

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE ZION CITY COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2021, AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 2828 SHERIDAN ROAD, ZION, ILLINOIS**

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Mayor McKinney stated it was great to see people in person and appreciated them following the protocols by wearing a mask. He is hoping that things are moving in the right direction so things can return to normal.

Mayor McKinney called the meeting to order.

On call of the roll the following answered present: Commissioners Frierson, Fischer, McDowell, Holmes, and Mayor McKinney. A quorum was present.

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

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

**AGENDA CHANGES**

It was moved by Commissioner Holmes, seconded by Commissioner Fischer to accept the City Council meeting agenda as presented.

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

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Mayor McKinney reminded citizens of the Citizen Comments guidelines.

Craig Serkanic, Zion, commented on a speed issue in his neighborhood. He feels the problem has only been partially addressed. Although many things have been done to try and mitigate the issue, it has not been a success. He has called the police continuously to report the issue. There is one way in and one way out of the neighborhood. Three years ago, when he moved in he spoke with the Mayor and Police Chief and a stop sign was added. Most people ignore the stop sign and go right through it. He is looking for a better solution with this ongoing issue and wanted to make the Council aware of the problem. Mayor McKinney stated he has received and responded to emails from Mr. Serkanic. He has also forwarded the emails to both the Commissioner of Public Safety and the Police Chief. They are trying to address the issue and will continue to work with Mr. Serkanic. Mr. Serkanic understands everyone is doing their part but once the police leave the neighborhood people go back to speeding and going through the stop sign. He stated he has kids that play in the neighborhood and worries for their safety.

**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 April 20, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.; and approval but not release of Closed Session Minutes of a meeting held on April 20, 2021 at 7:42 p.m.

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

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

- (a) **BILLS:** Vouchers 137306 through 137390 drawn on Huntington National Bank, N.A. Total: \$448,060.15.

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

**ADJOURN SINE DIE**

Mayor McKinney asked for a motion to adjourn sine die. It was moved by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Fischer and unanimously approved the meeting be adjourned (sine die) at 7:07 p.m. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Frierson, aye; Fischer, aye; McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

**SWEARING-IN CEREMONY FOR CITY OFFICIALS**

The Honorable Judge George Bridges, Second District Appellate Court, administered the oath of office to Christopher Fischer for City Commissioner and Zion Township Trustee, with his wife, Christie Fischer, holding the Bible.

The Honorable Judge George Bridges, Second District Appellate Court, administered the oath of office to Richard J. Frierson for City Commissioner and Trustee in Zion Township, with his wife, Shanta Frierson holding the Bible.

**ROLL CALL**

On call of the roll the following answered present: Commissioners Frierson, Fischer, McDowell, Holmes and Mayor McKinney.

**AGENDA CHANGES**

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

**CITY COMMISSIONERS' AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY**

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner Fischer to appoint:

- Christopher Fischer as Commissioner of Accounts and Finance/Mayor Pro Tem
- Richard Frierson as Commissioner of Public Health and Safety
- Jacqueline Holmes as Commissioner of Building, Zoning and Public Property
- Mike McDowell as Commissioner of Public Works and Engineering
- Billy McKinney as Commissioner of Public Affairs

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

**APPOINTMENT OF DEPARTMENT HEADS/CITY OFFICIALS**

Mayor McKinney recommended appointments for Department Heads, Legal Counsel and City Treasurer.

It was moved by Commissioner Holmes, seconded by Commissioner Fischer to appoint Department Heads, Legal Counsel and City Treasurer from May 1, 2021 through April 30, 2022 as follows:

- |                          |                                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Del Galdo Law Group, LLC | City and Prosecuting Attorneys |
| David Knabel             | Director of Accounts & Finance |
| Sheryl Spooner           | City Clerk                     |
| Eric Barden              | Police Chief                   |
| Justin Stried            | Fire/Rescue Chief              |

Ray Roberts	Director of Public Works & Engineering
Rich Ianson	Director of Building, Zoning & Public Property
Mary Lou Hiltibran	ESDA Field Director
Brandon Busch	Assistant ESDA Field Director
Eric Bradley	City Treasurer

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

### **BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS APPOINTMENTS**

It was moved by Commissioner Holmes, seconded by Commissioner Frierson to appoint the following members to City Boards and Commissions:

Accident Review Board  
Commissioner Fischer  
Jeff Penich

Fire and Police Commission  
John Idelburg

Police Pension Board  
Mariann Carlton

Electrical Commission  
Rich Ianson  
Merlin Kreis  
John Lewis  
Dave Geer  
John Hucker  
Pat Buchanan

