

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE ZION CITY COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2013, AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, ZION, ILLINOIS

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Mayor Harrison called the meeting to order.

On call of the roll the following answered present: Commissioners Taylor, Flammini, DeTienne, Hill, Mayor Harrison.

Mayor Harrison led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

AGENDA CHANGES

It was moved by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner DeTienne, to approve agenda changes as follows:

- Correct Item 9(d) – Location of 21st Street entrance should read “to Lot 4” not “west of Lot 4” per Commissioner Hill
- Delete Item 10(d) – Consider proposal for Automated Master Control System for playback system for Channel 19 per Commissioner Hill

The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Taylor, aye; Flammini, aye; DeTienne, aye; Hill, aye; and Mayor Harrison, aye. Motion carried.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION/ZION SOLUTIONS

Larry Booth, representing Zion Solutions, presented the annual donation to the Zion Police and Fire/Rescue Departments in appreciation of the departments’ cooperation with staff training, security, etc. He presented a check in the amount of \$7,500 each to Chief Brooks and Chief Lewis.

PUBLIC HEARING – TAX LEVY

Mayor Harrison opened the public hearing for the 2013, payable in 2014, City of Zion tax levy at 7:05 p.m. Mayor Harrison stated that the City is freezing the tax levy with no increase for City of Zion government. Director Knabel made a presentation regarding basic concepts of the levy. He stated that the levy is the pre-determined amount the City needs in revenue to operate. He stated that when the EAV (Equalized Assessed Value) goes down, the tax rate goes up in order to receive the same levy amount. If the EAV goes up, the tax rate goes down in order to receive the same levy amount. He stated with a reduced EAV, even with a flat levy, the tax rate goes up. Director Knabel stated that the EAV has decreased by 30% since 2006. He stated that the tax rate has increased by 36% during the same time period. He stated that the City levy has increased by 10% since 2006 or an average of 1.3% increase annually. He stated that the City’s portion of the tax bill is 13.27% based on the 2012 tax rate. Commissioner Hill asked what the difference is between the tax levy and the tax extension. Director Knabel stated that the levy is the amount the City asks for in the levy ordinance and the extension is the amount the City actually receives. He stated there is usually a slight difference between the amount of the levy and the extension.

Mayor Harrison called for questions and/or comments from the public.

A resident asked if the tax bills are staying the same. Director Knabel stated that the City only controls the City portion of the tax bill and there will be no increase in the City’s portion. He stated, if the schools increase their levy, it will cause the tax bills to go up. The resident asked if the City employees pay into pension funds. Director Knabel stated that employees do pay a percentage into their respective funds.

William Bremner asked if the City pension funds are fully funded and if the State of Illinois pension obligations effect Zion taxes. Director Knabel stated that the City is not connected to the State regarding pensions and the City is funded differently. He stated that the City is better funded than the State and does not share the same pension issues.

Mayor Harrison called for further comments from the public, and there were none.

Mayor Harrison declared the hearing closed at 7:14 p.m.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Tony Relken, GPT Enterprises/Dungeon of Doom, stated that his parents were from Zion and he grew up here. He feels that his family is part of Zion history. He stated that he gives back to the community through his presentation of the Dungeon of Doom. He presented a check to the City in the amount of \$6,436 for entertainment tax and two checks to ESDA, in the amounts of \$2,100 and \$900 as a donation for their cooperation during their event. He stated that he appreciates the partnership he shares with the City and ESDA.

CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Flammini, that the Consent Agenda be approved as follows:

- (a) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** of a Regular Meeting held on December 3, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.; and approval but not release of Closed Session Minutes of a meeting held on December 3, 2013 at 8:10 p.m.; a Special Meeting held on December 9, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.
- (b) **BILLS:** Vouchers 117199 through 117296 drawn on First Merit Bank, Total: \$1,803,327.81

The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Taylor, aye; Flammini, aye; DeTienne, aye; Hill, aye; and Mayor Harrison, aye. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE/ TAX LEVY – CORPORATE PURPOSES

It was moved by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Hill that an Ordinance (13-0-64) be passed providing for the levy of taxes for corporate purposes in the total amount of \$6,356,208 for the tax levy year 2013 to be collected in the year beginning January 1, 2014 and ending December 31, 2014 for the City of Zion, Lake County, Illinois. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Taylor, aye; Flammini, aye; DeTienne, aye; Hill, aye; and Mayor Harrison, aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

ORDINANCE/AMENDMENT/SHEPHERD’S POINT PUD

It was moved by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Flammini, that an Ordinance (13-0-65) be passed amending the Shepherd’s Point Planned Unit Development (PUD) to relocate the 21st Street entrance from its present location west to Lot 4. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Taylor, aye; Flammini, aye; DeTienne, aye; Hill, aye; and Mayor Harrison, aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

