

Fairfield, Illinois
Council Chambers, City Hall
Regular Meeting, 6:00 P.M.
Tuesday, January 25, 2022

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

Prayer led by Mayor Dreith followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Deputy Clerk Dian Downs called the roll:

Mayor: Mike Dreith

Deputy Clerk: Dian Downs

City Attorney: Darrin Rice

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

Absent: City Clerk Tina Hutchcraft

Also Present: Ken Otey, WFIW Radio; Tom Mathews, Wayne County Press; Richie Fulkerson, Police Chief; Keith Colclasure, Assistant Police Chief; Andrew Miller, Fire Chief; Kevin Leonard, Water Distribution; DiElle Rogers; Judy Read; Loretta Haygood; D.E. Young, Garage Department; Josh Boyd, Water Filtration; Carroll Dugger, Cemetery Department; Jacob Carpenter; Lori Robson; Terry Weedman; Flo Simpson; and other citizens from the community.

The minutes of the meeting of January 11, 2022, agendas and bills of January 25, 2022 were sent out to those entitled to receive them. Mayor Dreith asked for approval of the minutes for the January 11, 2022 meeting. Motion by Alderman Stahl, seconded by Alderman McGill to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 11, 2022

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

Vote no: none

Mayor Dreith declared motion carried.

Mayor Dreith asked if there were any corrections or objections to the bills for the January 25, 2022 meeting. Motion by Alderman Lisenbee, seconded by Alderman McGill 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

Vote no: none

Abstain: Eckleberry

Mayor Dreith declared motion carried.

Ordinance – Sale of Electric Department Property – Prior to the meeting a public hearing was held. The purpose of the public hearing was to open bids for the sale of the old power plant property. One bid was received from Jacob Carpenter in the amount of \$50,000. He plans to develop the property into an indoor hemp growing and processing facility. Attorney Rice told the Council that the bid had several terms listed with it. He explained that the Council could

approve the bid and then he could prepare a contract to consider at a future Council meeting or it could be approved as written. Alderman Stahl made a motion, seconded by Alderman Coale to have Attorney Rice prepare a contract to be presented to Council at a future meeting.

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

Vote no: none

Mayor Dreith declared motion carried.

Ordinance Concerning the Electric Utility & Customer Utility Connection Fees – Alderman

Moore stated that we are trying to bring some of our ordinances in line with Wayne-White Electric. Alderman Moore stated that he and Attorney Rice, Alderman Lampley, Loretta Haygood and DiElle Rogers held a meeting to get the proper language added to the ordinance. Mayor Dreith stated that the City's power usage was billed at cost and that will be changing. It will now be billed at the residential price. The city will be receiving that money back with the exception of the 14% that goes to Wayne-White. The new security light fee will now be \$12.21 and will go up one dollar each year throughout the five-year program. The fees for disconnect and after-hours fee will now mirror the fees of Wayne-White. Alderman Lampley stated this new ordinance should make everything more clear and direct. A motion was made by Alderman Moore, seconded by Alderman Lampley 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. 22-0125-276 approved.

Alderman Moore stated Wayne-White will be billing the electric in February and explained the options for payment. Alderman Lampley stated Wayne-White will also be offering some of their services to our customers such as discounted Air-Evac memberships and works program where you round up your bill and that money is given to area residents that might have a need.

Wayne County CEO Program – This is an entrepreneurial program that is offered at Wayne County schools. The city has been a founding partner with this program. They are asking for another three-year commitment in the amount of \$1,000. Lori Robson offered a breakdown of the demographics of students that have been involved in this program. Alderman Lampley said we were happy to help get this program started but it was hoped that businesses would then take over to keep the program going. The city is not supporting other educational programs that are in our community. Alderman Coale agreed with Alderman Lampley that there are many non-profit organizations within Wayne County and the City of Fairfield and we cannot donate to everything. The request to support the CEO Program died for a lack of a motion.

Discussion Regarding Mowing at the Cemetery – Alderman McGill is the Chairman of the Cemetery Committee. He reported that last week he met with Alderman Eckleberry, Mayor Dreith, and Carroll Dugger and discussed the mowing of the cemetery. Last year was a struggle for the two department employees to keep up with the mowing. Alderman McGill would like to be able to hire two part-time employees for 30 hours a week for the summer at \$14.00 per hour to help with the mowing. Alderman Eckleberry would like to get bids from an outside company for the cemetery mowing for a cost analysis to see what the best option would be.

