

Fairfield, Illinois
Council Chambers, City Hall
Regular Meeting, 6:00 P.M.
Tuesday, September 10, 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 Mathews, Wayne County Press; Doug Skaggs; Keith Colclasure, Police Chief; Ben Lewis, Assistant Police Chief; Andrew Miller, Fire Chief; John Ray; Brandon Fry; Dian Downs; and other citizens from the community.

The minutes of the meeting of August 27, 2024, and bills of September 10, 2024 were sent out to those entitled to receive them. Mayor Moore asked for approval of the minutes for the August 27, 2024 meeting. Motion by Alderman Stahl, seconded by Alderman McGill to approve the minutes of the meeting of August 27, 2024.

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 September 10, 2024 meeting. Motion by Alderman Marsh, seconded by Alderman Dewey Eckleberry to approve the bills.

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

Vote no: none

Mayor Moore declared motion carried.

Public Comments – Russell Blackford addressed the Council on behalf of the Victory Outreach Christian Center. He and the church are requesting Mayor Gary Moore proclaim a day of prayer and fasting from the evening of October 12th to the evening of October 13th. Their purpose is that God's guidance will be on America in the upcoming Presidential election and into the coming New Year, 2025. This is a non-partisan and non-denominational request and they will also be asking for the support and participation of all Fairfield and Wayne County pastors and their membership.

Public Comments – Harold Austin was following up on an inquiring given to Alderman McGill. He had asked if speed bumps could be placed in the alley behind his house just south of Elm Street. He stated that he has small children and many that drive down the alley seem to be driving too fast. Mayor Moore said that we would not be able to put speed bumps in an alley. He told him to contact the police department and see if they can come down there and give him some assistance with the problem.

Bids for Demolition of Properties – Two bids were received for the demolition of property located at 807 Walker Street and 407 NE 5th Street. Fry's Excavating and Disposal submitted a bid in the amount of \$17,500.00. Ray's Mowing & Backhoe Service submitted a bid in the amount of \$17,165.75. Alderman Stahl made a motion, seconded by Alderman Dewey Eckleberry to approve the resolution awarding the bid from Ray's in the amount of \$17,165.75.

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

Vote no: none

Mayor Moore declared motion carried and Resolution No. 24-0910-519 approved and adopted.

Ordinance Adding Terms to Redevelopment Agreements Requiring the hiring of State Licensed Electricians, Plumbers, and Roofers – Mayor Moore told the Council that he would like Council to approve this ordinance with the language concerning electricians to be stricken. This would apply only to those who are receiving TIF funds or Business District funds. A motion was made by Alderman Sheryl Eckleberry, seconded by Alderman McGill to approve this ordinance with the language stricken concerning licensed electricians.

Vote yes: 8

Vote no: 0

Mayor Moore declared motion carried and Ordinance No. 24-0910-371 approved and adopted.

Ordinance Increasing Fees for Zoning & Annexations – Mayor Moore stated that requests received for annexations or zoning changes can be costly for the city. We have to pay for publication for a public hearing notice and pay the attorney to prepare paperwork for these requests. He asked the Council to approve this ordinance increasing the permit fees for these requests to \$200.00. A motion was made by Alderman Dewey Eckleberry, seconded by Alderman Attebery to approve this ordinance.

Vote yes: 8

Vote no: 0

Mayor Moore declared motion carried and Ordinance No. 24-0910-372 approved and adopted.

Ordinance Implementing a Municipal Grocery Retailer's Occupation Tax & Grocery Service Occupation Tax – Mayor Moore reminded the Council that in January, 2026 the State will no longer be collecting taxes on groceries. This will result in a loss of revenue in the amount of approximately \$200,000 for the city. Since we are non-home rule, we usually cannot implement a tax without approval by referendum, but the State has now given non-home rule communities the ability to pass a tax without a referendum. Mayor Moore pointed out that this 1% tax is the same that is currently being collected by the State for grocery purchases. A motion was made by Alderman McKibben, seconded by Alderman Attebery to approve this ordinance.

Vote yes: 8

Vote no: 0

Mayor Moore declared motion carried and Ordinance No. 24-0910-373 approved and adopted.

Street Closing Requests for Veteran's Parade & Christmas Parade – A motion was made by Alderman Dewey Eckleberry, seconded by Alderman Marsh to approve the street closing requests for the Veteran's Parade for Saturday, November 9 and for the Christmas Parade for Saturday, December 7 with an alternate date set for December 14.

Vote yes: 8

Vote no: 0

Mayor Moore declared motion carried and Resolution No. 24-0910-520 and Resolution No. 24-0910-521 approved and adopted.

Library Board Appointment – Bill Arthur has resigned from the library board due to health reasons. Mayor Moore would like to appoint Steve McCormick to fill the vacancy. A motion was made by Alderman Reever, seconded by Alderman McGill to approve the appointment of Steve McCormick to fill the unexpired term of Bill Arthur.

Vote yes: 8

Vote no: 0

Mayor Moore declared motion carried and Resolution No. 24-0910-522 and approved and adopted.

Trick or Treat Dates – A motion was made by Alderman McGill, seconded by Alderman Dewey Eckleberry to approve Trick or Treating for Wednesday, October 30th and Thursday, October 31st from 5-8:00 p.m.

Vote yes: 8

Vote no: 0

Mayor Moore declared motion carried.

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

Miscellaneous – Wayne-White and Hoosier will be moving the city's metering point from Albion to our substation and also making switching changes. They expect the work to be completed within 30 days. There will be a city-wide power outage on September 18 from 4:00 – 4:05 a.m. in order to energize and hook up the switching gear.

Miscellaneous – In response to the question from Harold Austin in the public comments Alderman Sheryl Eckleberry asked if a “slow down – children playing” sign could be put up in the alley. Mayor Moore will check with St. & Bridge to see if they have any of those signs.

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 6:31 p.m.

Tina Hutchcraft, City Clerk

Gary Moore, Mayor