ORDINANCES/ESTABLISHING TOWING REGULATIONS/AUTHORIZING CONTRACT

A memo (13-DOC-116) was received from Chief Brooks recommending that 625 ILCS 5/11-208.7 be adopted in its entirety by the City of Zion. He stated that this State law identifies twelve serious traffic and non-traffic offenses, when committed in conjunction with the use of a motor vehicle, allows for the impoundment of the vehicle and the imposition of a reasonable administrative fee prior to the vehicle being released. Commissioner Hill stated that he is not opposed to the administrative fee, however, he questioned having the fee charged by the towing company rather than the Police Department in order that an audit trail can be created. Chief Brooks stated that it is more convenient for the payee to make payment in just one location. The towing company sends the administrative fee to the City once payment is made. He stated that this process has proven to be successful in the Village of Winthrop Harbor.

It was moved by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Taylor, that an Ordinance (13-O-66) be passed amending Article V, Division 2, Section 90-322, Vehicle Towing Regulations of the Zion Municipal Code adopting, in its entirety, 625 ILCS 5/11-208.7, providing for the imposition of a reasonable administrative fee. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Taylor, aye; Flammini, aye; DeTienne, aye; Hill, aye; and Mayor Harrison, aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

Chief Brooks further recommended that the contract with Roger's towing be extended to a three-year contract rather than a one-year contract, continuing the 2014 contract through 2016. He recommended the contract be changed by striking the last sentence under Section 2, Terms, (G) which would allow the towing company the opportunity to charge victims or their insurance company for evidence tows. He recommended that Section 4, Fees, be changed authorizing the towing company to collect and forward to the City the administrative fee when applicable.

It was moved by Commissioner DeTienne, seconded by Commissioner Hill, that an Ordinance (13-O-67) be passed authorizing a contract for city towing for 2014 with Roger's Services including a change in the contract term from one to three years and the proposed amendments as presented. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Taylor, aye; Flammini, aye; DeTienne, aye; Hill, aye; and Mayor Harrison, aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

ORDINANCE/ZION MUNICIPAL CODE AMENDMENT/CANNABIS

Attorney Randall stated that the Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program Act becomes effective January 1, 2014. She recommended amending the Zion Municipal Code Chapter 62, Article IV relating to cannabis offenses by incorporating the entire Act into the Zion Code. She stated that if any discrepancies or contradictions arise with the Zion Code, the Act will prevail.

It was moved by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Hill, that an Ordinance (13-O-68) be passed amending Chapter 62, Offenses and Miscellaneous, Article VI Cannabis, of the Zion Municipal Code, incorporating by reference, the Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program Act. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Taylor, aye; Flammini, aye; DeTienne, aye; Hill, aye; and Mayor Harrison, aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

TABULATION OF BIDS/DEMOLITION/3112 ELIM AVENUE

A Tabulation of Bids (13-DOC-117) was received from Director Ianson for the demolition of 3112 Elim Avenue. He stated that five bids were received, with the bid of Givens Trucking, Inc. being the most responsive and responsible bid, in the amount of \$15,500. Director Ianson recommended awarding the bid to Givens Trucking, Inc.

It was moved by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Taylor, to award the bid for the demolition of 3112 Elim Avenue to the most responsive and responsible bidder, Givens Trucking, Inc., in the amount of \$15,500. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Taylor, aye; Flammini, aye; DeTienne, aye; Hill, aye; and Mayor Harrison, aye. Motion carried.

LICENSE AGREEMENT/GPT ENTERPRISES

Director Knabel stated that on November 19, 2013, the City Council approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to clarify agreements between the City of Zion and GPT Enterprises, LLC. He stated that the purpose of the MOU was to establish conditions that would be agreed to by the City to assist GPT Enterprises LLC in purchasing a building and operating their haunted house attraction in the City. He stated that one component of the MOU was to enter into a ten year license for use of the vacant City property south of Shiloh and east of the Metra rail line for parking purposes.

It was moved by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Flammini, that an Ordinance (13-O-69) be passed authorizing a ten year license agreement with GPT Enterprises, LLC for use of the vacant City property south of Shiloh and east of the Metra rail line for parking purposes. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Taylor, aye; Flammini, aye; DeTienne, nay; Hill, aye; and Mayor Harrison, aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

TIF GRANT/WIRELESS SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS

A memo (13-DOC-118) was received from Director Knabel requesting approval of a TIF grant in the amount of \$7,000 for the purchase and installation of wireless surveillance cameras in the 2600 block of Sheridan Road to allow monitoring of area businesses and parking facilities. He stated that a quote was received from Current Technologies which has provided the cameras the Police Department is currently using in various locations in the City and an installation quote from Belski Electric who installed the cameras currently in use. The TIF Review Board unanimously approved the grant in the amount of \$7,000. Commissioner Hill asked if there were problems in the area. Chief Brooks stated that the Police Department made the request in order to further the monitoring network, and that this is a high traffic area, but there are no specific problems in the area.

