

Mayor McKinney asked for a motion to adjourn sine die. It was moved by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Fischer and unanimously approved the meeting be adjourned (sine die) at 7:05 p.m. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners McDowell, aye; Stackhouse, aye; Fischer, aye; Frierson, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

## **SWEARING-IN CEREMONY FOR CITY OFFICIALS**

Clerk Spooner, administered the oath of office to Christopher Fischer for City Commissioner and Zion Township Trustee, with Mayor McKinney, holding the Bible.

Clerk Spooner, administered the oath of office to Richard Frierson for City Commissioner and Trustee in Zion Township, with Mayor McKinney, holding the Bible.

## **ROLL CALL**

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

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

## **AGENDA CHANGES**

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

## **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

There were no Citizen Comments

## **RESOLUTION/MFT FUNDS/FAU/STP RESURFACING ROAD PROGRAM**

A memo (25-DOC-28) was received from Director Roberts requesting the Council pass a required IDOT resolution for utilization of MFT funds for the Design Engineering and Construction Observation of the Galilee Avenue FAU/STP Resurfacing Road Program. Director Roberts stated services will include the observation of the construction progress, quality of the executed work and determination if the work is proceeding in accordance with the contract documents. Staff requests and recommends approving the IDOT resolution for the expenditure of \$146,500.00 from the MFT Fund. Funding for the project is a budgeted item in the FY26 MFT budget. Commissioner Fischer noted that this will cover a mile and a half of roads.

It was moved by Commissioner Stackhouse and seconded by Commissioner Fischer that a Resolution (25-R-3) be passed approving the Galilee Avenue FAU/STP Resurfacing Road Program for Improvement Under the Illinois Highway Code for the expenditure of \$146,500.00. The vote on the roll: Frierson, aye; Stackhouse, aye; McDowell, aye; Fischer, aye; and Mayor McKinney aye. Motion carried. Resolution passed.

## **ORDINANCE/RENEWAL/ELECTRICAL AGGREGATION PROGRAM**

Mayor McKinney stated at the last meeting Sharon Durling, Illinois Aggregation Consultants, presented the Council with options for the City's Electrical Aggregation program. Currently, the City uses MC Squared Energy Services. It was recommended that the City continue with MC Squared following the ComEd price match for 24 months which will include a Civic Contribution to the City of \$50,000 over the two-year period.

It was moved by Commissioner McDowell and seconded by Commissioner Stackhouse that an Ordinance (25-O-27) be passed authorizing and approving the renewal of an aggregation program for electrical load for the City of Zion and accept the bid of MC Squared Energy Services for a ComEd Price Match option for a 24-month term, receiving a \$25,000 annual civic contribution and authorize entering into a contract with MC Squared Energy Services. The vote on roll call was: The vote on the roll: Frierson, aye; Stackhouse, aye; McDowell, aye; Fischer, aye; and Mayor McKinney aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

## **CONSTRUCTION/ENGINEERING SERVICES/CHRISTOPHER BURKE ENGINEERING/20<sup>TH</sup> STREET STORM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

A memo (25-DOC-29) was received from Director Roberts requesting approval of a proposal for Professional Engineering Services from Christopher Burke Engineering Services. Director Roberts stated the proposal is for the construction observation and engineering services for Phase 1 of the 20<sup>th</sup> Street Storm Improvement Project. Boundaries of Phase 1 are Gideon Avenue from 20<sup>th</sup> Street to the North Limit.

Services will include the observation of the construction progress, quality of the executed work, determination if the work is proceeding in accordance with the contract documents and preparation and submittals of required Grant Funding documents. Additional services include preparing bid documents and bid award recommendations. Construction Observation is composed of two parts:

1. Storm system upgrade – estimated cost \$220,000.00 Grant Funded and reimbursable.
2. Water and Sanitary main replacement – estimated cost \$81,115.00 locally funded.

Staff requests and recommends approving the proposal for Construction Observation and Engineering Services from Christopher Burke Engineering for a cost of \$301,115.00. The service is included as a budgeted item in the FY26 Water Fund.

