

**CITY OF BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – CITY HALL
JUNE 20, 2016 – 7:00 PM**

Mayor Eckert called this meeting to order.

Mayor Eckert explained the disaster procedures. Mayor Eckert reminded anyone speaking this evening to step up to a microphone because the meetings are being taped and posted the next day on the website.

Mayor Eckert requested City Clerk Dallas B. Cook to call roll. Members present on roll call: City Clerk Dallas B. Cook, City Treasurer Hardt and City Attorney Hoerner. Aldermen: Joe Hazel, Ken Kinsella, Jane Pusa, Mike Buettner, Kent Randle, Scott Tyler, Johnny Anthony, Raffi Ovian, Phil Silsby, Ed Dintelman, Paul Seibert, Bob White, Trent Galetti and Roger Wigginton.

Members excused on roll call: Phil Elmore and James Musgrove.

ROLL CALL DEPARTMENT HEADS

Roll Call Department Heads: Fire Chief, Tom Pour; Director of Wastewater, Royce Carlisle; Finance Director, Jamie Maitret; City Engineer, Tim Gregowicz; Human Resource Director, Jim Schneider; Director of Library, Leander Spearman; Director of Economic Development, Annissa McCaskill; and Health and Housing Director, Bob Sabo.

Excused: Director of Parks and Recreation, Debbie Belleville; Director of Public Works, Chuck Schaeffer; Police Chief, Bill Clay and Director of Maintenance, Ken Vaughn.

PLEDGE

Mayor Eckert led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING

None. Mayor Eckert advised there will be a special meeting on June 27, 2016 due to 2016 Byrne JAG.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Michael Hagberg

Reminder: the yearly deadline for closing inactive TIFs is quickly approaching. At last year's TIF review meetings, it was mentioned a couple of TIFs should be closed because of inactivity and the deadline was missed.

The agenda has an item on 15C that reads "Ordinance 7964 - an ordinance amending Ordinance 7955". The Opens Meetings Act requires that agendas list items with sufficient information provided to the public about the action before the council makes a vote. With no additional provided in the packet he believes this is a violation of the Opens Meeting Act.

Back in December, Mayor Eckert stated that the taxes on a \$100,000 home would increase by approximately \$8.71. In April, they learned the actual increase is \$70.20. Mayor Eckert then said a substantial amount of this increase was due to the governor's signing into law property tax exemptions for disabled veterans. He submitted a FOIA to the county and received a list of all properties within Belleville that have received disabled veterans exemptions. Having analyzed the data he has calculated the effect of disabled veterans exemption to be \$9.44 of the \$70.20 increase. Mayor Eckert, \$9.44 is not a substantial amount of the property tax increase.

Stewart Lannert

He sees they are going to buy police cars and he thought the object was to buy local. As far as the Shrine project he stated when Belleville wants to do anything i.e. parking spaces they have to get an engineering study or impact study. Did anyone do a study to figure how many people might come to the Shrine (German Munic Beer Hall) styled after Adolph Hilter's beer hall and four of five hotels and restaurants.

He is in favor of firing Chief Clay...he has no flags on the police cars. He feels this is totally un-American and a bad policy. There is a total breakdown of law and order in the city. He has tried to talk to the Mayor and Chief Clay and was totally ignored. He filed a complaint against Chief Clay about eight years ago and in less than four hours Chief Clay personally called and told him he was a liar and trouble maker.

Cars are running the stop sign at 29th and Godfrey all day and night.

Rose Wilson

Adolph Hilter era has nothing to do with the Hofbräuhaus.

Mary Fischer

She stated since she has been back for a visit the city is progressing. She lived in the city 49 years and most of that she has seen under Mayor Eckert. She sees a lot of negative things in the newspaper and we live in a country where everyone can speak their mind. She stated Lindenwood has made a difference; it would have been an empty building with windows broken out, the business next to the duplexes is gone. She thinks the city and the people behind running it are doing the best job she has ever seen.

