

Fairfield, Illinois
Council Chambers, City Hall
Regular Meeting, 6:00 P.M.
Tuesday, April 14, 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; Keith Colclasure, Public Safety Officer; Andrew Miller, Fire Chief; and other citizens from the community.

The minutes of the meeting of March 10, 2026 were sent out to those entitled to receive them. Mayor Moore asked for approval of the minutes for the March 10, 2026 meeting. Motion by Alderman Marsh, seconded by Alderman McGill 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 April 14, 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.

CASA for Kids Presentation – Mariah Hayes is the Executive Director for CASA. She stated that CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates. They are trained volunteers appointed by a judge to speak up for the interests of children who have experienced abuse or neglect. Advocates make sure that every child's voice is heard and that the court has the information needed to make the best possible decisions for each child's future. She stated that they need community members to serve as volunteer advocates for children in foster care in Wayne County.

Resolution No. 26-0414-583 Appropriating MFT Funds for General Maintenance on Various Roads - We need to appropriate motor fuel tax funds to oil and chip various roads. A motion

was made by Alderman Dewey Eckleberry, seconded by Alderman Stahl to approve a resolution appropriating \$60,000.00 in motor fuel tax funds for this project.

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

Vote no: none

Mayor Moore declared motion carried and Resolution No. 26-0414-583 approved and adopted.

Award Bid for SW 7th St., NW 9th St., Lakeview Dr. Street Projects and Award Bid for North First Street Project – Bids were opened for both street projects and there was only one bidder. Howell Paving submitted a bid in the amount of \$378,695.51 for the SW 7th St., NW 9th St. and Lakeview Drive project and a bid in the amount of \$189,064.91 for the North First Street Project. A motion was made by Alderman Dewey Eckleberry, seconded by Alderman McKibben to award both bids to Howell Paving.

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

Vote no: none

Mayor Moore declared motion carried.

Street Closing Request for Wayne County Farm to Table Event – The Wayne County Farm Bureau is requesting a street closing request for Southeast 2nd Street from Delaware Street to Center Street from 12:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 15, 2026 for the purpose of holding the “Wayne County Farm to Table” fundraising benefit for Wayne County Agricultural Education. A motion was made by Alderman Stahl, seconded by Alderman McKibben to approve this request.

Vote yes: 8

Vote no: 0

Mayor Moore declared motion carried.

Resolution Approving a Revolving Loan to Christina Copeland dba Grace & Bloom – The Council recently approved a revolving loan to Christina Copeland and Mackenzie Stewart dba Grace and Bloom. Since that time Mackenzie Stewart has left the business. This new paperwork for the revolving loan shows only Christina Copeland as the owner. Mayor Moore asked the Council to approve the new loan for Grace and Bloom. A motion was made by Alderman Reeve, seconded by Alderman McGill to approve this new resolution.

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

Vote no: none

Mayor Moore declared motion carried and Resolution No. 26-0414-584 approved and adopted.

Presentation – Business Tax Request from Andrew Gifford – Andrew Gifford could not attend the meeting so this will be discussed at a later date.

Presentation – Business Tax Request from Moore Graphics – Austin Moore told the Council that he has a screen printing business that he runs out of his home. He is asking for Council to consider a revolving loan for him to be able to purchase additional equipment. The committee will meet concerning this request and make a recommendation to the full Council.

Recreation Fund Expenditure Request – The recreation committee is purchasing new self-watering flower pots for downtown. We also need to install automatic door locks for the bathrooms at Freedom Park. The doors will be on a timer to open and close at a designated time. The total request for recreation funds for these two projects is \$11,300. A motion was made by Alderman Stahl, seconded by Alderman Reeve to purchase the flower pots and the automatic door locks.

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

Vote no: none

Mayor Moore declared motion carried

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

Miscellaneous – Mayor Moore would like the Council to consider a change to our ordinances to allow a customer to notify the city that they are going to fill their swimming pool and we would reduce the amount of the sewer bill. This would only be allowed once a year for a new install or a drain and fill situation. The aldermen were in favor of this so Attorney Rice is instructed to draft an ordinance to allow this.

Miscellaneous – The attorney for our municipal court has closed her private practice and is no longer able to be our hearing officer. We are in the process of trying to find a new attorney to fill this vacancy.

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

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 7:42 p.m.

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

Vote yes: 8

Vote no: 0

Mayor Moore declared meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Tina Hutchcraft, City Clerk

Gary Moore, Mayor