

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

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 Reeve; Dewey Eckleberry; Cody Attebery

Also Present: Tom Mathews, Wayne County Press; Mark Wells, WFIW Radio; Keith Colclasure, Public Safety Officer; Ben Lewis, Police Chief; Andrew Miller, Fire Chief; Doug Skaggs; and other citizens from the community.

The minutes of the meeting of June 10, 2025 were sent out to those entitled to receive them. Mayor Moore asked for approval of the minutes for the June 10, 2025 meeting and for the April 8, 2025 Executive Session minutes. Motion by Alderman Stahl, seconded by Alderman Marsh to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 10, 2025 and the minutes of the April 8, 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 July 8, 2025 meeting. Motion by Alderman Dewey Eckleberry, seconded by Alderman Attebery to approve the bills for payment.

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

Vote no: none

Mayor Moore declared motion carried.

Ordinance No. 25-0708-386/Appropriations – A public hearing was held at 5:50 p.m. concerning the annual appropriations. The total amount of the appropriations is \$26,408,605. This amount includes the general fund, motor fuel tax, TIF 1, TIF 2, Business Tax, Police Pension, and Fire Pension. The amount for just the general fund is \$22,613,935. A motion was made by Alderman Reeve, seconded by Alderman McKibben to approve Ordinance No. 25-0708-386 adopting the Fairfield Appropriation Ordinance for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2025 and ending April 30, 2026.

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

Vote no: none

Mayor Moore declared motion carried and Ordinance No. 25-0708-386 approved and duly adopted.

Ordinance to Award the Bid for the Sale of Property along SW 10<sup>th</sup> Street– A public hearing was held earlier to open bids for the sale of this property. One bid was received from Jason Robinson in the amount of \$10,000. Mr. Robinson plans to build a laundromat on this property. A motion was made by Alderman Dewey Eckleberry, seconded by Alderman McGill to accept the bid for the sale of this property in the amount of \$10,000.00.

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

Vote no: none

Mayor Moore declared motion carried and Ordinance No. 25-0708-387 approved and adopted.

Leachate Disposal Agreement with the Wayne County Landfill, Inc. – Currently the leachate from the landfill is transported by truck from the landfill and dumped into our system located behind Elastec. Right now the agreement states that we receive a \$.03 per gallon charge for what goes through the system with a \$1,000 minimum. Republic would like to run a direct line from their facility running down Mt. Vernon Rd. and elbow the line over to our system. This would be a lifetime agreement for the city. We currently generate \$100,000 to \$150,000 of revenue from Republic. This agreement states we would get \$.02 per gallon with a \$1,000 minimum. A motion was made by Alderman Dewey Eckleberry, seconded by Alderman McKibben to approve the leachate disposal agreement.

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

Vote no: none

Mayor Moore declared motion carried.

Resolution Approving a Business District Redevelopment Agreement with Nicole Simpson dba Farmer's Daughter – Alderman Attebery presented a business district agreement for Farmer's Daughter. They plan to replace the second floor windows. The business district committee met and recommends Council approve this request. A motion was made by Alderman Reeve, seconded by Alderman Stahl to approve the Business District Redevelopment Agreement with Farmer's Daughter in the total amount of \$4,000.

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

Vote no: none

Mayor Moore declared motion carried and Resolution No. 25-0708-557 approved and adopted.

Resolution Approving a Business District Redevelopment Agreement with Reta Mathews on behalf of Classic Pizza and Pasta Restaurant – Alderman Attebery presented a business district agreement for Classic Pizza. We had previously approved an agreement for this project but they had to get a new contractor to do the work which caused a change in the amount of the original agreement. This would be just an amendment. The business district committee met and

recommends Council approve this request. A motion was made by Alderman Stahl, seconded by Alderman Reeve to approve the Business District Redevelopment Agreement with Reta Mathews on behalf of Classic Pizza and Pasta Restaurant in the total amount of \$4,500.

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

Vote no: none

Mayor Moore declared motion carried and Resolution No. 25-0708-558 approved and adopted.

Resolution No. 25-0708-559/Release of Executive Session Minutes – Alderman Dewey Eckleberry made a motion, seconded by Alderman McGill to approve the resolution regarding the release of executive session minutes.

