

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE ZION CITY COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, JULY 7, 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, Fischer, McDowell, Frierson and Mayor McKinney. A quorum was present.

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

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

Mayor McKinney asked for a moment of silence for all First Responders and Military personnel.

**AGENDA CHANGES**

It was moved by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner Holmes to accept the City Council meeting agenda with the following change:

- Add pending litigation to item 12 - Closed Session

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

**PUBLIC HEARING/APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE**

Mayor McKinney opened the Public Hearing at 7:04 p.m. for the Appropriation of the City of Zion for the Fiscal Year beginning May 1, 2020 and ending April 30, 2021.

City Administrator David Knabel stated that as required by State statute, the City must pass an Appropriation Ordinance within ninety days of the start of the fiscal year. This is the City's legal authority to spend money. The City adopts a budget that is used annually as an internal guideline. Typically the ordinance is inflated for unknown or emergency expenditures. He stated the Appropriation Ordinance is in the total amount of \$43,337,648 and has been on file in the Clerk's Office available for anyone to view.

Commissioner Holmes asked what the gap was between the Appropriation amount and the conservative number. Administrator Knabel stated the gap was about \$4.5 million. There is between \$500,000 to \$1 million that is put in primarily for Public Service, Fire/Rescue and Public Property. These are the areas that have potential exposure to public disasters.

Resident William Bremner asked for confirmation of the total Appropriation amount.

There were no additional comments/questions from the Public.

Mayor McKinney declared the Public Hearing closed at 7:08 p.m.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

There were no Citizen Comments.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

It was moved by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Frierson that the Minutes be approved as follows:

- (a) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** a Regular Meeting held on June 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.; and approval but not release of Closed Session Minutes of a meeting held on June 16, 2020 at 8:10 p.m.

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

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

- (a) **BILLS:** Vouchers 135228 through 135353 drawn on Huntington National Bank, N.A. Total: \$649,402.21.

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

### APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE

It was moved by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner McDowell that an Ordinance (20-0-37) be passed making appropriations, totaling \$43,337,648 for all funds, for the City of Zion, Illinois for the Fiscal Year beginning May 1, 2020 and ending April 30, 2021. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Holmes, aye; Fischer, aye; McDowell, aye; Frierson, aye and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

### BUDGET/OTHER CITY FUNDS/FISCAL YEAR 2020/2021

Administrator Knabel stated the majority of the funds for City operations come out of the General Fund. Based on County requirements the City is required to maintain separate tracking for different funds based on revenue sources or State Law. He presented the budget amounts and explanations for each of the following funds:

E-911  
 Zion-Newport Fire Station Fund  
 Emergency Service Rescue Fund  
 Fire Protection Fund  
 Street & Bridge Fund  
 IMRF Fund  
 FICA Fund  
 TIF #6 Fund (Sheridan and 173 District)  
 TIF #5 Fund (Trumpet Park TIF)  
 TIF #3 Fund (South Sheridan Rd)  
 TIF #4 Fund (Crane Meadows)  
 Bond Series 2013 – TIF #3  
 Lake Mound Cemetery  
 Water & Sewer Fund  
 Debt Service Fund  
 Capital Projects Fund  
 Waste Collection Fund  
 Bond Series 2012B – Road Bonds  
 Bond Series 2012C – Road Bonds  
 Liability Insurance Fund  
 Local Law Enforcement Fund  
 Drug Traffic Prevention Fund  
 Industrial Development  
 Hotel/Motel Tax Fund

It was moved by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner Holmes to approve other City funds for the budget for Fiscal Year May 1, 2020 through April 30, 2021 as presented. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Holmes, aye; Fischer, aye; McDowell, aye; Frierson, aye and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

**TABULATION OF BIDS/2020 ALLEY/ROAD PROGRAM**

A Tabulation of Bids (20-DOC-48) was received from Director Roberts for the 2020 Alley/Road Program. Director Roberts stated a bid opening was held on April 14, 2020 for the 2020 Alley/Road Program. He requested and recommended awarding the project to the lowest responsible bidder, Payne & Dolan, Inc. in the amount of \$661,458.90. Funding for the project has been budgeted from the Motor Fuel Tax Fund. Copies of the bid tabulations are on file in the City Clerk's office as well as the Public Works office.

