

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE ZION CITY COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2022 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 Fischer, Frierson, McDowell, Holmes and Mayor McKinney. A quorum was present.

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

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

Mayor McKinney offered a silent prayer and support for the citizens of Ukraine and for the first responders throughout the country and the world for all the support they give that we sometimes take for granted. He reflected on our country and the civil unrest that they have gone through over the past couple of years. As they argue about whether to wear a mask or not and looking at what is happening in Ukraine, we need to remember how blessed we are to live in a country where we can voice our own opinions whether we agree or not.

**AGENDA CHANGES**

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

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

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Ken Endress, Representative of Great Lakes Naval Station, stated he is starting his rounds in various communities that service their military people at Great Lakes and offered greetings from Kevin Williamson.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- (a) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** of a Regular Meeting held on February 15, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.; approval but not release of Closed Session Minutes of a meeting held on February 15, 2022 at 7:50 p.m.

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

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

- (b) **BILLS:** Vouchers 139833 through 140034 drawn on Huntington National Bank, N.A. Total: \$444,337.92

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

**ORDINANCE/EXTENSION/SPECIAL USE PERMIT/2700-2966 17<sup>th</sup> STREET**

A memo (22-DOC-10) was received from Director Ianson requesting an extension to the Special Use Permit for a ground mounted Community Solar Project at 2700-2966 17<sup>th</sup> Street (Closed Zion Landfill). Zion CS, LLC is requesting a 6-month (180 days) extension for their Special Use Permit, (20-O-47) for a ground mounted Community Solar Project. They are awaiting additional funding from the State of Illinois for construction of the Community Solar Project. Director Ianson recommends approval of the extension of the Special Use Permit.

It was moved by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner Holmes, that an Ordinance (22-O-4) be passed extending a Special Use Permit approved on August 18, 2020 per Ordinance (20-O-47) to Zion CS, LLC for a ground mounted Community Solar Project at 2700-2966 17<sup>th</sup> Street (Closed Zion Landfill) for an additional 6 months until August 18, 2022. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Fischer, aye; Frierson, aye; McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

**ORDINANCE/AMENDING CHAPTER 56/ZION MUNICIPAL CODE/LIQUOR CONTROL  
ORDINANCE**

A memo (22-DOC-11) was received from Administrator Knabel requesting a housekeeping measure regarding the Class B Liquor License classification. Administrator Knabel stated currently there is one open Class B liquor license shown in the Zion Municipal Code. The City does not currently have any Class B licenses in use. This license permits for the retail sale of alcoholic liquor for consumption on the premises only in hotel rooms or in meeting rooms. The liquor commission has precedent in removing unused licenses from the books. He is requesting that the Council reduce available Class B licenses to zero, which would require anyone interested in obtaining a license to come back before the liquor commission to request reinstatement. Commissioner Frierson asked if a hotel has closed causing the request to reduce the number of licenses in the class. Administrator Knabel stated the request is due to the previous license holder deciding not to renew the license.

It was moved by Commissioner Holmes, seconded by Commissioner McDowell, that an Ordinance (22-O-5) be passed amending Chapter 56, Section 56-58 of the Zion Municipal Code to reduce the amount of Class B liquor licenses from 1 to 0. The vote on the roll: Commissioners Fischer, aye; Frierson, aye; McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

**ORDINANCE/AMENDING CHAPTER 62/ZION MUNICIPAL CODE/VIDEO GAMING**

A memo (22-DOC-12) was received from Administrator Knabel requesting an amendment to Section 62-292 of the Zion Municipal Code. Administrator Knabel stated that Illinois recently passed Public Act 102-0689 which amended 230 ILCS 40/65 governing what non-home rule municipalities are able to charge for the licensing of video gaming terminal fees. In recent years, the City has reviewed all fines and fees and had to increase them to help offset the burden of taxes on residents. However, the charge on terminal fees was set by the State statutes and was unable to be changed. The adoption of the public act allows for the City to increase the fee from \$25 per terminal to \$250 per terminal. He recommended they adopt the fee of \$250 per terminal and reflect accordingly in Section 62-292(f) of the Zion Municipal Code. Additionally, based on the reduction of the Class B licenses, he also recommended that the City amend Section 62-29(c)(3) of the code to remove a Class B liquor license as being eligible for gaming.

