

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE ZION CITY COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2022, AT 7:00 P.M. 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 Fischer, Holmes, McDowell, Frierson and Mayor McKinney. A quorum was present.

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

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

Mayor McKinney asked for a brief moment of prayer for the citizens in Ukraine.

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 Fischer, aye; Holmes, aye; McDowell, aye; Frierson, aye and Mayor McKinney aye. Motion carried.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Georgene Knight stated she is currently the dog instructor for the agility training program at the Park District. The program has been using a building at the Park District for the past 20 years. The Park District has now asked them to leave the building because they need to store maintenance equipment. She shared that the building was perfect for their needs. She would like to continue the program and asked the Council if they might know of a building available for them to move to.

Mary Lou Hiltibrant, Zion ESDA Director, gave a monthly report of the recent activities that ESDA performs in assistance to the City. She stated they are hoping to add more members and invited those who wish to serve as a volunteer with ESDA to go to the City's website and fill out an application. She noted that retirees seem to be a good fit for ESDA.

Denise Cusumano stated she is in support of Georgene Knight and the dog agility classes at the Park District. The program serves people both inside and outside of the community including all ages. Social interaction is a big part of the program. She wanted to come and let the City know how they feel. They will also be going to a Park District Board meeting to let them know how important this is to the people.

Dennis Cusumano stated he has one of the champion agility dogs from the program that he has utilized since 1990. It initially started in the basement of the old library. People come from surrounding areas to use the class which has produced quite a few champions. They wanted to make sure the City was aware they were getting kicked out by the Park District.

Richard Herbert stated he a resident of Pleasant Prairie and has had 6 different dogs go through the program producing various degrees of champions. There are not a lot of places offering this type of program. He hopes there is a way the program can be extended.

Pam Johnson stated she too is in support of the dog program and represents the people with dogs in the program. She is not sure if they are disbanding the program and is anxious to see if the Park District will work with Georgene.

Mayor McKinney thanked everyone for their comments regarding Georgene and her program. He stated he met with Ms. Knight and informed her that the Park District and the City are two separate entities. The City has no involvement in Park District business and the City cannot tell them what to do with their properties.

He suggested she contact Economic Development Coordinator Sonolito Bronson, for other possible locations available in Zion.

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 on April 5, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.; and approval but not release of Closed Session Minutes of a meeting held on April 5, 2022 at 8:20 p.m.

The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Fischer, aye; Holmes, 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 140134 through 140288 drawn on Huntington National Bank, N.A. Total: \$1,505,040.88.

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

ORDINANCE/EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

Commissioner Frierson asked to move approval of the Emergency Operations Plan to the April 15th Council meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner Fischer, that the approval of the Emergency Operations Plan be moved to the April 15th City Council meeting. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Fischer, aye; Holmes, aye; McDowell, aye; Frierson, aye; and Mayor McKinney aye. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE/EARLY VOTING SITE AGREEMENT

Administrator Knabel stated the County is requesting an agreement between the City of Zion and the County of Lake for the City to be a designated Early Voting Site. This is a statutory obligation only as the County handles the voting and oversees everything. The agreement includes the terms as defined by the State Election Code. Mayor McKinney stated there has been some confusion in the past with the regulations of the Early Voting Site. The County oversees all decisions and monitors protocols. The City received calls regarding issues with the last election but those concerns must be addressed by the County Clerk's office.

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner Holmes that an Ordinance (22-O-10) be passed authorizing and approving a certain Early Voting Site Agreement between the City of Zion and the County of Lake. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Fischer, aye; Holmes, aye; McDowell, aye; Frierson, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

ORDINANCE/ZONING MAP PUBLICATION

A memo (22-DOC-23) was received from Director Ianson stating the City must approve the publication of a new Zoning map if there are any changes. Changes were: a misprint for Trumpet Park changing from Light Manufacturing to General Industrial and a Zoning change for a residential parcel from R-5 to R-4.

