Fairfield, Illinois
Council Chambers, City Hall
Regular Meeting, 6:00 P.M.
Tuesday, October 13, 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 Reever; Dewey Eckleberry; Cody Attebery

Also Present: Jarrod Pruitt, Wayne County Press; Doug Skaggs; Keith Colclasure; Andrew Miller, Fire Chief; Cole Young, Water Distribution; D.E. Young, Garage; and other citizens from the community.

The minutes of the meeting of September 8, 2026 were sent out to those entitled to receive them. Mayor Moore asked for approval of the minutes for the September 8, 2026 meeting. Motion by Alderman Stahl, seconded by Alderman Marsh 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 October 13, 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; Reever; Stahl; Attebery
Vote no: none
Mayor Moore declared motion carried.

Public Comments – Denise Allen addressed the Council and stated that at a previous meeting the Council had discussed a proposed increase in the monthly payment for animal control from $2,000 to possibly $4,000 to $5,000 a month. She stated she is following up to see whether or not that increase and been approved. Mayor Moore stated that it has not been approved. The Humane Society has given the city a formal request. This will be mentioned later in the meeting and should be addressed at the next council meeting.

Business Tax Presentation – Fairfield Elk's Club – Tyler Lampley addressed the Council asking for assistance from the Business Tax District for help in the costs the club has spent on needed repairs and upgrades to the Elk's building. Many projects have been completed such as new

roof, kitchen and bathroom remodeling, repairs to windows, etc. Even though many projects have been completed they have plans to do more repairs. Diane Zurliene also addressed the Council stating that she would appreciate any assistance that could be given. The Business District Committee will meet and make a recommendation to the Council.

Resolution Approving a Business District Redevelopment Agreement with Trackside Auto Repair – Trackside Auto Repair addressed the Council at the last meeting asking for assistance in the cost for new signage for their business. The business district committee met and recommends Council approve this request in the amount of $4,920.00, A motion was made by Alderman Reever, seconded by Alderman McKibben to approve the resolution for the Business District Agreement with Trackside Auto Repair.
Vote yes: Sheryl Eckleberry; Marsh; McGill; McKibben; Reever; Stahl; Attebery; Dewey Eckleberry
Vote no: none
Abstain: none
Mayor Moore declared motion carried and Resolution No. 26-1013-612 approved and adopted.

Business District Agreement with Carnaby Square – This item is being removed from the agenda.

Albion Radio Communications/Maintenance Agreement – A maintenance agreement with Ray Conley of Albion Radio Communications for radio and transmitter maintenance at the Airport needs to be approved. The agreement terms are unchanged from last year. A motion was made by Alderman McGill, seconded by Alderman Dewey Eckleberry to approve this agreement.
Vote yes: McGill; McKibben; Reever; Stahl; Attebery; Dewey Eckleberry; Sheryl Eckleberry; Marsh
Vote no: none
Mayor Moore declared motion carried.

Ordinance No. 26-1013-404/Risk Management Insurance – The Illinois Municipal League Risk Management Association submitted a quote for our risk management insurance. Mayor Moore recommends we pay Option #1 which is the full payment amount of $222,922.07. Alderman Dewey Eckleberry made a motion, seconded by Alderman Stahl to approve Ordinance No. 26-1013-404 authorizing the execution of the IMLRMA Minimum/Maximum Contribution Agreement.
Vote yes: McKibben; Reever; Stahl; Attebery; Dewey Eckleberry; Sheryl Eckleberry; Marsh; McGill
Vote no: none
Mayor Moore declared motion carried and Ordinance No. 26-1013-404 approved and duly adopted.

Seek Bids for Water Filtration Chemicals – A motion was made by Alderman Dewey Eckleberry, seconded by Alderman Attebery to seek bids for water filtration chemicals for one year.
Vote yes: 8
Vote no: 0

Mayor Moore declared motion carried.

