

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE ZION CITY COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 2, 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 Fischer, McDowell, Holmes, Frierson, and Mayor McKinney. A quorum was present.

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

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

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

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Mayor McKinney reminded citizens of the Citizen Comments guidelines.

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 Ms. Hiltibran and ESDA for all they continue to do for the City.

Muriel Adams shared that she is celebrating her first year as a Lake County resident. She has a PhD in sustainability focused on Economy, Environmental and Social Justice. She is looking for communities to help become more sustainable. She is helping to bring previous incarcerated people back into the community. She invited the public to contact her to talk more about her organization at 773-245-0520.

**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 18, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Fischer, aye; McDowell, aye; Holmes, 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:

- (a) **BILLS:** Vouchers 143097 through 143195 drawn on Huntington National Bank, N.A. Total: \$632,627.68.

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

**ADJOURN SINE DIE**

Mayor McKinney asked for a motion to adjourn sine die. It was moved by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner Holmes and unanimously approved the meeting be adjourned (sine die) at 7:13 p.m. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Fischer, aye; McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

**SWEARING-IN CEREMONY FOR CITY OFFICIALS**

The Honorable Judge George Bridges, Second District Appellate Court, (Retired), administered the oath of office to Mike McDowell for City Commissioner and Zion Township Trustee, with his wife, Donna McDowell, holding the Bible.

Pam Idelburg, administered the oath of office to Jacqueline Holmes for City Commissioner and Trustee in Zion Township, with the Honorable Judge George Bridges, Second District Appellate Court (Retired), holding the Bible.

The Honorable Judge George Bridges, Second District Appellate Court, (Retired), administered the oath of office to Billy McKinney for Mayor, with Lisa Weilke, holding the Bible.

**ROLL CALL**

On call of the roll the following answered present: Commissioners Fischer, McDowell, Holmes, Frierson and Mayor McKinney.

**AGENDA CHANGES**

It was moved by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Holmes to accept the City Council meeting agenda as presented. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Fischer, aye; McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

**ORDINANCE/INTERGOVERNMENTAL MUTUAL AID/POLICE DEPARTMENT**

A memo (23-DOC-34) was received from Chief Barden requesting approval of an Intergovernmental Mutual Aid Agreement. Chief Barden stated pursuant to the Illinois Intergovernmental Cooperation Act, 5 ILCS 220/1 he is requesting approval of the agreement regarding the transportation of detainees by Wisconsin Law Enforcement Agencies from Wisconsin to the Lake Behavioral Hospital in Illinois. Commissioner Frierson asked for the background context for this agreement. Chief Barden stated there is not a specific indication why the agreement is needed. They do not indemnify out of state agencies, they act under the authority of their Constitution. In the event they have to transport someone from WI to a facility in Illinois and they have a problem along the way this is just an agreement signaling to them that we will help them if they need it and will support their law enforcement authority. Mayor McKinney asked if this agreement was the first of its kind and asked if it was the result of conversations with State officials over the border trying to gain cooperation. Chief Barden confirmed that it was as they have been working closer with the law enforcement neighbors over the border. This is helping to offer and identify services available in Illinois that they may not have in WI. Commissioner Holmes stated once they cross State lines legally they would have to come to some sort of an agreement anyway. Chief Barden stated that they cannot transport a detainee across state lines as it becomes an issue of jurisdiction so that's what the agreement covers. In the event they had to take some kind of legal action this will cover them and they will help them.

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner Fischer, that an Ordinance (23-O-23) be passed authorizing an Intergovernmental Mutual Aid Agreement regarding the Transportation of Detainees by Wisconsin Law Enforcement Agencies from Wisconsin to the Lake Behavioral Hospital in Illinois. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Fischer, aye; McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

**BUILDING/IUOE BARGAINING UNIT MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

It was moved by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner McDowell that an Ordinance (23-O-24) be passed authorizing a Memorandum of Agreement between the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 150 Building employees and the City of Zion. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Fischer, aye; McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

**CLERICAL/IUOE BARGAINING UNIT MEMORANDUM AGREEMENT**

It was moved by Commissioner Holmes, seconded by Commissioner McDowell that an Ordinance (23-O-25) be passed authorizing a Memorandum of Agreement between the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 150 Clerical employees and the City of Zion. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Fischer, aye; McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

**HOTEL/MOTEL TAX GRANT APPLICATION/MONARCH MANIA/ZINNIA FESTIVAL**

Administrator Knabel stated he is requesting the Council's consideration of hotel/motel tax grant applications for Zion Township for Monarch Mania/Zinnia Festival, Potawatomi Trails Powwow and Elite Striders. He stated years ago the City established a hotel/motel tax grant program to encourage tourism in the area. This would result in additional patronage at local businesses, more stays in local hotels and general positive experience for those outside of Zion. There are statutory limitations on what the City's hotel/motel taxes can be used for, but the City restricted those a little further since funds were being awarded to private entities. As a result, they developed an application and scoring process for those interested in receiving funds to supplement their event's budget. These funds are restricted to be used solely on marketing and promotional expenses.

