 regular City Council meeting
- Add under “Announcements” – Add a Special City Council Meeting, April, 5, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.

The vote on roll call was: Commissioners DeTienne, aye; Shantal Taylor, aye; Flammini, aye; and Mayor Pro Tem Jim Taylor, aye. Motion carried

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Christine Hansen, 3236 Ezra, thanked the Police and Fire/Rescue Departments and City Hall for listening to residents and doing their best. She stated that the financial health of the City of Zion has a lot to do with ComEd and the power plant. She stated that City Hall let ComEd off the hook too quickly and their contribution should be considered a donation. She stated the City should meet with ComEd to make them pay taxes. Mayor Pro Tem Jim Taylor stated that ComEd is no longer taxed as it was as it is not operating as an electricity generator. He stated there was a ramp down over a period of years when the plant closed.

Jason Ellis, 1531 Southport Court, stated that many of his family members have left Zion. He stated that the City Council has made choices directly impacting taxpayers and now they are hiding behind the City Attorney. He stated that the newspaper articles are a disgrace and taxpayers are fed up and see no progress being made. He stated that all the City’s eggs are in one basket with Midwestern Regional Medical Center. There is no new development and businesses are not interested in coming to Zion. Some businesses are ready to go to Wisconsin because of the lower taxes. He stated that the City Council needs to be held accountable to the taxpayers and that the Council can comment on matters unrelated to litigation.

Jack Edwards, 1310 Carmel Blvd., referenced Page 1 of the March 20, 2012 City Council meeting minutes which stated “Commissioner Shantal Taylor stated that she received information that municipal aggregation was not beneficial to low income families or seniors.” He questioned Commissioner Shantal Taylor regarding the source of this information and asked that he be provided with the information. Commissioner Shantal Taylor stated that she received the information from a citizen who attended a Zion Community Connections forum and that she shared their concerns. Mr. Edwards asked if the information was factual or an opinion. Commissioner Shantal Taylor stated that the subject is being researched. Mr. Edwards referenced Page 2 of the March 20, 2012 City Council meeting minutes which stated,

“Commissioner Jim Taylor stated that, due to the sale of the bonds, the issue of the tax anticipation warrants previously approved by the Council, would not be necessary at this time.” He asked Mayor Pro Tem Jim Taylor if the tax anticipation warrants could be used later since the ordinance was passed. Mayor Pro Tem Jim Taylor stated that, according to bond counsel, he did not believe there was any formal action required to rescind the ordinance. He stated that taking advantage of tax anticipation warrants was a negative financial move, and now that the bond issue has closed, the City would not be accepting any offers on the warrants.

Shon Sadler, 3504 Sarah Drive, stated that, as President of the Shepherd’s Crossing Homeowners Association, based on his experience, Zion is a place where people want to live. He has had positive feedback and people are looking forward to a bright future in Zion.

Steve Ashley, 3512 Portsmouth Drive, stated that his main concern is to keep his kids safe. The house next door, which is in foreclosure, has been vacant for three years. All services were shut off except the water. The pipes froze and broke during the first year of vacancy. He stated that between 70,000 and 100,000 gallons of water went through the house. The house is filled with mold patches on the walls and there is considerable visible damage. There is an obvious odor outside the house. His kids have asthma, and the mold is adversely affecting their health. He stated that the Police Department has reported the house as a hazard. Mayor Pro Tem Jim Taylor advised Mr. Ashley to meet with Rich Ianson following the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Shantal Taylor requested amendments to the March 20, 2012 City Council meeting minutes as follows:

- Page 1, under “Citizen Comments”, Paragraph 1, stated, “Commissioner Shantal Taylor stated that she received information that municipal aggregation was not beneficial to low income families or seniors.” She requested that the statement be amended by adding the source of the information which was a citizen at a Zion Community Connections forum.
- Page 2, under “Consent Agenda”, Paragraph 2, stated, “Commissioner Shantal Taylor stated that an article entitled, “Olin Dispute Turns Into Legal Morass” was distributed to the Council for their review regarding the replacement of the Ancel, Glink law firm by other municipalities.” She requested that the statement be amended by adding that the information was being provided in reference to Ancel, Glink’s excessive legal fees, that it was provided as a follow-up to a conversation of last year regarding excessive legal fees, and that information would be forthcoming regarding nine other municipalities with the same problem with excessive legal fees.
- Page 5, under “Part-Time Clerk Typist/Building Department”, stated “Commissioner Shantal Taylor stated that she warned the Council in the past regarding the possibility of staff reductions due to the City’s financial situation.” She requested that the statement be amended by adding that the Council was warned in 2008 of the \$1.4 million personnel shortfall.

Mayor Pro Tem Jim Taylor stated that he contacted the Treasurer of the Village of East Alton and was informed that the reason they terminated their relationship with Ancel, Glink was due to their desire to use a local attorney because of the hardship in communicating with a law firm five hours away, not because of Ancel, Glink’s legal fees. Commissioner Shantal Taylor stated that information would be forthcoming concerning nine other municipalities who have a problem with the excessive legal fees.

