

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE ZION CITY COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2021, AT 7:00 P.M. (VIA ZOOM) IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 2828 SHERIDAN ROAD, ZION, ILLINOIS**

.....

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 Eric Barden, Fire/Rescue Chief Justin Stried, Building & Zoning Director Richard Ianson, Public Works Director Ray Roberts, City Administrator David Knabel and City Attorney Jimmy Vasselli.

Mayor McKinney led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**AGENDA CHANGES**

It was moved by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Frierson to approve the City Council meeting agenda as presented. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Holmes, aye; Fischer, aye; Frierson, aye; McDowell, aye and Mayor McKinney aye. Motion carried.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Denise Lear, Zion, commented on the following:

1. She thanked Police Chief Barden for listening about overnight parking. My question is how many tickets have been written and can we sometime in future get a dollar figure of funds collected so far?
2. With the City in deficit has the City explored enforcing other ordinances which could bring in revenue?
3. I've spoken to police about person taking the garbage and was told nothing could be done. Is there anything to keep this person out of the garbage? This continues to happen daily.

Administrator Knabel noted that if the public would like to speak during Citizen Comments, they may raise their hand to be recognized.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- (a) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** a Regular Meeting held on March 2, 2021 at 7:00; and approval but not release of Closed Session Minutes of a meeting held on March 2, 2021 at 8:10 p.m.

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 Fischer, seconded by Commissioner McDowell that the Bills be approved as follows:

- (b) **BILLS:** Vouchers 136925 through 137014 drawn on Huntington National Bank, N.A. Total: \$536,107.08

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

**ORDINANCE/EMERGENCY SIREN MAINTENANCE CONTRACT**

A memo (21-DOC-16) was received from Chief Stried requesting approval of an annual maintenance contract for the City's Outdoor Warning Siren System. Chief Stried stated the Emergency sirens are placed at multiple sites around the City. It was recently discovered that the siren atop the City Hall building did not activate during the two most recent tests. Fulton Siren Services has been the contracted provider for this item for the past few years. Once the contract is approved, the provider will check the sirens and make any necessary repairs.

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner McDowell that an Ordinance (21-O-10) be passed authorizing and approving a proposal & service agreement between the City of Zion and Fulton Siren Services to perform maintenance for the City of Zion Outdoor Warning Siren System on an annual basis for the calendar year of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. The vote on roll call was: The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Holmes, aye; Fischer, aye; Frierson, aye; McDowell, aye and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

**ADDITIONAL LIEUTENANT POSITION/POLICE DEPARTMENT**

A memo (21-DOC-17) was received from Chief Barden requesting approval of the promotion of an additional Lieutenant in the police department. Chief Barden stated he believes there is a greater need to bolster the top leadership of the department to hedge against the loss of institutional knowledge and procedural processes. He is asking that they reduce the number of authorized personnel at the rank of Sergeant from nine (9) to (8) and increase authorized personnel at the rank of Lieutenant from two (2) to three (3). At the meeting of the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners held on March 9, 2021, the Commission approved and provided the name of the next qualified candidate from the Lieutenant's Promotional Eligibility List. Chief Barden and Administrator Knabel have discussed the request and confirmed it will have no significant impact on the budget due to the salaried rank of Lieutenant versus that of the non-salaried position of Sergeant.

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner McDowell to approve reducing the number of authorized personnel at the rank of Sergeant from (9) to eight (8) and increase the authorized personnel at the rank of Lieutenant from two (2) to three (3). The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Holmes, aye; Fischer, aye; Frierson, aye; McDowell, aye and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

**WAIVER OF FEES/2629 SHERIDAN ROAD**

A memo (21-DOC-18) was received from Director Ianson stating that Zoe Life Academy is considering an alternate location for a proposed daycare located at 2629 Sheridan Road. The owner is requesting the City Council waive all fees associated with the new Special Use Permit. She is also requesting that all occupancy inspection fees be waived. Commissioner Holmes asked what the basis was to waive all the fees. Mayor McKinney stated it was something the Council previously agreed upon in order to help Ms. McNeely find a new location for her daycare. This motion and vote is for 2629 Sheridan Road. Commissioner McDowell noted that Director Ianson's memo combined the requests for fee waivers for both 2629 Sheridan Road which pertains to the daycare, and 1415 27<sup>th</sup> Street which pertains to the Elementary School. Each location will be voted on separately.

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner Fischer to approve waiving all fees associated with the Special Use Permit and occupancy inspection for 2629 Sheridan Road. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Holmes, aye; Fischer, aye; Frierson, aye; McDowell, aye and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

**WAIVER OF FEES/1415 27<sup>th</sup> STREET**

Director Ianson stated that Zoe Life Academy is considering a location for a proposed Elementary School located at 1415 27<sup>th</sup> Street. The owner is requesting the City Council waive all fees associated with the Special Use Permit and occupancy inspection. Commissioner Fischer wanted to clarify that when the Council has waived fees in the past, they have been exceptions and not the rule. This fee waiver request is for a new enterprise and a new use. He does not want to set a precedence that the Council will always waive fees.

