

Fairfield, Illinois
Council Chambers, City Hall
Regular Meeting, 6:00 P.M.
Tuesday, August 24, 2021

Meeting called to order by Mayor Mike Dreith at 6:00 P.M.

Prayer led by Ken Otey followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

City Clerk Tina Hutchcraft called the roll:

Mayor: Mike Dreith

City Clerk: Tina Hutchcraft

City Attorney: Darrin Rice

Aldermen: Dewey Eckleberry; Brett Coale; Clifford Reeve; Tyler Lampley; Eugene McGill;
Jerry Lisenbee; Terry Stahl; Gary Moore

Also Present: Ken Otey, WFIW Radio; David Mills, Wayne County Press; Dian Downs; Keith Colclasure, Assistant Police Chief; Richie Fulkerson, Police Chief; Andrew Miller, Fire Chief; Josh Boyd, Water Filtration; Kevin Leonard, Water Distribution; D.E. Young, Garage Department; Claire Vaughan; and other citizens from the community.

The minutes of the meeting of August 10, 2021, agendas and bills of August 24, 2021 were sent out to those entitled to receive them. Mayor Dreith asked for approval of the minutes for the August 10, 2021 meeting. Motion by Alderman McGill, seconded by Alderman Stahl to approve the minutes of the meeting of August 10, 2021.

Vote yes: Stahl; Coale; Eckleberry; Lampley; Lisenbee; McGill; Moore; Reeve

Vote no: none

Mayor Dreith declared motion carried.

Mayor Dreith asked if there were any corrections or objections to the bills for the August 24, 2021 meeting. Motion by Alderman Eckleberry, seconded by Alderman Reeve to approve the bills and drafts be drawn on the several funds for their respective amounts.

Vote yes: Coale; Eckleberry; Lampley; Lisenbee; McGill; Moore; Reeve; Stahl

Vote no: none

Mayor Dreith declared motion carried.

Public Comments – Glen Ellis, Charles Vanway, Jason Mason, Mark Talbert, Jackie Beck, and Lisa Muth all addressed the Council expressing their opposition to an ordinance that would allow Sunday liquor sales in Fairfield. Mayor Dreith also read a letter from the congregation and administrative board of the Fairfield Ellen Moore United Methodist Church wishing to register its absolute opposition to Sunday sales of alcohol in the City of Fairfield and against video gaming.

City Website Roll-out – Claire Vaughan with RJ Marketing gave a presentation to the Council unveiling the new website she has created for the City. The new website went live after the presentation was completed.

Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of the Economic Development & Chamber of Commerce Coordinator and Approving the Intergovernmental Agreement – Mayor Dreith stated interviews had been conducted and the committee has selected an individual to serve as the Economic Development & Chamber of Commerce Coordinator. Mayor Dreith would like to appoint Libby Lingafelter to that position. The Intergovernmental Agreement between the City, the County, and the Chamber of Commerce outlines the financial agreement for funding this position. It is a two year agreement. A motion was made by Alderman Coale, seconded by Alderman Stahl to approve the Resolution authorizing this appointment and the Intergovernmental Agreement.

Vote yes: Eckleberry; Lampley; Lisenbee; McGill; Moore; Reeve; Stahl; Coale

Vote no: none

Mayor Dreith declared motion carried and Resolution No. 21-0824-413 approved and duly adopted.

Highland Avenue Property – The City owns property on Highland Avenue and we have been meeting with two tenants that currently occupy the property about the possibility of them purchasing the property. Since that time they have had conversations with the Industrial Trust and the Trust is willing to take the property back allowing the City to recoup some of the expenses we have incurred as a result of owning the building. The City would agree to pay the 2020 property taxes and the prorated 2021 taxes and the Trust would give the City \$20,000. We would convey the property back to the Industrial Trust and the Trust will continue negotiations with the two tenants and eventually sell the property to them. A motion was made by Alderman Moore, seconded by Alderman Eckleberry to sell the Highland Avenue property back to the Industrial Trust in the amount of \$20,000.

Vote yes: Lampley; Lisenbee; McGill; Moore; Reeve; Stahl; Coale; Eckleberry

Vote no: none

Mayor Dreith declared motion carried.

Authorize the Sale of Property along NW 7th Street and Water Street – Attorney Rice stated the City owns property on the corner of NW 7th Street and Water Street that the City no longer needs. A motion was made by Alderman Moore, seconded by Alderman Eckleberry to authorize the sale of this property and to direct the City Attorney to begin the process.

Vote yes: Lisenbee; McGill; Moore; Reeve; Stahl; Coale; Eckleberry

Vote no: none

Abstain: Lampley

Mayor Dreith declared motion carried.

Authorize the Sale of Property along Rt. 45 South – The City owns property along Rt. 45 South. A house sits on this property. This property was previously purchased by the City as an access to industrial property the City owns in that area. The Council no longer feels we need this property. A motion was made by Alderman Coale, seconded by Alderman Reeve to authorize the sale of this property and to direct the City Attorney to begin the process.

Vote yes: McGill; Moore; Reeve; Stahl; Coale; Eckleberry; Lampley; Lisenbee

Vote no: none

Mayor Dreith declared motion carried.