A memo (23-DOC-35) was received from Administrator Knabel requesting the Council's consideration of hotel/motel tax grant application for Zion Township for Monarch Mania/Zinnia Festival. Zion Township has been an applicant in the past and has applied for \$8,000 of funds as detailed in the application. The scoring of the application supports staff's recommendation to award a grant in the amount not to exceed \$8,000.

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner McDowell to approve a hotel/motel tax grant for Monarch Mania/Zinnia Festival in the amount of \$8,000. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Fischer, aye; McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

A memo (23-DOC-36) was received from Administrator Knabel requesting the Council's consideration of hotel/motel tax grant application for Potawatomi Trails Powwow. Potawatomi Trails Powwow has been an annual applicant for many years now and has applied for \$8,000 of funds as detailed in the application. The scoring of the application supports staff's recommendation to award the grant in the amount not to exceed \$8,000. Commissioner Frierson stated seeing that people come to this event every year, how is it handled when their numbers are starting to decline. He asked if the scoring gets reevaluated. Administrator Knabel stated it does not because it is up to the applicant to decide how they want to handle if their numbers decline. It might actually warrant an increased amount for additional marketing or different ways of marketing. The City will look at how they utilize the marketing after the fact but try not to get involved in determining whether a private event was successful or not. Numbers at events were down due to pandemic but they are seeing numbers come back up. Commissioner Frierson asked if they have thought about ways to check with the local businesses to see how they feel about the results of the grant whether it is increased traffic at restaurants during that time or hotels or anything like that? Administrator Knabel stated they have not asked businesses to track anything in the past. They are going by discussions they have had with businesses who have seen increased usage during these events.

It was moved by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner Holmes to approve a hotel/motel tax grant for Potawatomi Trails Powwow in the amount of \$8,000. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Fischer, aye; McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

A memo (23-DOC-37) was received from Administrator Knabel requesting the Council's consideration of hotel/motel tax grant application for Elite Striders. Elite Striders Drill Team has been an applicant in the past and has applied for \$5,000 -\$6,000 of funds as detailed in the application. The scoring of the application supports staff's recommendation to award the grant in the amount not to exceed \$3,475 as those are the marketing and promotional related eligible expenses in their budget. Mayor McKinney stated at the event last year people came from all over the United States and was well attended. This year there will be a parade on Friday night. They are trying to make it better every year. This year will include a celebrity host along with a YouTube sensation as a judge. Additionally, there will be vendors from local businesses at the event.

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner Holmes to approve a hotel/motel tax grant for Elite Striders in the amount of \$3,475. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Fischer, aye; McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

**GENERAL FUND BUDGET MAY 1, 2023 TO APRIL 30, 2024**

A memo (23-DOC-38) was received from Administrator Knabel requesting approval of the General Fund Budget for the current fiscal year running May 1, 2023 -April 30, 2024. He highlighted the following.

Total revenues are down \$562,991 (2.4%). This is largely due to:

- Decrease in ARPA funds (\$1,598,110)
- Increase in grant revenue from COPS grant of \$630,000
- Increase in landfill host fees of \$377,028
- Increase in GEMT ambulance revenues of \$400,000
- Decrease in property tax revenues (234,475)

Total expenses are up \$1,786,897 (7.9%). This is largely due to:

- Addition of 5 police officers under the COPS grant, accounting for \$630,000 of the increase (offset by revenues above)
- Increases in health insurance of \$305,000
- Additions of personnel and contractual and market study salary adjustments of \$830,000

The budget also includes a \$1,500,000 transfer to the capital expenditure fund. The City has made some ground in the aged equipment; however, years of deferred replacements of equipment and facilities ensure there is still a long way to go. That being said, with all the items above taken into consideration, the budget is still balanced (for the second year in a row).

Commissioner Fischer asked how much pensions will go up next year. Administrator Knabel stated about \$400,000. The amount actually went down in police. They will know the actual amount when they do the levy in December. Mayor McKinney stated there was discussions in Springfield regarding pension reform along with the Local Government Distribution Fund (LGDF) that was previously slashed in half. It is trying to be increased again and there is a big pitch from the Mayors to get the amount back to at least 8%. Administrator Knabel stated that he did not include any anticipated extra funds in the budget.

It was moved by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner McDowell to approve the General Fund Budget as presented for Fiscal Year May 1, 2023 -April 30, 2024. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Fischer, aye; McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

**NON-BARGAINING UNIT EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION**

A memo (23-DOC-39) was received from Administrator Knabel requesting approval of wage changes as presented for all non-bargaining unit employees to be effective May, 2023. The effect of these wage changes has been reflected in the budget for the year ending April 30, 2024.

