

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

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Marisa Johnson, ZBTHS National Honor Society President called the meeting to order.

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

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

Mayor McKinney stated that he would like to try and invite the youth to come and start the City Council meetings. He introduced Marisa Johnson the President of the Zion Benton High School National Honor Society. He shared Ms. Johnson's accomplishments and goals.

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

Mayor McKinney asked for a moment of silence for former Liquor Commissioner Nadine Thorn that passed away recently unexpectedly. He offered prayers for the family so they may continue to heal.

AGENDA CHANGES

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

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mary Lou Hiltibran, Zion ESDA Director, gave a monthly report of the recent activities that ESDA performs in assistance to the City. She invited those who wish to serve as a volunteer with ESDA to go to the City's website and fill out an application. Mayor McKinney stated he truly appreciates what ESDA does for the City.

Ken Endress stated he was a representative of the Naval Station, Great Lakes under the command of Captain Jason Williams. He stated he is trying to get out to the meetings of surrounding communities. As COVID numbers go down they hope to reinstate events on the base for better interaction with the community.

Juan Casillas, Brighton Ponds Subdivision, stated he is originally from Waukegan and bought property in the Brighton Ponds Subdivision. He stated the streets in the neighborhood are damaged and has caused him two suspensions on his car. They have no snow removal or garbage pick-up. He stated they recently had a meeting regarding the issues and understands there may be a developer interested in the subdivision. He would like to know where their money goes as they pay just as much as other residents. Mayor McKinney stated they have been working with the homeowners to get a Special Service Area (SSA) created to help the residents with those issues. The biggest issue is that all the roads within the subdivision are private roads and the City cannot go on private property. They are hoping to get things worked out and resolved. The Developer is still doing his due diligence. Mr. Casillas asked why the City cannot use those who must complete community service. Mayor McKinney stated those individuals are unable to go on private property.

John Mengel, Extra Space Storage, stated he will be coming back on December 7th for the approval of a Special Use Permit for the business located at 3355 Sheridan Road. The application will be going to Planning & Zoning on December 2nd. Corporate Extra Space Storage is looking to purchase the business.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- (a) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** of a Regular Meeting held on November 2, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

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

- (b) **BILLS:** Vouchers 139082 through 139282 drawn on Huntington National Bank, N.A. Total: \$511,255.22.

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

It was moved by Commissioner Fischer and seconded by Commissioner Frierson to approve the Proclamations as presented:

- (c) **PROCLAMATIONS:**
- **United States Marine Corps 246th Birthday – November 10, 2021**
 - **National American Indian Heritage Month**

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

RESOLUTION/TRUTH IN TAXATION LAW

A memo (21-DOC-110) was received from Administrator Knabel regarding the Truth in Taxation resolution. Administrator Knabel stated under IL Statutes, if the City were to pass a levy with greater than 105% of prior year's extension, they would be required to file a Truth In Taxation resolution and hold a public hearing. As in prior years however, they will not be exceeding that level due to the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL). For transparency, they will still adopt a Truth in Taxation resolution stating that fact and to serve as the estimate of levy. The levy ordinance with actual amounts to be levied will be adopted at a future Council meeting in December. He stated it is important to note that the Police and Fire pension levies went up \$500,000 but the City can only levy \$109,000. If the pension funds continue to go up, the City will have no corporate tax dollars left.

It was moved by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner Holmes that a Resolution (21-R-11) be passed estimating that the proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2021 are \$8,189,247 which represents a 4.99% increase over the previous year. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners McDowell, aye; Frierson, aye; Fischer, aye; Holmes, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried. Resolution passed.

ORDINANCE/BRIGHTON PONDS SPECIAL SERVICE AREA NO. 1

A memo (21-DOC-111) was received from Administrator Knabel regarding a Special Service Area (SSA) for the Brighton Ponds subdivision. Administrator Knabel stated due to a long history with Brighton Ponds, as touched on in the letters from the residents, the streets within the subdivision have not been maintained nor are they plowed during the winter season. As a result, they have received a request from a few of the residents to establish a Special Service Area where the City would collect and administer the funds to address the issues as detailed in the ordinance presented. The ordinance is providing notice of the scheduling of the public hearing. Based on the outcome of the hearing, there will be additional procedures before the establishment of the SSA.

