

MINUTES OF AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE ZION CITY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2020, AT 7:53 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 2828 SHERIDAN ROAD, ZION, ILLINOIS

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Mayor Pro-Tem Fischer called the Emergency meeting to order.

Mayor Pro-Tem Fischer stated pursuant to Section 2.02 of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, an Emergency Meeting has been called by the Mayor and the Commissioners of the City of Zion related to the current Coronavirus - COVID-19 pandemic.

Mayor Pro-Tem Fischer led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

On call of the roll the following answered present: Commissioners, McDowell, Frierson, Holmes, and Mayor Pro-Tem Fischer. Mayor McKinney attended the meeting by phone. A quorum was present.

Also present: City Administrator David Knabel and City Attorney James Vasselli.

ORDINANCE/DECLARING A LOCAL EMERGENCY/AUTHORIZING EMERGENCY POWERS

It was moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Fischer, seconded by Commissioner Frierson to table the proposed Ordinance Declaring a Local Emergency and Authorizing Emergency Powers Relating to the Impact of Coronavirus Disease Covid-19. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners McDowell, aye; Frierson, aye; Holmes, aye; Mayor Pro-Tem Fischer, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Attorney Vasselli stated the proposed ordinance authorizes emergency powers for the City Executives; the Mayor and City Administrator. Although thoroughly thought through, the ordinance and relevant policy was tabled to give more time to see if the crisis developed in such a manner that a supplemental ordinance would be needed if change were needed to the current one. He asked that any suggested comments or changes be emailed to both himself and the Administrator and they can make adjustments accordingly. These are unprecedented times and they want to make sure they are servicing the residents of the City of Zion to the best of their ability. He does not want procedure to overtake efficient operations of government. Pursuant to the unilateral powers of the Mayor in Section 18.2 of the Zion Municipal Code, the Mayor has declared the current situation a "State of Civil Emergency". The ordinance relative to a State of Civil Emergency was written in 1954 and is very antiquated. The definition of "Natural Disaster" is not addressed in the ordinance nor does it mention a "Pandemic". He stated his legal opinion is that a "Natural Disaster" is a "Pandemic". He would like the record to reflect that he is comfortable with the Mayor exercising his authority which he has done. He would like the Council acknowledge this and place the document on file with the City Clerk. In the event powers need to be taken, he along with the Mayor and the Administrator will be in contact with the Council. He would like to be able to have the flexibility to insure they can protect the residents and employees of the City to the best of their ability. There is no final action to be taken at this time but recommends a vote with a motion to be made to acknowledge the receipt of the "Declaration of Emergency" and placed on file with the City Clerk.

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner Holmes to acknowledge the receipt of the "Declaration of Emergency" and have it placed on file with the City Clerk. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners McDowell, aye; Frierson, aye; Holmes, aye; Mayor Pro-Tem Fischer, aye and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

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 8:00 p.m. Motion carried.