

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

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

Prayer led by Jeff Vaughan 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; Cody Attebery; Clifford Reeve; Tyler Lampley; Jerry Lisenbee;  
Terry Stahl; Gary Moore

Absent: Alderman Eugene McGill

Also Present: Jeff Vaughan, WFIW Radio; Tom Mathews, Wayne County Press; Richie Fulkerson, Police Chief; Keith Colclasure, Assistant Police Chief; Andrew Miller, Fire Chief; D.E. Young, Garage Department; Josh Boyd, Water Filtration; Claire Vaughan; Kayla Warren; Libby Lingafelter; Doug Skaggs; and other citizens from the community.

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

Vote yes: Moore Reeve; Stahl; Attebery; Eckleberry; Lampley; Lisenbee

Vote no: none

Absent: McGill

Mayor Dreith declared motion carried.

Mayor Dreith asked if there were any corrections or objections to the bills for the March 22, 2022 meeting. Motion by Alderman Reeve, seconded by Alderman Moore to approve the bills.

Vote yes: Reeve; Stahl; Attebery; Eckleberry; Lampley; Lisenbee; Moore

Vote no: none

Absent: McGill

Mayor Dreith declared motion carried.

Public Comments – Cindy Grimes addressed the Council concerning the proposed business district and encouraged a no vote. Doug Wilson spoke and stated that he is in favor of the business district and asked for the Council to vote for it. Marjorie Jordan also asked the Council to approve the business district. She also asked the Council what is their “Plan B” to help the district if this is not passed.

Agreement with IDNR for Gas & Water Line Easements – Alderman Moore made a motion, seconded by Alderman Lampley to approve the agreement with IDNR for gas and water line easements for ten years at a cost of \$450.00 per year.

Vote yes: Stahl; Attebery; Eckleberry; Lampley; Lisenbee; Moore; Reeve

Vote no: none

Absent: McGill

Mayor Dreith declared motion carried.

An Ordinance Establishing the Fairfield Business District; Approving a Business District Plan; Authorizing the Imposition and Collection of a Sales Tax Within such Business District; and Approving Certain Actions in Connection with the Establishment of such Business District –

Alderman Lampley made a motion to bring this forward for a vote for the business district.

Alderman Moore made a motion to table the establishment of a business district indefinitely and this was seconded by Alderman Eckleberry. Attorney Rice stated that to table an item

indefinitely it would require a 2/3 vote of the Council to approve. If an item is tabled for a definite time period only a majority vote would be required for it to be approved. Mayor Dreith stated that we first had a motion on the floor by Alderman Lampley to approve the business district and asked if there was a second. Hearing none, the motion died for a lack of a second.

Attorney Rice stated that if an item is to be brought back to Council it would first have to be listed on the agenda before a vote could be taken. Alderman Moore then amended his motion to table this for one year and wait to see what the economy of the country and Fairfield is at that time. He stated this is not the time to be raising taxes because gas prices are very high and inflation is nearing double digits and he stated there is a TIF District that can help with the downtown. The motion was seconded by Alderman Eckleberry. Mayor Dreith reminded the Council that the City Council approved spending \$20,000 with Moran Economic Development for this project and we have paid to publish notice of a public hearing. The public hearing and the work done is only good for 3 months after the date of the public hearing. If it not voted on within 90 days after the public hearing date, we would have to go through the entire process again, hold another public hearing and republish, and we would have to pay the associated costs again. He stated we have a motion and a second to table the business district for one year. Prior to the vote Aldermen Attebery asked what would happen if the motion did not pass. He asked if another motion could be made to table the vote for a different time period so the city would not have to start the process over. Attorney Rice stated that another motion could be considered.

City Clerk Hutchcraft called the roll on the motion made by Moore and seconded by Eckleberry to table the vote on the business district for one year.

Vote yes: Eckleberry; Lisenbee; Moore

Vote no: Attebery; Lampley; Reeve; Stahl

Absent: McGill

Mayor Dreith stated the motion did not pass.

Alderman Attebery made a motion to table the vote on the business district and to bring it for a vote before 90 days has passed since the public hearing was held. This motion was seconded by Alderman Reeve.

Vote yes: Lampley; Reeve; Stahl; Attebery

Vote no: Eckleberry; Lisenbee; Moore

Absent: McGill

Mayor Dreith declared motion carried.

Ordinance to Approve Equipment Sale to Wayne-White – A motion was made by Alderman Lampley, seconded by Alderman Reeve to approve the ordinance to sell tools and equipment to Wayne-White.

Vote yes: Lampley; Lisenbee; Reeve; Stahl; Attebery; Eckleberry

Vote no: none

Absent: McGill

Abstain: Moore

Mayor Dreith declared motion carried and Ordinance No. 22-0322-279 approved and adopted.

Agreement with Strasburg Fire Protection District for the Sale of Air Packs – A motion was made by Alderman Reeve, seconded by Alderman Lampley to approve the agreement with Strasburg Fire Protection District for the sale of eleven air packs in the amount of \$100.00 each.

Vote yes: Lisenbee; Moore; Reeve; Stahl; Attebery; Eckleberry; Lampley

Vote no: none

Absent: McGill

Mayor Dreith declared motion carried.

Fireworks – Mayor Dreith reported that we have been notified by the company that handles our fireworks display that the date of July 4<sup>th</sup> is not available. The City's fireworks display will now be held on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Dreith met with representatives of the three water departments which buy bulk water from the city. Each year increases are assessed based on the Consumer Price Index. Rates for the water districts will go up 7.5% retroactive to January 1<sup>st</sup>. The full Mayor's report is attached.

Miscellaneous – Alderman Moore wanted to explain his position on the sales tax. He stated that he is not against businesses, but we have a TIF District that could help businesses and he encouraged them to come to the TIF Committee to request using TIF monies for their needs. He stated he doesn't feel that now is the time to be raising taxes because inflation is terrible, and he doesn't know enough details as to how the district will be run. Mayor Dreith stated that he had made it clear that there would be a business committee established and that committee would make recommendations to the City Council as to how the business district's monies would be used. Mayor Dreith also stated if all the TIF monies were spent on projects the business district could help with, then what would the city do if an industry wanted to come to Fairfield and there wasn't any TIF dollars left to help get them here. Alderman Lampley agreed with Alderman Moore on the fact that the TIF Committee is willing to help any businesses and encouraged them to come to the committee with any projects they might have.

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

Vote yes: 7

Vote no: 0

Absent: 1

Mayor Dreith declared meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

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Tina Hutchcraft, City Clerk

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Mike Dreith, Mayor