

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE ZION CITY COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, JULY 2, 2019, AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 2828 SHERIDAN ROAD, ZION, ILLINOIS

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Mayor McKinney called the meeting to order.

On call of the roll the following answered present: Commissioners Holmes, Fischer, McDowell, Frierson, and Mayor McKinney. A quorum was present.

Also present: Police Chief Kirk Henderson, Fire/Rescue Chief John Lewis, City Administrator David Knabel, Public Works Director Ray Roberts, Building & Zoning Director Richard Ianson and City Attorney Eric Stach.

Mr. William Bremner led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor McKinney asked for a moment of silence to honor the first responders and all those who serve or who have served our Country.

AGENDA CHANGES

It was moved by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner McDowell to accept the City Council meeting agenda as presented.

The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Holmes, aye; Fischer, aye; McDowell, aye; Frierson, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

William Bremner, Zion, stated as he was reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, he wondered what the American Flag would say in response to it all. He has done some research on what the Flag would say if it could talk and shared it by reading a poem on what "Old Glory" would say.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- (a) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** a Regular Meeting held June 18, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
- (b) **BILLS:** Vouchers 132397 through 132499 drawn on, Huntington National Bank, N.A., Total: \$641,960.48

Approved by omnibus vote as follows: Commissioners Holmes, aye; Fischer, aye; McDowell, aye; Frierson, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION/ATTORNEY REPRESENTATION/TAX APPEALS

Administrator Knabel stated the proposed resolution allows the City's attorneys, Del Galdo Law Group, LLC to intervene on any property tax assessment proceedings on behalf of the City.

It was moved by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner McDowell that a Resolution (19-R-14) be passed authorizing the intervention of Counsel (Del Galdo Law Group, LLC) in property tax assessment proceedings for the City of Zion. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Holmes, aye; Fischer, aye; McDowell, aye; Frierson, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING/LAKE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE/SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS GROUP

A memo (19-DOC-37) was received from Chief Henderson requesting approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Lake County Sheriff's Office. Chief Henderson stated the Zion Police Department has been asked to join the Lake County Special Investigations Unit. The unit investigates crimes involving illegal

drug possession/distribution, illegal possession/us of firearms and human trafficking throughout Lake County. The unit is comprised of investigators from the Lake County Sheriff's Office and multiple local law enforcement agencies. In addition, the unit has members from several federal agencies including the FBI, U.S. Marshal's Office, DEA and ATF. Members work collaboratively to support one another on cases within their local jurisdictions by providing security and surveillance on controlled drug purchases, serving search and arrest warrants and investigating specific complaints within the jurisdiction of member agencies. Investigators are tasked with investigating specific complaints within their own communities when not supporting other group actions. Commissioner Holmes asked if a two year contract term was standard. Chief Henderson stated most of the contracts are open-ended but this particular contract is for two years but does have the provision of extending it upon written mutual agreement of both parties.

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner Fischer to approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Lake County Sheriff's Office and the Zion Police Department (by and through the City of Zion) to participate in the Lake County Special Investigations Group. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Holmes, aye; Fischer, aye; McDowell, aye; Frierson, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

CONTRACT/KANE, MCKENNA & ASSOCIATES/TIF ELIGIBILITY REPORT/TIF REDEVELOPMENT PLAN/ROUTE 173 TIF DISTRICT

Administrator Knabel is requesting approval of a contract for services with Kane, McKenna and Associates, Inc. to prepare a TIF eligibility report and a TIF redevelopment plan for a Route 173 TIF District. The City is looking to open a TIF along Green Bay Road and Route 173 between the ball field running east along Route 173 to Lewis Avenue, going south between Kenosha Road encompassing the High School, Fire Station 2 and the Grand Appliance Industrial Park. Kane, McKenna will do eligibility studies and prepare a report to determine and confirm likely boundaries of the proposed development areas. They will also prepare a TIF District Redevelopment plan and assist City staff to prepare notices for TIF public hearings. The City currently has a \$5,000 credit balance with Kane, McKenna from previous work performed on TIFs that will be applied to the proposed contract. The fees will be paid out of the General Fund but once funds become available in the TIF the funds will be reimbursed to the General Fund. This would be a 23 year TIF. Administrator Knabel stated developing a TIF district in the area will help encourage and incentivize businesses to the area. Commissioner McDowell asked if the TIF Board had an opinion on the proposed TIF. Administrator Knabel stated when they first discussed the idea six years ago the Board was in support of it. Back when it was first discussed, they ran into problems with a Com Ed right-of-way and had to divide the TIF into two parts. He stated before they reintroduce the plan to the TIF Board, they will do the eligibility study to see if it is feasible. Mayor McKinney stated developing a TIF in the proposed area is part of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