It was moved by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner Holmes to approve the wage changes as presented for all non-bargaining unit employees to be effective May 1, 2023. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Fischer, aye; McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

**DEPARTMENTAL COMMENTARY**

Director Ianson stated they are accepting job applications for a seasonal grass crew. There are currently 3 positions available; a Grass Crew Supervisor (18 or older) and 2 grass cutters (16 or over).

Director Roberts gave an update on the TIF project which includes upgrades to the water mains, sanitary and roads. The contractor has completed 3,000 linear feet of 8-inch water main., and 600 feet of 30-inch storm sewer. They are currently waiting on IEPA to approve the permit for the sanitary which will be next. Along with the extension of Yale Court between Sheridan Road and Colgate. They are hoping to complete this by the end of May.

Chief Stried reminded residents that the City prohibits burning of yard waste as it is not only a safety hazard but a health hazard as well. He referenced the City ordinance and noted that safe campfires are aloud.

Chief Barden reminded residents of the ordinance regarding illegal fireworks. The City recently sent off a mailer indicating the details of the noise and fireworks ordinance. In the past, they have been tracking individuals and issued warnings. This year, there will be no warnings and citations will be issued on the first incident. Mayor McKinney stated if neighbors are setting off fireworks residents can call and report the incident to the non-emergency line. Chief Barden stated they will be putting more police on to help with enforcement. They will also be putting out flyers throughout the City.

Director Conway reminded residents to get their vehicle stickers as the old ones are now expired. The stickers are \$50.00 for two years. If residents are ticketed, they will not only have to pay the \$50 ticket fee but a \$15 penalty fee.

Administrator Knabel commented on the following:

He gave an update on the CIJA funding. Last week a report came out that the notice of funding opportunity as it relates to Zion's portion of the Act. Zion's notice is said to be in the Director's office for signature and should be available in about a week. They will be learning soon how they have to use the funds and what the restrictions there will be as well as how to apply. The deadline to submit the application is June 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Waste Hauling contract was approved and they will be working on the communication pieces to inform residents of the changes by postcard, Blackboard, ZB Quarterly and an insert in water bills. The changes are not due to take effect until September 5 in order to give ample time to notify the public. Commissioner Frierson asked who residents would call if they are eligible for the front street exemption. Administrator Knabel stated they should call direct to Waste Management. The City will post the information on the website.

Commissioner McDowell thanked the public for giving him the opportunity to serve another four years and for serving on the Council as he appreciates every member for the fine work they have been doing in making Zion a place that people want to live. Additionally, he had a conversation this morning with Muriel Adams and she presented her program for people that have been release from incarceration and their families that involves a new twist to it involving community and businesses in understanding the process that takes place when an incarcerated individual returns home.

Commissioner Frierson commented on the following:

- He congratulated the newly elected members of the Council and noted it has been a please to serve with them.
- He got a chance to attend the ribbon cutting for the new mural. He invited the public to come and check out the mural and have some coffee.
- He welcomed Ms. Adams and stated that they will be conducting listening sessions at New Tech High School next week related to a research grant that they have connected with the Healthcare Foundation of Northern Lake County and would like to get in contact with Ms. Adams to discuss more about her approach.

Commissioner Holmes thanked the voters who voted to re-elect her and was glad to see those who exercised their right to vote. She stated it was an honor to be re-elected. She was born and raised in Zion and it is a pleasure to serve with this Council.

Commissioner Fischer also congratulated the newly elected Council members. He feels this Council works well together. Additionally, he noted it was the second year in a row that they have a balanced budget and they have worked hard to get there and hopes it extends beyond the next fiscal year. This solid foundation will allow the City to do more things in the future. He also thanked the staff for their hard work in getting to this point.

Mayor McKinney commented on the following.

- He thanked all those who voted for him.
- He noted that the City has outstanding staff and Commissioners.
- He has gained a lot of knowledge from the Department Heads and could not do this job without them. He appreciates the communication with them and believes they can continue to make progress and strides.

- He appreciates the work that has gone into balancing the budget. Staff gets beat up every day but they continue to care about Zion and the residents.
- He asked residents to give 30 minutes of activity in their neighborhoods.
- The housing market in Zion has changed. Four years ago, 60% of the housing was rentals. Now, 60% is owner occupied. Homes go on the market and are immediately sold. Zion is now a place where people want to live, work and play.
- Five years ago, Starbucks said no on coming to Zion but staff kept pursuing it and now they are here. Real Wheels has moved to Zion from Gurnee and is now occupying a building that has been vacant for 15 years while creating 50 full-time jobs.
- Zion Police Department is now fully staffed with 52 officers. Residents can feel safe on the streets of Zion with the implementation of the Flock license plate readers to help solve crimes.
- He is proud to be the Mayor of Zion, a place where he grew up. He hopes they can continue to make Zion the City they want it to be.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

May 16	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Zion Town Board Meeting Zion City Council Meeting
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May 29		City Offices Closed for Memorial Day
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**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 8:10 p.m. Motion carried.

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City Clerk