Mayor Eckert Response to Comments

The city's police cars are advertised to local dealers; however, they are purchased out of town because they have the state bid package which saves the tax payer an enormous amount of money plus the local dealers will not bid.

He will have an answer regarding the veterans disability and because he believes Mr. Hagberg's comments are not on track.

The open house for the police department will be on June 25, 2016 from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm.

PRESENTATIONS, RECOGNITIONS & APPOINTMENTS

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Alderman Kinsella made a motion seconded by Alderman Pusa to approve to accept and file the minutes of June 6, 2016 with corrections to Page 8 (60-6-49 instead of 66-49).

CLAIMS, PAYROLL, AND DISBURSEMENTS

Alderman Wigginton made a motion seconded by Alderman Anthony to accept and pay the claims in the amount of **\$7,676,190.22** and payroll in the amount of **\$1,032,437.27**.

Members voting aye on roll call: Hazel, Kinsella, Pusa, Buettner, Randle, Tyler, Anthony, Ovian, Silsby, Dintelman, Seibert, White, Galetti and Wigginton. (14)

REPORTS

Alderman Ovian made a motion seconded by Alderman Seibert to accept and file the Treasurer Report and Statement of Cash and Investment dated May 2016.

All members voted aye.

ORAL REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Alderman Silsby made a motion seconded by Alderman Seibert to approve the following:

- Purchase of new street sweeper for \$256,666.50 through Buy Board Program
- Low bid of \$210,277 from Reuther Ford for 8 Police SUV's

Discussion...

Alderman Buettner asked regarding the police cars if this is for just the cars and not outfitting them; Mayor Eckert stated it is just for the cars. Alderman Buettner asked the cost; Director of Finance, Jamie Maitret, stated it averages \$38,000 per vehicle.

Alderman Galetti asked if the city is trading in a street sweeper and how many do we have; Mayor Eckert stated the city is not trading in a street sweeper and the city currently owns two one of which is not working.

Members voting aye on roll call: Hazel, Kinsella, Pusa, Buettner, Randle, Tyler, Anthony, Ovian, Silsby, Dintelman, Seibert, White, Galetti and Wigginton. (14)

TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

Alderman White made a motion seconded by Alderman Seibert to approve the following:

- Delete 'one-way' street - West 'E' from Rt. 159 to North 2nd Street
- Create a stop on West 'E' Street at North 1st Street

All members voted aye.

STREETS AND GRADES COMMITTEE

Alderman Seibert made a motion seconded by Alderman to approve the following:

- Ehret in the amount of \$110,997.00 for the 2016 infrastructure program (MFT/TIF Fund)
- Volkert to perform engineering inspection services for the North Illinois Streetscape in the amount of \$50,000.00
- JTC, Petroleum in the amount of \$169,505.00 (MFT/TIF Fund)
- TWM to perform Engineering Services for Lake Shore Drive in amount of \$8,500.00 (TIF 3)

Discussion...

Alderman Galetti asked what JTC, Petroleum is used for; Mayor Eckert stated it is for oil and chip. Mayor Eckert stated this year it is in the East end; Alderman Galetti stated his calls and concerns from residents is they do not want it done. Mayor Eckert stated if anyone has areas with comments to contact Chuck Schaeffer or Mike Parks with the Street Department.

Members voting aye on roll call: Hazel, Kinsella, Pusa, Buettner, Randle, Tyler, Anthony, Ovian, Silsby, Dintelman, Seibert, White, Galetti and Wigginton. (14)

BOARD OF FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSION:

Alderman Seibert made a motion seconded by Alderman Anthony to hire Joel M. Veres, effective 12:01 a.m. on July 11, 2016. Mr. Veres will replace Police Officer Brian Dowdy.

Members voting aye on roll call: Hazel, Kinsella, Pusa, Buettner, Randle, Tyler, Anthony, Ovian, Silsby, Dintelman, Seibert, White, Galetti and Wigginton. (14)

COMMUNICATIONS

Alderman Seibert made a motion seconded by Alderman White to approve the following:

Communication from Peace by Piece request to hold a sidewalk sale. The sale will be from 3rd Street on the West End to Charles Street on the East End. No street closures.