Firemen's Pension Board  
Justin Stried  
David Knabel

TIF Review Board  
Margie Taylor

ETSB 911 Board  
Eric Barden

Lake Mound Cemetery Board  
Sheryl Spooner  
Blake Rogers  
David Knabel

Liquor Control  
Terry McNabb

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

### **RESOLUTION FOR VARIOUS MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS - MFT FUNDS**

A memo (21-DOC-30) was received from Director Roberts stating that the City is required to file a Maintenance Resolution with IDOT for estimated costs for routine maintenance items using Motor Fuel Tax Funds.

Maintenance operations included are:

Road Salt Purchase  
HMA Patching  
Parkway Tree Removal  
Street Light Repair  
Traffic Signal Repair  
Salt Storage Facility Repair

He stated the estimated cost for the General Maintenance Operation of \$480,000 has been budgeted for in the FY22 MFT Account.

It was moved by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Fischer that a Resolution (21-R-7) be passed for various routine Maintenance Operations using Motor Fuel Tax Funds in the amount of \$480,000. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Frierson, aye; Fischer, aye; McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried. Resolution passed.

**ORDINANCE/TENTH ADDENDUM TO LEASE AGREEMENT/MARTHA'S NURSERY & LEARNING CENER/1225 27<sup>TH</sup> STREET**

It was moved by Commissioner Holmes, seconded by Commissioner McDowell, that an Ordinance (21-O-17) be passed entering into a tenth addendum to the lease agreement for 1225 27<sup>th</sup> Street for use by the daycare facility for outdoor activities between Martha's Nursery & Learning Center and the City of Zion. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Frierson, aye; Fischer, aye; McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

**ORDINANCE/SURPLUS PROPERTY/POLICE DEPARTMENT**

A memo (21-DOC-31) was received from Chief Barden requesting that following vehicles in the Police Department be declared surplus property and liquidated through Clinton Auto Auction or possibly used for training exercises with the Zion Fire Department:

- Tan 2006 Dodge Caravan VIN: 2D4GP44L86R909062 (Retired Drug and Gang UC Vehicle)
- Black/White 2013 Dodge Charger VIN: 2C3CDXAG3DH546738 (Retired Squad 28)
- Black/White 2013 Dodge Charger VIN: 2C3CDXAGDH546735 (Retired Squad 22)

The Dodge Caravan was previously used for covert surveillance and work with confidential sources. This vehicle is unable to pass emissions without costly repair. Due to the value of the vehicle it is Chief Barden's recommendation to send this vehicle to auction.

Both Dodge Chargers were used in the patrol capacity and have high mileage and require extensive repair to remain serviceable. Due to the diminished value and high cost to repair, it is Chief Barden's recommendation that these vehicles be forwarded to the Zion Fire Department to be used for vehicular extraction (jaws of life) or vehicle fire training exercises.

Mayor McKinney asked what the life expectancy was for the vehicles. Chief Barden stated they are trying to get patrol life cycle of six years. They have been getting about 9-10 years with some of them. They often times use the less serviceable vehicles for parts for other vehicles.

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner Holmes that an Ordinance (21-O-18) be passed declaring a 2006 Dodge Caravan VIN: 2D4GP44L86R909062, a 2013 Dodge Charger VIN: C3CDXAG3DH546738 and a 2013 Dodge Charger VIN: 2C3CDXAGDH546735 as surplus property and liquidated through Clinton Auto Auction and/or used for training exercises by the Zion Fire Department. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Frierson, aye; Fischer, aye; McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

**ORDINANCE/TEXT AMENDMENT/CHILDCARE FACILITIES**

A memo (21-DOC-32) was received from Director Ianson requesting a text amendment to Section 102-58(a)(5) of the Zion Municipal Code to add Childcare as a permitted use with the issuance of a Special Use Permit, Zoning Docket 21-Z-6. He stated that at the April 15, 2021 meeting, the Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval of the text amendment.