Executive Session – Alderman Moore made a motion, seconded by Alderman Eckleberry to go into Executive Session to discuss Section 2(c)(21) – discuss minutes of closed session meetings;

Section 2(c)(6) – the setting or a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body; and Section 2(c)(1) – the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline of specific employees of the public body.

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

Vote no: none

Mayor Dreith declared motion carried.

Return to Regular Session – Alderman Coale 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 7:07 p.m.

Authorize the Board of Fire & Police Commissioners to Hire Officers and Proceed with Testing to Update the Eligibility List – It was the desire of the Council to not hire at this time but to retest. A motion was made by Alderman Reeve, seconded by Alderman Stahl to authorize the Board of Fire & Police Commissioners to proceed with testing to update the eligibility list and to offer \$2,500 for a lateral transfer.

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

Vote no: none

Mayor Dreith declared motion carried.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Dreith announced a new effort to clean up the city on Saturday, April 23rd. It is called “Renew Fairfield” and it will include a city-wide clean-up, recycling drives and the painting of ten properties. This is in cooperation with Kincaid's, Sherwin-Williams, Rust-Oleum, Y-Fairfield and FNB. Area organizations will volunteer their time for painting and light carpentry work on the homes. The recycling will include paper and electronics. Alderman Lampley joined the Business District committee meeting on January 12th and that committee continues to work to outline the boundaries of the proposed district and define short term and longer goals. Keith Moran is scheduled to make a presentation to the council on February 8th to report and answer questions about the proposed business district. The Mayor also reported that Connor and Connor will be advertising for bids for a new water tower soon. The new tower could be built on NW 7th Street. The full Mayor's report is attached.

Miscellaneous – Alderman Moore asked if, when we test for the new police officers, will they be told they will have to live within the residence area that is established by the contract or will they need to just maintain a residence. Mayor Dreith stated the individuals will be advised what the ordinance says. Alderman Moore asked if the attorney could define what residence is. Attorney Rice stated to establish a residence you have to maintain physical presence at the place you are at and have an intent to remain at that place as a permanent home. A person doesn't have to own a home. It could be a rental place. There is no prohibition against having another house or cabin, etc. somewhere else. Alderman Moore stated he doesn't have a problem with having another place somewhere else such as a weekend house. He stated he is trying to come up with a definition of what is required for residency. In his opinion it is simple, you have to live here but then there are some who says you just have to maintain. Alderman Eckleberry suggested we go back to the ordinance and verify and make changes that says spouses have to live here too.

Attorney Rice stated the residency requirements are the same for all employees of the city. Rice stated again that if a person maintains a physical presence and has an intent to remain in that place as a permanent home that is the definition and if you have done those two things you are a resident for all intents and purposes. Alderman Moore asked again if we hire three officers will they be told they have to just maintain a residence or will they have to live within the boundaries as outlined in the contract and ordinance. Mayor Dreith stated he has talked to the landlord who provided copies of checks and utility payments going back to July. He has contacted the postal service who delivers mail to that residence for the officer and the Secretary of State also identifies the residence as being the officer's place of residence. Mayor Dreith pointed out that according to the agreement the officer did not have to live there before three weeks ago. The landlord has stated she has been there two or three times over the last two weeks to fix plumbing issues, etc. and she says the officer is living there. Short of hiring a private detective Mayor Dreith doesn't know what else he can do. Alderman Moore said he still doesn't think his question has been answered.

Miscellaneous – Alderman McGill asked if there has been any progress made to restore the lake. Mayor Dreith stated that he has meetings scheduled next week with engineers who design dams and he is speaking with the USDI about possible grants for watersheds. This would not only be for the lakeside dam but also for possible lakes in the Atkinson Forest.

Miscellaneous – Alderman McGill thanked Officer Taylor and Officer Manahan for their services to Fairfield. Alderman Moore wished luck to the Wayne County Sheriff's Department.

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

Vote yes: 8

Vote no: 0

Mayor Dreith declared meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Tina Hutchcraft, City Clerk

Mike Dreith, Mayor