

Fairfield, Illinois  
Council Chambers, City Hall  
Regular Meeting, 6:00 P.M.  
Tuesday, February 22, 2022

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; 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; Dian Downs; Claire Vaughan; Kayla Warren; Libby Lingafelter; Doug Skaggs; Dave Land; and other citizens from the community.

The minutes of the meeting of February 8, 2022, agendas and bills of February 22, 2022 were sent out to those entitled to receive them. Mayor Dreith asked for approval of the minutes for the February 8, 2022 meeting. Motion by Alderman Lampley, seconded by Alderman Stahl to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 8, 2022.

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

Vote no: none

Mayor Dreith declared motion carried.

Mayor Dreith asked if there were any corrections or objections to the bills for the February 22, 2022 meeting. Motion by Alderman Coale, seconded by Alderman Lampley to approve the bills and drafts be drawn on the several funds for their respective amounts.

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

Vote no: none

Abstain: Eckleberry

Mayor Dreith declared motion carried.

Public Comments – Dave Land told the Council that he recently had to have some sewer work done at his house. He wanted to publicly thank Kevin Leonard with the Water Department and Robert Kamp with the Street Department for their help and working with his plumber to get the problem resolved.

Ordinance to Approve the Sale of Electric Department Property – Mayor Dreith told the Council that he is withdrawing this item from the agenda. There are more details that need to be worked out before this item is brought for a vote. He hopes to have this back on the next agenda.

Approve Seeking Bids for a New Water Tower & Demolition of Existing Towers – A motion was made by Alderman Coale, seconded by Alderman Lisenbee to approve seeking bids for a new water tower and demolition of existing towers. This would be a \$1.5 million project.

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

Vote no: none

Mayor Dreith declared motion carried.

Animal Control Contract – We have received two proposals for animal control, one from Murphy's out of Cisne and the other from the Wayne County Humane Society. The Humane Society added language stating that bite calls will be handled 24/7 on an on-call basis. The police department will not be required to pick up any of these dogs, but it will be the responsibility of the Humane Society. A motion was made by Alderman Reeve, seconded by Alderman Lampley to approve the animal control agreement with the Wayne County Humane Society in the amount of \$2,000 monthly.

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

Vote no: none

Mayor Dreith declared motion carried.

Cemetery Mowing Discussion – Alderman McGill stated we have been discussing this topic for quite some time. He made a motion 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. This motion was seconded by Alderman Lampley. The HR department will decide how many hours these individuals can work without having to offer them any benefits.

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

Vote no: none

Mayor Dreith declared motion carried.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Dreith told the Council that inflation is going to take a toll on our budget. The cost to purchase chemicals for the water plant, gasoline for our fleet, asphalt and culverts have dramatically increased. Union negotiations with the FOP and the IBEW should begin in the next few weeks. Our labor attorney, Dennis Weedman, will lead our teams. The FOP negotiations will include Alderman Stahl, Chief Fulkerson and the Mayor. The IBEW team will include Alderman Moore and the Mayor. He reminded the Council that police and fire testing will be held on February 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. He also spoke about the upcoming Renew Fairfield painting program. This will be held April 23<sup>rd</sup> and will include recycling for paper and electronics, exterior house painting and repair, and an overall city-wide clean-up. To qualify for the home painting program the home must be owner occupied and in the Fairfield city limits and can only be a one-story home. The full Mayor's report is attached.

Miscellaneous – Alderman Moore asked if we should try to purchase our chemicals now to avoid the continued rise in prices or go out for bid for chemicals and gas to lock in lower prices.

Mayor Dreith will speak with the leadmen to discuss these suggestions.

Miscellaneous – Mayor Dreith thanked Alderman Coale for his service to the Council. Alderman Coale said it had been an honor to serve. He still believes that Atkinson Forest could be an asset to the city in many ways and asked the Council to consider this again at some point. He also wanted to thank Elaine Parker with Skateland Roller Rink for over 50 years of service to the Fairfield area.

Miscellaneous – Jerry Lisenbee made a suggestion that the date utility bills are due be changed from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> to coincide with Wayne-White’s billing. Mayor Dreith stated that is something that could be changed by amending our ordinances.

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

Vote yes: 8

Vote no: 0

Mayor Dreith declared meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

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Tina Hutchcraft, City Clerk

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Mike Dreith, Mayor