

Fairfield, Illinois
Council Chambers, City Hall
Regular Meeting, 6:00 P.M.
Tuesday, June 14, 2022

Meeting called to order by Acting Mayor Gary Moore at 6:00 P.M.

Prayer led by Jason Mason followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

City Clerk Tina Hutchcraft called the roll:

Acting Mayor: Gary Moore
City Clerk: Tina Hutchcraft
City Attorney: Darrin Rice
Aldermen: Dewey Eckleberry; Cody Attebery; Clifford Reeve; Tyler Lampley; Eugene McGill;
Jerry Lisenbee; Terry Stahl

Also Present: Ken Otey, WFIW Radio; Tom Mathews, Wayne County Press; Andrew Miller, Fire Chief; Kayla Warren; Claire Vaughan; Dian Downs; Doug Skaggs; and other citizens from the community.

The minutes of the meeting of May 24, 2022, special meeting minutes of June 7, 2022, and bills of June 14, 2022 were sent out to those entitled to receive them. Acting Mayor Moore asked for approval of the minutes for the May 24, 2022 meeting and the June 7, 2022 special meeting. Motion by Alderman McGill, seconded by Alderman Stahl to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 24, 2022 and June 7, 2022.

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

Vote no: none

Acting Mayor Moore declared motion carried.

Acting Mayor Moore asked if there were any corrections or objections to the bills for the June 14, 2022 meeting. Motion by Alderman Eckleberry, seconded by Alderman Lisenbee to approve the bills.

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

Vote no: none

Acting Mayor Moore declared motion carried.

Award Bid for the Sale of Vehicles & Equipment – The City had a bid opening for the sale of vehicles and equipment. Aldermen had received a copy of all the items for sale along with the bidders showing the high bid for each item. There was a total of 16 items and we received bids from 19 different bidders. The total came to \$26,888.21. City Clerk Hutchcraft read the results of the bid opening. A motion was made by Alderman Reeve, seconded by Alderman Eckleberry to award the bids for the sale of vehicles and equipment to the high bidders.

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

Vote no: none

Acting Mayor Moore declared motion carried.

Reject Bid for the Sale of Power Plant Property & Authorize Seeking Bids for Sale of Property – Attorney Rice stated we previously had advertised the sale of the power plant property and we received one bid. We were not able to come to a complete agreement with him. At this time, since we were not able to approve the sale to this bidder, Attorney Rice suggested the Council consider rejecting the bid and authorize the attorney to begin the process to advertise and offer it for sale again. A motion was made by Alderman Stahl, seconded by Alderman Eckleberry to reject the bid for the sale of the power plant property and to authorize seeking bids to sell the power plant property.

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

Vote no: none

Acting Mayor Moore declared motion carried.

Pay Raises for Police Chief and Assistant Chief – Acting Mayor Moore stated that it has been normal practice to give the Chief and Assistant Chief's positions the same pay raise and benefits after the approval of the FOP contract. We don't currently have an assistant chief but if the Council approves the increase it will be in place if we ever decide to fill that position. A motion was made by Alderman Lampley, seconded by Alderman Reeve to approve the pay increase and benefits for the police chief and assistant chief being the same as given in the FOP contract.

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

Vote no: none

Acting Mayor Moore declared motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action Concerning Credit/Debit Card Usage and Fees – Several years ago the Council voted to allow utility bills to be paid by credit or debit card and at that time the city agreed to absorb the cost for the fees. Acting Mayor Moore asked the Council if they would like the city to allow credit/debit card payments for other things such as street openings, cemetery payments, etc. He also asked the Council if they want to continue to absorb the transaction fees or if we should pass the fees along to the customer. Last year we processed about \$2.7 million in payments and the fee we absorbed was approximately \$27,800. If we start accepting credit/debit card payments for other things this will make that number go up. Moore also suggested we get additional payment terminals in order to provide better customer service. After some discussion Alderman Eckleberry made a motion, seconded by Alderman Stahl to allow any payment received by the city to be paid by credit/debit card and the city will continue to absorb the transaction fees.

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

Vote no: none

Acting Mayor Moore declared motion carried.

NYOC Street Closing Request – Jason Mason with NYOC asked for Council approval to close 2nd Street between Main and Delaware on July 31st from 3-10 p.m. for an event the church is having. A motion was made by Alderman Stahl, seconded by Alderman Eckleberry to approve this request.

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

Vote no: none

Acting Mayor Moore declared motion carried.

Recreation Funds Requests – A motion was made by Alderman Eckleberry, seconded by Alderman Lampley to approve giving \$500 toward the July 4th celebration and \$500 toward a disc golf tournament from the Recreation Fund.

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

Vote no: none

Acting Mayor Moore declared motion carried.

Financial Report – Acting Mayor Moore presented the Council with a financial report for the month of May with the revenues and expenses from each of the departments.

Miscellaneous – Acting Mayor Moore has scheduled a town hall meeting at City Hall for June 30th at 6:00 p.m. This will give residents an opportunity to voice their concerns and make suggestions on what we can do better.

Miscellaneous – Alderman McGill asked if any progress has been made concerning house numbers being displayed on homes. Acting Mayor Moore stated this is an ordinance and encouraged our residents to comply.

Miscellaneous – Alderman Lampley told the Council that he is hearing grumblings from the IBEW concerning the residency change that the Council recently approved for the FOP. He asked the Council to be thinking about this because the IBEW may file a grievance to try and get their residency requirement changed to be the same as the FOP.

Executive Session – Alderman Eckleberry made a motion, seconded by Alderman Lampley to go into Executive Session to discuss Section 2(c)(21) – discuss minutes of closed session meetings; Section 2(c)(5) – the purchase or lease of real property for use of the public body; Section 2(c)(6) – the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body; and Section 2(c)(1) – the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body.

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

Vote no: none

Acting Mayor Moore declared motion carried.

Return to Regular Session – Alderman McGill made a motion, seconded by Alderman Stahl to return to regular session.

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

Vote no: none

Acting Mayor Moore declared motion carried and Council returned to regular session at 7:32 p.m.

Adjourn Meeting – Motion by Alderman Stahl, seconded by Alderman Reeve to adjourn the meeting.

Vote yes: 8

Vote no: 0

Acting Mayor Moore declared meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Tina Hutchcraft, City Clerk

Gary Moore, Acting Mayor