

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE ZION CITY COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2023, AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 2828 SHERIDAN ROAD, ZION, ILLINOIS

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Mayor Pro-Tem Fischer called the meeting to order.

Mayor Pro-Tem Fischer noted that Mayor McKinney was out of town on City business.

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

Also present: Police Chief Eric Barden, Public Works Director Ray Roberts, Building & Zoning Director Richard Ianson, Accounts & Finance Director Kris Conway, 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.

AGENDA CHANGES

It was moved by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Holmes to approve the Agenda as presented.

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS

W. C. Bremner, Zion, proposed the idea of a “forever vehicle sticker” for Seniors. He noted the City could stockpile the stickers with no ending dates.

Brian Dixon, Zion, voiced his concerns regarding things to do in the community. He would like to see a movie theater, shopping mall, bowling alley or roller rink. He feels Zion needs more entertainment and activities.

Wendy Driver, Zion, gave an update on the BUZ (Building up Zion) group and what they have been up to over the last year. They have 28 volunteers and have donated 126 hours to doing beautiful things around the City. They will be offering 20 raised garden beds for rent for \$10 from May through October.

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 April 4, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

- (b) **BILLS:** Vouchers 143002 through 143096 drawn on Huntington National Bank, N.A. Total: \$162,997.88.

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

RESOLUTION/WEBSITE MAINTENANCE SERVICE AGREEMENT/GOFLO, INC.

A memo (23-DOC-24) was received from Administrator Knabel recommending renewal of the annual maintenance agreement with GoFlo, Inc. for City’s website. He stated that the current website maintenance agreement is set to expire on April 30, 2023. A few years ago, he obtained quotes for comparable services and the rates from GoFlo were lower than those comparables. GoFlo has not changed their rates for these services in the past 9 years and is still a great value for the work they perform on the City’s behalf (in addition to being a local business. They are continuing to move to more utilization of online options for transactions with the City. They are also in the process of developing a new community marketing and communications strategy which will likely include website design as a component. Both of the projects will require knowledge of existing operations and systems.

It was moved by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Frierson that a Resolution (23-R-4) be passed authorizing the renewal of the annual website maintenance service agreement with GoFlo, Inc. from May 1, 2023 through April 30, 2024, in the total amount of \$23,980. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; and Mayor Pro-Tem Fischer, aye. Motion carried. Resolution passed.

RESOLUTION/MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING/ILLINOIS AGGREGATION CONSULTANTS

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner Holmes that a Resolution (23-R-5) be passed authorizing and approving a Memorandum of Understanding with Illinois Aggregation Consultants to assist the City with its Program for Aggregation of Electricity. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; and Mayor Pro-Tem Fischer, aye. Motion carried. Resolution passed.

ORDINANCE/RENEWAL OF AGGREGATION PROGRAM FOR ELECTRICAL LOAD

Sharon Durling, Illinois Aggregation Consultants, stated the City's current aggregation program will expire in July. She has received live bids that will be good through 12:00 noon tomorrow if the City chooses to renew the aggregation program. She stated it usually takes between 70-90 days to implement a new program. The proposed agreement has been previously reviewed by the City Attorney. She presented three options noting that some years have had better rates than others.

- Option A: Fixed rate: 13, 25 or 37 month term
- Option B: ComEd Price Match: 13 or 25 month term
 - No savings for residents, but no rate risk of paying above ComEd rates
 - \$12,000 Civic contribution to City of Zion to receive status as an EPA Green Power Partner Community
- Option C: Do neither and suspend the program

The Council will determine the contract term length of 13, 25 or 37 months. Bid pricing for a fixed rate program is only held firm for 24 hours, therefore final, executable bid pricing is presented today at the Council meeting. Ms. Durling stated that for option 1 MC Squared Energy Services has the lowest rate for the 13 month period with 7.390¢. These rates are released in April each year. The current ComEd rate of 10.165¢ is expected to drop in June to anywhere between 7.3¢ to 7.7¢. Commissioner McDowell asked Ms. Durling how confident she was on the estimates for ComEd. Ms. Durling stated the ComEd rate can have a 1/2 ¢ floater each month. Commissioner McDowell stated a few years ago there was no question as the rates were much lower and this year may just be a wash. Mayor Pro-Tem Fischer stated one of the advantages to aggregation is having a locked in rate. It was asked if ComEd knows when aggregation programs are coming to an end. Ms. Durling stated it is not actually ComEd that sets their rates but rather the Illinois Commerce Commission. It was noted that option 2 would keep the rates the same as those of ComEd while offering the City a \$12,000 annual civic contribution. Administrator Knabel noted that they have had problems with companies approaching the residents trying to sell them aggregation programs. This seems to drop off when the City has an aggregation program. Commissioner McDowell stated that residents can choose to opt out of the program if they choose not to participate. Ms. Durling stated that it is a little more of a risk this time as ComEd rates could be 7.3¢ to 7.7¢. Commissioner Frierson stated that option 2 offers the ComEd rate while the City still receiving a civic contribution. Ms. Durling was asked how the supplier's rates can vary. Ms. Durling stated that different companies have different analysts that come up with their rates. Commissioner McDowell proposed going with MC Squared for the 13-month term with a rate of 7.390¢. Administrator Knabel suggested looking at the rate of 7.590¢ for 25 months with the speculation of future rate increases, the City could be locked in for two years.