It was moved by Commissioner Holmes, seconded by Commissioner McDowell that an Ordinance (22-O-11) be passed approving and authorizing the publication of the Official Zoning Map of the City of Zion. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Fischer, aye; Holmes, aye; McDowell, aye; Frierson, aye and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

ORDINANCE/AGREEMENT/STANARD & ASSOCIATES/TESTING SERVICES

A memo (22-DOC-24) was received from Chief Barden requesting approval of an agreement with Stanard and Associates to provide testing services for a new police officer eligibility list. Chief Barden stated the current police officer initial eligibility list has been exhausted. They are required by State statute to maintain a current new entry list. Stanard and Associates has been the City's preferred vendor and has agreed to provide testing services. He has reviewed the contract and Stanard has agreed to hold the contract fee flat at \$1,500 for this testing cycle. Whatever monies are received through applicant fees will be returned to the City.

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson seconded by Commissioner McDowell, that an Ordinance (22-O-12) be passed authorizing and approving and agreement between the City of Zion and Stanard & Associates to provide testing services for a new police officer eligibility list. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Fischer, aye; Holmes, aye; McDowell, aye; Frierson, aye and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

BUDGETS/STREET & BRIDGE FUND/MOTOR FUEL TAX FUND

A memo (22-DOC-25) was received from Administrator Knabel requesting approval of the Street & Bridge Fund and the Motor Fuel Tax Fund (MFT). Administrator Knabel stated the City has over 20 different funds that are tracked in addition to the General Fund. There are funds that are "stand alone" funds wherein the revenues are isolated from the General Fund budget and funds are restricted for specific purposes. The Street & Bridge fund revenue comes from the tax levy that was adopted back in December. The Motor Fuel Tax Fund comes from State motor fuel tax allotments. Approval of the Street & Bridge and the Motor Fuel Tax budgets will allow the City to go out for bid on road projects and get timelier and more cost beneficial responses. Currently prices are up in the air on many projects because of materials and contractor staffing.

The Street & Bridge Fund – The general property tax amount is \$217,00 and they currently have \$147,600 in grant revenue which comes from a Community Development Grant Block (CDBG) fund. Because of the timing of the awarding of the grant funding last year as well as timing of being able to go out to bid they will be doing two-years' worth of sidewalk projects this year. The extra expenses come from the double year of sidewalk program that has a match portion that the City has to put in. Additionally, there has been a large amount of traffic signal knock downs that will be have to be addressed after May 1st. There is also a new line for the expansion of HMA patching program. The City has a desperate need to address the streets and continues to use large scale patching in lieu of large stretches of street replacements. They are putting extra money in Street & Bridge because they are expecting prices to be up 25% from prior years. Mayor McKinney asked if the pole knock downs are due to accidents. Administrator Knabel stated they were and it was very expensive to replace a pole. There is usually a 20% recovery of individuals insurance reimbursement. Commissioner Frierson asked about the Annual Street/Alley project. Administrator Knabel stated they try to do an alley project a year but \$250,000 does not cover much. There is a \$200,000 reserve

amount budgeted that will carry over into subsequent years. If projects come in over budget they can use Street & Bridge fund to supplement. Doing a project every other year can provide more coverage by carrying over funds.

The MFT Fund – This fund come from fuel sold within the State. The City receives MFT funds based on a per capita dollar amount. The City had an increase of \$50,000 in MFT funds. He stated with the addition of the Rebuild Illinois Bond Fund, additional funds have been allocated for road projects. This budgeted amount will be the last installment of 3 of 3 and he is not sure if it will be extended. The 2021 road program has been budgeted for this year along with the 27th Street FAU/STP Construction and Observation which has been accelerated previously planned for 2025 due to infrastructure dollars that have come out. The City will be responsible for 20% of the costs for design construction and observation. They have allocated \$75,000 for unnamed design costs to have a design project on the shelf ready to go in case grant funding comes through. They will be using all the MFT funds for projects next year. Commissioner McDowell asked about the reduction in street lights and trees. Administrator Knabel stated it is a reduction of actuals. There have been a lot of down trees in the last few years but they have not had as many issues with the trees. Director Roberts stated all City street lights have been converted to LEDs. The City owns 900 lights and he anticipates some savings there. Commissioner Frierson asked about the difference for the budget to projected actuals for the road program. Administrator Knabel stated this was the Payne & Dolan project. In fiscal year 21 they did a street program and had issues with the contractor that they had to negotiate and resolve. They budgeted the project in 2021 but the issues did not get resolved until 2022.

