

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE ZION CITY COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 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 McDowell, Holmes, Frierson, Fischer and Mayor McKinney. A quorum was present.

Also present: Police Chief Eric Barden, Fire Chief Justin Stried, Finance Director Kris Conway, Building & Zoning Director Richard Ianson, and City Attorney James Vasselli.

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

AGENDA CHANGES

It was motioned by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner Holmes to accept the City Council meeting as presented. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; Fischer, 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.

CONSENT AGENDA

- (a) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** a Regular meeting held on September 19, 2023 at 7:01pm. It was motioned by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Frierson to approve as presented. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; Fischer, aye and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.
- (b) **BILLS:** Vouchers 144202 through 144329 drawn on Huntington National Bank, N.A. Total: \$749,570.02. It was moved by Commissioner Fischer seconded by Commissioner McDowell to approve as presented. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; Fischer, aye and Mayor McKinney, aye .Motion carried.

RESOLUTION/S.A.F.E.R GRANT

A Memo (23-DOC-87) was received from Fire Chief Stried stating that the Fire Rescue Department has been awarded a grant through FEMA's Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency (SAFER) program. The program guidance in this grant cycle offered 100% reimbursement, including salary and all benefits for three years per fire fighter requested. He added that application was made for four (4) positions in order to add one firefighter/paramedic to each shift.

It was moved by Commissioner McDowell and seconded by Commissioner Frierson that a Resolution (23-R-18) be passed for permission to apply to the Lake County Community Development Block Grant Program for sidewalk replacement and installation of ADA ramps at various locations throughout the City. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; Fischer, aye and Mayor McKinney, aye .Motion carried.

ORDINANCE/ZION CS LLC GROUND LEASE

A Memo (23-DOC-88) was received from Administrator Knabel stating that staff has been working with Cenergy Power for a few years towards getting a community solar project on the old landfill site on 17th Street. Attorney Vasselli stated that staff has been working diligently with the State to get approval of their project and have been successful and are now ready to move forward. The City initially granted an option and special use permit with them to keep the site viable and the specific lease was to follow as the next step after State approval. Commissioner Fischer asked if we had a timeline for construction. Attorney Vasselli said no.

It was motioned by Commissioner Fischer and seconded by Commissioner Holmes that an Ordinance (23-O-58) be passed authorizing a Ground Lease between the Zion CS LLC and the City of Zion. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; Fischer, aye and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC VACANCY/FIRE DEPARTMENT

A Memo (23-DOC-89) was received from Fire Chief Stried requesting permission to hire four (4) Firefighter/Paramedics and request the next four (4) qualified candidates from the Fire & Police Commission Eligibility List. He stated that the all names for the hiring list have been released by the Fire & Police Commission at the September 25, 2023.

It was moved by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Holmes to hire four (4) Firefighter/Paramedics and request the names of the next four (4) qualified candidates from the Police & Firefighter Commission Eligibility List. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Fischer, aye; Frierson, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENTAL COMMENTARY

Director Ianson reminded residents of the service pickup changes from the alley to the front of the property and recycling pickup every other week. Schedules are available at City Hall. Seniors who need assistance with taking their cans out to the front of the property can request assistance by contacting the Zion Building Department.

Fire Chief Stried invited the community to the Zion Fire Rescue Open House on Friday October 7th, 2023 from 10am to 1pm. He also encouraged residents to sign up for Blackboard Connect to receive important information through text, email or a phone call.

Police Chief Barden reminded the residents of the Zion Community Meeting scheduled for October 25, 2023 at Zion Benton High School from 6pm to 8pm. He also reminded residents to be courteous of neighbors who may have to park on the street due to sidewalk repairs. These locations have been flagged to not issue parking citations. If you happen to receive one, please contact the Zion Police Department so we can take care of it. He also congratulated Fire Chief Stried on submitting a successful grant application.

Director Conway stated that she had to step away from working on the budget to actuals to work with State Comptroller's office on some issues with audits and filings. She said she will have something to the Council within the next couple of weeks.

Commissioner McDowell thanks BC Eric Troy for his work on writing a successful SAFER grant to secure \$2.1 million dollars for the City. He also invited everyone to the Zion Historical Society's "Walk through Time" on Sunday October 8, 2023 from 1pm to 4pm. Tickets are available at the Shiloh House or on the day of the event.

Commissioner Frierson congratulated Fire Chief Stried on securing the SAFER grant. The ZB Library in partnership with Rosalind Franklin University will host free flu vaccines. The Coalition for Healthy Communities will also conducting their Whole Person Wellness Survey. People who complete the survey will be paid \$20. He also announced that a job fair will be held at the ZB Library on October 18th from 1 – 3pm.

Commissioner Holmes encouraged everyone to come out to the Zion Community meeting. She said that there will be follow-up discussion regarding the potential use of grant funds from CEJA (Clean Energy Jobs Act).

Commissioner Fischer reminded residents that this will be the last year for the leaf vacuum program. The vacuum truck will collect leaves raked to the front easement. Please do not rake the leaves on the street. Waste Management will still pick up leaves that are bagged and branches with regular garbage pickup. Branches must be bundled with twine, no larger than 18 inches around and no longer than 4 feet long. Commissioner Frierson added that residents can call Waste Management to replace their recycling bin with a larger one.

Mayor McKinney reminded the community encouraged the community to attend events announced. He also invited the community to attend Oktoberfest on October 26, 2023 from 5pm to 8pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

October 17	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Zion Township Board Meeting Zion City Council Meeting
October 27	4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Halloween Trail of Treats Shiloh Park
October 29	2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Zion Trick or Treating

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 7:43 p.m. Motion carried.

Recording Secretary