

Fairfield, Illinois
Council Chambers, City Hall
Regular Meeting, 6:00 P.M.
Tuesday, February 10, 2026

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 Matthews, Wayne County Press; Mark Wells, WFIW Radio; Andrew Miller, Fire Chief; Ben Lewis, Police Chief; D.E. Young; Cole Young; and other citizens from the community.

The minutes of the meeting of January 13, 2026 and Executive Session of July 8, 2025 were sent out to those entitled to receive them. Mayor Moore asked for approval of the minutes for the January 13, 2026 and Executive Session of July 8, 2025 meetings. Motion by Alderman Stahl, seconded by Alderman Reeve to approve these minutes.

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 February 10, 2026 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 – Lambri Morse addressed the Council about problems she has been having with neighborhood dogs. She has reached out to the Humane Society several times and they are just not responding to her calls or trying to take care of the problem. When Mayor Moore discovered she lives in the Boyleston area he explained to her that where she lives is out of our jurisdiction, and he suggested she address her concerns with the county board.

Presentation – Business Tax Request from Blessed Blooms – April Smith and Alyssa Short, owners of Blessed Blooms, presented a request for business tax monies for their business. They are doing façade work on the front of their building to make it look more like a store front. They

are adding a porch area, windows, doors and lighting. This request will now go to the committee and then their recommendation will be brought back to the Council for consideration.

Resolution Accepting & Approving a Permanent Public Utility Easement [Electric Utility] Agreement with Frontier Community College Foundation and a Resolution Accepting & Approving a Permanent Public Utility Easement [Gas Utility] with Frontier Community College Foundation – Attorney Rice told the Council these agreements need to be approved for the new expansion project at the college. A motion was made by Alderman Dewey Eckleberry, seconded by Alderman McKibben to approve these resolutions.

Vote yes: 8

Vote no: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0

Mayor Moore declared motion carried and Resolution No. 26-0210-578 and Resolution No. 26-0210-579 approved and adopted.

Discussion/Approval to Purchase a Fire Truck & Financing of Purchase – Chief Miller told the Council that he has a 1994 truck that he would like to sell and replace it with a 2008 Spartan Smeal 75' aerial truck. It would take approximately six months before we can get the truck because they will do some repairs on it and they will also paint the truck. The price of the truck is \$369,000. Fairfield National Bank has the best rate for financing the purchase. A motion was made by Alderman McGill, seconded by Alderman Stahl to approve the purchase and the financing of the new fire truck.

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

Vote no: none

Mayor Moore declared motion carried.

Approve the Sale of the Existing Ladder Truck – A motion was made by Alderman Reeve, seconded by Alderman McKibben to approve the sale of the existing ladder truck to Countrymark Energy from Mt. Vernon, Indiana in the amount of \$60,000. The sale will be completed after the arrival of the new truck.

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

Vote no: none

Mayor Moore declared motion carried and Ordinance No. 26-0210-394 approved and adopted.

Recreation Fund Request – A motion was made by Alderman Stahl, seconded by Alderman Marsh to approve this recreation fund expenditure request in the amount of \$2,000 for the Easter Egg Hunt.

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

Vote no: none

Mayor Moore declared motion carried.

Street Closing Request for the Closing of SE 2nd Street – We have received a street closing request for the FCHS Prom for Saturday, April 11th. The street should be closed by 4 pm and will reopen when the announcement of the seniors and their dates is completed. In addition, they are asking for students to be allowed to park on East Center Street starting a 10 am on Saturday. A motion was made by Alderman Dewey Eckleberry, seconded by Alderman Attebery to approve this request.

Vote yes: 8

Vote no: 0

Absent: 0

Mayor Moore declared motion carried.

Discuss Changing the Guidelines for Business Tax District – Mayor Moore and the committee would like to change the guidelines for how the Business Tax District monies are given. The following was discussed for the projects:

\$0 to \$5,000 – 100% paid – 1 per address per 6 months

\$5,001 - \$25,000 – 50% paid – 1 per address per 12 months

\$25,001 – and over – 25% paid – 1 per address per 12 months

The Council was in agreement to instruct Attorney Rice to draft the document for approval at the next meeting.

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

Miscellaneous – Mayor Moore stated that January brought both extended cold temperatures and unexpectedly higher utility rates. Most areas remained below freezing until early February. This week the city received both our natural gas and electricity bills for last month. Natural gas was \$477,000 and electricity was \$500,000. With that number we anticipate higher utility bills for our residents. Mayor Moore wants the residents to understand that we will attempt to meet extra terms the residents need to get their balance paid. He asked that residents contact billing/collections office to request additional terms before service is disconnected for non-payment. Making these requests after the shut off creates challenges that can't be managed as easily as before shut off.

Miscellaneous – The severe weather we've had has created many overtime hours. Mayor Moore stated that Robert Kamp and his crew, along with others from the water department, did a great job. They worked hard with the snow removal and have repaired many water leaks.

Miscellaneous – The owner of El Mexicano has agreed to meet with representatives of the city and a building inspector to see what needs to be done to the building to make it safe and bring it into compliance.

Miscellaneous – Cole Young told the Council that our drinking water received a TOC violation (total organic compounds). This is because we get our water from the Wabash River. The violations were not severe enough to even require a boil order, so the water is completely safe to use and drink. Cole is working closely with the EPA to make the corrections needed to bring us back into compliance.

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 6:49 p.m.

Tina Hutchcraft, City Clerk

Gary Moore, Mayor