

Fairfield, Illinois
Council Chambers, City Hall
Regular Meeting, 6:00 P.M.
Tuesday, December 14, 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; Richie Fulkerson, Police Chief; Keith Colclasure, Assistant Fire Chief; Andrew Miller, Fire Chief; Kevin Leonard, Water Distribution; Kayla Warren; Dian Downs; DuWayne Nobles, Gas Department; D.E. Young, Garage Department; Flo Simpson; and other citizens from the community.

The minutes of the meeting of November 23, 2021, agendas and bills of December 14, 2021 were sent out to those entitled to receive them. Mayor Dreith asked for approval of the minutes for the November 23, 2021 meeting. Motion by Alderman Lampley, seconded by Alderman McGill to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 23, 2021.

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

Vote no: none

Mayor Dreith declared motion carried.

Mayor Dreith asked if there were any corrections or objections to the bills for the December 14, 2021 meeting. Motion by Alderman Eckleberry, seconded by Alderman Stahl to approve the bills and drafts be drawn on the several funds for their respective amounts.

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

Vote no: none

Mayor Dreith declared motion carried.

Public Comments – Andrew Gifford updated the Council about his progress with his hotel project. He stated that he had completed the purchase of the old Peoples Bank building. Demolition and construction have begun.

Public Comments – Sheryl Eckleberry addressed the Council about the monthly bulk trash pick-up. She said the day after the bulk pick-up people living across the street from her put out a couch and two mattresses that will now have to be out by the street for a whole month before the next scheduled pick-up day. Mayor Dreith asked her to call City Hall and this matter will be taken care of.

Ordinance No. 21-1214-272/Tax Levy - The tax levy for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2022 was presented to the Council. This ordinance is for levying the general taxes for the City of Fairfield. The amount of the levy is \$862,375.00. This amount is a 4.97% increase over last year's levy. We will be putting this money into the police pension fund and the general fund. A motion was made by Alderman Lampley, seconded by Alderman Moore to approve Ordinance No. 21-1214-272 being the Fairfield Tax Levy Ordinance.

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

Vote no: Lisenbee

Mayor Dreith declared motion carried and Ordinance No. 21-1214-272 approved and adopted.

Ordinance – TIF Redevelopment Agreement with the IECC – The TIF Committee met to discuss the Senior Citizen's Center. They would like Council to approve a TIF Redevelopment agreement with the IECC in the amount of \$230,000 to go toward the construction of a new Senior Citizen's Center. A motion was made by Alderman Coale, seconded by Alderman Stahl to approve this ordinance.

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

Vote no: none

Mayor Dreith declared motion carried and Ordinance No. 21-1214-273 approved and adopted.

Award the Bid for the Sale of the 1988 Ford F-350 – Two bids were received for the sale of this vehicle. Bart Colclasure submitted a bid in the amount of \$350.00 and Brad Young submitted a bid in the amount of \$601.01. A motion was made by Alderman Lampley, seconded by Alderman Coale to award the bid to Brad Young in the amount of \$601.01.

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

Vote no: none

Mayor Dreith declared motion carried.

Approve the Sale of Electric Department Vehicles and Equipment – An outside agency agreed to by both Wayne-White and the City was brought in to assess the value of electric department vehicles and equipment. The following is a list of vehicles and equipment Wayne-White would like to purchase: 2005 International Digger Truck; 2010 Ford Bucket Truck; 2016 Freightliner Bucket Truck; 2005 Reel Trailer; and a Altec Backyard Machine. They have offered to purchase this equipment for \$189,000 and would like to take over the lease for the Altec Backyard Machine. A motion was made by Alderman Lampley, seconded by Alderman Eckleberry to approve the sale of the Electric Department vehicles and equipment to Wayne-White Electric.

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

Vote no: none

Abstain: Moore

Mayor Dreith declared motion carried.

Approve the Sale of 2004 International Bucket Truck – Mt. Carmel Public Utility Co. would like to purchase this vehicle in the amount of \$95,000. A motion was made by Alderman Eckleberry, seconded by Alderman McGill to approve this sale.

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

Vote no: none

Mayor Dreith declared motion carried.

Approval to Sell Diesel Fuel – The Power Plant had diesel fuel stored to be able to run three turbines. Since the plant has been shut down the City has no need for this fuel. Alderman Lampley reported that John and Tilman Adams will purchase the fuel for \$.25 per gallon. They will have a transport company to take the fuel and they will be taking it from the top of the tank. A motion was made by Alderman Stahl, seconded by Alderman Lampley to approve the sale of this fuel.

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

Vote no: none

Mayor Dreith declared motion carried.

