

Fairfield, Illinois
Council Chambers, City Hall
Regular Meeting, 6:00 P.M.
Tuesday, March 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; Andrew Miller, Fire Chief; Tyler Lashbrook, Electric Department; D.E. Young, Garage Department; Kevin Leonard, Water Distribution; Travis Williams, Airport; Dian Downs; Kayla Warren; DiElle Rogers; Flo Simpson; and other citizens from the community.

The minutes of the meeting of February 23, 2021, agendas and bills of March 9, 2021 were sent out to those entitled to receive them. Acting Mayor Moore asked for approval of the minutes for the February 23, 2021 meeting. Motion by Alderman McGill, seconded by Alderman Stahl to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 23, 2021.

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

Vote no: none

Acting Mayor Moore declared motion carried.

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

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

Vote no: none

Acting Mayor Moore declared motion carried.

Public Comments – Sandra Clark addressed the Council concerning the service agreement with Wayne-White. She urged the Council to table the vote until after the new mayor and City Council are elected and seated. It also needs to be tabled until the people of Fairfield can have more information and answers regarding this agreement. She also felt the readings of the electric meters should be sent to city hall for billing and collections instead of the work being done through Wayne-White. She feels there is a conflict with Acting Mayor Moore being an

employee of Wayne-White even though it has been stated that he has not been involved with the meetings concerning the agreement. She feels an Acting Mayor should only take care of the day-to-day city business and shouldn't have authority to implement major changes or procedures.

Public Comments – Ed Prince asked the Council if Wayne-White would pay for the purchase and installation of the automatic meters. He also asked if residents would go to Wayne-White to pay their electric bill. Alderman Lampley stated that bills would be paid at Wayne-White and the City of Fairfield would still own our electric system. The City would be paying for the purchase and installation of the automatic read meters.

Resolution to Appropriate MFT/Rebuild Illinois Funds for Street Project – Acting Mayor Moore stated this resolution needs to be approved in order to use the Rebuild Illinois Funds for the street project on Kincaid Drive. A motion was made by Alderman Lisenbee, seconded by Alderman Stahl to approve the resolution to appropriate \$160,000 from the Rebuild Illinois Funds for the Kincaid Drive street project.

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

Vote no: none

Acting Mayor Moore declared motion carried and Resolution No. 21-0309-371 approved and duly adopted.

Discussion and/or Approval of an Ordinance to Enter into a Service Agreement with Wayne-White Electric Coop – Mayor Moore stated that he was going to step away from the table during the discussion of this topic so there will be no conflict of interest. Alderman Lampley addressed the Council concerning the proposed Service Agreement with Wayne-White. He stated the discussions concerning our problems with our electrical system began around two years ago, even before Acting Mayor Moore was elected to the Council. The City had been looking at different alternatives for our electric system because we knew that our system was in such bad shape. Alderman Lampley, Mayor Maguire, and Tyler Lashbrook met with IMEA to see what help they could offer us and their suggestion was that we would need to raise our rates significantly, hire more people and pay them more. After the City experienced our major power outage we reached out to Wayne-White Electric Coop to see if they could offer us any assistance. Lampley, Maguire and representatives with Wayne-White then met with IMEA and they did not have a problem with a service agreement with Wayne-White. We have a contract with IMEA until 2035 and we will continue to purchase power through them and we would still own our system. The city would still be setting the rates. AMI meters will be installed and Wayne-White will be doing the billing and collections for our electric. We do not have the software required for the AMI meters but Wayne-White does. The software is very expensive so it just makes sense to have them do the billing and collecting.

The service agreement is contingent upon Hoosier buying our 138 kv line and our 69 kv line. We still owe a significant amount of money for the 138 kv line because we have been making interest only payments for a long time. Hoosier plans to put the line into the MISO program and they can recoup a portion of the cost of the line. Residents may think this agreement has come about quickly but there have been many hours of research and there have been discussions on this topic for a long time. This would be a ten-year agreement and we have the ability at the end

of the agreement to take over the day-to-day operations at that time if we want to. At this time we simply do not have the equipment or the man power to do what needs to be done. We recently had an independent electric study done by BHMG and they outlined the work that is needed to be done on our electric system. Their estimate to get our system where it needs to be would cost between \$7 to \$10 million and much of that work would have to be contracted out.

Attorney Rice addressed the Council concerning the Ordinance and the proposed agreement. The initial term would commence on April 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. The secondary term would commence January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2031. He mentioned there has been a few changes to Exhibit D (the service agreement). IMEA had suggested some language be added in and both Attorney Rice and Wayne-White's attorney agree that language could be put in the agreement. The new language makes it clear that the city will still be buying our power through IMEA, not Wayne-White or Hoosier. Also, language concerning prevailing wage, civil rights policies, etc. has been added. If this ordinance is approved Attorney Rice stated Exhibit D that was sent in the ordinance, which is the service agreement, needs to be changed out with Exhibit D reflecting the new added language. He also stated that if this is approved, the ordinance has a provision in it that states Alderman Lampley will be acting as Mayor Pro-tem for the purposes of signing the ordinance and any associated agreements because of the conflict Acting Mayor Moore has regarding his employment with Wayne-White.

Alderman Lisenbee made a motion to approve the Ordinance to enter into a Service Agreement with Wayne-White with the new language added to Exhibit D and granting authority for Alderman Lampley being appointed as Mayor Pro-tem to act as a signatory for the Ordinance and associated agreements. This motion was seconded by Alderman Stahl.

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

Vote no: none

Abstain: Moore

City Clerk Tina Hutchcraft declared motion carried and Ordinance No. 21-0309-247 approved and duly adopted.

Miscellaneous – Mayor Moore told the Council that the Water Filtration Plant is experiencing problems with the radios that communicate with the water towers. At the current time that system is down. Kevin Leonard and Josh Boyd are getting pricing together for the needed equipment and this will be brought back to Council for discussion.

Miscellaneous – Alderman Lampley thanked the Electric Department and staff at City Hall for providing information over the last few years in order to help make the service agreement with Wayne-White possible. He stated there was many hours and a lot of hard work put into this. Alderman Coale thanked Alderman Lampley for doing all the work he did on this project.

Miscellaneous – Utility customers were asked to sign up for email billing in order to be included in a drawing. The first prize winner was Christopher Jones and he will receive \$300 to be put toward his utility bill. The second prize winner was Anita Vogel and she will receive a \$200 gift certificate.

Miscellaneous – Mayor Moore reminded everyone that we are still seeking bids for the sale of a 1986 Chevy C-10 pick-up truck. Sealed bids need to be submitted to the City Clerk’s office.

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

Vote yes: 8

Vote no: 0

Alderman Moore declared meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Tina Hutchcraft, City Clerk

Gary Moore, Acting Mayor