

Fairfield, Illinois
Council Chambers, City Hall
Regular Meeting, 6:00 P.M.
Tuesday, January 9, 2024

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

Prayer led by Doug Skaggs followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

City Clerk Tina Hutchcraft called the roll:

Mayor: Gary Moore
City Clerk: Tina Hutchcraft
City Attorney: Darrin Rice
Aldermen: Terry Stahl; Allen Marsh; Sheryl Eckleberry; Eugene McGill; Bruce McKibben; Clifford Reever; Dewey Eckleberry; Cody Attebery

Also Present: Tom Matthews, Wayne County Press; Ken Otey, WFIW Radio; Doug Skaggs; Keith Colclasure, Police Chief; Ben Lewis, Assistant Police Chief; Andrew Miller, Fire Chief; Dian Downs; Kayla Warren; D.E. Young, Garage Department; DuWayne Nobles, Gas Department; Brad Young, Water Distribution; Michelle Smith; and other citizens from the community.

The minutes of the meeting of December 12, 2023 and bills of December 26, 2023 and January 9, 2024 were sent out to those entitled to receive them. Mayor Moore asked for approval of the minutes for the December 12, 2023 meeting. Motion by Alderman Stahl, seconded by Alderman Sheryl Eckleberry to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 12, 2023.

Vote yes: 8

Vote no: 0

Mayor Moore declared motion carried.

Mayor Moore asked if there were any corrections or objections to the bills for the December 26, 2023 and the January 9, 2024 meeting. Motion by Alderman Dewey Eckleberry, seconded by Alderman McKibben to approve the bills.

Vote yes: Attebery; Dewey Eckleberry; Sheryl Eckleberry; Marsh; McGill; McKibben; Reever; Stahl

Vote no: none

Mayor Moore declared motion carried.

Recognition of Loren Dunn's Retirement – Mayor Moore presented a plaque to Loren Dunn to honor him for his many years of service to the City of Fairfield. Loren recently retired from the city after 50+ years of working in various departments of the city.

Presentation of FY 2023 Audit – Michelle Smith, Kemper CPA, presented the audit FY 2023. She did point out that the gas department and electric department continue to subsidize our water department. The water department loses money every year. Mayor Moore challenged the

Finance Committee and the Council to find a way to pay for our water department. He stated that we cannot continue to lose money and we need to find a way to improve the water department funding. Shannon Woodard with Connor & Connor is working on a rate study for the water department. When the study is completed, he will present his findings to the Council and make recommendations for proper funding for this department. A motion was made by Alderman Dewey Eckleberry, seconded by Alderman Stahl to accept the audit as presented by Kemper.

Vote yes: 8

Vote no: 0

Mayor Moore declared motion carried.

Ordinance Approving TIF Agreement with Jim and Cindy McCleary – The TIF Committee has met and are asking the Council to approve a TIF Agreement with Jim and Cindy McCleary. They plan to do repairs on the old ServiceMaster building on Delaware Street. A motion was made by Alderman Reever, seconded by Alderman Attebery to approve the ordinance for a TIF Agreement with Jim and Cindy McCleary in the amount of \$4,000.00.

Vote yes: Dewey Eckleberry; Sheryl Eckleberry; Marsh; McGill; McKibben; Reever; Stahl; Attebery

Vote no: none

Mayor Moore declared motion carried and Ordinance No. 24-0109-354 approved and adopted.

Ordinance Allowing Reimbursement for Hazardous Material Responses – Mayor Moore told the Council that we recently had a chlorine leak. A hazardous materials team out of Mt. Vernon had to be called in to deal with the leak. By approving this ordinance, we will have the ability to recoup our costs incurred from a leak from the person or company that caused the spill. Fire Chief Miller stated that there is a state statute in place that allows us to recoup our costs and by approving this ordinance it will give us the power to do so at the local level. A motion was made by Alderman Dewey Eckleberry, seconded by Alderman McGill to approve this ordinance.

Vote yes: 8

Vote no: 0

Mayor Moore declared motion carried and Ordinance No. 24-0109-355 approved and adopted.

Award Bid for West Tower Repainting – We received two bids for the west tower repainting. Mayor Moore recommends the Council reject these bids and rebid the project in the future. This tower was constructed in 1993 and is in need of maintenance work but the Mayor feels we could get a better price for this work in the future. A motion was made by Alderman Sheryl Eckleberry, seconded by Alderman McGill to reject these bids and to seek bids again in the future.

Vote yes: 8

Vote no: 0

Mayor Moore declared motion carried.

Discussion Concerning No Parking on Both Sides of the 400 Block of Sluder Street – Chief Colclasure told the Council that this portion of Sluder Street is very narrow. His department has received many complaints from Shawn Anderson who lives on this street about not being able to get out of his driveway when the neighbor across the street parks vehicles along the roadway.

His department has also received complaints from the neighbor as well. Mr. Anderson would like to see the Council approve an ordinance for no parking on both sides of the street in the 400 block. One neighbor that lives farther down the street objects to the no parking because her family needs to park along the street when visiting her. The Council discussed the issue and decided it would be better to have no parking on either side of the street on a portion of the roadway rather than the whole block. Attorney Rice has been instructed to draft an ordinance to bring back to Council for approval at the next meeting.

Business Tax District – Mayor Moore presented preliminary plans for the use and expenditure of Business Tax District monies. Doug Skaggs will be the administrator for these funds much like he is for the TIF District. There were three different programs presented. The three different programs are; new projects, municipal works, and façade improvement grant program. Mayor Moore gave a description of all three programs. An application describing a project will need to be completed and presented to Doug Skaggs as well as the aldermen serving on the TIF Committee for their consideration and then final approval to expend funds must be approved by the entire Council. Mayor Moore stated that funds should not be used for residential or airbnb's. We need to make sure the business tax dollars are spent properly. Mayor Moore encouraged the aldermen to look over the information and give their thoughts about the programs presented. He asked for their input before Attorney Rice prepares an ordinance outlining the business tax district rules for expenditure of the funds.

Financial Report – Mayor Moore presented the financial report for the month of December.

Miscellaneous – Alderman Eckleberry asked if we had any grant writers. Mayor Moore explained that Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission are always looking for grants that we can apply for.

Miscellaneous – Alderman Stahl said he has been receiving many complaints from residents about the Humane Society. He said we are paying a fee to them but they don't seem to be doing their job. He feels we need to look at what services we are getting for our money. Mayor Moore stated that the county board is looking at different options as well.

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

Vote yes: 8

Vote no: 0

Mayor Moore declared meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Tina Hutchcraft, City Clerk

Gary Moore, Mayor