Several families that live on the block of Abend Street between Lincoln Street and Garfield Street are requesting a street closure for a neighborhood yard sale. We request the street be closed on June 25, 2016 between 6am – 6pm.

All members voted aye.

ORDINANCES

City Attorney Hoerner stated the amendment of Ordinance 7955 is simply noting the correct location for the hearing which is consistent with the City Council moving to the Alan Dixon Center at Lindenwood. The Open Meetings Act requires you to provide the general subject matter and 7955 was passed at the last meeting; however, incorrectly included the City Hall address which will be closed.

Alderman Silsby made a motion seconded by Alderman Tyler to read Ordinance 7960-2016, 7963-2016 by title only and as a group.

All members voted aye.

Alderman Silsby made a motion seconded by Alderman Hazel to approve the following ordinances:

ORDINANCE NO. 7960-2016

A ZONING ORDINANCE IN RE CASE #23MAY16 Eric Wuebbels.

ORDINANCE NO. 7963-2016

An ORDINANCE adopting the prevailing wage rate.

Members voting aye on roll call: Hazel, Kinsella, Pusa, Buettner, Randle, Tyler, Anthony, Ovian, Silsby, Dintelman, Seibert, White, Galetti and Wigginton. (14)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Alderman Buettner requested to make comments regarding the June 8, 2016 meeting with Lindenwood; (1) the residents that he has been representing have never said they do not want Lindenwood University here; (2) Lindenwood University moving into the campus at Belleville West is a very good thing and they have done a lot of improvement which has helped the neighborhood; (3) the citizens, however, have concerns and there are some issues that have not been addressed; (4) the meeting on June 8, 2016 did not address the concerns of the residents; (5) when the ordinance and special use permit was passed the meeting was to be a sit down between the Administration of Lindenwood, Administration of the City and residents to air out their concerns.

Alderman Buettner asked the Mayor to schedule a meeting between Lindenwood University Administration, City Administration and invite the residents from West 'A', South 27th, 28th and 29th. They would like the issues addressed prior to the return of the student, in August. Alderman Buettner requested that he and Alderman Pusa be allowed to participate in the quarterly meeting.

Alderman Pusa stated she has asked residents what the issues are and they do not know what she is talking about.

Mayor Eckert stated since the meeting on June 8th he had a meeting with several residents and they admitted they were happy the asphaltting was happening.

Alderman Randle stated the residents that contacted him would like to sit down and have a conversation. It's not about contesting issues.

Mayor Eckert asked the Belleville News-Democrat to print that if anyone from the Lindenwood neighborhood has ongoing concerns to send them to the Mayor's office. Mayor Eckert will personally take them to the quarterly staff meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS & NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Seibert made a motion seconded by Alderman Galetti to approve the Motor Fuel Claims in the Amount of **\$11,777.39.**

Members voting aye on roll call: Hazel, Kinsella, Pusa, Buettner, Randle, Tyler, Anthony, Ovian, Silsby, Dintelman, Seibert, White, Galetti and Wigginton. (14)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Alderman Kinsella made a motion seconded by Alderman Ovian The City Council may go into executive session to discuss:

- Possible property acquisition.

All members voted aye.

Entered executive session at 7:40 p.m.

Resumed from Executive Session at 7:50 p.m.

Alderman Dintelman made a motion seconded by Alderman Silsby to approve purchasing 708 West Monroe and 723 West Monroe for back taxes. Each property is listed at \$779.25 for a total of \$1,558.50 to be paid to the St. Clair County Trustee.

Members voting aye on roll call: Hazel, Kinsella, Pusa, Buettner, Randle, Tyler, Anthony, Ovian, Silsby, Dintelman, Seibert, White, Galetti and Wigginton. (14)

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Wigginton made a motion seconded by Alderman Galetti to adjourn at 7:53 pm.

All members voted aye.



Dallas B. Cook, City Clerk