

Fairfield, Illinois
Council Chambers, City Hall
Regular Meeting, 6:00 P.M.
Tuesday, February 27, 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; Bruce McKibben; Clifford Reever; Dewey Eckleberry; Cody Attebery

Absent: Alderman Eugene McGill

Also Present: Tom Matthews, Wayne County Press; Ken Otey, WFIW Radio; Doug Skaggs; Keith Colclasure, Police Chief; Andrew Miller, Fire Chief; Brad Young, Water Distribution; D.E. Young, Garage Department, Dian Downs, Libby Lingafelter, Shannon Woodard; and other citizens from the community.

The minutes of the meeting of February 13, 2024 and bills of February 27, 2024 were sent out to those entitled to receive them. Mayor Moore asked for approval of the minutes for the February 13, 2024 meeting. Motion by Alderman Stahl, seconded by Alderman Dewey Eckleberry to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 13, 2024.

Vote yes: 7

Vote no: 0

Absent: 1

Mayor Moore declared motion carried.

Mayor Moore asked if there were any corrections or objections to the bills for the February 27, 2024 meeting. Motion by Alderman Dewey Eckleberry, seconded by Alderman Attebery to approve the bills.

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

Vote no: none

Absent: McGill

Mayor Moore declared motion carried.

Appointment of Water Filtration Leadperson – Mayor Moore said he is not ready to make a recommendation for this position at this time.

Presentation and Discussion Concerning Water Rate Study – Shannon Woodard with Connor & Connor Engineering completed the water and sewer rate study and presented his findings to the

Council. The City is currently losing money as the expenses far exceed the revenues in both water and sewer. Mayor Moore has asked both the water committee and finance committee to meet and develop and plan to remedy this problem.

Ordinance Amending the Code Concerning Cemetery Fees – This topic was discussed at a previous meeting. This ordinance will increase the fees for grave openings on Saturdays, holidays, and before noon on the next business day following a weekend or city holiday to \$600.00. It also prohibits grave openings on Sundays and after noon on Saturdays. A motion was made by Alderman Sheryl Eckleberry, seconded by Alderman McKibben to approve this ordinance.

Vote yes: 7

Vote no: 0

Absent: 1

Mayor Moore declared motion carried and Ordinance No. 24-0227-359 approved and adopted.

Update Concerning the Solar Eclipse and Activities – Libby Lingafelter gave an update concerning activities and events that she and the recreation committee have planned for the upcoming solar eclipse. The area is expecting large crowds for this event.

Miscellaneous – Mayor Moore informed the Council that Governor JB Pritzker is proposing to eliminate the 1% sales tax on groceries, which is dedicated for local governments in Illinois. This proposed elimination would cut approximately \$325 million from municipalities at a time when local governments are facing more unfunded mandates and rising pension costs. The Illinois Municipal League is encouraging municipal officials to contact their State Representative and State Senator to voice opposition to this massive revenue reduction that will negatively impact all municipalities.

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

Vote yes: 7

Vote no: 0

Absent: 1

Mayor Moore declared meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Tina Hutchcraft, City Clerk

Gary Moore, Mayor