It was moved by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Holmes, that an Ordinance (23-O-13) be passed to renew the municipal electrical aggregation program in the City of Zion, accept the bid of MC Squared Energy for a 13-month term, and authorize entering into a contract with MC Squared Energy. The vote on roll call was: McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; and Mayor Pro-Tem Fischer, aye. Motion carried Ordinance passed.

RESOLUTION/AGREEMENT/SOLSTICE POWER TECHNOLOGIES INC.

Mayor Pro-Tem Fischer stated at a previous Council meeting there were discussions regarding the Illinois Solar For All Program. The proposed agreement relates to an initiative giving income eligible residents the opportunity to easily access low-cost renewable energy. Solstice is an approved vendor offering a partnership with the City of Zion to establish a campaign to invite qualified residents to subscribe. It is an opt in program offering a \$50 Visa gift card to each subscriber. Commissioner Frierson asked how the residents can maximize the savings and if the gift cards will be automatic. Sharon Durling, Illinois Aggregation Consultants stated they will receive the gift cards right away. They are hoping to secure all subscribers by July 31st. Solstice will work with staff to find the best way to reach residents. Mayor Pro-Tem Fischer stated he feels it is an interesting program and hopes to see eligible residents take advantage of the program.

It was moved by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Frierson that a Resolution (23-R-6) be passed authorizing and approving an agreement with Solstice Power Technologies Inc. and the City of Zion. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; and Mayor Pro-Tem Fischer, aye. Motion carried. Resolution passed.

RESOLUTION/TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE/NOSTALGIA DAYS

A memo (23-DOC-25) was received from Chief Barden regarding the temporary road closure of Sheridan Road for the Nostalgia Days Event on Saturday, June 17, 2023. A resolution is necessary due to Sheridan Road being a State Highway.

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner McDowell that a Resolution (23-R-7) be passed requesting permission from the Illinois Department of Transportation for the temporary closure of Sheridan Road on June 17, 2023, as requested between 6:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M., for Nostalgia Days. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; and Mayor Pro-Tem Fischer, aye. Motion carried. Resolution passed.

CYBER INSURANCE RENEWAL

A memo (23-DOC-26) was received from Administrator Knabel requesting approval of the City's renewal of cyber insurance. Administrator Knabel stated the brokers at Assurance (Marsh & McLennan) negotiated the renewal for the City's cyber insurance which is set to expire on April 30, 2023. He recommends renewal of the cyber insurance policy with Corvus for the year ending April 30, 2024, which reflects increased coverages at a savings of \$3,880 over the prior year premium.

It was moved by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Holmes that an Ordinance (23-O-14) be passed authorizing Assurance a Marsh & McLennan Agency LLC Company to provide Insurance Brokerage Services and renew an insurance policy (cyber security) for the City of Zion. The vote on roll call was Commissioners McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; and Mayor Pro-Tem Fischer, aye. Motion carried Ordinance passed.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT/ FOP LABOR COUNCIL/PATROL

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner McDowell that an Ordinance (23-O-15) be passed authorizing a Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Fraternal Order of Police, David M. Parker Memorial Lodge No. 91 and the Illinois FOP Labor Council Patrol and the City of Zion for May 1, 2023 through April 30, 2026. The vote on roll call was Commissioners McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; and Mayor Pro-Tem Fischer, aye. Motion carried Ordinance passed.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT/ FOP LABOR COUNCIL/SERGEANTS

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner McDowell that an Ordinance (23-O-16) be passed authorizing a Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Fraternal Order of Police, David M. Parker Memorial Lodge No. 91 and the Illinois FOP Labor Council Sergeants and the City of Zion for May 1, 2023 through April 30, 2026. The vote on roll call was Commissioners McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; and Mayor Pro-Tem Fischer, aye. Motion carried Ordinance passed.

WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES AGREEMENT

A memo (23-DOC-27) was received from Administrator Knabel requesting approval of a renewal contract for the City's Waste/Recycling/Yard Waste. Administrator Knabel stated they received notice from Waste Management that they were going to be terminating the existing contract, as required within the contract, to begin negotiations on continued services. Over the past few months, they have been negotiating with them which has resulted in a proposed contract. There are some significant changes in rates and services as follows:

- Effective May 1, 2023, the charges to the City for all services will be \$27 per residential unit per month. This is an increase of 13.4% over current charges.
- Effective May 1, 2023, the charges will be reduced by 2.8% due to the removal of the annual leaf vacuuming services.
- Rates for subsequent years will increase by 5% per annum.

- As mentioned, this will be the final year of leaf vacuuming services.
- Effective September 4th, Alley garbage pickup and yard waste services will have to be moved to curbside pickup, similar to recycling. Communications on these changes and requirements will be rolling out over the next few months.
- Also effective September 4, recycling pickup will change from weekly to biweekly. Residents have the opportunity to change cart size from May 1, 2023 to July 31, 2023 at no cost. Additional carts may be rented from Waste Management for \$3.00 per cart per month.

The movement of pickups to curbside from the alley was a non-negotiable change from Waste Management due to the industry standards, logistics and equipment and fleet availability. The other changes were to help control costs. Without these changes, they would have seen an increase of 40% initially and larger future increases. Two additional changes were: no additional charge for backdoor service for Acceptable Collection only (first 30 residents) and the increase of the large Waste Yard Containers from 30 to 45. He recommends approval of the contract as presented. Commissioner McDowell asked what would happen if there were more than 30 disabled residents that would require backdoor service. Administrator Knabel stated that the City would be charged \$10 for each additional household. Commissioner Frierson stated he had concerns about no alley pickup. He asked if the yard waste bags will be manually picked up and would it be in the front or back. Administrator Knabel stated he is not sure if the yard waste bags will be picked up in the back or front as Waste Management is trying to get everything for pickup in the front. Also questioned was where bulk items will be picked up. Administrator Knabel stated that he will have a discussion with Waste Management on both items. He noted that they may have to have a monitoring system to be sure the items are picked up. They may have to consider hiring additional personnel in the Building Department to deal with waste and garbage issues and to handle complaints.

It was moved by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Holmes that an Ordinance (23-O-17) be passed authorizing an Agreement for Waste Collection Services between Waste Management and the City of Zion. The vote on roll call was Commissioners McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; and Mayor Pro-Tem Fischer, aye. Motion carried Ordinance passed.

ORDINANCE/TEXT AMENDMENT/SECTION 70-128(2)/ZION MUNICIPAL CODE

A memo (23-DOC-28) was received from Director Ianson requesting a Text Amendment to Section 70-128(2) of the Zion Municipal Code. Director Ianson stated staff is requesting the text amendment to allow electronic signs for schools and churches in a residential district with the issuance of a Special Use Permit.

It was moved by Commissioner Holmes, seconded by Commissioner McDowell that an Ordinance (23-O-18) be passed amending the subsection of 70-128(2) of Chapter 70 of the Zion Municipal Code/Sign Ordinance regarding electronic signs in the City of Zion. The vote on roll call was Commissioners McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; and Mayor Pro-Tem Fischer, aye. Motion carried Ordinance passed.

ORDINANCE/SPECIAL USE PERMIT/DIGITAL SIGN REPLACEMENT/1910 GILBOA AVENUE

A memo (23-DOC-29) 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 1910 Gilboa Avenue, Zoning Docket 23-Z-4. At the April 6, 2023 Planning & Zoning Commission meeting, the Commission recommended to approve the Special Use Permit with the condition that Section 70-128(2) of the Zion Municipal Code be amended to allow schools to have electronic/digital signs in a residential district.

It was moved by Commissioner Holmes, seconded by Commissioner McDowell, that an Ordinance (23-O-19) be passed granting a Special Use Permit for an electronic/digital sign for property located at 1910 Gilboa Avenue. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; and Mayor Pro-Tem Fischer, aye. Motion carried Ordinance passed.

ORDINANCE/SPECIAL USE PERMIT/DIGITAL SIGN REPLACEMENT/1910 GILBOA AVENUE

A memo (23-DOC-30) 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 2913 Elim Avenue, Zoning Docket 23-Z-5.

At the April 6, 2023 Planning & Zoning Commission meeting, the Commission recommended to approve the Special Use Permit with the condition that Section 70-128(2) of the Zion Municipal Code be amended to allow schools to have electronic/digital signs in a residential district.