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson seconded by Commissioner Fischer, that an Ordinance (22-O-5) be passed amending the Zion Municipal Code, Chapter 62-292(f) to increase the Video Gaming Terminal fee to \$250 and Section 62-292(c)(3) removing the Class B Liquor License as eligible for gaming. The

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

#### **PURCHASE/RADIOS & ACCESSORIES/FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT**

A memo (22-DOC-13) was received from Chief Stried requesting approval to purchase new radios and accessories in the Fire/Rescue Department. Chief Stried presented two purchase requests for a total of \$108,396.51. The purchase is for new radios and accessories in the Fire/Rescue Department that will be 100% reimbursed by the Joint Emergency Telephone System Board (JETSBS) in May of this year. He noted that the equipment is an upgrade to the portable radios already in use. He is requesting approval of the purchase agreement at the costs presented. Additionally, he is requesting the City Council recognize that it is a single-source vendor for this product and a bid process is not required for this specialized communication equipment.

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner McDowell to approve the purchase of new radios and accessories in the Fire/Rescue Department in the amount of \$108,395.51. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Fischer, aye; Frierson, aye; McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

#### **PATROL OFFICER VACANCIES/POLICE DEPARTMENT**

A memo (22-DOC-14) was received from Chief Barden requesting approval to fill three (3) patrol officer vacancies with the next three candidates on the current patrol officer eligibility list from the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners. He previously requested the release of the next eligible candidates from the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners. He stated the vacancies were created by recent retirements and remaining staffing shortages in the patrol ranks. If approved, two of the officers will attend the academy on May 22, 2022. He and Administrator Knabel have discussed the need to replace the officer positions and it will have no negative impact on the budget as both officers will have starting salaries at the beginning of the step scale. This will bring the department to 45 sworn officers. Commissioner Fischer asked if from a staffing standpoint is 45 officers good for the department's needs. Chief Barden stated actually it is not. The FBI provided the formula of 2.3 officers per 1,000 people or for a City the size of the Zion (Midwest Region) 2.0 officers per 1,000 (50 officers).

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner Holmes to approve filling three (3) patrol officer positions from the current patrol officer eligibility list from the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Frierson, aye; McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye Fischer, aye; Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

#### **AGREEMENT/AXON ENTERPRISES/BODY CAMERAS/POLICE DEPARTMENT**

A memo (22-DOC-15) was received from Chief Barden requesting approval of an agreement between Axon Enterprises and the City of Zion. Chief Barden stated on October 27, 2021, the Council approved the agreement between Axon Enterprises and the City of Zion for Body Worn Cameras and Interview Room Surveillance Cameras. They were subsequently notified by the business representative for Axon of an oversight on their end (The touch pads were not included in the original agreement). Because of the error, Axon is willing to offer the three needed touch pads for the price of two. He requested the approval of the change order in the amount of \$5,592. The purchase includes the necessary equipment to operate the interview room surveillance system.

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner McDowell to approve the change order to the agreement with Axon Enterprises for Body Worn Cameras and Interview Room Surveillance

Cameras in the amount of \$5,592. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Fischer, aye; Frierson, aye; McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

### **PURCHASE/ SQUAD CARS/POLICE DEPARTMENT**

A memo (22-DOC-16) was received from Administrator Knabel requesting approval of the purchase of 6 police squad cars. Administrator Knabel stated in the current fiscal year budget \$105,000 was earmarked for the purchase of 3 squad cars for the police department. Unfortunately, due to supply issues, they were unable to get the vehicles during this fiscal year, nor are they able to get them for the prices anticipated. As a result, he and Chief Barden spent a significant amount of time looking at alternatives and trying to put together a long-term vehicle replacement plan. After everything was analyzed, it was determined that they will continue to plan on purchasing and outfitting 3 vehicles each year and handling all outfitting as they have done in the past. As squad cars reach end of life for officers on the road, they will be rotated to other departments to extend their useful life. This requires them to continue pursuing purchase of the 3 vehicles this year as well as 3 additional vehicles next fiscal year. Vehicles ordered now currently have an 8-month timeframe until delivery. Additionally, the cameras that need to go into these vehicles have an 11-month timeframe. Although the FY23 budget has not been approved yet, they need to place orders as soon as possible to still get the State bid prices. For timing of operations, he is requested that Council approve the purchase of 6 squads now for the FY23 not to exceed \$352,536. Commissioner Frierson asked if they would be taking delivery of the 6 cars in 2023 and skip 2024 and go for three more cars in 2025. Administrator Knabel stated delivery would be in 2023 for a total of 6 vehicles. This would include 3 from 2022 and 3 for fiscal year 2024. Additionally, they will come back for 3 more vehicles in 2025.

