

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE ZION CITY COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2021, AT 7:01 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 Fischer, McDowell, Holmes, Frierson and Mayor McKinney. A quorum was present.

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

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

AGENDA CHANGES

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

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION/RECOGNITION OF OFFICIALS

Mayor McKinney presented State Representatives Joyce Mason and Sam Yingling with Resolutions of Appreciation for Outstanding Community Service. He stated they were both instrumental in the passage of the Illinois Climate and Equitable Jobs Act which will provide for financial assistance to the City of Zion to offset the financial burden of the Zion Nuclear Power Plant closing. He expressed his gratitude to Representatives Mason and Yingling for going the extra mile for Zion. Administrator David Knabel was also presented a Resolution for his continuous, hard work in the attempt to get compensation for Zion for the spent fuel rods stored on the lakefront. He too, was instrumental in the passage of the Illinois Climate and Equitable Jobs Act. To end the recognitions, Representative Mason presented a Resolution of Appreciation to Mayor McKinney of which he too, was instrumental in the passage of the Illinois Climate and Equitable Jobs Act.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mary Lou Hiltibran, Zion ESDA Director, gave a monthly report of the recent activities that ESDA performs in assistance to the City. They also did honor guard for the funeral of Sean Busch, one of the long time ESDA members. She thanked the Zion Fire Department for attending the last call walk through and showing respect for their loss. Ms. Hiltibran invited those interested in becoming part of the ESDA team to fill out an application that is available on the City's website.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- (a) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** a Regular Meeting held on September 21, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Fischer, aye; McDowell, aye; Holmes, 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:

- (a) **BILLS:** Vouchers 138537 through 138763 drawn on Huntington National Bank, N.A. Total: \$582,690.29.

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

ORDINANCE/RIGHT-OF-WAY LEASE RENEWAL/ADJACENT TO 2260-2264 SHERIDAN ROAD

A memo (21-DOC-93) was received from Director Ianson requesting the renewal of a lease between the City of Zion and MJK Group, LLC for property consisting of approximately 1,584 square feet situated on the 23rd Street right-of-way, adjacent to 2260-2264 Sheridan Road, to provide for five (5) additional tenant parking spaces. The annual rent payment is \$250.00. He stated that the current lease expires on October 31, 2021.

It was moved by Commissioner Holmes, seconded by Commissioner McDowell, that an Ordinance (21-O-63) be passed authorizing renewal of a lease between the City of Zion and MJK Group, LLC for property consisting of approximately 1,584 square feet situated on the 23rd Street right-of-way, adjacent to 2260-2264 Sheridan Road, to provide for five (5) additional tenant parking spaces with an annual rent payment of \$250.00. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Fischer, aye; McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

ORDINANCE/TRAINING AGREEMENT/VECTOR SOLUTIONS/FIRE/RESCUE DEPARTMENT

A memo (21-DOC-94) was received from Chief Stried requesting approval of a training agreement with Vector Solutions (formally Target Solutions). Chief Stried stated he is requesting approval of a one-year training agreement with Vector Solutions, their online training and equipment maintenance record-keeping program, in the amount of \$3,218.00. This is a budgeted item and similar as in past years.

It was moved by Commissioner Holmes, seconded by Commissioner McDowell, that an Ordinance (21-O-64) be passed authorizing and approving an agreement between the City of Zion and Target Solutions, LLC, DBA/Vector Solutions in the amount of \$3,218.00. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Fischer, aye; McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

ORDINANCE/AMENDING CHAPTER 94/ZION MUNICIPAL CODE/UTILITIES

A memo (21-DOC-95) was received from Administrator Knabel requesting a Text Amendment to Chapter 94 Sections 94-355 and 94-356. Administrator Knabel stated that at the August 17, 2021 Council meeting, the results of an independent water rate study by Fehr Graham was presented. The results of the study showed that the City was well behind the average water rate for the area as well as well below the rate needed to maintain operations and capital infrastructure of the system. Their recommendation was to increase the City's rates over multiple years to start to address the shortfall. As a result, staff recommends increasing the total water and sewer rate to \$11.60 per 1,000 gallons as presented. This rate will be effective starting with the February 1, 2022 billing period.