It was moved by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner Frierson, to approve the budgets for the Street & Bridge Fund and the Motor Fuel Tax Fund for May 1, 2022 through April 30, 2023. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Frierson, aye; Fischer, aye; Holmes, aye; McDowell, aye; McKinney, aye. and Mayor Motion carried.

HOTEL/MOTEL TAX GRANT APPLICATION/ELITE STRIDERS

A memo (22-DOC-26) was received from Administrator Knabel requesting the Council's consideration of hotel/motel tax grant application from Elite Striders. He stated a few years ago the City started a grant program to incentivize events to promote tourism. The grant helps groups with advertising for the events. Elite Striders is requesting \$10,000 of funds for their event on May 14, 2022. Upon scoring the application and their request, staff supports the use of the hotel/motel tax funds. However, as the grant provisions state that funds are to be used solely for marketing and promotion of the event. He asked that the amount be approved not to exceed \$2,000 based on the detailed budget provided by the applicant. Commissioner Frierson stated after reviewing the application, he would like to amend the amount not to exceed \$3,000. Commissioner McDowell questioned where the extra \$1,000 was needed. Commissioner Frierson stated for the purchase of T-shirts and wristbands.

It was moved by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Holmes to approve a hotel/motel tax grant for Elite Striders in the amount not to exceed \$3,000. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Fischer, aye; Holmes, aye; McDowell, aye; Frierson, aye and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

TABULATION OF BIDS/CITY OF ZION TOWING SERVICE

A Tabulation of Bids (22-DOC-27) was received from Chief Barden regarding the City of Zion Towing Service. Chief Barden stated the City of Zion tow contract is due to expire on July 30, 2022. The bid opening was held on March 28, 2022. The current contract has been extended several times in the past without a bid process. One responsive bid was received:

Roger Whitmore Automotive Services, Inc. DBA Rogers Towing Service.

The fee structure is as follows:

Flat day time (6am to 6pm) fee for towing:	\$165
Flat night time (6pm to 6am) fee for towing:	\$195
A separate/additional 24 hours per day flat fee for towing vehicles in accidents:	\$225
Fee for storage per day:	\$50
Additional equipment fee:	\$75

Staff requests to accept the bid from Rogers Towing Service as presented. Commissioner Frierson asked if it has become standard to not have a lot of bids. Administrator Knabel stated they have noticed a decline in responsive bids. Businesses know that bids are published in the newspaper and has staff that scours the newspaper and websites. In the past they have reached out to local contractors. They could consider looking at how to reach a larger pool. He meets with an Administrators group regularly and will discuss the subject as the next meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner Holmes, seconded by Commissioner McDowell, to accept the bid of Roger Whitmore Automotive Services, Inc., DBA Rogers Towing Service for the City of Zion Towing as presented. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Fischer, aye; Holmes, aye; McDowell, aye; Frierson, aye and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENTAL COMMENTARY

Director Ianson stated with the rainy season here he would like residents to check where their sump pumps are discharging. It is illegal to discharge into a City street or onto a neighbor's property.

Director Roberts stated Lake County DOT has updated their website regarding Ride Lake County. The program starts May 1st. He urged residents to contact Lake County to sign up. The program is designed for Seniors 60+ and those with disabilities. Fare costs will vary depending on the trip. Additionally, the leaf program begins on April 18th to April 29th. Residents will get two pick-ups on trash day. He also reminded residents that sticks cannot be mixed in. Collection of landscape and yard waste began April 1st and will run through November 30th. Mayor McKinney stated leaves must be in the parkway and not the street in order for them to be picked up.