It was moved by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Fischer to award the contract for the 2020 Alley/Road Program to Payne & Dolan, Inc. in the amount of \$661,458.90. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Holmes, aye; Fischer, aye; McDowell, aye; Frierson, aye and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

**ADDING LATERAL HIRE LANGUAGE/MOU/IAFF LOCAL 1999**

A memo (20-DOC-49) was received from Chief Lewis requesting to add lateral hire language to the IAFF Local 1999 Memorandum of Understanding/Collective Bargaining Agreement. Chief Lewis stated in late 2019, he and the IAFF Local 1999 began discussions with Board of Fire and Police Commissioners on the feasibility of developing a lateral hire list for firefighter/paramedics. The concept was a result of similar interest from the Zion Police Department and the recent staffing concerns resulting from a lack of a Firefighter/Paramedic Eligibility Register. On May 8, 2020, the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners adopted the Lateral Hire language for Fire and Police. With the new rule in place, the Local 1999 needed to adopt language in their Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) to allow for any potential Lateral Transfer candidates to fit into the organization through the CBA. The language approved by Local 1999 is:

16. Lateral Transfers – In the event that a lateral transfer employee is hired, at the time of hire, they will be placed in accordance with the conditions listed below:
  - a. A lateral employee will start at the salary that matches the seniority at the department they are transferring from, not to exceed the four (4) year anniversary.
  - b. A lateral employee will receive the same amount of vacation days at the step that matches the seniority at the department they are transferring from, not to exceed five (5) years.
  - c. Seniority will begin the date of hire and start at zero (0) years.

Chief Lewis requested approval of the language as an addition to the Local 1999 MOU/CBA currently in place.

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner McDowell to approve the Lateral Hire Language as an addition to the IAFF Local 1999 Memorandum of Understanding/Collective Bargaining Agreement currently in place. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Holmes, aye; Fischer, aye; McDowell, aye; Frierson, aye and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

**PURCHASE/TRAINING SESSIONS/POLICE DEPARTMENT**

A memo (20-DOC-50) was received from Chief Henderson requesting approval of the purchase of two sessions of training. Chief Henderson stated the two sessions of training requested are De-escalation and Smarter Policing for Changing Times. The cost of the two sessions is \$2,880.00. The training sessions would be provided to all sworn officers on September 16<sup>th</sup> and October 2<sup>nd</sup> of 2020. The training has been vetted and approved by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board (ILETSB) and would be provided by On-Target Solutions. Approximately five years ago, the ILETSB mandated additional continuing education for sworn police officers in the State of Illinois. The mandated training covered topics such as procedural justice, human rights, mental health awareness, civil rights, cultural competency and constitutional and proper use of law enforcement authority. This course satisfies several of the state mandates. Departments are required to retrain officers in these areas every three years. Currently, the Zion Police Department obtains the continuing education training for officers on an individual basis through ILETSB classes offered regionally. The recent events in Minneapolis have increased the demand for police reform at the national, state and local level. A common refrain is that police be trained in de-escalation techniques.

Chief Henderson stated that although he has great confidence in the professionalism of Zion Police Officers they should always be striving to improve. Obtaining the training now would allow them to train all officers simultaneously and build and/or improve public confidence in the Zion Police Department. Chief Henderson requested to use funds previously budgeted for ammunition purposes to pay for the sessions. Ammunition purchases would be shifted to the Drug Forfeiture Account which is an approved use of the restricted funds. If approved, the purchase of the training sessions would not impact the City's budget. Commissioner Frierson stated the course can be opened up to other members of the community. Mayor McKinney asked if there would be a cost for others to attend. Chief Henderson stated all participants would be covered at no extra cost.

