

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE ZION CITY COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2014, 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 Flammini, Hill, Taylor, DeTienne and Mayor Harrison.

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- (a) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** a Regular Meeting held February 18, 2014 at 7:01 p.m.; approval but not release of Closed Session Minutes of a meeting held on February 18, 2014 at 7:29 p.m.
- (b) **BILLS:** Vouchers 117735 through 117818 drawn on First Merit Bank, Total: \$448,534.09

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

**ORDINANCE/AMENDING ZION MUNICIPAL CODE/CHAPTER 3 ADMINISTRATIVE CODE HEARING DEPARTMENT**

A memo (14-DOC-14) was received from Chief Dumyahn requesting that Zion Municipal Code Chapter 3, "Administrative Code Hearing Department", be amended to implement the immobilization (commonly known as a vehicle boot) and subsequent impounding of vehicles for failure to pay fines or penalties. Chief Dumyahn stated that the amendment would allow for the immobilization of a person's vehicle for failure to pay fines for three or more parking violations instead of five violations. He stated that the main changes in Chapter 3, Sections 3-11 and 3-13 would replace "parking violation" with new language, "vehicular parking and compliance code", add towing and impounding to immobilization and replace the accumulated parking citations to three or more instead of five. Commissioner DeTienne stated that the Police Department has had a difficult time with collecting parking ticket fines and there is approximately \$1 million in unpaid parking ticket fines. He stated that the City would increase fine revenue if the new ordinance was enforced. Commissioner Flammini asked who the "code administrator" was as referred to in Section 13-3. Chief Dumyahn stated that this administrator would be either him or his designee or the collection agency that administers the collections. Chief Dumyahn stated that this ordinance would receive a lot of media attention and the public would be well informed as they will receive repeated notices. Commissioner Hill stated that he fully supports the ordinance and added that the Building Department needs a way to collect fines owed for code violations. He stated that the City needs to investigate collection processes under home rule status to determine if Zion having home rule status could help deal with the problems.

It was moved by Commissioner DeTienne, seconded by Commissioner Hill, that an Ordinance (14-O-14) be passed amending Chapter 3, "Administrative Code Hearing Department" of the Zion Municipal Code to implement the immobilization (vehicle boot) and subsequent impounding of vehicles for failure to pay fines or penalties. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Flammini, aye; Hill, aye; Taylor, aye; DeTienne, aye; and Mayor Harrison, aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

**MUNICIPAL ELECTRICAL AGGREGATION**

Sharon Durling, representative of NIMEC (Northern Illinois Municipal Electric Collaborative) stated that enrolled Zion residents have saved \$32 per average household over the first six months of the municipal electrical aggregation program. The community savings was \$151,000. She stated that there are still savings to be achieved if the program is continued. She stated that if the City decides to terminate the

program, all enrolled residents will go back to ComEd and be locked in with ComEd for one year. She stated that ComEd will adjust rates twice in 2014, in June and September. She stated that it is broadly expected that the ComEd rate will increase to \$.07 per kilowatt hour in June. Mayor Harrison stated that the aggregation program is provided at no cost to City of Zion government and it has saved money for Zion residents. Commissioner Taylor stated that he supports going to bid again with NIMEC. Commissioner Hill asked what happens if the ComEd rate falls below the City of Zion rate. Ms. Durling stated that the City can suspend the program and customers can go back to ComEd for one year. She also stated that NIMEC sees that 3-year contract terms carry lower rates over one-year contract terms.

It was moved by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Flammini, that an Ordinance (14-O-15) be passed 1) approving the continuation of the municipal electrical aggregation program in the City of Zion, 2) authorizing NIMEC to seek live bids for electricity, and 3) authorizing entering into a contract with a new electric supplier. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Flammini, aye; Hill, aye; Taylor, aye; DeTienne, aye; and Mayor Harrison, aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

### **EMPLOYEE MEDICAL & DENTAL INSURANCE RENEWAL**

A memo (14-DOC-14) was received from Director Knabel requesting permission to accept the proposal of Assurance Agency for the renewal of employee medical and dental insurance with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois (BCBS) effective May 1, 2014. He stated that the City's insurance brokers, Assurance Agency, went to market for the City's health insurance and four responses were received. He stated that, based on the recommendation of Assurance Agency, City staff recommends renewing the health insurance with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois which represents a 12.85% increase (\$262,131.84) over existing annual premiums. Director Knabel stated that the City saved \$170,000 in May 2013 when the City changed from Professional Benefits Administrators (PBA) to BCBS, and with this 12.85% increase, insurance costs will be flat. He stated that the City is self-insured and therefore saves in claim filing fees charged by the insurance company. Mayor Harrison stated that he has received complaints regarding BCBS's unwillingness to replace lost prescriptions and difficulty in getting 90-day prescriptions filled which are less expensive than 30-day prescriptions. Commissioner Hill asked if there would be any benefit if the City were to increase the size of the employee pool by partnering with other municipalities in order to save money on rates. Director Knabel stated that he is investigating the possibility through Assurance Agency.