It was moved by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner Holmes that an Ordinance (21-O-65) be passed amending Chapter 94, Section 94-355(a)(1), Rates established; service inside City, and Section 94-356(b), Water service outside the City of the Zion Municipal Code as presented. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners. Fischer, aye; McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye and Mayor McKinney, aye Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

ORDINANCE/AGREEMENT/COMCAST INTERNET

A memo (21-DOC-96) was received from Administrator Knabel requesting approval of a contract with Comcast. Administrator Knabel stated that the City's contract for internet service throughout the City is currently expiring and, as a part of the renewal, they are looking to upgrade the City's service from 100/30 to 200/100 to handle increased demands on service due to technology upgrades and needs that have been implemented. Staff and the IT consultant recommend the approval of the contract with Comcast as presented. The increase in costs was a budgeted item in FY22.

It was moved by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner Holmes that an Ordinance (21-O-66) be passed authorizing and approving a service agreement between the City of Zion and Comcast as presented. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners. Fischer, aye; McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye and Mayor McKinney, aye Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

DEPARTMENTAL COMMENTARY

Director Ianson gave an update on the demolition at 2771 Galilee. He stated it is about 50% completed. Mayor McKinney stated he has driven by the site and believes once the building is removed it will make a huge difference.

Director Roberts stated they are finishing up the patching of City streets and are hoping to finish the alleys by winter. Mayor McKinney stated that people have commented on how nice the streets are. He also thanked the Public Works crew for keeping the drains clean.

Administrator Knabel stated there have been a lot of accounts that are eligible for shut-offs. The moratorium on evictions expired on Sunday. The City has been sending letters to residents informing them if they are eligible for shut-off. They have been working with the Township in preparation of shut-offs. If residents work with the Township and qualify for assistance, it can delay the shut-off process. If residents do not attempt to work with the Township their bills will be due. They have been trying to get the information out that the Township is available for help. There are still two sections left for shut-offs. He stated residents must be pro-active to get their bill paid or to get assistance. The City does not want to shut-off water but residents have been previously informed that they are eligible for shut-off giving them an opportunity to get their bills current.

Chief Barden stated the Police Department is now accepting Lateral Police Officer application. They will be starting the process and compiling a list. The application can be found on the City’s website. Additionally, he stated they have started the Ring doorbell program and information will soon be available on the City’s website and Police Facebook page. The City will subsidize cameras but police must be able to access information on the camera if there is a crime. Mayor McKinney thanked the Council for voting to increase the salaries of the officers. There are police officers that are leaving the job and it is due to pay. Public safety is an important initiative for the City.

Chief Stried stated National Fire Prevention Week started on Sunday. They will not be going out to schools this year but will have groups come to the Station. This year’s message is “Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety”.

Commissioner McDowell expressed his thanks to Mayor McKinney, Administrator Knabel and the State Officials for their work on the Nuclear Storage compensation. He stated when they started this ten years ago, it seemed like it would never happen.

Commissioner Frierson stated at the last meeting they approved the purchase of a new ambulance. He asked Chief Stried to educate the public on the life of an ambulance. Chief Stried stated miles on an emergency vehicle are very hard miles compared to personal vehicles. Emergency vehicles take a beating even at lower mileage. The City’s Fleet Maintenance Dept. does a great job keeping the vehicles safe but once the vehicle hits 100,000 miles it’s not quite as safe. They will be keeping the older ambulance as a reserve but will be trying to keep a replacement schedule. It will still be one year out to take delivery on the new ambulance. Commissioner Frierson stated the department is doing more with less. He provided the numbers for fire activity and thanked the crew for their hard work. He also provided details of police activity.

Commissioner Fischer also thanked the Mayor, Administrator Knabel and State Officials for their hard work on the Energy Bill. He stated they still have more to do and they must continue to push forward. He asked that citizens patronize local businesses. Additionally, he encouraged residents to get vaccinated and talk with their doctors.

Commissioner Holmes thanked everyone who was instrumental in getting the Energy Bill to come to fruition. She understands there are times when we feel like we are doing thankless jobs. She grew up in Zion and is happy to see things moving forward.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

October 19	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Zion Township Board Meeting Zion City Council Meeting
October 29	4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	“Trail of Treats” Shiloh Park, Shiloh Blvd.
October 31	2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Zion Trick or Treat

November 2

7:00 p.m.

Zion City Council Meeting

CLOSED SESSION

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner McDowell that the Council recess to Closed Session at 7:55 p.m., pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 "Open Meetings", for the discussion of threatened and/or probable or imminent litigation, collective bargaining, sale of real estate and personnel. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Fischer, aye; McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner McDowell to reconvene the Regular Council meeting at 8:20 p.m. with all members present. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Fischer, aye; McDowell, aye; Holmes, 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 Fischer, seconded by Commissioner Frierson, and unanimously approved the meeting be adjourned at 8:21 p.m. Motion carried.

City Clerk