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner Holmes to approve the purchase of two sessions of training in the Police Department in the amount of \$2,880.00. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Holmes, aye; Fischer, aye; McDowell, aye; Frierson, aye and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

### **JUBILEE DAYS CANCELLATION**

A memo (20-DOC-51) was received from Administrator Knabel regarding the cancellation of Jubilee Days. Administrator Knabel stated there have been some difficult decisions that have had to be made in the wake of the COVID pandemic. The annual Nostalgia Days event to be held in June had already been cancelled. He stated another unfortunate decision necessary to make is whether to cancel Jubilee Days for the 2020 season. He voiced his primary concerns as it relates to the event.

1. Inability to maintain proper social distancing
2. Inability to monitor proper precautions (sanitation, masks, etc.)
3. Liability to the City of holding such event should an outbreak occur
4. Attendance down from both the attendees and parade participants
5. Lack of sufficient time remaining to properly plan the event
6. Financial resources from hotel/motel taxes due to closures to fund the event

Based on the of the aforementioned items listed, it is Administrator Knabel's recommendation that Jubilee Days be cancelled for this year (2020) and revisit next year in hopes that everything is back to normal circumstances. Commissioner Frierson asked if the Jubilee Days Commission had a recommendation regarding the cancellation of the event. Rich Walker, Executive Director of the Commission stated the Commission decided to cancel the event. Commissioner McDowell asked if the Commission had met and voted on cancelling the event. Mr. Walker stated they did vote and agreed to cancel the event. Commissioner McDowell stated he is disappointed that there will not be a parade or any related events but accepts the recommendation of the Commission. Commissioner Fischer stated it is unfortunate that they have lost the year to so many cancelled events. It is the hope that next year the events can come back re-energized. Commissioner McDowell recognized Rich Walker for 33 years on the Jubilee Days Commission.

It was moved by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner Holmes to approve the cancellation of the Jubilee Days Event for 2020. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Holmes, aye; Fischer, aye; McDowell, aye; Frierson, aye and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

### **DEPARTMENTAL COMMENTARY**

Director Ianson stated the City will be hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Zion Clean-Up Days on August 8, 2020 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Dumpsters will be on-site at 28<sup>th</sup> and Galilee to drop off electronics and tires. Director Ianson stated information is out on Social Media. Additionally, he thanked Commissioner McDowell for his assistance in cleaning up properties and painting the welcome signs. He stated the mowing crew is back in full force and is in the process of catching up on all mowing.

Administrator Knabel stated at the last meeting the Council approved a Census Incentive Program. Information regarding the details of the program will soon be published. The basis of the program is to complete the Census and be entered into a monthly drawing. Any person who enters the drawing has a chance to receive one (1) \$300 gift card, two (2) \$200 gift cards and three (3) \$100 gift cards. The first drawing will be at the end of July. He encouraged citizens to complete the Census to qualify for the drawings. Mayor McKinney stated over \$675 billion comes to the communities. They must have accurate data for population to receive improved healthcare,

transportation and home improvement programs. The City deserves to receive this money but must have the population to receive it. He stated it is important for the well-being of the City.

Director Roberts stated the Patching Program will be starting at the end of July. He contacted IDOT regarding the project on Route 173 and they are hoping for a start date for that project the middle to end of August. Mayor McKinney stated the City has an application in to the State to receive funding. State Representatives are working to ensure that Zion will receive some of the State's Capital State Funding.

Mayor McKinney asked if residents will be able to see where work will be done in the City in regards to the Road Improvement Project. Director Roberts stated they will post the information on the City's website once it becomes available.

Chief Henderson stated he along with Commissioner Frierson will be conducting self-assessments within the Police Department. The priorities are to reduce crime and increase arrests. They must find a way to do something about the relationships with the landlords. Some landlords do not care and some are willing to work with police. He stated they tried to get Home-Rule status in the past but missed by 600 votes. People must be held accountable for their violent acts. Mayor McKinney stated they were having regular meetings with landlords before the COVID pandemic. They will be holding the meetings again via Zoom beginning in August and will get the information out on Social Media. They will continue to get input from the citizens.