It was moved by Commissioner Fischer and seconded by Commissioner Stackhouse that an Ordinance (25-O-28) be passed authorizing and approving a proposal for Construction Engineering Services from Christopher Burke Engineering for the 20<sup>th</sup> Street Storm Improvement Project. The vote on the roll: Frierson, aye; Stackhouse, aye; McDowell, aye; Fischer, aye; and Mayor McKinney aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

### **ORDINANCE/IDOT LOCAL PUBLIC AGENCY ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT**

A memo (25-DOC-30) was received from Director Roberts requesting approval of a required IDOT Local Public Agency Engineering Services Agreement. Director Roberts stated the agreement is for the Galilee Avenue FAU/STP Resurfacing Road Program. The agreement is between the City, IDOT, and Burke Engineering for the project construction engineering observation. Services will include the observation of the construction progress, quality of the executed work and determination if the work is proceeding in accordance with the contract documents. Staff requests and recommends approving the agreement with the estimated construction observation costs of \$89,400.00. The cost has been approved to be fully reimbursable under the FAU/STP Program. Funding for the project is a budgeted item in the FY26 MFT Budget.

It was moved by Commissioner Stackhouse and seconded by Commissioner Fischer that an Ordinance (25-O-29) be passed authorizing and approving a Local Public Agency Engineering Agreement for resurfacing Galilee Avenue. The vote on the roll: Frierson, aye; Stackhouse, aye; McDowell, aye; Fischer, aye; and Mayor McKinney aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

### **ORDINANCE/SURPLUS PROPERTY/POLICE DEPARTMENT**

A memo (25-DOC-31) was received from Chief Barden requesting to have a vehicle in the police department be declared as surplus property. Chief Barden stated that Staff has completed some housekeeping and organizational tasks within the police department. They have identified items of surplus equipment which are mainly old, broken, or non-serviceable. A 2018 Ford Interceptor VIN # 1FM5K8AR7JGC17254 has been collected and categorized as surplus due to the cost of repairs to maintain it. Staff will work with public works and Administrator Knabel to set a minimum bid amount if sold, or be disposed of properly. Commissioner Frierson noted that this vehicle is a newer model with less mileage. Chief Barden stated that the transmission went out at 7,000 miles and it was in bad shape.

It was moved by Commissioner McDowell and seconded by Commissioner Stackhouse that an Ordinance (25-O-30) be passed authorizing and approving the disposal of surplus property; a 2018 Ford Interceptor VIN # 1FM5K8AR7JGC17254. The vote on the roll: Frierson, aye; Stackhouse, aye; McDowell, aye; Fischer, aye; and Mayor McKinney aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

### **PROMOTION/FIRE/RESCUE DEPARTMENT**

A memo (25-DOC-32) was received from Chief Stried requesting approval of a Lieutenant promotion in the Fire/Rescue Department. Chief Stried stated that due to the recent retirement of Fire/Rescue Lieutenant Tom Bailey (effective May 3, 2025), he is requesting that approval be given to promote the next eligible Firefighter/Paramedic to Lieutenant, and begin the hiring process for the next eligible candidate from the current eligibility list. The Fire & Police Commission approved and released the next candidate on the Lieutenant eligibility list at their April 25, 2025 Special Meeting, and had previously released all the names from the hiring eligibility list. He is requesting that Firefighter/Paramedic Matthew Henby be promoted to Lieutenant effective May 7, 2025.

It was moved by Commissioner McDowell and seconded by Commissioner Stackhouse to hire one (1) Firefighter/Paramedic and request the name of the next qualified candidate from the Fire & Police Commission Eligibility List and promote the next eligible Firefighter/Paramedic to Lieutenant. The vote on the roll: Frierson, aye; Stackhouse, aye; McDowell, aye; Fischer, aye; and Mayor McKinney aye. Motion carried.

### **DEPARTMENTAL COMMENTARY**

Director Ianson noted that they are still accepting applications for the seasonal grass crew. Grass cutters must be at least 16 years old and the Supervisor must be at least 18 years old. Information is available on the City's website.