Vote yes: 8

Vote no: 0

Mayor Moore declared motion carried and Resolution No. 25-0708-559 approved and adopted.

Resolution No. 25-0708-560/Authorizing Destruction of Recordings – Alderman Dewey Eckleberry made a motion, seconded by Alderman McGill to approve the resolution authorizing the destruction of audio recordings for closed session meetings.

Vote yes: 8

Vote no: 0

Mayor Moore declared motion carried and Resolution No. 25-0708-560 approved and adopted.

Resolution – Easement for Ameren – There is a substation along SW 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Ameren is in the process of putting in a transmission line that will run from Albion all the way to Mt. Vernon. We own property which is part of the roadway leading to the substation. They have purchased property directly south of the current substation. We need to approve an easement allowing them to cross our property so Ameren will be able to access their property. A motion was made by Alderman Dewey Eckleberry, seconded by Alderman Marsh to approve this resolution granting them an easement.

Vote yes: 7

Vote no: 0

Abstain: 1

Mayor Moore declared motion carried and Resolution No. 25-0708-561 approved and adopted.

Resolution Appropriating MFT Funds for a General Maintenance Agreement for Road Project – We need to appropriate motor fuel tax funds to patch a part of South First Street where we had to make water line repairs. A motion was made by Alderman Dewey Eckleberry, seconded by Alderman Attebery to approve a resolution appropriating \$60,000.00 in motor fuel tax funds for this project.

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

Vote no: none

Mayor Moore declared motion carried and Resolution No. 25-0708-562 approved and adopted.

Resolution – Street Closing for Fall Fun Fest and a Request to Close a Street for First Baptist Church Vacation Bible School – We have received a request to close streets for the Fairfield Fall

Fun Fest to be held September 16-21. We have also received a request to close a portion of Douglas Street for the First Baptist Church Vacation Bible School to be held July 14-18. A motion was made by Alderman Dewey Eckleberry, seconded by Alderman McGill to approve these street closings.

Vote yes: 8

Vote no: 0

Mayor Moore declared motion carried and Resolution No. 25-0708-563 approved and adopted.

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

Miscellaneous – Alderman Dewey Eckleberry stated that he has driven the streets in his ward and there are several street signs that need replaced or are missing. He encouraged the other aldermen to do the same in their wards so new signs can be ordered.

Miscellaneous – Mayor Moore reported that Keith Colclasure has provided a list of properties that are in violation of city ordinances and has begun addressing those issues. He also reported a very good turnout for the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration.

Miscellaneous – Mayor Moore gave a brief report about a recent meeting he had with the Wayne County Humane Society last week. They are asking for more funds from the city for their services. Mayor Moore talked with them about issues the city is experiencing with their services and the problem with feral cats within the city. They discussed the possibility of passing an ordinance prohibiting the feeding of feral cats but we don't want to be labeled as being cruel to animals. The humane society made a Facebook post after that meeting and Mayor Moore stated that some of the things said in the post were true and some were not true. He didn't understand why they had made the post because he had simply asked them to come up with a proposal for Council's consideration. This matter will be discussed further in future meetings.

Miscellaneous – Mayor Moore gave an update on a recent problem with diesel fuel being discovered in Johnson Creek. There is a company that has been hired to assist with the clean-up and efforts to discover how the spill occurred is still ongoing. Representatives from the EPA are also assisting.

Miscellaneous – The Lakeside Park restoration was discussed. Mayor Moore stated that the federal government is still waiting to receive some information and also stated the farm bill has not yet been passed. This legislation would help with funding for the project.

Executive Session – A motion was made by Alderman Dewey Eckleberry, seconded by Alderman Stahl to go into Executive Session to discuss Section 2(c)(21) – minutes of closed session meetings and Section 2(c)(1) – the appointment, employment, compensation, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body.

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

Vote no: none

Mayor Moore declared motion carried.

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

Vote yes: 8

Vote no: 0

Mayor Moore declared motion carried and Council returned to regular session at 7:00 p.m.

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

Vote yes: 8

Vote no: 0

Mayor Moore declared meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

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Tina Hutchcraft, City Clerk

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Gary Moore, Mayor