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner Holmes to approve the purchase of 6 squad cars in the Police Department now for fiscal year ending April 30, 2023 not to exceed \$352,536. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Fischer, aye; Frierson, aye; McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

### **DEPARTMENTAL COMMENTARY**

Chief Stried asked that with Spring approaching that residents be mindful of the City ordinance relating to open burning. While recreational fires are permitted, burning of yard waste is not. He urged residents to check the City Ordinance that can be found on the City's website. Additionally, he urged residents to sign up for Blackboard Connect and is available to answer questions or help sign residents up.

Chief Barden with warmer weather approaching residents will be outside more and he urged them to keep an eye out for those in need of assistance and to call 211. He also asked that citizens not text and drive and to be cognizant of pedestrians. Mayor McKinney noted that over the weekend some of the 211 services were unavailable. As a 211-board member, he continues to try and make sure 211 resources are also available on the weekends to help residents.

Administrator Knabel stated as Spring approaches and the weather begins to change, he asked that residents consider "adopting a grate" in order to make sure the grates stay clear from debris. They only have one street sweeper for the entire City and they are short staffed in both the Water and Street Department and handle a lot of main breaks this time of year. Keeping the grates clear can help prevent flooding in the streets. Additionally, he invited residents to attend the State of the Community event on March 12<sup>th</sup> at ZBTHS at 10:00 a.m. The event will include round table discussions. It will be a great opportunity to speak with the taxing bodies and share ideas on how to make things better in Zion.

Commissioner McDowell stated at the February 1<sup>st</sup> Council meeting the item relating to the City entrance signs was tabled. He recently had some discussions about possible collaboration with Zion Benton High School in creating some of the signs. They are currently in the midst of talks with the High School and believes it could be a creative project to help the students and benefit the City. Additionally, he stated a

few years ago the Chamber of Commerce and Zion Historical Society did a walk through at Mt. Olivet Cemetery. They discovered a famous doctor was buried there; Dr. James Brister, the first African American dentist in Lake County. He shared some historical information about Dr. Brister.

Commissioner Frierson thanked the Council and the administrative staff for continuing to make the investment in the City and equipment such as the interview room which helps get credible footage over to the State’s Attorney’s office. He appreciates the Council making the smart decisions and strategic investments even in times of tight budgeting.

Commissioner Fischer commented on the Black History cultural event he attended at ZBTHS on February 26<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Holmes reminded the public that it was the first day of Women’s History month.

Mayor McKinney asked that residents submit a list of women who have done things in the community. He shared a list of women that he believes have been an important part of the community. He stated there is great history in Zion as they continue to build legacies. He urged citizens to honor the women in their lives that have made a difference.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

March 12	10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Zion Community Leaders State of the Community Event at the ZBTHS Performing Arts Center
March 15	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Zion Township Board Meeting Zion City Council Meeting
April 5	7:00 p.m.	Zion City Council Meeting

**CLOSED SESSION**

It was moved by Commissioner McDowell seconded by Commissioner Fischer that the Council recess to Closed Session at 7:42 p.m., pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 “Open Meetings”, for the discussion of filed, pending and/or probable or imminent litigation, collective bargaining, sale of real estate and personnel. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Fischer, aye; Frierson, aye; McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner Holmes to reconvene the Regular Council meeting at 8:05 p.m. with all members present. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Fischer, aye; Frierson, aye; McDowell, 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 Frierson, seconded by Commissioner McDowell and unanimously approved the meeting be adjourned at 8:06 p.m. Motion carried.

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City Clerk