

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING/BUDGET WORKSHOP OF THE ZION CITY COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 2012, AT 6:30 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 Jim Taylor, Flammini, DeTienne, and Mayor Harrison. Commissioner Shantal Taylor was absent.

CLOSED SESSION

It was moved by Commissioner Jim Taylor, seconded by Commissioner DeTienne that the Council recess to Closed Session at 6:32 p.m. to discuss personnel. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Jim Taylor, aye; Flammini, aye; DeTienne, aye; and Mayor Harrison, aye. Commissioner Shantal Taylor arrived at 6:32 p.m. Commissioner Shantal Taylor voted aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner DeTienne, seconded by Commissioner Flammini to reconvene the Special Council meeting at 8:40 p.m. with all members present. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Jim Taylor, aye; Flammini, aye; DeTienne, aye; Shantal Taylor, aye; Mayor Harrison, aye. Motion carried.

BUDGET/FISCAL YEAR MAY 1, 2012 – APRIL 30, 2013

Mayor Harrison stated that the City Council discussed personnel cuts in Closed Session as personnel is the only component of the budget that allows room to balance the budget. He stated that personnel costs were clarified but no concrete decisions were made on the recommendations. The City Council was asked to digest the information and come back with more solutions to reach a balanced budget at the next possible opportunity.

Fire/Rescue Chief John Lewis stated that the SAFER Grant is a FEMA grant which covers the full salary and benefits for a Firefighter/Paramedic for two years. The City would be committed to maintaining this position for two full years. There is no co-payment cost to the City. At the end of the required two years, the firefighter can be released if funds are not available to support the position. The SAFER Grant is a way to increase Fire/Rescue Department staffing at no cost to the City and receive two years of free labor, with the hope that the City would be able to keep the position after two years if financial circumstances allow. It is anticipated that Chief Lewis will learn if the grant is received in August. Commissioner Jim Taylor stated that the grant was left out of the budget as it was not known whether or not it would be received. If the grant is received, the budget would be amended accordingly.

Mayor Harrison stated that the Council's goal is to balance the budget. He stated it is difficult to determine when expected revenue will be received. The State of Illinois owes the City \$800,000 which is now four months late. He stated that the City must investigate new revenue sources and make hard decisions in the area of personnel. The City cannot continue to operate on one-time revenues. Mayor Harrison stated that the Department Heads did an outstanding job in making budget cuts and concessions.

A special meeting/budget workshop will be scheduled at the regular City Council meeting of June 19, 2012.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, it was moved by Commissioner Shantal Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Flammini and unanimously approved the meeting be adjourned at 8:52 p.m. Motion carried.

City Clerk

Approved July 3, 2012