Motor Fuel Tax Compliance Review Report – Mayor Moore reported to the Council that we have received the Motor Fuel Tax Compliance Review report showing the receipts and disbursements for January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025 The records of the City are in agreement with the records maintained by the Department of Transportation.

Discussion and/or Determination of the Fairfield Levy Request for 2027 – Mayor Moore told the Council that the tax levy ordinance will need to be approved. He is recommending the Council approve a tax levy increase of 4.99%. This would generate a little over $1 million. Most of our tax levy is applied to the police and fire pensions. There was no questions or discussion on his recommendation. He stated the tax levy will be brought back to the Council next month for consideration and approval.

Proposal from Southern Illinois Critter Fixers TNVR Program – Mary Murphy with Southern Illinois Critter Fixers presented a proposal to the Council to help with the problem the city is experiencing with feral cats. She proposed feeding cats at seven designated locations for 30 minutes each day, along with trapping efforts at those sites. Once trapped the cats would be spayed or neutered, vaccinated and an ear would be tipped and then the animal would be returned to the area in which it was trapped. We do have one individual that has been feeding feral cats at many locations throughout the city. Mary Murphy has spoken to this individual and she has promised to stop her feeding if the city partners with the Critter Fixers organization. Mayor Moore asked Mrs. Murphy to speak with this individual again to confirm that she still plans to stop her feeding of the cats and to support the proposed agreement between the city and Critter Fixers. The organization is asking the city to provide $20,000 annually toward the entire project of spay/neuter//vaccination/feeding program. The Council also briefly discussed a request from the Wayne County Humane Society for additional funding for animal control services. No action was taken on either proposal.

Purchase of a Truck for the Fire Department – Fire Chief Andrew Miller told the Council that the department has a 2006 Ford F250 that was purchased in 2014. This truck has been used for the department's medical calls and is used almost every day. He would like to trade in this vehicle for a different one. The trade-in price for this vehicle would be $4,500. He told the Council that he has located a used 2023 Ford F350 with 14,686 miles for $46,803.63. After trade-in the cost would be $42,303.63. He also presented a new 2027 Ram 3500 with a price of $49,858.63. The Foreign Fire Tax Board met and they have agreed to give $10,000 toward the purchase of a new truck. With that money and the money from trade-in it would bring the price for the new truck down to $35,358.63. A motion was made by Alderman Dewey Eckleberry, seconded by Alderman McGill to approve the purchase of the 2027 Ram 3500 and the trade-in of the 2006 Ford F250. After the donation of $10,000 from the Foreign Fire Tax Board the cost of the truck will be $35,358.63.
Vote yes: Reever; Stahl; Attebery; Dewey Eckleberry; Sheryl Eckleberry; Marsh; McGill; McKibben
Vote no: none
Mayor Moore declared motion carried.

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

Miscellaneous – The Fire Department has scheduled their chili supper on Friday, October 30th. It will be carry out only. Boo on Main will also be held that same evening. Trick or Treat hours are October 30th and 31st from 5-8:00 p.m.

Miscellaneous – Mayor Moore gave a brief update on the progress of the new hotel. He has seen a site drawing and he hopes to see ground breaking soon. The new gymnasium project at Frontier College is progressing as well as the new Yellin' Helen's facility.

Miscellaneous – Mayor Moore said the lake project is still awaiting federal funding.

Miscellaneous – The state is making it a law January 1st that some of the electric bicycles will have to be licensed by the State of Illinois. Once that law is put in place, then we can make some adjustments to our ordinances concerning the use of those bicycles within the city.

Miscellaneous – The Veteran's Parade will be held November 7th at 2:00 p.m.

Adjourn Meeting – Motion by Alderman McGill seconded by Alderman Dewey Eckleberry to adjourn the meeting.
Vote yes: 8
Vote no: 0
Mayor Moore declared meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

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Tina Hutchcraft, City Clerk

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Gary Moore, Mayor