It was moved by Commissioner Holmes, seconded by Commissioner McDowell, that an Ordinance (21-O-19) be passed approving a text amendment to Zion Municipal Code Section 102-58(a)(5) adding Childcare as a permitted use with the issuance of a Special Use Permit. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Frierson, aye; Fischer, aye; McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

**ORDINANCE/SPECIAL USE PERMIT/2629 SHERIDAN ROAD**

A memo (21-DOC-33) was received from Director Ianson regarding a Special Use Permit for a Childcare Facility. Director Ianson stated Krystle McNeely is requesting a Special Use Permit to operate a childcare facility located at 2629 Sheridan Road, Zoning Docket 21-Z-7. Due to the concerns of child drop-off on Sheridan Road, Zoe Life

Academy will use the back entrance for child pick-up and drop-off. At the April 15, 2021 Planning and Zoning Commission meeting, they recommended approval of the Special Use Permit.

It was moved by Commissioner Holmes, seconded by Commissioner Fischer, that an Ordinance (21-O-20) be passed granting a Special Use Permit for a Childcare Facility in the Central Business Zoning District for property located at 2629 Sheridan Road. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Frierson, aye; Fischer, aye; McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

### **REQUEST TO FILL VACANCY/POLICE DEPARTMENT**

A memo (21-DOC-34) was received from Chief Barden requesting approval to fill one Sergeant vacancy. He stated with current law updates and training mandates now required by statute, a position is needed to adopt, develop and implement a robust training regimen for the required continuing education requirements for Zion Police Officers. This promotion will fulfill the eight (8) sergeants permitted with the current personnel authorization. The action is directly intended to reduce the required Patrol Sergeant fills thereby reducing unnecessary overtime costs. He has discussed the request with Administrator Knabel and has evaluated the financial impact and expects budget savings from this promotion. He requested that the Council approve filling one Sergeant position, and request the name of the next candidate on the current Sergeant eligibility list from the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners. He has met with the Board of Fire & Police Commissioners and they will be approving to fill the vacancy at their next meeting. Commissioner Holmes asked what the financial impact would be. Administrator Knabel stated they were hoping for a savings but at worst a net zero because the amount of shifts that are being filled with overtime is actually costing more than the differential in pay for the promotion. Mayor McKinney stated one of the goals has been to try and reduce overtime.

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner McDowell to approve filling one Sergeant vacancy and requesting the name of the next eligible Police Sergeant candidate from the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners promotional eligibility list contingent on the approval of the Board of Fire & Police Commissioners. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Frierson, aye; Fischer, aye; McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

### **DEPARTMENTAL COMMENTARY**

Director Ianson stated they are accepting job applications for seasonal grass cutters. There are currently 3 positions available. There is also a Grass Crew Supervisor position available which will run through the end of October. Mayor McKinney stated they are trying to focus on areas of concern in cleaning up the City. He asked that the residents spend at least 30 minutes each week policing their block in helping with the City efforts to keep the City looking clean. They are trying to make sure the thoroughfares into the City are clean for citizens that visit the City. CTCA has expressed their pleasure of the repaving of Route 173 and the different things that they are doing throughout the City from a safety standpoint.

Director Roberts stated it was the last week for leaf collection, ending on Saturday. The State has started their resurfacing project on Sheridan Road. They are currently doing concrete and curb repairs which may result in lane closures. This will continue into June. The City contractor is currently replacing the water main in the 2100-2200 block of Elisha. Residents in the area will receive a notice of disruption of service as they start connecting the service to the new main. Mayor McKinney asked the age of the water main. Director Roberts stated he believes the main was built in 1928, Within the last few years they have had 14-15 main breaks in that area. Mayor McKinney stated there have been comments on how the City was addressing the infrastructure. They continue to work with federal, state and local offices to help with the funding for infrastructure. Additionally, Mayor McKinney stated residents have had questions regarding road patching. His response has been that the paving companies have been closed. Director Roberts explained the difference between hot patch and cold patch; hot mix is best for repairing potholes in the warm dry weather and is more permanent vs cold patch that is done in cooler weather and is used as a temporary solution. Paving companies opened up their plants on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Crews have been dealing with the tree issues. They will be concentrating on patching primary roads and then will move on to larger patches. The bid opening for HMA Patching Program will take place on May 14<sup>th</sup> which will include a \$200,000 project. Mayor McKinney asked the cost difference in the patching processes. Director Roberts stated the cost is \$158.00 a ton for cold patch material and \$57.00 a ton for hot patch material.

Administrator Knabel commented on the following:

He reminded residents that City stickers expired on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Residents should have received an application with their water bills. Applications are also available on the City website. Applications and payments may be sent in by mail, once received by the City, they will mail out the stickers. Seniors, handicapped and Active Military can schedule appointments to come in and renew their stickers. Residents run the risk of getting a ticket for not having a current a City sticker.