Natural Gas Management Agreement – The price of natural gas is extremely volatile and the prices are constantly going up and down. Mayor Dreith feels we need to find someone to give us recommendations on hedging natural gas purchases. We currently have an agreement with the IPEA for gas purchases but they have not been very helpful concerning this matter. We have a contract with them until 2024. Utility Gas Management addressed the Council at a previous meeting and they are prepared to advise us on hedging natural gas purchases for free for the next two years with the understanding that we would do a one-year contract with them after the contract with the IPEA has expired in 2024. If this agreement is approved, Mayor Dreith will let the IPEA know about our decision. A motion was made by Alderman Lampley, seconded by Alderman Coale to approve the Natural Gas Management Agreement with Utility Gas Management and to notify the IPEA of the decision.

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

Vote no: none

Mayor Dreith declared motion carried.

Condemnation Proceedings of Property – We had two properties on the agenda but the Mayor will be meeting with one of the property owners tomorrow to set several benchmarks in place and if they aren't adhered to we will go forward with condemnation proceedings on that property. Tonight Mayor Dreith is asking Council approval to move forward with condemnation proceedings on the old Vaughan Food Store at 712 E. Main Street. Alderman Lampley made a motion, seconded by Alderman Reeve to authorize Attorney Rice to begin condemnation proceedings on property at 712 E. Main Street.

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

Vote no: none

Mayor Dreith declared motion carried.

December 28th City Council Meeting – The Council discussed the possibility of cancelling the meeting for December 28. Alderman Moore asked about the possibility of only having one meeting each month instead of two. Attorney Rice said many communities only have one meeting a month. If we wanted to just have one meeting, he would need to prepare an ordinance to change it in our code. Alderman Moore would like the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance to change the number of meetings per month to one instead of two so this can be considered at the next Council meeting. A motion was made by Alderman Lampley, seconded by Alderman McGill to cancel the meeting for December 28th and to have the City Treasurer pay invoices that are due.

Vote yes: Lisenbee; McGill; Moore; Reeve; Stahl; Coale; Eckleberry; Lampley
Vote no: none
Mayor Dreith declared motion carried.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Dreith told the Council that Libby reports the application for the Rebuild Downtown and Main Street Capital Grant was completed last week. He also reported that the owner of the Briarwood Hotel has fallen a year behind in his hotel/motel taxes to the city. Legal Counsel has directed him to appear at City Hall on December 17th with his records. The full Mayor's report is attached.

Executive Session – Alderman Lampley 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)(6) – the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body; and Section 2(c)(5) – the purchase or lease of real property for use of the public body.
Vote yes: McGill; Moore; Reeve; Stahl; Coale; Eckleberry; Lampley; Lisenbee
Vote no: none
Mayor Dreith declared motion carried.

Return to Regular Session – Alderman Lampley made a motion, seconded by Alderman Coale 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 7:25 p.m.

Resolution No. 21-1214-421/Release of Executive Session Minutes – City Attorney Rice reviewed the minutes of the Executive Session meetings. His recommendation to Council was to keep all minutes closed at this time. Alderman Reeve made a motion, seconded by Alderman Lampley to approve Resolution No. 21-1214-421 regarding the release of executive session minutes.
Vote yes: Moore; Reeve; Stahl; Coale; Eckleberry; Lampley; Lisenbee; McGill
Vote no: none
Mayor Dreith declared motion carried and Resolution No. 21-1214-421 approved and adopted.

Resolution No. 21-1214-422/Authorizing Destruction of Recordings – Alderman McGill made a motion, seconded by Alderman Eckleberry to approve Resolution No. 21-1214-422 authorizing the destruction of audio recordings for closed session meetings.
Vote yes: Reeve; Stahl; Coale; Eckleberry; Lampley; Lisenbee; McGill; Moore
Vote no: none
Mayor Dreith declared motion carried and Resolution No. 21-1214-422 approved and adopted.

Ordinance Authorizing the Purchase of Property – Mayor Dreith spoke about the acquisition of approximately 1.5 acres of property at the end of NW 5th Street that used to be Ballard's Lot #3. This would be a tax purchase of about \$18,000 and forgiveness of about \$28,000 in past utility bills. A motion was made by Alderman Reeve, seconded by Alderman Lampley to approve the ordinance authorizing the purchase of property.
Vote yes: Stahl; Coale; Eckleberry; Lampley; Lisenbee; McGill; Reeve

Vote no: none

Present: Moore

Mayor Dreith declared motion carried and Ordinance No. 21-1214-274 approved and adopted.

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

Vote yes: 8

Vote no: 0

Mayor Dreith declared meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Tina Hutchcraft, City Clerk

Mike Dreith, Mayor