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner Fischer, that an Ordinance (21-O-74) be passed proposing the establishment of a Brighton Ponds Special Service Area No. 1 in the City of Zion and providing for a Public Hearing. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Frierson, aye; Fischer, aye; Holmes, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

ORDINANCE/INTERGOVERNMENTAL GRANT AGREEMENT/ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

A memo (21-DOC-112) was received from Administrator Knabel requesting approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. Administrator Knabel stated the City received final approvals and award notification for \$914,000 of grant funds to address needed repairs and replacement of the infrastructure in the Joppa Avenue alleys between 21st and 23rd Street from 24th to 25th Street. The proposed agreement is necessary to be executed to move forward with the project. Design has already been completed and, once finalized with the State, the project can be completed in 2022.

It was moved by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Holmes, that an Ordinance (21-O-75) be passed approving and authorizing an Intergovernmental Grant Agreement with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Frierson, aye; Fischer, aye; Holmes, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

ORDINANCE/AMENDING CHAPTER 34, ARTICLE 1, SECTION 34-17/ZION MUNICIPAL CODE/AMBULANCE TRANSPORT DESTINATIONS

A memo (21-DOC-113) was received from Chief Stried requesting a text amendment to Chapter 34, Article 1, Section 34-17 of the Zion Municipal Code. Chief Stried stated due to a variety of reasons, local hospitals have been going on “Bypass” recently, more than they are accustomed to. The EMS System operating procedures do not provide full direction for these circumstances, so he is requesting additional language which in conjunction with Department policy, will allow the shift commander or himself to approve an alternate transport destination when necessary.

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner McDowell, that an Ordinance (21-O-76) be passed amending Chapter 34, Article 1 Section 34-17 of the Zion Municipal Code regarding Ambulance Transport Destinations. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Frierson, aye; Fischer, aye; Holmes, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

ORDINANCE/SPECIAL USE PERMIT/DIGITAL SIGN REPLACEMENT/2800 29TH STREET

A memo (21-DOC-114) was received from Director Ianson requesting approval of a Special Use Permit to Section 70-128(2) of the Zion Municipal Code for Zion Elementary School District #6. Director Ianson stated School Districts are required to go through the Zoning review process. Zion Elementary School District #6 is requesting a Special Use Permit to Section 70-128(2) of the Zion Municipal Code to install a digital sign in replacement of the existing one for property located at 2635 Gabriel Avenue, Zoning Docket 21-Z-13. At the November 4, 2021 Planning & Zoning Commission meeting, the Commission recommended to approve the request.

It was moved by Commissioner Holmes, seconded by Commissioner McDowell, that an Ordinance (21-O-77) be passed granting a Special Use Permit for an electronic/digital sign for property located at 2635 Gabriel Avenue. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Frierson, aye; Fischer, aye; Holmes, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

VARIANCE/ZION MUNICIPAL CODE/SECTION 34-43/SECTION 5.11.1/ELEVATOR CAR REQUIREMENTS

A memo (21-DOC-115) was received from Director Ianson requesting a variance from Section 34-43, Section 5.11.1 of the Zion Municipal Code Section regarding the Elevator Stretcher ordinance requirement. Director Ianson stated during the Life Safety Plan Review, there was an oversight to the Elevator Stretcher ordinance requirement. The Building has been laid out for a standard elevator size when elevator cars are to accommodate ambulance stretchers. ALFA Chicago, Inc. is requesting a variance to the elevator car requirements for property located at 2700 Lewis Avenue, Zoning Docket 21-Z-14. Chief Stried reviewed the variance request and feels the size issue with the elevator will not hamper any emergency operations and supports the variance. At the November 4, 2021 meeting, the Planning & Zoning Commission recommended approval of the variance.

