

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE ZION CITY COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2023, 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 Frierson, Holmes, Fischer, McDowell, and Mayor McKinney. A quorum was present.

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

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

AGENDA CHANGES

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

The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Frierson, aye; Holmes, aye; Fischer, aye; McDowell, 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 thanked ESDA for all they do.

Melissa Siegel, Zion, stated it has been 7 months since her son was murdered. She questioned how they will keep kids safe this summer. She approached the Park District about putting cameras in the park but she was ignored. She also asked how many of the police officers are trained in mental health as there is a mental health issue in Lake County. She feels that Zion is no longer transparent and things need to be posted on what is going on in the City.

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 January 17, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Frierson, aye; Holmes, aye; Fischer, aye; McDowell, 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 142353 through 142513 drawn on Huntington National Bank, N.A.
Total: \$1,275,615.99.

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

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner Holmes that the Proclamation be approved as follows:

(c) **PROCLAMATION: Special Recognition of 211 Day**

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

RESOLUTION/TRANSFER OF PROPERTY/ZION PARK DISTRICT

Administrator Knabel stated they are always trying to use public assets to work together in the community. The City recently became aware that the Park District was going to demolish their maintenance building and was looking for property to re-build the facility. The City offered them property on Ebenezer Avenue and in turn the City could use Park District property on Hebron Avenue. He shared that they are looking to build a joint fuel station island for all taxing bodies to use. He stated the City is not currently utilizing the Ebenezer property and it will save the Park District money.

It was moved by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner McDowell that a Resolution (22-R-3) be passed authorizing the Transfer of Property from the City of Zion to the Zion Park District. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Frierson, aye; Holmes, aye; Fischer, aye; McDowell, aye; and Mayor McKinney aye. Motion carried. Resolution passed.

RENEWAL AGREEMENT/NORTHERN IL REGIONAL CRIME LAB

A memo (23-DOC-9) was received from Chief Barden requesting approval of an annual membership and maintenance agreement with Northern IL Regional Crime Lab (NIRCL). The Zion Police Department uses this crime lab to process, evaluate and compare evidence for criminal prosecution.

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner Holmes to approve a renewal agreement between Northeastern IL Regional Crime Lab and the City of Zion for Crime Lab Services. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Frierson, aye; Holmes, aye; Fischer aye; McDowell, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

LAKE COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FORENSIC CYBER CRIME LABORATORY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

A memo (23-DOC-10) was received from Chief Barden requesting approval of an annual membership agreement with the Lake County State's Attorney's Office Cyber Crime Laboratory. The Zion Police Department uses the Lake County State's Attorney's Office Cyber Crime Laboratory to review, analyze and download evidence from electronic devices for violent crime offenses including homicide, aggravated battery, sexual assault and is pertinent to the investigation and charging of criminal cases brought to or investigated by the Zion Police Department. Staff requests and recommends the continued membership with the Lake County State's Attorney's Office Cyber Lab for investigative services and evidence collection. Effective January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 the annual membership fee for the City is \$4,995.00.

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner Fischer to approve a renewal membership between Lake County State's Attorney's Office Forensic Cyber Crime Laboratory and the City of Zion for Forensic Cyber Crime Laboratory Services. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Frierson, aye; Holmes, aye; Fischer aye; McDowell, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

PURCHASE/BODY WORN CAMERAS/EQUIPMENT

A memo (23-DOC-11) was received from Chief Barden requesting approval of the purchase of additional Body Worn Cameras and the necessary equipment in the police department. Chief Barden stated with the approval of the COPS grant, they are adding five additional police positions to the ranks of the department. Staff requests approval to outfit those officers with the necessary equipment and provide Body Worn Cameras in line with the Statute. A quote was received from the current vendor to add to the system they currently have. The cost to add the additional Body Worn Cameras will be \$18,886.00 for a term of four years or \$3,474.00 annually. The cost will cover the hardware and software for five additional officers. Commissioner Fischer asked if this will run concurrent with the existing contract or extend it out. Chief Barden stated it will not overlap and both will expire at the same time. Commissioner Fischer asked if the cost will be the same even though the term is shorter. Chief Barden stated that it would.

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner McDowell to approve the purchase of additional Body Worn Cameras and the necessary equipment. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Frierson, aye; Holmes, aye; Fischer aye; McDowell, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENTAL COMMENTARY

Director Ianson reminded residents that carbon monoxide detectors are equally as important as smoke detectors. Every dwelling unit must be equipped with at least one approved carbon monoxide detector in an operating condition within 15 feet of all sleeping areas.

