

Fairfield, Illinois  
Council Chambers, City Hall  
Regular Meeting, 6:00 P.M.  
Tuesday, February 8, 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.

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; Tom Mathews, Wayne County Press; Richie Fulkerson, Police Chief; Keith Colclasure, Assistant Police Chief; Andrew Miller, Fire Chief; Kevin Leonard, Water Distribution; D.E. Young, Garage Department; Josh Boyd, Water Filtration; Carroll Dugger, Cemetery Department; DuWayne Nobles, Gas Department; Dian Downs; Claire Vaughan; Kayla Warren; Libby Lingafelter; Doug Skaggs; Keith Moran; Jared Kanallakan; Flo Simpson; and other citizens from the community.

The minutes of the meeting of January 25, 2022, agendas and bills of February 8, 2022 were sent out to those entitled to receive them. Mayor Dreith asked for approval of the minutes for the January 25, 2022 meeting. Motion by Alderman Stahl, seconded by Alderman Moore to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 25, 2022

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 February 8, 2022 meeting. Motion by Alderman McGill, seconded by Alderman Coale 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 – Lori Robson addressed the Council about the CEO Program and the importance of the program. She stated that by investing in the program it could result in one of the individuals enrolled in the course to potentially open a business right here in Fairfield. She expressed her disappointment that the Council did not approve a request to fund the program at the last meeting.

Public Comments – Roy Finley addressed the Council and stated he had filed a FOIA request from the police department and that he was disappointed to not get everything he had hoped for out of it. He also asked when an investigation of one of the officers would be completed.

Presentation of Blight Analysis & Business Development District Plan – Keith Moran and Jared Kanallakan with Moran Economic Development addressed the Council concerning the possible development of a business district. A newly created economic development tool that is available to municipalities in Illinois is the Business District Development and Redevelopment Law. A business district is created and would impose an additional sales tax designed to fund the development of certain designated blighted areas within a municipality. Mr. Moran and Mr. Kanallakan presented a synopsis of the plan and a proposed business district map. This would increase the tax rate within the business district by 1% and would not apply to the purchase of anything medical or prescription drug related, anything that is licensed to the State of Illinois (vehicles), and would not apply to any food purchase that we would prepare at home. Once created the business district would have a 23-year life span and there would be specific guidelines on how the money could be spent. The City Council would have to approve any expenditure from the business district fund.

An Ordinance of the City of Fairfield that Sets the Public Hearing Date for the Establishment of a Business District in Fairfield – A motion was made by Alderman Lampley, seconded by Alderman Reeve to approve an ordinance setting the public hearing date for the establishment of a Business District in Fairfield. The date for the public hearing is set for March 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.  
Vote yes: Eckleberry; Lampley; Lisenbee; McGill; Moore; Reeve; Stahl; Coale  
Vote no: none  
Mayor Dreith declared motion carried and Ordinance No. 22-0208-277 approved and adopted.

Request to Use Recreation Funds for Holiday Event – Tyler Lampley said he has received a request by the Volunteers for a Progressive Fairfield to use recreation funds to help pay the cost for Santa. A motion was made by Alderman Lampley, seconded by Alderman McGill to approve using recreation funds in the amount of \$600.00 to pay for Santa.  
Vote yes: Lampley; Lisenbee; McGill; Moore; Reeve; Stahl; Coale; Eckleberry  
Vote no: none  
Mayor Dreith declared motion carried.

Zoning Officer Appointment – Flo Simpson has submitted her resignation. Mayor Dreith would like to appoint Doug Skaggs as Zoning Officer. A motion was made by Alderman Lampley, seconded by Alderman Reeve to approve the resolution appointing Doug Skaggs as Zoning Officer for the City. He will begin his duties in two weeks.  
Vote yes: Lisenbee; McGill; Moore; Reeve; Stahl; Coale; Eckleberry; Lampley  
Vote no: none  
Mayor Dreith declared motion carried and Resolution No. 22-0208-424 approved and adopted.