It was moved by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Flammini, to accept the proposal of Assurance Agency for the renewal of employee medical and dental insurance with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois (BCBS) effective May 1, 2014. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Flammini, aye; Hill, aye; Taylor, aye; DeTienne, aye; and Mayor Harrison, aye. Motion carried.

### **PURCHASE/TREADMILL FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT**

A memo (14-DOC-15) was received from Chief Dumyahn requesting permission to purchase a new treadmill for the Police Department from Wisthoff Fitness Warehouse. He stated that the Police Department fitness expert, Jay LaBonne, negotiated a discounted price which included the trade-in of the broken treadmill. He stated that the manufacturer's retail price on the treadmill is \$4,799 and the City's cost, including the trade-in, would be \$2,999 which includes a 5-year parts warranty. Chief Dumyahn stated that the purchase would be made from donations received.

It was moved by Commissioner DeTienne, seconded by Commissioner Hill, to purchase a new treadmill for the Police Department from Wisthoff Fitness Warehouse, in the amount of \$2,999 including trade-in of the broken treadmill. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Flammini, aye; Hill, aye; Taylor, aye; DeTienne, aye; and Mayor Harrison, aye. Motion carried.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT/SWALCO/CLOTHING RECYCLING**

A memo (14-DOC-16) was received from Commissioner Flammini requesting approval of an intergovernmental agreement between the City of Zion and SWALCO (Solid Waste Agency of Lake County) for a Clothing & Textile Recycling Program. He stated that textiles account for 12% of landfill volume and that ten municipal collection sites will be established. He stated that SWALCO will receive \$.67 per pound for shoes and \$.18 per pound for textiles. SWALCO will share the revenue with collection site host municipalities with each municipality receiving 1/3 of the revenue from collections at their location. He stated that gross revenue is conservatively estimated to be in the low six figures county-wide. If Zion chooses to participate, SWALCO would place one collection box on City property. Commissioner Flammini stated that the advantages of the City participating are 1) ongoing revenue source, 2) conservation of landfill space, and 3) protection of revenue as any textiles collected will not be deposited in the landfill which would cause a decrease in the City's tipping fees. He stated that the City's responsibilities would be to provide a collection box location, notify the contractor when the box needs to be emptied, and to promote the program through the City's normal channels. Commissioner Flammini stated that the agreement does provide a 30-day opt out clause.

It was moved by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Flammini, to approve the intergovernmental agreement between the City of Zion and SWALCO (Solid Waste Agency of Lake County) for a Clothing & Textile Recycling Program. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Flammini, aye; Hill, aye; Taylor, aye; DeTienne, aye; and Mayor Harrison, aye. Motion carried.

**DEPARTMENTAL COMMENTARY**

Mayor Harrison recognized County Board Member Brent Paxton and former Zion City Commissioner Amos Monk who were in the audience.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

March 1 - April 30		SWALCO Shoe Recycling Program Shoe Drop-off at Zion City Hall
March 3 - March 15	M-F – 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday- 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Early Voting at Zion City Hall
March 15	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	Electronic Recycling at the Public Works Facility, 3220 27 <sup>th</sup> Street
March 18		Election Day
March 18	6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Town Board Meeting Zion City Council Meeting

**CLOSED SESSION**

It was moved by Commissioner DeTienne, seconded by Commissioner Hill that the Council recess to Closed Session at 7:42 p.m. to discuss probable litigation. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Flammini, aye; Hill, aye; Taylor, aye; DeTienne, aye; and Mayor Harrison, aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Flammini, seconded by Commissioner Hill to reconvene the Regular Council meeting at 7:57 p.m. with all members present. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Flammini, aye; Hill, aye; Taylor, aye; DeTienne, aye; and Mayor Harrison, aye. Motion carried.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, it was moved by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Taylor and unanimously approved the meeting be adjourned at 7:58 p.m. Motion carried.

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City Clerk

Approved March 18, 2014