Director Roberts stated they have been receiving an uptick of residents calling regarding high water bills. Public Works will go out and look at a homeowner's property at their request to check for a leaky faucet or toilet. This can be a cause of a large increase in a water bill. Additionally, leaving hose bits on through the winter can also have an impact. They do these checks as a courtesy but are not certified to make any repairs. Homeowners will need to hire a plumber. If they feel it may be the meter they will pull the meter and test it to see if it needs to be replaced. Any water that goes through the meter is the responsibility of the home owner. An option for homeowners is to use dye to see if they have a leak. Mayor McKinney asked Director Roberts to address lead line replacement and how much is present in Zion. Director Roberts stated the City passed an ordinance in the 1960's banning lead pipes. He stated they have only come across 3 cases in the past 16 years. Public Works technicians will look at the pipes coming into the meter. Over the last 4 years as they do water main replacements they inventory the pipes. He assured the public the City is on top of it as they have inspected 60% of the lines. He stated per the City ordinance, the homeowner is responsible for replacing their own pipes and noted that there are grants available to assist homeowners in replacing their pipes. Mayor McKinney stated he was recently in Washington D.C. at a Lead Line Replacement Conference. He noted that there are 10 million lead lines still left in the country. As part of the Great Lakes Water Initiative Executive Board, they are trying to make sure that the Great Lakes region receives money for the replacement of the lines to have safe, clean and affordable water. He stated there is a bill that directs the Federal government to help residents with line replacement.

Chief Stried stated test sirens usually go off the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. but it was discovered that the sirens at City Hall and Green Bay Road were not activating. He stated they are waiting for parts in order to fix the sirens. He noted that in the meantime, notifications will be put out by Blackboard. Residents can sign up by visiting the City website or by calling the Fire Station at 847-746-4036 for help getting registered.

Chief Barden shared the following information:

- He gave updates on current cases and cases that go back several years. He stated some cases can take a lot of time to work in ridding the streets of violent offenders.
- He noted that the department needs to be ready for things going on in the community and must keep communication open between the taxing bodies. Mayor McKinney stated when there is a public event happening the police need to be notified via a Special Duty request. Chief Barden stated a form must be filled out to request that police be present at the event. He noted that the event at the High School could have ended badly and reiterated the need for police to be informed.
- Officers have mental health training on many realms. Mayor McKinney noted that he has observed officers being trained in mental health by simulating mental health scenarios. Chief Barden stated the Council has approved constant training to be done and they recognize how important it is.

Director Conway stated they have a full-time position open for Administrative staff in the Accounts & Finance Department. Additionally, she noted that they are gearing up for vehicle stickers.

Administrator Knabel stated the most recent Community Forum was well attended and they received a lot of good feedback. They continue to gather feedback and information and will share the results at the April meeting. They will post the information on social media and in the Zion Quarterly.

Commissioner McDowell noted that he appreciates the fine work the Zion Police Department does and is glad they have professionals working hard. He shared a passage from scripture on how to live a normal life.

Commissioner Frierson thanked Chief Barden for laying out all the work the Zion Police Department is doing. He encouraged residents to get to know their neighbors and people on their block. He knows it could be scary but feels it's important to set a standard for their block. Neighborhoods must be concerned about all kids and create a culture that's not about violence. Additionally, he noted that the police are always on stand by and the Council is always accessible for any questions or concerns.

Commissioner Fischer stated that the community meeting was very successful. He feels it is important to listen to what the residents have to say and thanked all those who participated. He also feels the meetings are a good foundation for residents to have their voices heard.

Commissioner Holmes commented on the following.

- She also felt the community meeting was a success and enjoyed the vibrant conversations and suggestions.
- She noted that February is Black History Month.
- She thanked Chief Barden for his transparency keeping them updated on current and past cases in the police department.

Mayor McKinney commented on the following:

- He thanked Ms. Siegel for coming to share her concerns.
- He shared that the community means a lot to him and he is trying to change the state of Zion. He has had discussions with the Leader's Group about cameras in the park. The challenge is to find a way to get the cameras to work.
- He stated mental health issues have been plaguing all since the pandemic. He sees it in the school system and with adults as well. He is currently on the 211 Board which can help provide

- assistance for mental health issues. He is trying to make sure residents have the resources they need. The goal is to have Zion be a Blue-Ribbon City.
- The addition of Flock cameras in the community can help the police solve crimes.
- While attending a session on policing in Washington, the DOJ noted that the biggest issue cities are facing around the country is gun violence. This is happening everywhere and they continue to try and get the guns out of the hands of teenagers.
- Public safety is still a goal. They are aware of the issues and continue to work on it. They are doing everything they can to make the City a place where people can walk down any street and feel safe.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 21	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Zion Township Board Meeting Zion City Council Meeting
March 7	7:00 p.m.	Zion City Council Meeting

CLOSED SESSION

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

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner McDowell to reconvene the Regular Council meeting at 8:30 p.m. with all members present. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Frierson, aye; Holmes, aye; Fischer aye; McDowell, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

**ORDINANCE/FIFTH AMENDMENT/REAL ESTATE SALE CONTRACT/
TRUMPET PARK**

It was moved by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner McDowell that an Ordinance (23-O-6) be passed granting approval of an amendment to the agreement with the Board of Trustees of the North Shore Sanitary District, thereafter the North Shore Water Reclamation District, is made in reliance on the fact that the other non-conflicting provisions of the original contract, and the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th amendments are in effect.

The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Frierson, aye; Holmes, aye; Fischer aye; McDowell, 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 Holmes and unanimously approved the meeting be adjourned at 8:34 p.m. Motion carried.