It was moved by Fischer, seconded by Commissioner McDowell to approve a contract for services with Kane, McKenna and Associates, Inc. to prepare a TIF Eligibility Report and TIF District Redevelopment Plan along with any other documents required of the TIF Act. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Holmes, aye; Fischer, aye; McDowell, aye; Frierson, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENTAL COMMENTARY

Director Roberts stated road patching has started and will take about 3-4 days to be completed. Patching is completed from 23rd Street to half of Route 173 from Sheridan Road to Galilee Avenue. The second half will be from 173 to Horeb Avenue. The Contractor recently suffered a tragedy and had to shut down for a few days which has slowed things down.

Mayor McKinney stated he was asked about the cost of Mosquito Spraying Program. With the amount of rain that has fallen he asked if there were ways residents could help deal with the mosquitos and West Nile Virus which was recently reported in Highland Park. Director Roberts stated any place that has standing water. He stated spraying is an option but if it rains, it will wash away any benefits.

Director Ianson stated they have started the next round of demolitions through the most current housing grant. The first of four houses has been taken down. They have taken down 22 houses since 2016.

Mayor McKinney stated with all the rain the grass is long and he is getting calls regarding the mowing. Director Ianson stated because of the weather the mowing crew got a late start. At this time, they only have half the crew

they would normally have. They are still looking for at least two more employees that can work through October. The salary is \$10.25 per hour. Interested individuals 18 and over may contact Karin Graves in the HR Department or go to the City website for information or to download an application.

John Lewis stated with the 4th of July approaching he is reminding residents to celebrate responsibly. Fireworks are hot and can cause a significant amount of damage. He often sees young children with sparklers that can get up to 2000 degrees. Sparkler accidents make up a quarter of all ER visits on the 4th of July. People are buying commercial grade fireworks that can do a lot of damage to bodies, houses and properties. Last year there were approximately 18,500 house fires in the United States from fireworks alone. He suggested residents go out to Shiloh Park and watch the professionals do it safely.

Chief Henderson stated the police officer eligibility list has been exhausted for the Zion Police Department. The Board of Police & Fire Commissioners are now accepting applications for police officers. He is hoping to hire one possibly two people from the new list. Interested individuals can visit the City website for the online application. This will be the only way the applications will be accepted. They are looking for a diverse set of applicants. The priority for Zion is to deal with violent crimes and drug crimes. They are working at all ends of the spectrum to accomplish this. They will be concentrating on a priority enforcement area which constitutes 34% of the drug crimes. They will be deploying 3 officers to the area to see if it will produce better results.

Chief Henderson stated he received a of \$2,500 donation from Walmart for the “Shop with a Cop” program. The Fire Department has also received a \$2,500 donation. He stated the Walmart Corporation is a great partner as they have made over \$20 million in contributions to local communities. He is hoping to increase contact with the officers and the youth and alleviate fear of officers through the “Shop with a Cop” program. They will be partnering with District 6 to identify the kids most in need. It will also benefit the officers to be able to interact with the upstanding citizens in the community.

Mayor McKinney stated Kathy Champine asked about the Land Bank agreement status at the last Council meeting. He had a meeting with the Executive Director of the Land Bank, Administrator Knabel and Commissioner Frierson to talk about where they were in the process. The Land Bank Board will be making a presentation at the next City Council meeting to explain where Land Bank agreement stands and what they are hoping to achieve in the first five years of the program. They will explain what it will mean to the community to demolish homes and buildings that are abandoned.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

July 4		City Offices closed for the Holiday
July 16	6:15 p.m.	Town Board Meeting
	7:00 p.m. Meeting	Zion City Council Appropriation Ordinance Public Hearing

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, it was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner McDowell and unanimously approved the meeting be adjourned at 7:33 p.m. Motion carried.

City Clerk