

Fairfield, Illinois
Council Chambers, City Hall
Regular Meeting, 6:00 P.M.
Tuesday, April 8, 2025

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

Prayer led by Louise Morlan 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 Reeve; Dewey Eckleberry; Cody Attebery

Also Present: Tom Mathews, Wayne County Press; Keith Colclasure, Polic Chief; Ben Lewis, Assistant Police Chief; Andrew Miller, Fire Chief; Doug Skaggs; Dian Downs; Louise Morlan; and other citizens from the community.

The minutes of the meeting of March 25, 2025 were sent out to those entitled to receive them. Mayor Moore asked for approval of the minutes for the March 25, 2025 meeting and for the February 25, 2025 Executive Session minutes. Motion by Alderman Reeve, seconded by Alderman McKibben to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 25, 2025 and the minutes of the February 25, 2025 Executive Session.

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 April 8, 2025 meeting. Motion by Alderman Dewey Eckleberry, seconded by Alderman Attebery to approve the bills for payment.

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

Vote no: none

Mayor Moore declared motion carried.

Public Comments – Mariann Brownson addressed the Council and stated the sidewalk in front of her house is in bad shape and is in need of repair.

Ordinance Authorizing the Sale of Municipally Owned Real Estate – A public hearing was held earlier for the purpose of opening bids for the sale of property the city owns at 303 NE 7th Street. We had asked for a minimum of \$5,000 for the sale but no bids were received. After some discussion, the Council decided to advertise the property for sale again with no minimum bid required. We will have the right to accept or reject any of all bids.

Ordinance Amending the Code Concerning Council Meetings – It was previously discussed to change the council meetings to one meeting each month instead of two. Mayor Moore stated that the aldermen's pay would remain the same at this time because we are not able to change it now per state statute. Mayor Moore pointed out that aldermen duties doesn't end when the meeting are over. Aldermen take phone calls from residents at all hours even at night and on weekends. Mayor Moore would like the council meetings to be held the second Tuesday of each month and we would always have the option of scheduling a special meeting if the need arises. If we decide at a later time only one meeting wasn't sufficient, we could always vote to change it back to two meetings each month. A motion was made by Alderman Reeve, seconded by Alderman McKibben to approve this ordinance.

Vote yes: 7

Vote no: 1

Mayor Moore declared motion carried and Ordinance No. 25-0408-383 approved and adopted.

Discussion/Approval of FOP Contract – Mayor Moore presented the proposed FOP contract giving details that will be changed and asked for Council approval. A tentative agreement has been reached. The contract will include a 4.5% pay increase and will add three positions to the department those being a corporal, a detective, and a dispatch coordinator. This will be a three-year contract. A motion was made by Alderman McGill, seconded by Alderman Marsh to authorize the Mayor to sign the contract once it is presented and reviewed by the City Attorney.

Vote yes: Sheryl Eckleberry; Marsh; McGill; McKibben; Reeve; Stahl; Atteberry; Dewey Eckleberry

Vote no: none

Mayor Moore declared motion carried.

Seek Sidewalk Repair/Replacement Bids – Mayor Moore stated that it has been several years since the city has been able to do any sidewalk repairs because of lack of man power or funds. He would like to seek bids to be able to repair some sidewalks throughout the city and would like to set aside money in the appropriations this year for the work. We won't be able to do them all but would like to start doing some each year. He would like the aldermen to submit a list of sidewalks in their wards that are in need of repair and then we can prioritize the sidewalks that are in most need of repair. He would like the contractor to submit a bid in the price per foot so we will have an idea of what it will cost us. All the aldermen were in agreement to get prices for sidewalk replacement.

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

Executive Session – A motion was made by Alderman Sheryl Eckleberry, seconded by Alderman McGill to go into Executive Session to discuss Section 2(c)(21) – minutes of closed session meetings and Section 2(c)(2) – collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees.

Vote yes: Marsh; McGill; McKibben; Reeve; Stahl; Atteberry; Dewey Eckleberry; Sheryl Eckleberry

Vote no: none

Mayor Moore declared motion carried.

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

Vote yes: 8

Vote no: 0

Mayor Moore declared motion carried and Council returned to regular session at 6:56 p.m.

Adjourn Meeting – Motion by Alderman Marsh, seconded by Alderman McKibben to adjourn the meeting.

Vote yes: 8

Vote no: 0

Mayor Moore declared meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Tina Hutchcraft, City Clerk

Gary Moore, Mayor