

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE ZION CITY COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2020, 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, Frierson, McDowell, Fischer, and Mayor McKinney. A quorum was present.

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

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

**AGENDA CHANGES**

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

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

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Mayor McKinney asked for a moment of silence for First Responders and the George Floyd family. He stated the Nation and Cities are coming together to deal with the social injustices. There must be an understanding and accepting of differences as we all have to get along. They are all charged with making the City better and the goal is to move the City forward. As a citizen and a Mayor he understands the protests but he does not understand the looting. They are taking away jobs and services that the communities will need. George Floyd has rocked the entire world. He thanked Pastor Eddy for the day's event and the healing that is needed in the community.

William C. Bremner, Zion, stated he recently had the privilege of speaking with Commissioner Fischer and he suggested he bring his questions regarding Home Rule to a Council meeting. He has reviewed the Illinois Constitution which states all communities are eligible for Home Rule status but he could not find anything on the process of getting there. He asked what the process was other than to have a population of 25,000 people. Administrator Knabel stated once the population reaches 25,000 per the US Census, Home Rule status is automatic. Another way would be through a special Census explaining why it is being requested but this would come at a cost to the City. The last way is by referendum. Mayor McKinney stated they are working with other taxing bodies to ensure people are participating in the Census. Becoming Home Rule can be so important to the community relating to medical care, hospitals, homes and schools allowing the distribution of additional Federal funds.

Pastor Eddy shared a statement previously read to his congregation regarding what is happening in the nation. He stated he loves the community and saw the power of a local congregation.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- (a) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** a Special Meeting held May 19, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.; and approval but not release of Closed Session Minutes of a meeting held on May 19, 2020 at 7:54 p.m.

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

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

- (b) **BILLS:** Vouchers 135055 through 135153 drawn on Huntington National Bank, N.A.  
Total: \$439,549.27.

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

#### **ORDINANCE/AMENDING CHAPTER 56/LIQUOR CONTROL REGULATIONS**

Administrator Knabel stated over the last year they have been going through and reviewing the Liquor Code. As a result, some significant changes have been made. He recommended the following amendments:

- Definitions for Banquet Hall, Private Event and Public Event have been added
- A Class A-2 has been added allowing for alcohol in restaurants of not less than 50 seats and not more than 74.
- Amending language for the Class B license
- Amending language for the Class E license
- Amending language for the Class F license
- Amending language for the Class H license
- Adding a Class L license for the retail sale of beer and wine in gas stations
- Deleting the Class X license
- Amending the fee schedule
- Amending the number of licenses
- Amending the hours of business

It was moved by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner Holmes, that an Ordinance (20-O-22) be passed amending Chapter 56 of the Zion Municipal Code regarding Liquor Control Regulations. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; McDowell, aye; Fischer, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

#### **ORDINANCE/TEMPORARY BUSINESS PERMITS/OUTDOOR DINING**

Administrator Knabel stated with the Governors new orders, restaurants will be permitted to do outdoor seating. Zion does have some restaurants that are set up for outdoor seating. He would like to make sure that until normal operations can resume they do not prohibit restaurants from doing business. Passing this ordinance will allow outdoor dining temporarily. Businesses can use parking lots or green space to set up the temporary dining. They must submit an application to the Building Department and Director Ianson will review the applications and view and approve the dining space. There has been one minor change from the original ordinance removing the \$100 permit fee.

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner McDowell that an Ordinance (20-O-23) be passed allowing Temporary Business Permits for Outdoor Dining. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; McDowell, aye; Fischer, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

#### **ORDINANCE/TEMPORARY LIQUOR LICENSES/OUTDOOR DINING**

Administrator Knabel stated the proposed ordinance is similar to the previous ordinance previously discussed. The ordinance applies to those businesses with current Class A, A-1 and A-2 liquor licenses and will allow them to bring their business operations outdoors. Commissioner Frierson confirmed that the term of the ordinance is valid for 90 days or until the State is out of COVID-19 Governor orders.

It was moved by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner Frierson that an Ordinance (20-O-24) be passed granting Temporary Licenses Associated with Outdoor Dining. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; McDowell, aye; Fischer, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

**ORDINANCE/TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF FEES/LIQUOR LICENSES**

Administrator Knabel stated at the last meeting there were discussions regarding certain Liquor Licenses that are set to expire on June 30<sup>th</sup>. There are concerns for the businesses that have not had any revenue coming in. The City would like to work with the businesses with Liquor Licensees other than Class C and Class H, by temporarily extending their current licenses for 90 days, expiring on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Upon renewal, licenses will be pro-rated based on the number of months the license will be effective.

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner Fischer that an Ordinance (20-O-25) be passed granting a Temporary Extension for current Liquor Licensees, excluding Class C and Class H Licensees until September 30, 2020. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; McDowell, aye; Fischer, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

**DEPARTMENTAL COMMENTARY**

Director Ianson stated the summer lawn crew started last week but currently has only one member mowing grass. He asked that the public be patient while they work to get the mowing caught up.

Administrator Knabel stated in the past the City had a program called “Code Red” for emergency notifications. The program has since been discontinued. The City has implemented a new system called “Black Board”. Residents can sign up on the City website. The system can be used with a home phone, cell phone, email or texts. A resident may choose to “opt out” of the program by contacting the Administrator or Fire Department. Forms will be included with current water bills for those residents that do not have access to the internet. Commissioner McDowell stated there have been some issues with the app in trying to register. Administrator Knabel stated they are checking into it.

Lieutenant Velardi stated the Police Department will be monitoring protests for potential civil disorder. The PD does support First Amendment rights but will take action on criminal acts. He asked that protestors keep assemblies peaceful.

Mayor McKinney thanked the Police Department for their hard work during the unrest. He had a chance to ride along with officers and feels Zion is well prepared. He has spoken with Mayors in surrounding communities and he is proud of Zion’s lack of enforcement needed. He recently put a post on the City’s website and Facebook. He stated they have gone through a very tough time in the last four years and thanked the citizens for their communication with the Council.

Commissioner McDowell stated at the last meeting Kathy Champine brought to the Council’s attention that a City Commissioner granted a Church permission to hold services. It was discovered neither of the Commissioners posted anything regarding this on social media. It is not illegal to be on the roadways or parking lots. Churches have found creative ways to practice.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

June 16	6:15 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Zion Township Board Meeting Zion City Council Meeting
July 4		City Offices Closed for the Holiday
June 7	7:00 p.m.	Zion City Council Meeting (Tentative)

**CLOSED SESSION**

It was moved by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Frierson that the Council recess to Closed Session at 7:51 p.m., pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 "Open Meetings", for the discussion of certain employees. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; McDowell, aye; Fischer, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner McDowell to reconvene the Regular Council meeting at 7:53 p.m. with all members present. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; McDowell, aye; Fischer, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL/UNPAID LEAVE**

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner Holmes to approve an unpaid leave for an employee in the Police Department. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; McDowell, aye; 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 McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Frierson and unanimously approved the meeting be adjourned at 7:54 p.m. Motion carried.

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City Clerk