Director Roberts noted the following:

- On April 21<sup>st</sup> IDOT went through the bid process for the project on Galilee Avenue. Peter Baker was the lowest bidder and came in \$4,000 below the estimate. This project will be 100% paid for by the State. The City will pay for the construction and observation upfront but will be reimbursed. There will be 1.5 miles of road included from 21<sup>st</sup> Street to 33<sup>rd</sup> Street. He is not sure of a start date, but believes they will be scheduling it for June or July and should take 8-10 weeks to complete.
- IDOT will be resurfacing Route 173 to Hunt Club Road, this is expected to be completed in October.
- This is the season for construction across the State. He asked that citizens pay attention and be aware construction workers as they are driving.

Fire Chief Stried offered recognition of the Chicago Fire Captain David Meyer that lost his life in the line of duty. Additionally, he congratulated Lieutenant Tom Bailey on his retirement after 30 years of service to the Zion Fire Department.

Police Chief Barden reminded citizens of traffic safety as the warm weather approaches. He recently learned of an accident on 9<sup>th</sup> Street and Lorelei involving a motorcycle. He asked that people keep their eyes open and watch out for motorcycles. Additionally, he thanked ESDA for their assistance with the accident. Mayor McKinney noted that it is a County road and is a tough intersection.

Administrator Knabel stated that property tax bills came out and there has been a lot of discussion regarding CEJA funds. He noted that he has done interviews regarding the CEJA funds and did a presentation on his Dollars and Sense segment. The 75% abatement of the taxes will not show up until the 2026 tax bills. He noted the City of Zion portion did go down this year compared to prior years. They would have to reduce their levy by four times to keep up with the schools increases. They cannot do it on their own, it must be a continued effort amongst all the taxing bodies. The progress will be slow to turn the tide. Everyone is a separate taxing body and the City does not have control them and their levies. Mayor McKinney stated they have purposely tried to lead by example by reducing their levy. He noted the most talked about subject in Zion is taxes. They worked hard to make sure that each taxing body would have to abate 75% of the CEJA funds. The taxing bodies must make the decision to lower their levies. The City of Zion and Zion Township were the only two that lowered their levies this year. Residents must ask the schools why they continue to increase their levies.

Administrator Knabel noted that when people talk about tax rates or abatements, they should know it is a 3-part formula. He shared how abatements work and how it is easy to get lost in rate reductions and abatements. The City chose to reduce their levy in lieu of abatements. The CEJA funds were intended to reduce taxes for residents.

Mayor McKinney stated he hears out in the community that the City needs to bring in more business but in reality, the City has brought in more business and named a few.

Administrator Knabel also discussed how new construction can be added to the taxes as well. He noted the only way bringing in new businesses can reduce taxes is if they don't take the tax money generated by business. Typically, taxing bodies grab at the new construction tax money. This must be passed on by all the taxing bodies to make a difference.

Commissioner Frierson wished all the mothers out there a Happy Mother's Day. Additionally, he noted Mama's Run will be May 10<sup>th</sup> at Shiloh Park with check in at 9:00 a.m.

Commissioner Stackhouse thanked everyone that came out to the meeting.

Mayor McKinney thanked those who came out to the meeting. He noted that the City is always available to answer questions. They aim to be as transparent as possible. He wants Zion to be a nice place to work, live and play. They continue to educate the residents on taxes.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

May 20	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Zion Township Board Meeting Zion City Council Meeting
May 24	9:00 a.m.	Elite Striders Event starting at Central Middle School
May 26		City Offices Closed for the Holiday

A resident approached the Council regarding suggestions for the community. He suggested the City research the money to be made from dispensaries. He feels a marijuana tax could help the schools. Additionally, he commented on the erosion of the bike path.

Mayor McKinney stated a few years ago they worked with a company to try and get a medical marijuana dispensary in the City. The State ended up awarding the license to another community and they fought it for years. They created an ordinance that allowed for dispensaries in the City. They will be attending the annual retail conference to continue to try and bring in business. He noted that they have quarterly meetings with the taxing bodies and invite residents for their suggestions and comments.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, it was moved by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Frierson and unanimously approved the meeting be adjourned at 7:50 p.m. Motion carried.

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City Clerk