It was moved by Commissioner Holmes, seconded by Commissioner McDowell, that an Ordinance (21-O-78) be passed granting a variance from Zion Municipal Code, Section 34-43, Section 5.11.1 to install an elevator with 5'-1" x 6' x 0" platform, and 2,100 lb load capacity, and 36" side slide door at property located at 2700 Lewis Avenue. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Frierson, aye; Fischer, aye; Holmes, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

FIRE RECOVER BILLING AGREEMENT/FIRE/RESCUE DEPARTMENT

A memo (21-DOC-116) was received from Chief Stried regarding changes to the Fire Recovery Billing Agreement. Chief Stried stated Fire Recovery USA is the City's third-party billing provider that handles billing for motor vehicle accidents to which they respond. Fire Recovery USA is requesting a minor change in billing practices to increase efficiency and allow for the recovery costs incurred during the responses. He presented the letter explaining both the process and the updates. He stated the changes are at the recommendation of the City Attorney.

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner McDowell, to approve the changes to the billing agreement with Fire Recovery USA as presented. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners McDowell, aye; Frierson, aye; Fischer, aye; Holmes, aye and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENTAL COMMENTARY

Director Ianson stated the demolition of the building on 2771 Galilee is 99% complete. All they are waiting on now is the seeding to be done.

Director Roberts stated the leaf vacuuming program has been suspended for this week. It will resume on November 22nd and end on Saturday. He stated there have been some misconceptions on the requirements of the program. The leaf truck will only pick up the piles in the parkway but not ones in the street. Additionally, if there are any sticks or garbage in the piles, they will not be picked up. The piles of leaves in the streets not only slow down the City sweeper but collect in the catch basins which may cause flooding if it rains. Residents also have the option and to bag the leaves which will be picked up with their regular garbage. This option is available until the end of November. Mayor McKinney stated information regarding the leave program is available on the City's website.

Administrator Knabel stated the City is in the process of the 2nd round of water shut-offs. There was previously a stay on water shut-offs for 18 months. He stated Zion Township has done a great job working with residents for assistance. He recommended those who have received a notice not wait until their water gets shut-off to reach out to the Township. Dialing 211 is also a way to provide assistance. Mayor McKinney stated United Way 211 not only provides financial assistance but also help for mental or emotional strain.

Chief Barden reminded those who have not already done so to sign up for Blackboard Connect. He stated it is a great method to receive important information. Additionally, he recently attended the High School Resource Fair and connected with agencies that are looking to offer residents assistance. He spoke with representatives from Rosalind Franklin University who offer classes to residents and provide assistance with mental health issues. Additionally, they can provide transportation for medical appointments. He stated they will be working together to see where assistance is needed. Mayor McKinney stated Blackboard Connect is a good way to receive information about emergencies that may happen in the City. Residents may sign up to receive information by telephone, email or text. Additionally, he stated Channel 2 News came to Zion to interview himself and the Chief about the Shop with a Cop Program. Chief Barden stated CBS 2 came to see the benefit that the program provides to the community which is in its fourth year. He stated they have had an overwhelming response from volunteers. They are considering on expanding the program next year. They have also received a number of donations from businesses.

Chief Stried reminded residents that as temperatures start to go down it is a good idea to get furnaces checked and serviced by a professional. Also to be sure smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors are working properly.

Commissioner McDowell reminded residents that Santa will be arriving at Shiloh House on Saturday, November 27th.

Commissioner Frierson thanked all those who donated to the coat drive. He also shared the activity reports for both Police and Fire. Additionally, he asked residents to keep in mind when having a party to be a good neighbor.

Commissioner Fischer reminded citizens about COVID booster shots and to patronize local businesses.

Commissioner Holmes wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mayor McKinney stated the different taxing bodies have been meeting regularly and they agree that one of the biggest issues in the community is mental health. There has been a rise in aggression at others. He recently came across a diversity training course online and shared a statement he found while researching the course.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

November 25, 26		City Offices Closed for Holiday
November 27		Santa's Arrival – Shiloh House 1300 Shiloh Blvd.
December 4	8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.	“Shop with a Cop Program” Zion Wal-Mart
December 7	7:00 p.m.	Zion City Council Meeting
December 21	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Zion Township Board Meeting Zion City Council Meeting

CLOSED SESSION

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner Fischer 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, purchase or sale of real estate and personnel. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners McDowell, aye; Frierson, aye; Fischer, 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 8:19 p.m. with all members present. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners McDowell, aye; Frierson, aye; Fischer, aye; Holmes, 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 McDowell and unanimously approved the meeting be adjourned at 8:20 p.m. Motion carried.

City Clerk