It was moved by Commissioner Flammini, seconded by Commissioner Hill to approve a TIF grant in the amount of \$7,000 for the purchase and installation of wireless surveillance cameras in the 2600 block of Sheridan Road. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Taylor, aye; Flammini, aye; DeTienne, aye; Hill, aye; and Mayor Harrison, aye. Motion carried.

AMEND MUNICIPAL CODE/SOUND AMPLIFICATION PERMITS

A memo (13-DOC-119) was received from Commissioner Flammini requesting an amendment to Zion Municipal Code Section 30-62, Restrictions, to allow sound amplification permits to be issued for events held on Sunday. He stated that, currently, the Code does not allow sound amplification permits to be granted for events held on Sunday. He requested, that in order to allow city-wide events such as Nostalgia Days, 4th of July celebration, and Jubilee Days to take full advantage of the weekend, the Council consider amending the Code to allow sound amplification permits to be issued for events held on Sundays between the hours of 12:00 noon and 8:00 p.m. He stated that the Nostalgia Days Commission would like to extend the Nostalgia Days event through Sunday.

It was moved by Commissioner Flammini, seconded by Commissioner Hill to approve an amendment to Zion Municipal Code Section 30-62 to allow sound amplification permits to be issued for events held on Sunday between the hours of 12:00 noon and 8:00 p.m. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Taylor, aye; Flammini, aye; DeTienne, aye; Hill, aye; and Mayor Harrison, aye. Motion carried.

ESDA PERSONNEL CHANGES

A statement was read by outgoing Zion ESDA Director Merlin Kreis tendering his resignation.

It was moved by Commissioner Flammini, seconded by Commissioner DeTienne to accept the resignation of Zion ESDA Director Merlin Kreis effective January 1, 2014. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Taylor, aye; Flammini, aye; DeTienne, aye; Hill, aye; and Mayor Harrison, aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Flammini, seconded by Commissioner DeTienne that a Resolution of Commendation (13-R-20) be passed recognizing Merlin Kreis for his years of service to Zion ESDA and the City of Zion. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Taylor, aye; Flammini, aye; DeTienne, aye; Hill, aye; and Mayor Harrison, aye. Motion carried. Resolution passed.

A memo (13-DOC-120) was received from Commissioner Flammini recommending that the annual stipend of \$4,000 for an ESDA Coordinator be eliminated. He recommended that Brandon Busch be appointed to the position of ESDA Field Director with an annual stipend of \$6,000 and David Ratliff be appointed to the position of Assistant ESDA Field Director with an annual stipend of \$4,000.

It was moved by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Flammini to eliminate the annual stipend of \$4,000 for an ESDA Coordinator. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Taylor, aye; Flammini, aye; DeTienne, aye; Hill, aye; and Mayor Harrison, aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Flammini, seconded by Commissioner Taylor to appoint Brandon Busch to the position of ESDA Field Director with an annual stipend of \$6,000 effective January 1, 2014. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Taylor, aye; Flammini, aye; DeTienne, aye; Hill, aye; and Mayor Harrison, aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Flammini, seconded by Commissioner Taylor to appoint David Ratliff to the position of Assistant ESDA Field Director with an annual stipend of \$4,000 effective January 1, 2014. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Taylor, aye; Flammini, aye; DeTienne, aye; Hill, aye; and Mayor Harrison, aye. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENTAL COMMENTARY

Merlin Kreis stated that the appointment of Brandon Busch and David Ratliff leaves ESDA in good hands. He also thanked everyone for their kind words and prayers at the passing of Annette Watts.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 24, 25, 31 & January 1		City Offices Closed for the Holidays
January 4	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	Electronic Recycling at the Public Works Facility, 3220 27 th Street
January 7	7:00 p.m.	Zion City Council Meeting
January 18	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	Electronic Recycling at the Public Works Facility, 3220 27 th Street
January 20		City Offices Closed for Martin Luther King Holiday
January 21	6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Zion Town Board Meeting Zion City Council Meeting

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, it was moved by Commissioner DeTienne, seconded by Commissioner Flammini and unanimously approved the meeting be adjourned at 7:45 p.m. Motion carried.

City Clerk

Approved January 21, 2013