Ordinance Granting an Easement to Homer & Kristina Gardner – The Gardner's purchased property directly south of the Fire Department. They have discovered the previous owners had constructed a building and part of the building is actually on city property. Attorney Rice suggested that it would be easier to grant a 17' easement to the Gardner's rather than going through the process of selling it to them. This will allow them the right to continue to use the property. The Fire Chief stated this will not interfere with his department at all. A motion was made by Alderman Lampley, seconded by Alderman McGill to approve the ordinance to grant an easement to Homer and Kristina Gardner.

Vote yes: Moore; Reeve; Stahl; Coale; Eckleberry; Lampley; Lisenbee; McGill

Vote no: none

Mayor Dreith declared motion carried and Ordinance No. 21-0824-262 approved and duly adopted.

Update on Condemnation Proceedings of Properties – Mayor Dreith told the Council that we have been contacted by the contractor and the owner of the property located at 1411 West Main. The needed work on this property is scheduled to begin next week. Another property owner has submitted plans to bring his commercial property on the east highway into compliance. Chief Fulkerson suggested we give them 90 days in order for them to get the work done before we proceed with any further action. The process has also begun on a fire damaged property within the city. A hearing on this property is scheduled for Wednesday.

Albion Radio Communications/Maintenance Agreement – A maintenance agreement with Ray Conley of Albion Radio Communications for non-directional beacon maintenance at the Airport needs to be approved. The maintenance fee has increased from \$81.50 to \$97.80 and it was noted there has not been an increase in over 12 years. A motion was made by Alderman Lampley, seconded by Alderman Eckleberry to approve this agreement.

Vote yes: Reeve; Stahl; Coale; Eckleberry; Lampley; Lisenbee; McGill; Moore

Vote no: none

Mayor Dreith declared motion carried.

Ordinance Removing the Prohibition Against Sunday Liquor Sales and Setting the Hours of Operation and Increasing Video Game License Fees for Class C Licenses – Alderman Moore clarified that currently holders of a Class C and Class D liquor license are already able to sell alcohol on Sundays and can have video gaming. This new ordinance will allow the package stores to sell on Sundays as well. This would include Walmart, JJ's, Midway, and Midtown. He stated that most of the area towns are already allowing Sunday sales and the Legislative Committee is recommending this ordinance be approved. Alderman Lampley pointed out the new ordinance states that the hours for all retail liquor license holders would be Monday through Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. and Sunday sales would be 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. This is much more restrictive than the previous hours which allowed sales for Class C and D to sell between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 a.m. The new ordinance also creates a Class V license for those holding a Class C license that also wants to have video gaming. The fee for a Class C

license will be \$500 and if they want the additional Class V license they will pay an additional \$2,500. Many members of the audience spoke out disagreeing with the Sunday sales. Mayor Dreith reminded the audience members that the time for public comments were closed. A motion was made by Alderman Stahl, seconded by Alderman Moore to approve the ordinance amending the liquor code to allow Sunday liquor sales and create a Class V license.

Vote yes: Stahl; Coale; Lampley; Lisenbee; Moore; Reeve

Vote no: Eckleberry; McGill

Mayor Dreith declared motion carried and Ordinance No. 21-0824-263 approved and duly adopted.

Authorize the Sale of Police Vehicles – We received bids from five different bidders for the sale of three police department vehicles. The high bidder for the 2003 Crown Vic (Vin 160874) was from Tyler Koontz in the amount of \$1,050.00. The high bidder for the 2005 Crown Vic (Vin 156763) was from Ron Parsley in the amount of \$1,300.00. Ron Parsley was also the high bidder for the 2005 Crown Vic (Vin 156771) in the amount of \$1,700.00. A motion was made by Alderman Eckleberry, seconded by Alderman McGill to award the bids for the sale of these three vehicles to the highest bidders.

Vote yes: Coale; Eckleberry; Lampley; Lisenbee; McGill; Moore; Reeve; Stahl

Vote no: none

Mayor Dreith declared motion carried.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Dreith reported that he has asked for an appointment with Congresswoman Mary Miller to discuss Lakeside, in an effort to get the lake restored. Rides Mass Transit has secured a grant and they plan to construct a new area headquarters for their operations in Wayne County. Mayor Dreith has showed them properties in town that might work for their construction project. There will be a ground-breaking on Friday at 11:00 a.m. for the new T-Mobile building. The full Mayor's report is attached.

Miscellaneous – Alderman Moore asked about the status of the condemnation proceedings on the Walker Street property. Attorney Rice stated it is in court awaiting final judgement.

Executive Session – Alderman Eckleberry made a motion, seconded by Alderman Stahl to go into Executive Session to discuss Section 2(c)(21) – discuss minutes of closed session meetings; Section 2(c)(1) – the appointment, employment, compensation, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body; Section 2(c)(23) – contracts relating to the purchase, sale, or delivery of electricity or natural gas; and Section 2(c)(6) – the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body.

Vote yes: Eckleberry; Lampley; Lisenbee; McGill; Moore; Reeve; Stahl; Coale

Vote no: none

Mayor Dreith declared motion carried.

Return to Regular Session – Alderman McGill made a motion, seconded by Alderman Eckleberry to return to regular session.

Vote yes: Eckleberry; Coale; Reeve; Lampley; McGill; Lisenbee; Stahl; Moore

Vote no: none

Mayor Dreith declared motion carried and Council returned to regular session at 7:40 p.m.

Adjourn Meeting – Motion by Alderman McGill, seconded by Alderman Moore to adjourn the meeting.

Vote yes: 8

Vote no: 0

Mayor Dreith declared meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Tina Hutchcraft, City Clerk

Mike Dreith, Mayor