Chief Lewis urged citizens to sign up for Blackboard Connect. To date, there were only 300 people registered out of 24,000 residents. He stated it takes less than two minutes to go on to the City website and sign up. He has put step by step instructions on the website on how to sign up. He stated citizens must be sure to follow through to the final steps by going to their email and click the link to finish registering. Additionally, he stated recently there were two fires on the east side of the City. He asked that those who come out to watch the fires take their pictures from across the street. He stated a lot is happening at a fire scene and citizens must try and stay away from the action for the safety of everyone involved.

Commissioner McDowell shared information regarding the "Many Hands" project. Every year Christ Community Church joins with several other local churches to help residents of Zion with projects around their houses. Due to restrictions related to the current health crisis, only Christ Community Church youth participated in the service projects. There were 2 teams taking on five homes doing various City projects. Additionally, the ZBMA had their "Prayer Walk" and concert on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Three hundred people attended as they prayed for the schools, the City and officers. They also prayed for racial reconciliation. He stated it was a good event and hopes the prayers will reap rewards in the City and the Nation.

Commissioner Fischer stated as the State opens the next phase of Restore IL he encouraged people to patronize local restaurants. He also urged people to wear a mask in stores because if everyone holds true to the protections it will be to everyone's benefit. Other states that rushed to re-open are now seeing COVID numbers increase. Mayor McKinney asked citizens to be patient. He commended the Legislators for doing what is best for the State. He stated many states will have to lock down again. He stated Chicago is asking people coming from other states to quarantine for 14 days because they did not take the proper precautions. He understands everyone has their own opinion on the pandemic. He stated more people have died from COVID-19 than in the Vietnam War.

Commissioner Frierson stated he has been working with Chief Henderson on the Police Department's self-assessment. There has been a lot of push nationally for reform within Police. They are looking at specific scenarios as well as the policies in place. They do stack up very well but it doesn't mean they still don't have work to do. He appreciates the dedication and effort the Chief has put into it. The expectation from the Council is to be more transparent with the community on policing. There is a lot of trust that has been broken that needs to be rebuilt. They would like to get out into the community and get more feedback. He hopes the creation of the Citizens Advisory Board is a step in the right direction.

Mayor McKinney stated the pandemic has given the Council the opportunity to communicate with residents regarding their concerns. The Council is continuing to be very transparent about City government. City Officials are always available to sit down and talk with residents. He stated the building on 2771 Galilee is set to be demolished as it has been an eyesore for 4 decades. He has been working on one of the County Commissions to help make this happen. He stated he works behind the scenes to accomplish these things. He has a seat at the table so that Zion may have a voice. He continues to try and help Zion by sending correspondence to the State and County officials to help Zion get money.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

July 21	6:00 p.m.	Annual Town Meeting
	6:15 p.m.	Zion Township Board Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Zion City Council Meeting
August 4	7:00 p.m.	Zion City Council Meeting
August 8	8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Annual Zion Clean-Up Days

**CLOSED SESSION**

It was moved by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner Frierson that the Council recess to Closed Session at 8:11 p.m., pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 "Open Meetings", for the discussion of personnel and pending litigation. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Holmes, aye; Fischer, aye; McDowell, aye; Frierson, aye and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Fischer to reconvene the Regular Council meeting at 9:24 p.m. with all members present. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Holmes, aye; Fischer, aye; McDowell, aye; Frierson, aye and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

**NON-UNION WAGE CHANGES**

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner Holmes to approve the wage changes for non-union employees as presented. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Holmes, aye; Fischer, aye; McDowell, aye; Frierson, 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 Fischer, and unanimously approved the meeting be adjourned at 9:26 p.m. Motion carried.

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City Clerk