It was moved by Commissioner Shantal Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Flammini, that the Consent Agenda be approved with amendments to the March 20, 2012 meeting minutes as follows:

- (a) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** of a Regular Meeting held on March 20, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. with amendments as follows:
- Page 1, under "Citizen Comments", Paragraph 1, add the source of the information which was a citizen at a Zion Community Connections forum.
 - Page 2, under "Consent Agenda", Paragraph 2, add that the information was being provided in reference to Ancel, Glink's excessive legal fees, that it was provided as a follow-up to a conversation of last year regarding excessive legal fees, and that information would be forthcoming regarding nine other municipalities with the same problem with excessive legal fees.
 - Page 5, under "Part-Time Clerk Typist/Building Department", add that the Council was warned in 2008 of the \$1.4 million personnel shortfall.
- (b) **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:** ESDA Year – End Report for 2011; ESDA Monthly Report, February 2012; FOIA Report, March 2012
- (c) **BILLS:** Vouchers 112837 through 112938 drawn on PNC Bank, Total: \$325,851.63

The vote on roll call was: Commissioners DeTienne, aye; Shantal Taylor, aye; Flammini, aye; and Mayor Pro Tem Jim Taylor, nay. Motion carried.

Commissioner Shantal Taylor stated that she had concerns regarding former Finance Director Larry Pannell being paid at least \$5,000 in consulting fees since he left the City. She stated that the City Council, minus herself, voted to keep Mr. Pannell on as a consultant. She stated that she has sent him emails and he has not responded. She asked how the agreement with Mr. Pannell was working out. Mayor Pro Tem Jim Taylor stated that he, Ms. Fitz-Henley and Mr. Pannell are working together electronically on the budget and other matters until the end of the fiscal year. He stated that the agreement is working out fine based on the arrangements that were made. Mayor Pro Tem Jim Taylor stated that consideration to hire a Finance Director is an April 5, 2012 special meeting agenda item.

RESOLUTION/TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE/NOSTALGIA DAYS

It was moved by Commissioner DeTienne, seconded by Commissioner Flammini that a Resolution (12-R-8) be passed requesting permission of the Illinois Department of Transportation for the temporary closure of Sheridan Road on June 23, 2012, as requested between 6:00 A.M. and 6:30 P.M., for Nostalgia Days. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners DeTienne, aye; Shantal Taylor, aye; Flammini, aye; and Mayor Pro Tem Jim Taylor, aye. Motion carried. Resolution passed.

BASEBALL STADIUM LAWN MAINTENANCE

A memo (12-DOC-31) was received from Rich Ianson requesting consideration of a proposal for lawn maintenance at the baseball stadium. Mr. Ianson stated that, the preferred vendor, Lawn Man Services, provided a proposal to maintain the baseball field for \$8,478.75 which includes all weed control, fertilization, aeration, power raking, edging, grass cutting, soil and seeding and summer and fall weed & feed. Mayor Pro Tem Jim Taylor stated that he could not support approval of the proposal due to the City's financial situation and recommended that grass cutting and weed & feed applications be done by the Public Service workers. He stated that, with the uncertainty of the outcome of the pending litigation, he does support preserving the field, however, he believes it can be handled in-house. Commissioner Shantal Taylor stated that Public Service could do the work and she wants at least three estimates instead of just one.

Commissioner Flammini stated that the City has spend nearly a half million dollars to plant the field and that the investment should be protected until the outcome of the lawsuit is known. Commissioner DeTienne stated that he does not believe that using Public Service personnel is the best solution as he has concerns regarding their workmanship. He stated that he is concerned about spending the money but he could support the proposal. Ron Colangelo stated that the only lawn maintenance resource the City has is the Public Service Program and the summer mowing crew. The City has no aeration equipment available and all the City could do is mow and weed and feed. He stated that something must be done as the current condition of the field is poor and will only continue to deteriorate if neglected. Commissioner Shantal Taylor stated that lower estimates should be sought and asked for at least two additional proposals. She stated that if there is any future with the field, the City needs to maintain it.

It was moved by Commissioner Shantal Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Flammini that Rich Ianson seek two additional proposals for lawn maintenance for the baseball field. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners DeTienne, aye; Shantal Taylor, aye; Flammini, aye; and Mayor Pro Tem Jim Taylor, nay. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 5	6:30 p.m.	Special City Council Meeting
April 6		City Offices Closed for Holiday
April 7	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	Electronic Recycling at the Public Works Facility 3220 27 th St.
April 10	6:00 p.m.	Annual Zion Township Meeting
April 14	4:00 p.m.	Zion Community Connections at Zion Police Administration Building Training Room
April 17	6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Zion Township Public Hearing – Township Budget Zion Township Board Meeting Zion City Council Meeting
April 21	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	Electronic Recycling at the Public Works Facility 3220 27 th St.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, it was moved by Commissioner DeTienne, seconded by Commissioner Shantal Taylor and unanimously approved the meeting be adjourned at 7:44 p.m. Motion carried.

City Clerk

Approved April 17, 2012

