

Fairfield, Illinois
Council Chambers, City Hall
Regular Meeting, 6:00 P.M.
Tuesday, February 9, 2021

The City Council meeting was held with in-person attendance and others joined the meeting via phone conference.

Meeting called to order by Acting Mayor Moore at 6:00 P.M.

Prayer led by Alderman Ralph Barbre followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Clerk Tina Hutchcraft called the roll:

Acting Mayor: Gary Moore
City Clerk: Tina Hutchcraft
City Attorney: Darrin Rice
Aldermen: Ralph Barbre; Brett Coale; Jim Griffith; Tyler Lampley; Eugene McGill; Jerry Lisenbee; Terry Stahl

Also Present: Ken Otey, WFIW Radio; David Mills, Wayne County Press; Keith Colclasure, Police Chief; Tyler Lashbrook, Electric Department; Josh Boyd, Water Filtration; DuWayne Nobles, Gas Department; Flo Simpson; Kayla Warren; Dian Downs; and other citizens from the community.

The minutes of the meeting of January 26, 2021, agendas and bills of February 9, 2021 were sent out to those entitled to receive them. Acting Mayor Moore asked for approval of the minutes for the January 26, 2021 meeting. Motion by Alderman Griffith, seconded by Alderman McGill to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 26, 2021.

Vote yes: Coale; Griffith; Lampley; Lisenbee; McGill; Moore; Stahl; Barbre

Vote no: none

Acting Mayor Moore declared motion carried.

Acting Mayor Moore asked for approval to pay the bills for the February 9, 2021 meeting. A motion was made by Alderman Barbre, seconded by Alderman Coale to approve the bills for payment.

Vote yes: Griffith; Lampley; Lisenbee; McGill; Moore; Stahl; Barbre; Coale

Vote no: none

Acting Mayor Moore declared motion carried.

IPEA Gas Contract – Mike Genin and Sean McCarthy, IMEA/IPEA Representatives, addressed the Council concerning our gas contract. At the last Council meeting Darin Houchin, representative with UGM, pointed out problems he sees concerning our contract for gas purchases with IPEA and told the Council how he believes his company could save the city money. Mr. Genin told the Council to use caution when considering the savings UGM has promised. He doesn't feel the city would see the amount of savings that was presented at the last

Council meeting if we were to change gas providers. Our contract with the IPEA expires in 2024. When IPEA looked for gas providers they decided Constellation was the best choice. They did not go with UGM for many reasons. UGM doesn't have the depth because they are such a small company. However, Mr. Genin stated that the City of Fairfield has a representative on their board (Alderman Lampley) and if the City wants IMEA to consider UGM when they evaluate the next time they will.

Request for Additional Package Store License – Lekhraj Ahuja with Ahuja Brothers and Liquors Inc. addressed the Council and stated he would like to locate a package store here in Fairfield. He currently has stores in Flora, Olney, Sesser, Carbondale, and Centralia. He would like to be able to have a drive-through as well as video gaming. He stated he would hire six employees, four full-time and two part-time. Our current liquor ordinance only allows two licenses for package stores and prohibits drive-through. Mayor Moore asked if there was support for additional licenses for package stores before asking the attorney to draft an ordinance. Alderman Barbre and Alderman Griffith both stated they were against having a “straw poll vote” and Mayor Moore assured them that he would not ask for one again. Alderman Stahl thought we might want to just make the number of licenses unlimited so we wouldn't have to keep coming back to change the ordinance if more requests were made. Alderman Lampley said he would not be opposed to changing the ordinance to allow more package stores and drive-throughs but is opposed to allowing video gaming. There seemed to be support from other aldermen to change the ordinance to allow 3 or 4 package store licenses and allowing drive-through but were also opposed to the gaming request. Mayor Moore instructed the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance for the next Council meeting to make the necessary amendments to the liquor code. This ordinance will be presented at the next Council meeting.

Ordinance Amending the Liquor Code – At the last Council meeting there was a request to change the liquor ordinance to amend the hours of operation for a Class C and Class D license holders to 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. A motion was made by Alderman Lampley, seconded by Alderman Coale to approve the ordinance to amend the liquor code.

Vote yes: Lampley; Lisenbee; McGill; Moore; Barbre; Coale

Vote no: Stahl; Griffith

Acting Mayor Moore declared motion carried and Ordinance No. 21-0209-244 approved and duly adopted.

Miscellaneous – Mayor Moore reminded everyone that the City is still seeking bids for the sale of a 1986 Chevy pick-up. Bids must be turned in to the City Clerk's office by Thursday, February 18th at 10:00 a.m.

Miscellaneous – Ken Otey with WFIW Radio and Mayor Moore thanked the City departments that have worked to clear the snow from our streets and sidewalks.

Miscellaneous – Alderman Lampley said he has had people reach out to him and they would like to see the city create a license just for video gaming such as a parlor license. Mayor Moore was not opposed to this suggestion.

Executive Session – Alderman McGill made a motion, seconded by Alderman Coale to go into Executive Session to discuss Section 2(c)(21) – minutes of closed session meetings and Section 2(c)(23) – contracts relating to the purchase, sale or delivery of electricity of natural gas.

Vote yes: Lisenbee; McGill; Moore; Stahl; Barbre; Coale; Griffith; Lampley

Vote no: none

Acting Mayor Moore declared motion carried.

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

Vote yes: Barbre; Coale; Griffith; Lampley; Lisenbee; Moore; McGill; Stahl

Vote no: none

Alderman Lampley declared motion carried and Council returned to regular session at 8:56 p.m.

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

Vote yes: 8

Vote no: 0

Alderman Moore declared meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Tina Hutchcraft, City Clerk

Gary Moore, Acting Mayor