

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE ZION CITY COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2020, AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 2828 SHERIDAN ROAD, ZION, ILLINOIS

.....

Mayor McKinney called the meeting to order.

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

Also present: Police Chief Kirk Henderson, Fire Chief John Lewis, Public Works Director Ray Roberts, City Administrator David Knabel, and City Attorney James Vasselli. Building & Zoning Director Richard Ianson was absent.

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

AGENDA CHANGES

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

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Scott Lange, Zion, requested the City look into fixing the pot holes both in the road and alley in front of the school on 23rd Street and Ezra. He stated it is a hazard for the parents while picking up their kids from school.

Mary Lou Hiltibran, Zion, asked if a pastor would announce which church they are from prior to saying the prayer at a meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Commissioner Fischer seconded by Commissioner Holmes that the Minutes be approved as follows:

- (a) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** of a Regular Meeting held on January 17, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

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

It was moved by Commissioner Fischer seconded by Commissioner Holmes that the Bills be approved as follows:

- (b) **BILLS:** Vouchers 134336 through 134445 drawn on Huntington National Bank, N.A. Total: \$525,862.66.

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

ORDINANCE/FOURTH AMENDMENT/WATER SUPPLY CONTRACT/LAKE COUNTY PUBLIC WATER DISTRICT

A memo (20-DOC-8) was received from Director Roberts stating a request was made from Lake County Public Water District (LCPWD) for an Amendment to the Water Supply Agreement between LCPWD and the City of Zion. Director Roberts stated the Water District currently has two (2) generators, one at the main plant (350kw) and the second one at the low lift pump station (80kw). Both generators are over 22 years old and need to be replaced due to age and repair parts availability. The estimated cost for the replacements is \$450,000. Funding for the project would come from the Repair and Replacement (R&R) account. The current contract requires a one year/12 month payback period. The LCPWD Board has proposed an amendment to the current contract authorizing a 5 year/60 month payback period for the generator replacement project. Staff requests and recommends approval of the Amendment to the Water Supply Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Holmes, seconded by Commissioner Fischer, that an Ordinance (20-O-5) be passed authorizing a Fourth Amendment to the Water Supply Contract with the Lake County Public Water District. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Fischer, aye; Holmes, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

ORDINANCE/TEXT AMENDMENT/FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS

A memo (20-DOC-9) was received from Chief Lewis requesting approval of a text amendment to Article II, “Fire Alarm Systems” Section 22-43(d) of the Zion Municipal Code. He stated in reviewing the language in the ordinance related to misuses of alarm and false alarms in Section 22-43(d), there is room for some inconsistent interpretation in the language written. In order to provide clarity and consistency with current practice, Chief Lewis is requesting that the language in Section 22-43(d) be revised from “shall” to “may” which provides consistency in the language as written in 22-43(d) 1-6.

It was moved by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner Holmes that an Ordinance (20-O-6) be passed amending Article II, Section 22-43(d) “Fire Alarm Systems” of the Zion Municipal Code. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Fischer, aye; Holmes, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

ORDINANCE/TEXT AMENDMENT/AMBULANCE CHARGES

A memo (20-DOC-10) was received from Chief Lewis requesting approval of a text amendment to Section 34-16(a)(1) and (b) “Ambulance charges” of the Zion Municipal Code. Chief Lewis stated on August 7, 2018, the City Council authorized an ordinance allowing the Zion Fire and Rescue Department to bill for excessive requests for invalid assists over a 12 month period. The intent of the charge for invalid assists was not a revenue source but a method to hopefully reduce the number of repeat calls by patients not seeking alternate means of healthcare assistance. Since the inception of the ordinance numerous invoices have been sent out with minimal to no collections. For example, in November 2019 invoices were sent out totaling \$7,850 for “invalid assists” from June 2019-November 2019. To date the City has not received any funds from these invoices. After a discussion with City Administrator Knabel, the consensus was reached that the staff time necessary to adequately track the individual patients, the number of requests for service within a 12 month period, prepare invoices and follow-up on collections was not equal to the revenue being collected. Additionally, there has been little to no decrease in requests for service from these patients. Chief Lewis recommends deleting the language that references the Non-Emergency Call Fee under Section 34-16(a)(1) and (b) “Ambulance charges” of the Municipal Code

It was moved by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner Holmes that an Ordinance (20-O-7) be passed amending Section 34-16(a)(1) and (b) of the Zion Municipal Code. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Fischer, aye; Holmes, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

REQUEST FOR WAIVER/RAFFLE MANAGER’S FIDELITY BOND

A memo (20-DOC-11) was received from Clerk Spooner regarding a request for waiver of the raffle manager’s fidelity bond requirement from the Kiwanis Club of Zion Benton. The Club submitted a raffle application requesting permission to conduct a raffle for fundraising purposes during their annual pancake breakfast at Zion-Benton Township High School. The applicant is requesting a waiver of the manager’s fidelity bond. Clerk Spooner stated that, per the Zion Municipal Code, only the City Council can waive the bond requirement.