It was moved by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner Holmes to deny the request to waive all fees associated with the Special Use Permit and occupancy inspection for 1415 27<sup>th</sup> Street. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Holmes, aye; Fischer, aye; Frierson, aye; McDowell, aye and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

**DEPARTMENTAL COMMENTARY**

Director Ianson stated with the recent rise in temperatures, the snow has begun to melt. There is a lot of debris around the neighborhoods and he asked residents to help by picking up around their properties. Mayor McKinney stated that the public works crews have been busy cleaning out the debris from the catch basins. He also asked residents to lend a hand by cleaning out the debris around their homes.

Administrator Knabel reminded residents that current vehicle stickers will expire on April 30, 2021. Beginning April 1, 2021, residents may submit their renewal applications by mail or place in the drop box in the front of City Hall. The list of fees is available on the City’s website along with the renewal application. Applications are also available in the vestibule at City Hall. Additionally, applications have been included with resident’s water bills.

Chief Barden stated Crime Stoppers notifications have been down recently. He encouraged residents to call in with tips as they need the public’s help to solve crimes. The number for Crime Stoppers is 847-662-2222.

Chief Stried encouraged residents to sign up for the Blackboard Connect system. This can be done by going to the City of Zion website or the Fire Department Facebook page. Residents are able to receive notifications by email, home phone, cell phone, text message or by all four. Additionally, he mentioned a recent incident on Saturday night where staff assisted occupants out of a house to safety.

Director Roberts gave an update on street light issues. He met with ComEd Rep Edith Ruiz and they have moved up the installation of LED replacement bulbs in all ComEd owned lights to be completed this year. They will also be finalizing the upgrade to LED lights for all City owned lights. This will not cost the City any money. Mayor McKinney stated Denise Lear has made comments at previous Council meetings regarding City street lights. This is good news as the City will receive better lighting throughout the City. Director Roberts stated that Ms. Ruiz has been instrumental in getting this done. The City had run into roadblocks over the past couple of years in trying to get the lights replaced. Additionally, the spring leaf vacuum program will run from April 26 thru May 8. He should have the details finalized and posted by the end of the week. Mayor McKinney asked when the patching program would be starting up again. Director Roberts stated they have to put the bid documents together and identify the locations. He hopes to have it done by mid-April with the bids coming back by the first or second week in May.

Commissioner McDowell addressed Ms. McNeely and stated they have had conversations regarding another location. He stated they want to keep them in Zion and hopes the alternate location works out. He has a few other ideas if necessary. Additionally, he commended the Public Works Department for their plowing efforts through the record amount of snow that has fallen this year. He understands the alleys were difficult to get to and encouraged residents to help clear out their own areas and to help out their neighbors.

Commissioner Fischer reminded residents to continue to follow mask and social distancing procedures. The vaccines are coming with some most recently done in partnership with CTCA. Even if vaccinated, citizens should continue to wear masks for a while. He also asked that citizens continue to support local businesses.

Mayor McKinney thanked CTCA for opening up their facility to Zion residents 65 and over and allowing them to get vaccinated. Over 1,000 people have already been vaccinated in the month of March. He is hoping to add more dates in the future. He also thanked the Commissioners and volunteers for their help with phone calls to citizens. It has been an organized effort done in short period of time. He stated the shelter in place order was put in place over a year ago and many people’s lives have changed over that year. He understands that some people are still hurting and the City has been flexible. The pandemic has taken a toll on all of us and offered the number for the United Way (211) to help with any issues that people may have. He too, asked that citizens continue to abide by social distancing guidelines along with wearing their masks. He also thanked City staff for their efforts in continuing to make City Hall run smoothly.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

April 2		City Offices Closed for the Holiday
April 6	7:00 p.m.	Election Day Zion City Council Meeting

April 13	6:00 p.m.	Annual Town Meeting
April 20	6:00 p.m.	Zion Township Board Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Zion City Council Meeting

**CLOSED SESSION**

It was moved by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner McDowell that the Council recess to Closed Session at 7:29 p.m., pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 "Open Meetings", for the discussion of filed, pending and/or probable or imminent litigation, collective bargaining and personnel. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Holmes, aye; Fisher, aye; Frierson, aye; McDowell, aye and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Frierson to reconvene the Regular Council meeting at 8:11 p.m. with all members present. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Holmes, aye; Fischer, aye; Frierson, aye; McDowell, 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 8:12 p.m. Motion carried.

---

City Clerk