It was moved by Commissioner Holmes, seconded by Commissioner McDowell, that an Ordinance (23-O-20) be passed granting a Special Use Permit for an electronic/digital sign for property located at 2913 Elim Avenue. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; and Mayor Pro-Tem Fischer, aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

ORDINANCE/VARIANCE/ZION MUNICIPAL CODE/SECTION 26-380(I)/2018 ELIM AVENUE

A memo (23-DOC-31) was received from Director Ianson requesting a Variance from Municipal Code Section 26-380(l) to relocate the driveway from the rear to the front of the property. In addition, he would like to change the minimum size requirement of 22x20 to 14x100 for property at 2018 Elim Avenue as petitioned by Antonio Medina, Zoning Docket 23-Z-6. At the April 6, 2023 Planning & Zoning meeting, they recommended approval of the variance.

It was moved by Commissioner Holmes, seconded by Commissioner McDowell that an Ordinance (12-O-21) be passed granting a Variance from Zion Municipal Code Section 26-380(e) to relocate the driveway from the rear to the front of the property and change the minimum size requirement of 22x20 to 14x100 for property at 2018 Elim Avenue. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; and Mayor Pro-Tem Fischer, aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

ORDINANCE/PLAT OF CONSOLIDATION/1915 INDUSTRIAL DRIVE

A memo (23-DOC-32) was received by Director Ianson requesting approval of a Plat of Consolidation for 1915 Industrial Drive. Director Ianson stated that Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. on behalf of Quaker Houghton is requesting an approval of a Plat of Consolidation for future expansion and development for property at 1915 Industrial Drive, Zoning Docket 23-Z-7. At the April 6, 2023 Planning & Zoning meeting, they recommended to approve the Plat of Consolidation. Commissioner Fischer asked if they are doing expansion of the tank storage facility. Director Ianson stated that they are consolidating the remaining parcels for future development. It was noted that the site is monitored by the EPA.

It was moved by Commissioner Holmes, seconded by Commissioner McDowell that an Ordinance (23-O-22) be passed approving a Plat of Consolidation for 1915 Industrial Drive. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; and Mayor Pro-Tem Fischer, aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

TABULATION OF BIDS/PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY SECURITY GATES

A Tabulation of Bids (23-DOC-33) was received from Director Roberts for the Public Works Facility Security Gates. Director Roberts stated that a bid opening was held on April 11, 2023. A bid was received from Electrical Contractors, Inc. for the installation of 2 automatic vehicle security gate controllers and repair and upgrade of 2 keypad pedestals. Staff requests and recommends awarding the project to the sole bidder, Electrical Contractors, Inc. of Mundelein, Illinois in the amount of \$35,915. Funding for the project is a budgeted item in the FY23 Capital Fund and Water Fund. Copies of the bid tabulations are on file in the City Clerk's office, Public Works office and posted on the City website.

It was moved by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Holmes to award the Public Works Facility Security Gate bid to Electrical Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$35,915. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; and Mayor Pro-Tem Fischer, aye. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENTAL COMMENTARY

Director Ianson stated they are currently taking applications for a mowing supervisor and 2 grass cutters.

Director Roberts reminded residents that the Spring leaf vacuuming program will begin on April 24th and last for two weeks. There will also be a fall pickup later in the year.

Chief Barden shared the following:

- Flyers are being included in the water bills regarding noise and fireworks violations. He reminded residents that the City will be cracking down on these violations and asked residents to be mindful of others regarding noise.
- He reminded residents that dogs must be kept on a leash or a fenced in area. They have had issues with dogs attacking people and other animals.
- Commissioner Frierson asked Chief Barden to explain what the pole are that are going up in the City. Chief Barden stated over the last few years his goal has been to look towards technology to help with crime in the City. He started with the Flock camera license plate readers which he feels is the most effective technology and is tremendously effective post crime as it allows them to identify offenders. The second piece, was Flock Safety software that could identify gun shots or fireworks and locate the source. These poles have microphones that have been installed in areas that contain the largest concentration of calls. The Flock Cameras are not red-light cameras or speed cameras. They just identify vehicles and allow officers to respond to gun shots quickly. The cameras have been approved by the ACLU. Additionally, they have a 30-day expungement period.

Administrator Knabel stated last week they held the 4th Community Dialogue event. The primary focus was to request feedback from the public as it relates to the Nuclear Funding. As part of the funding, DECO will require the public or stakeholder involvement. They will put together a survey asking for continued feedback on the utilization of those funds and would appreciate the public’s participation.

Mayor Pro-Tem Fischer noted that the meeting on May 2nd will be the continuation of government by swearing in the members of the Council. He stated it is important to recognize the people that were elected and encouraged residents to attend the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 2	7:00 p.m.	Zion City Council Meeting
May 16	6:00 p.m.	Zion Township Board Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Zion City Council Meeting

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 8:05 p.m. Motion carried.

City Clerk