Animal Control – A few months ago the Council discussed a proposed contract with the Wayne County Humane Society and language was added to include them assisting with bite dogs and it also addressed after hours calls. The monthly fee for their services was \$1,500 per month. The Council did not approve the contract at that time. A few weeks ago we received a new contract

proposal from the Humane Society and this new proposal was going to drastically raise their fee for services. We have also received interest from another party that would like to provide animal control to the City. Alderman Lampley met with the representatives of the Humane Society and they said they would like to resolve the issues with the contract and would be willing to lower the cost for their services that they sent recently but they would like to have an increase from the \$1,500 we are currently paying. The Council would like to have answers as to how bite dogs and after hours calls would be handled. Jeff Murphy and his family has opened a veterinary clinic in Cisne and he is interested in submitting a proposal for animal control. Alderman Moore and Alderman Stahl asked that formal proposals/contracts be submitted to the Council for review and comparison before a decision is voted on.

Cemetery Mowing Discussion – Alderman McGill stated he would like the City to hire two part-time employees for 30 hours a week for the summer at \$14.00 per hour to help with the mowing this year. We were not able to hire part-time help last year. Alderman Eckleberry stated mowing starts in mid-March and ends in October and we would only get college help from mid-May to August. He asked what we would do those other months. Mayor Dreith stated that calls had been made to other cemeteries that outsourced the mowing and we have not received a cost analysis yet. He stated two part-time workers at \$12 per hour, 30 hours a week for four months would cost the city \$11,520.00. If we outsourced the work at \$3,000 per mow at three times per month, it would cost the city \$54,000. The union is also against us outsourcing this work. If we were to hire an outside company, we would be transferring one worker to the street department so we wouldn't be eliminating any jobs. Alderman Eckleberry would like to see summer help clean out ditches to help with flooding issues instead of mowing at the cemetery. Everyone agreed we need to make sure the cemetery is kept looking nice. Alderman Moore stated what we are doing doesn't seem to be working. We hope to get more figures together with actual costs to present to the Council so a decision can be made.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Dreith announced Wabash Communications will start marketing their internet services in Fairfield. The construction will be off fiberoptic main lines moving from the west to the east. At this time, it will not be offered city wide. Mayor Dreith met with representatives from Commonwealth Engineers Inc. and Ivan Dozier of the Natural Resources Conservation Services about watershed retention and flood prevention along Johnson Creek. He also received word from FEMA that they are revising Fairfield's Risk Map for flooding. It is much different than the one currently on file. If accepted, the new map could have serious consequences for the properties which border Johnson Creek and its tributaries. He also reported McDonald's is slated to start construction on its new facility in Fairfield on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Dreith read a letter of resignation from First Ward Alderman Brett Coale which will be effective February 23<sup>rd</sup>. He will be relocating from Ward 1. The full Mayor's report is attached.

Miscellaneous – Mayor Dreith told the Council that after the agendas were sent out, he received a request from the VFW asking for permission to serve alcohol until 10:00 p.m. on the night of the Superbowl. Mayor Dreith asked the Council if they had any problems with him approving this request. No one from the Council objected so Mayor Dreith will approve their request.

Miscellaneous – Alderman Lampley talked about the transition of our electric billing now being done through Wayne-White. There have not been any major problems with this transition.

Alderman Moore also pointed out that everyone needs to understand that the city still sets the rates and Wayne-White is just the billing agent for the city.

Miscellaneous – Attorney Rice gave an update to the Council concerning FOIA. Since the City has begun streaming the Council meetings and since we are on social media, he wanted to point out that any text messages sent to other Council members during a Council meeting are subject to FOIA. Also, if group messages are sent to Council members, those are subject to FOIA and could be a violation of the Open Meetings Act. City Clerk Hutchcraft also reminded those who were elected and appointed in May that they will need to complete the OMA training as required by law. The Attorney General’s office always provided the training, but their website has been down for several months. The testing site has recently been made available again she will give instructions to those needing to take the training.

Miscellaneous – Alderman Eckleberry asked if the Council could receive an update on our dilapidated properties at the next meeting. Mayor Dreith said he will make sure the database is updated.

Executive Session – Alderman Reeve made a motion, seconded by Alderman Eckleberry to go into Executive Session to discuss Section 2(c)(21) – discuss minutes of closed session meetings and Section 2(c)(11) – pending litigation.

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

Vote no: none

Mayor Dreith declared motion carried.

Return to Regular Session – Alderman Moore made a motion, seconded by Alderman Lampley 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 7:35 p.m.

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

Vote yes: 8

Vote no: 0

Mayor Dreith declared meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

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Tina Hutchcraft, City Clerk

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Mike Dreith, Mayor