He stated they have been working with Representative Schneider's office regarding the new Community Project Funding initiative that allows members of Congress to request direct funding for projects that benefit the communities they represent. They will be allowed to submit qualified local projects to the Appropriations Committee for consideration of targeted federal funds. The City has been working with the Park District on a cooperative project of about \$960,000. They have been working diligently with Representative Schneider's staff and on April 30<sup>th</sup> they discovered that they made the list to have Rep. Schneider submit the appropriations as a request to Congress as part of the process. There are no guarantees they will receive the funding but Zion has made the "1<sup>st</sup> cut".

He stated for 8 years they have been working on getting legislation for the spent fuel rods. They have been through many hurdles while working with the many transitions in Congress. They have to re-introduce the bill every time there is a new Congress if it doesn't get passed. He recently had a meeting with Senator Duckworth and Representative Schneider. On April 21<sup>st</sup> Senator Duckworth introduced the Stranded Act back into the Senate with 5 co-sponsors on it. It is in the Environmental Public Works Committee which she is a majority member of so they stand a good chance of getting support behind it. They have been reaching out to key representatives and senators on both sides and are working on getting co-sponsors to sign on to the bill (Senate Bill 1290). Mayor McKinney stated actions continue spending time talking with officials. Senator Duckworth and Senator Bush have been very helpful in trying to get Zion noticed.

Chief Stried distributed his April activity report to the Council. Last Sunday they hosted their blood drive which was a success and are hoping to do it again. Mayor McKinney stated Omega Psi Phi was a sponsor of the event of which local residents are members.

Chief Barden talked about the Ring doorbell program. He has been working with Economic Development to get the program rolled out. The City will be offering a rebate of \$100 when residents purchase any camera of their choice and have it connected. They will be identifying the primary districts to where the cameras are going to be offered. Officers or City officials may be knocking on doors handing out flyers explaining the program. They will be using Blackboard Connect. They will be able to make notifications to residents to where those cameras may be placed if they are looking for evidence. If residents record a crime on their camera, they can deposit the evidence anonymously. The police will not be able to access resident's cameras at any time nor will they be able to see any footage unless a resident deposits it into the system. Mayor McKinney stated Blackboard Connect is a useful tool to send out notices to residents. They used Blackboard to get the information out about offering the COVID shots at CTCA. It provides residents with an opportunity to know if there is an emergency of any kind going on in Zion, residents will be notified by Blackboard. Chief Barden also reminded citizens to slow down while construction is going on within the City to protect the workers.

Commissioner Frierson thanked Chief Stried for his efforts with the blood drive. He stated it was very successful with a lot of people coming through. He is looking forward to more events to help connect with the residents. He has been taking bike rides around the City and noticed citizens out enjoying themselves. He asked citizens to be considerate of the noise ordinance and be a good neighbor. He also commented on the old trees in Zion and cautioned residents on the damage that can happen when there are windy days.

Commissioner Fischer reminded citizens to get vaccinated if they haven't already done so. Even with the vaccination available, citizens must continue to wear masks in public spaces. The sooner people get vaccinated, they can get back to normal.

Mayor McKinney stated they are working on a Proclamation for National Bike Month promoted by the League of American Bicyclists. He encouraged citizens to go out on the bike trails. They recently had a clean-up day on the bike trails. In the future they are looking at doing a bike event with the Coalition of Healthy Communities. They continue to work on events that will get citizens out and active in the community.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

May 18	6:00 p.m.	Zion Town Board Budget Hearing
		Zion Town Board Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Zion City Council Meeting
May 31		City Offices Closed for Memorial Day

**CLOSED SESSION**

It was moved by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner Frierson that the Council recess to Closed Session at 7:55 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 Frierson, aye; Fischer, aye; McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner McDowell to reconvene the Regular Council meeting at 8:26 p.m. with all members present. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Frierson, aye; Fischer, aye; McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC WORKS/IUOE BARGAINING UNIT CONTRACT AGREEMENT**

It was moved by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Fischer to approve the IUOE bargaining unit contract agreement between Zion Public Works Department and the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 150, and the City of Zion, for May 1, 2021 through April 30, 2024. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Frierson, aye; Fischer, aye; McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S CONTRACT**

It was moved by Commissioner Holmes, seconded by Commissioner Frierson to approve the City Administrator's contract as amended. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Frierson, aye; Fischer, aye; McDowell, aye; and Holmes, aye; 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 8:28 p.m. Motion carried.

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City Clerk