

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE ZION CITY COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 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 Holmes, McDowell, Frierson, Fischer, and Mayor McKinney. A quorum was present.

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

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

Mayor McKinney asked for a moment of silence and prayers for all who have gone through tragedies and are experiencing hard times.

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION/RECOGNITION OF PERSONNEL

Fire/Rescue Battalion Chief Eric Troy was presented with a Resolution of Commendation for 25 Years of Service.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

William Bremner, Zion, asked that the City recognize the 247th Birthday of the United States Marine Corps on November 10, 2022 by sending birthday wishes to the Commandant of the Marine Corps in Washington DC.

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 October 4, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Holmes, aye; McDowell, aye; Frierson, aye; Fischer, 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 141658 through 141734 drawn on Huntington National Bank, N.A. Total: \$427,188.49.

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

DEPUTY CHIEF POSITION/POLICE DEPARTMENT

A memo (22-DOC-95) was received from Chief Barden requesting permission to fill the Deputy Chief position in the Police Department. Chief Barden stated the request to fill the supervisory rank is due to the vacancy created when Chief Dumyahn retired in 2019.

He is requesting that Lieutenant Chris Sweeting be appointed to the rank of Deputy Chief of Police. He has reviewed the request with Administrator Knabel who has approved the request. Mayor McKinney noted that Lieutenant Sweeting has already been filling the role. It was also noted that the vacant Lieutenant position created by the promotion of Lieutenant Sweeting will not be filled at this time.

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner Holmes to approve filling the Deputy Chief position and to approve the appointment of Chris Sweeting to the position. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Holmes, aye; McDowell, aye; Frierson, aye; Fischer, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

LIEUTENANT VACANCY/POLICE DEPARTMENT

A memo (22-DOC-96) was received from Chief Barden requesting approval to fill one lieutenant position and request the name of the next candidate on the current Lieutenant Eligibility List from the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners. Chief Barden stated that the request to fill the vacancy is due to the retirement of Lieutenant Anthony Velardi.

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner McDowell to approve filling one lieutenant vacancy and request the name of the next candidate on the current Lieutenant Eligibility List from the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Holmes, aye; McDowell, aye; Frierson, aye; Fischer, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND BUDGET/FISCAL YEAR 2022/2023

Administrator Knabel presented a line by line detailed General Operating Fund Budget. Overall, the City is in a better position than in past years but he does not believe it will continue long term as much of the revenues are one-time dollars as shown below:

- Replacement Tax is up \$1 million
- Income Tax is up \$1.1 million.
- Sales Tax is also up due to price increases
- Veolia/Advanced Disposal host fees are up due to volumes coming back from recently diverted tonnage
- \$3.1 million in ARPA funds

Additionally, a few changes were noted from the previously distributed budget:

Revenues

- Reimbursements City Expenses - The SRO reimbursement for District #6 should be \$105,000 in lieu of \$52,500 as there are two officers
- Grants-Public Safety Use – A public safety COPS grant has since been awarded to the City from the Department of Justice authorizing the hiring of 5 officers with 100% of salary and benefits covered for the first 3 years.

Expenses

- Health Insurance costs have increased due to premiums up 13%
- Increase in minimum contributions for pensions
- Contract revisions for step increases to retain officers and to bring salaries up to market
- Increase in police overtime

Also noted was a \$3.5 million transfer to Capital Projects for facility improvements and replacements, leases and capital purchases. They are looking at \$4 to \$5 million for repairs just in the Police Department along with large repairs for Fire Station 2. They will be talking about the planning and budgeting for new facilities.

Administrator Knabel noted that the General Fund Budget ends with a \$261,000 surplus and the fund balance is back in the black after years of being in a deficit. Commissioner Frierson questioned the Gas Generated Fee, asking about the possible increase to \$75,000. Administrator Knabel stated the increase to \$75,000 will begin once the new stack is created and they are up and running and they begin to generate fees. Commissioner Fischer thanked Administrator Knabel and the Department Heads for the years of hard work. He stated that they have caught some

lucky breaks this year and they will take advantage of them while they can but noted that there is still work to do. Administrator Knabel stated that the City no longer has bonds or debt and this is the first General Fund budget showing the City without debt service payments. Commissioner McDowell stated over the last 8 years he cannot remember seeing a budget as positive as this current one. He also noted that there are still things in the works that can benefit the City. Mayor McKinney also thanked Administrator Knabel and the Department Heads for their hard work and for continuing to run first class operations while trying to balance the budget and move forward.

It was moved by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner McDowell to approve the General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year May 1, 2022 through April 30, 2023. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Holmes, aye; McDowell, aye; Frierson, aye; Fischer, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENTAL COMMENTARY

Director Roberts commented on the following:

- Russell Road will be closed west of Kilbourn Road from October 24th to October 27, 2022 for railroad crossing repairs. There will be a detour route available.
- Dates for the leaf vacuum program are October 31st to November 26th and leaf bagging will continue to November 3rd.

Battalion Chief Eric Troy acknowledged Fire Prevention Week October 9-15. This year’s campaign was “Fire won’t wait. Plan your escape”. The department visited the schools to share the message. He also noted that the Open House was well attended.

Chief Barden commented on the following:

- He reminded citizens with the large amount of road repairs going on he asked that they remain diligent on their speed. He is seeing a lot of people doing well above the speed limit.
- He attended the Community Leaders meeting at the High School this past Saturday. The next meeting will be on January 28th and invited all to attend.
- He asked those who see something to say something by calling Crime Stoppers at 847-662-2222.

Administrator Knabel commented on Water and Sewer bills stating that during the pandemic the City worked with residents by waiving penalties and not shutting off water. As things recovered they continued to work with residents allowing partial payments and pledges. Three months ago, they resumed following the City Code. He believes residents still believe COVID practices are still in place. He reminded residents that bills need to be current as the City has re-implemented shut-offs. If residents need assistance they should contact Zion Township. They may also contact the City before the bill is due for other options. He will share the information with the public on the City’s social media pages.

Commissioner McDowell noted that he recently saw something online that published conditions of roads in the nation and rated the worst roads in the country. He is happy to say Illinois did not make the list. He believes the City’s roads are better than ever. He thanked Director Roberts and the Public Works Department for getting bids out early and helping the City become eligible to receive millions of dollars in grant funding.

Commissioner Fischer reminded the public of Veterans Day on November 11th.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

October 24 – November 5	9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. M-F 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Saturday	Early Voting at Zion City Hall
October 28	4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Trail of Treats at Shiloh Park
October 30	2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Zion Trick or Treating
November 1		City Council Meeting Cancelled Due to Early Voting

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, it was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner Holmes, and unanimously approved the meeting be adjourned at 7:40 p.m. Motion carried.

City Clerk