It was moved by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner Holmes, to waive the raffle manager’s fidelity bond requirement, as requested by the Kiwanis Club of Zion Benton, per their application to conduct a raffle for fundraising purposes. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Fischer, aye; Holmes, aye; and Mayor McKinney aye. Motion carried.

REQUEST FOR WAIVER/RAFFLE MANAGER’S FIDELITY BOND

A memo (20-DOC-12) was received from Clerk Spooner regarding a request for waiver of the raffle manager’s fidelity bond requirement from Assistance in Healthcare. The organization submitted a raffle application requesting permission to conduct a raffle for fundraising purposes during their annual Sweetheart Ball. The applicant is requesting a waiver of the manager’s fidelity bond. Clerk Spooner stated that, per the Zion Municipal Code, only the City Council can waive the bond requirement.

It was moved by Commissioner Holmes, seconded by Commissioner Fischer, to waive the raffle manager’s fidelity bond requirement, as requested by Assistance in Healthcare per their application to conduct a raffle for fundraising purposes. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Fischer, aye; Holmes, aye; and Mayor McKinney aye. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENTAL COMMENTARY

Karin Graves stated there are two employment opportunities available within the City. In the Police Department a CSO position is available and in the Fire/Rescue Department a Paid on Premise (POP) position is available. She directed citizens to go to the City’s website for more information.

Director Roberts stated he has received many calls regarding pot holes and it has been said that Public Works does not call people back. He stated they have crews out in the City every day filling pot holes with cold patch. Unfortunately, this is only a temporary fix and when the plows come out it ends up ripping the patching out. He stated they are doing the best they can with the resources they have. He has 9 employees in the Street Department, two of which are out on Work Comp. He stated there may also be people on vacation or out sick. There are 200 miles of primary roads and 30 miles of alleys for the employees to cover. He apologized for not getting back to people in a timely manner.

Administrator Knabel stated the recent topic amongst citizens is Water Bills. The first quarter bills have come out with the new rate increase. The rate increase was passed in October 2019 to be effective January 2020. There was a lot of discussion regarding the increase prior to the approval. As previously discussed, the increase will be earmarked for infrastructure only. The City will be partnering with the IEPA for a low cost loan to help address the infrastructure. The average increase for a homeowner should be about \$20-\$30 a bill based on water usage. He encouraged residents to keep an eye on their bills for large increases as it could be due to a toilet or faucet leak.

Chief Lewis stated the Fire/Rescue Department recently received a grant from North Shore Gas to buy and distribute carbon monoxide detectors to low income families and senior citizens. The department will be creating a program to distribute them to residents. He stated each detector will be tracked by North Shore Gas. He asked residents to keep an eye on the website for information to come. Mayor McKinney thanked North Shore Gas for partnering with the City on the carbon monoxide detectors. He stated the City is trying to reach out to entities to work together to help with issues within the City to do all they can to assist the citizens.

Chief Henderson stated the Police Department also received a donation from North Shore Gas in the amount of \$2,400.00. Additionally he warned citizens to be aware of the recent thefts of catalytic converters. He stated it is not exclusive to Zion as it has been happening over the border in Pleasant Prairie. He encouraged citizens to be aware and to report anything suspicious to police.

Mayor McKinney thanked City employees for the work that they do every day. There City is short staffed with only about 130 employees. He stated they work hard for the citizens and continue to take the time to help improve the City. The employees are committed and dedicated individuals in spite of the negative comments from the community. He stated with the death of Kobe Bryant and other individuals last week it makes people reflect on things and realize that anything can be taken away in a minute. He encouraged people to take the time to be safe. He thanked the citizens for their patience while the Council continues to try and get the City out of a bad place. He reminded citizens that the Council takes their comments, praise and criticism seriously and are always looking to improve the City. He also asked citizens to be patient when they call and cannot reach a Department Head. He stated he has been to Springfield twice to ask for help in receiving funds from the Capital Bill. He is hoping Zion will receive some of the \$43 million available. He stated sometimes Zion gets lost in the mix and he is trying to make sure Zion receives some funding from the Capital Bill. Senator Bush and Representative Mason are trying to make sure Zion does not get overlooked for the funding.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 18	6:15 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Zion Township Board Meeting Zion City Council Meeting
March 3	7:00 p.m.	Zion City Council Meeting

ADJOURN

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

City Clerk