

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

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

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

AGENDA CHANGES

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION/ZION QUEENS

Mayor McKinney introduced Jean Vines and Michelle Peterson, coordinators for the Zion Queens. Ms. Vines shared that the current Queens were just crowned this past September and they will be competing in the Lake County Pageant in November. The Queens were introduced as follows:

1. Little Miss Haley Lopez
2. Junior Miss Chanel Turcios
3. Teen Miss Isabella Massimo
4. Miss Kalinn White
5. Miss Lake County Sidney Pederson

Miss Lake County Sidney Pederson shared her platform regarding pop top collection for the Ronald McDonald House. Mayor McKinney thanked the Queens for what they do in the community and noted the importance of getting involved. Additionally, he wished them luck in the future.

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

Evangelists Steven and Patricia Green shared their recent experience while visiting Zion. They noted they will be leaving Zion but hope to return soon to share their message.

Tariq Naseem, Imam/Missionary of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Zion Chapter commented on the recent Global Conflict.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- (a) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** a Regular Meeting held on October 17, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.; approval but not release of Closed Session Minutes of a meeting held on October 17, 2023 at 8:09 p.m.

The vote on roll call was: Commissioners McDowell, aye; Fischer, 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 144417 through 144626 drawn on Huntington National Bank, N.A. Total: \$2,248,962.18

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

ORDINANCE/INCREASE MONTHLY SALARY FOR TREASURER

A memo (23-DOC-92) was received from Administrator Knabel requesting an increase of the stipend for the treasurer. Administrator Knabel stated the current treasurer stipend is \$2,900 annually (\$242 per month) and he is requesting to increase the stipend to \$1,000 per month. The rate has not increased in almost 20 years, while the duties of the treasurer have significantly increased over that time to add an additional layer of oversight and improve internal controls within the City. This has resulted in an increased time commitment for the role. Additionally, the expectation for the qualifications have expanded to ensure that the individual is knowledgeable of governmental finances and related risks. The treasurer is also responsible for the certification of various governmental documents and reports such as the Treasurer's Report, audited financial statements and TIF audits which created a need for someone experienced in governmental finances. The proposed increase in the stipend is reflective of the services the City has been currently receiving at below market rates. Staff recommends approval of the increase stipend as requested. Commissioner Frierson stated he wanted to extend his appreciation to the current treasurer for providing the service but he would like to propose and increase of \$500 in lieu of \$1,000. There are still only two check runs a month and very few oversights needed. In looking at surrounding communities they are paying for other services of which the City does not have. He would like to be more transparent in reporting, therefore would like to amend the motion to increase the stipend to \$500.00.

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson to amend the motion to increase the monthly salary for the treasurer to \$500.00. The motion died for lack of support for a second.

It was moved by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner Holmes that an Ordinance (23-O-60) be passed Increasing the monthly salary of the Treasurer of the City of Zion to \$1,000. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners McDowell, aye; Fischer, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, nay; and Mayor McKinney aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

ORDINANCE/CITY SURPLUS PROPERTY

Administrator Knabel stated that staff often gets calls asking if items at the ballfield property are for sale. He stated the first step in getting rid of any of the items would be to declare them as surplus property. Commissioner McDowell asked if a value has been put on the items. Administrator Knabel stated if there is a future sale or donation, they would decide that at that time. Mayor McKinney stated there have been parties interested in the lights but discovered it would be too expensive to take them down and transport them.

It was moved by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Holmes, that an Ordinance (23-O-61) be passed declaring various items at the ballfield property as surplus property. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners McDowell, aye; Fischer, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; and Mayor McKinney aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

ORDINANCE/SURPLUS PROPERTY/PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

A memo (23-DOC-93) was received from Director Roberts requesting to declare a vehicle in the Public Works Department as surplus property. Director Roberts stated that the Fleet Maintenance Department has inspected a 2005 Jeep Cherokee and deemed that it is no longer operational because of a security system failure with no parts to repair it available. Staff is recommending and requesting that the 2005 Jeep Cherokee VIN #1J4GR48K45C599812 be declared surplus and be scheduled to be auctioned. The vehicle will be sold "as is" and a minimum bid will be determined by staff and the City Administrator.