Chief Barden stated the police department recently hired two new officers and is excited to have them on board. They will soon be attending the academy. He asked that if citizens have information of a crime that they call Crime Stoppers at 847-662-2222. Calls are taken anonymously. The police department has recovered 29 guns off the street partly due to Crime Stoppers and work of officers. Chief Barden reminded residents of the Districting program that has 4 sergeants assigned to a district. Information is available on the police Facebook page and the City's website to see who to contact in their district. Non-emergency issues can be reported to the sergeants by email. Residents can also leave feedback both good and bad on officers.

Administrator Knabel reminded residents that the City of Zion has a government Facebook page along with an Administrator's Facebook page. The Illinois Municipal League (IML) is an organization that advocates and lobbies for municipalities for legislation in the interests of the municipalities. They work with State legislators to get things done but they seem to listen to the public more. He will be putting IML updates on the Facebook pages and possibly the website. Often times it is necessary for the public to contact legislators so they pay attention. He may be asking for calls to action from the public in the future.

Commissioner McDowell reminded citizens of the 75th and final season of the Zion Passion Play at Christ Community Church. He invited citizens to visit Zionpassionplay.com for more information.

Commissioner Frierson noted the Zion officers have been communicating with residents in a non-enforcement type of way. He feels it really starts to make a difference in the community with positive interaction. He encouraged both sides to keep up the good work. He also encouraged residents to reach out to them with both good or bad feedback.

Commissioner Holmes addressed the dog lovers present and stated she appreciates their comments and concerns and hopes everything goes well for them.

Mayor McKinney commented on the IML. He is one of the 23 Vice Presidents of the organization. He recently spent time in Springfield talking with State Representatives on IML Lobby Day. The focus has been

on the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) to be increased from 6% to 8%. This is the amount of tax that comes back to the community. The State is trying to pass a budget and there is a lot of support from the Mayors to increase the amount and have also offered alternatives. State Reps Joyce Mason and Sam Yingling have been very supportive of Zion. The IML does a great job to support municipalities and educate them on how to utilize them on how to get bills passed or killed. He also had a chance to meet with IDOT to talk about issues in Zion and how to get more funds for State highway repairs. Additionally, as the Chair of the Water Equity Committee, they are working with different organizations in union to get grants for low income cities with no matching requirements. He is hoping to get funds for infrastructure and asked that residents be patient as he is working hard to get funds from the Infrastructure Bill. They also continue to work with State officials to get compensation for the nuclear storage.

Resident Mr. William Bremner asked for an update regarding the water intake pipe for Lake Michigan.

Administrator Knabel stated the intake pipe goes a 1/2 mile into Lake Michigan. The pipe has eroded and sagged. The Lake County Public Water District went out to bid to install 40 saddles to support the pipe. They then went out to bond for half of the project at that time. In the next few years they plan on doing Phase 2. Commissioner Fischer stated the technical term was a vent as he was on the Board when the project was approved. Each vent supports 32 feet of the intake pipe.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 12	6:00 p.m.	Township Annual Town Meeting
April 15		City Offices Closed for the Holiday
April 19	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 Holmes that the Council recess to Closed Session at 8:12 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 Fischer, aye; Holmes, aye; McDowell, 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 9:16 p.m. with all members present. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Fischer, aye; Holmes, aye; McDowell, aye; Frierson, aye and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE/ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY/3905 ILLINOIS ROUTE 173

It was moved by Commissioner Holmes, seconded by Commissioner McDowell that an Ordinance (22-O-13) be passed Authorizing the Acquisition of Certain Real Property located at 3905 Illinois Route 173. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Fischer, aye; Holmes, aye; McDowell, aye; Frierson, aye and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

NON-UNION WAGES

It was moved by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner McDowell to approve the non-union wage increases as presented. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Fischer, aye; Holmes, aye; McDowell, 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 Frierson, seconded by Commissioner Fischer and unanimously approved the meeting be adjourned at 9:21 p.m. Motion carried.

City Clerk