It was moved by Commissioner Holmes, seconded by Commissioner McDowell, that an Ordinance (23-O-62) be passed declaring a 2005 Jeep Cherokee VIN #1J4GR48K45C599812 as surplus property. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners McDowell, aye; Fischer, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; and Mayor McKinney aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

APPROVAL/BUDGET AMENEDMENT/ENGINEERING SERVICES/STP GRANT 23RD STREET

A memo (23-DOC-94) was received by Director Roberts requesting approval of an MFT budget amendment and proposal for Design Engineering and STP application submittal. Director Roberts stated that the Lake County Council of Mayors STP Program has announced a call for work for Fiscal Year 2027. This program provides Federal Funding for 80% of the construction engineering and construction costs. The proposed project is the resurfacing of 23rd Street from Lewis Avenue to Sheridan Road. The estimated project cost is \$1,270,324.00. The City's estimated shared cost is \$317,581.00. A budget amendment will be required in the FY24 MFT Fund for \$74,425.00. Staff is requesting approval of the MFT Budget amendment and the proposal for Design Engineering and STP application submittal from Christopher Burke Engineering of Rosemont, IL in the amount of \$74,425.00.

It was moved by Commissioner Holmes and seconded by Commissioner Fischer to approve an MFT Budget amendment and a proposal from Christopher Burke Engineering for Design Engineering and Construction along with STP Grant application submittal for the 23rd Street Resurfacing Project in the amount of \$74,425.00. The vote on the roll: McDowell, aye; Fischer, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; and Mayor McKinney aye. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT/RECORDING SECRETARY/ BOFPC

Mayor McKinney presented Sarah Maciareillo for appointment as the new Recording Secretary for the Board of Fire & Police Commissioners. Sarah has just joined the City of Zion as the Administrative Assistant to Chief Barden and the Communications Coordinator for the City.

It was moved by Commissioner McDowell, and seconded by Commissioner Fischer to approve the appointment of Sarah Maciareillo as the Recording Secretary for the Board of Fire & Police Commissioners. The vote on the roll: McDowell, aye; Fischer, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; and Mayor McKinney aye. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENTAL COMMENTARY

Director Ianson noted it has been two months since the change in garbage service and things seem to be going well. He asked that residents mark their cans with their address and to be sure to bring the cans in once the garbage has been picked up. Mayor McKinney commented that the garbage is staying out of the streets and that the City looks good.

Director Roberts stated Monday started the last leaf vacuuming program. He asked that residents not push the leaf piles into the street. The program will run for four weeks until December 1st. He noted that there have been questions about the continuation of the leaf program. Yard waste will still be picked up in bags or cans from April 1 through November 30. Information regarding yard waste pick up is available on the City website.

Police Chief Barden welcomed Sarah Maciareillo to the City. He stated that she has already proven to be helpful. Additionally, he called for peace. He noted that Zion has sent an officer to Evanston for the riots. He also encouraged citizens if they see something to say something.

Director Conway noted as they roll into tax levy season they will be presenting the Truth in Taxation Resolution at the next meeting. The Public Hearing for the Tax Levy will be held on December 5, 2023 and the Levy Ordinance will be passed at the December 19th meeting.

Administrator Knabel noted that the City of Hope has filed an application to go Tax Exempt. The taxes from the hospital is huge revenue for all the taxing bodies. They will be working hard to contest this as it would be very damaging to the community. The Lake County Board of Review, (18 N, County Street, 10th Floor in Waukegan), will be holding a hearing on November 15, 2023 to make a recommendation to the Illinois Department of Revenue for a final decision. He stated there is a lot of gossip and misinformation out there and he urged people to reach out to the City for correct information or questions.

Commissioner McDowell stated they are in the final process of hiring four Firefighter/Paramedics made possible by a \$2 million Grant for a four-year period. Additionally, he commented on the current Global Conflict.

Mayor McKinney noted that with Veterans Day approaching, there are activities going on throughout the County. He thanked all those who have served to protect the freedoms we often take for granted. Additionally, he thanked First Responders for all they do.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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| November 21 | 6:00 p.m. | Zion Township Board Meeting |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Zion City Council Meeting |
| November 23,24 | | City Offices Closed for the Holiday |
| December 5 | 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 7:51 p.m., pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 "Open Meetings", for the discussion of filed, pending and/or probable or imminent litigation, personnel, purchase or sale of real estate, collective bargaining and legal counsel. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners McDowell, aye; Fischer, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner McDowell to reconvene the Regular Council meeting at 9:04 p.m. with all members present. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners McDowell, aye; Fischer, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, 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 Frierson, seconded by Commissioner McDowell and unanimously approved the meeting be adjourned at 9:05 p.m. Motion carried.

City Clerk