

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, April 28, 2020

The monthly meeting of the Paxton City Council was held on Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom meeting.

Mayor Ingold called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll call showed the following aldermen in attendance: Evans, Geiken, Johnson Anderson, Pacey, Satterlee, Wilson and Withers. Also, in attendance were: Mayor Bill Ingold, Treasurer/Comptroller Tammy Jensen, Public Works Director Mark LeClair, Police Chief Coy Cornett, City Attorney Marc Miller, EMA Director Ed Hanson, and members of the audience and press.

MINUTES

Mayor Ingold asked if there were any changes, corrections or additions that needed made to the minutes from the March Council meeting and the committee meeting minutes for March.

Alderman Withers made a motion to approve the minutes of the March Council meeting and the March committee meetings. Aldermen Evans seconded the motion. Roll Call: ayes – Alderman Evans, Geiken, Johnson Anderson, Pacey, Satterlee, Wilson and Withers. Seven ayes, motion carried.

LIST OF CLAIMS

Alderman Johnson Anderson made a motion to approve the lists of claims, except for EIEC bill. Alderman Wilson seconded the motion. Roll Call: ayes – Alderman Evans, Geiken, Johnson Anderson, Pacey, Satterlee, Wilson and Withers. Seven ayes, motion carried.

Alderman Withers made a motion to approve the EIEC bill. Alderman Geiken seconded the motion. Roll Call: ayes – Alderman Evans, Geiken, Johnson Anderson, Pacey, Satterlee, and Withers. Alderman Wilson abstained. Six ayes, one abstain, motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT AND INVESTMENT REGISTER

The reports have been emailed to all Aldermen. Alderman Wilson made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report and Investment Register. Alderman Johnson Anderson seconded the motion. Roll Call: ayes – Alderman Evans, Geiken, Johnson Anderson, Pacey, Satterlee, Wilson and Withers. Seven ayes, motion carried.

Mayor Ingold asked the Council to approve his appointment of Jonas Hoedebecke as Alderman to Ward 4. Alderman Evan made a motion to approve the Mayor’s appointment of Jonas Hoedebecke as Alderman to Ward 4. Alderman Geiken seconded the motion. Roll Call: ayes – Alderman Evans, Geiken, Johnson Anderson, Pacey, Satterlee, Wilson and Withers. Seven ayes, motion carried.

FINANCE/BUDGET

There were no committee meetings and nothing on the agenda.

Alderman Pacey would like to look at and budget for the loss of sales taxes that the City is currently experiencing. Treasurer/Comptroller Jensen said that already she is looking into that.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Director LeClair spoke on the MFT work for this year. He would like to finish the side roads to complement the StreetScape work. The total for this work is \$152,914.79. There is enough in the fund to cover this work. There was discussion on alley work and some of the other roads that were cut from this work. Greg Cook, with Farnsworth, was in attendance and spoke briefly on this project. Alderman Pacey made a motion to approve the MFT work and give the Mayor and City Clerk the authority to fill out the proper paperwork. Alderman Withers seconded the motion. Roll Call: ayes – Alderman Evans, Geiken, Johnson Anderson, Pacey, Satterlee, Wilson and Withers. Alderman Hoedebecke abstained. Seven ayes, one abstain, motion carried.

The Mayor and Public Works Director LeClair will come back at the May Council meeting with more street work to be completed.

The paving on E. Prospect will be paid for out of general funds. They are doing 290 feet, near the homes. Brad Paulson, with United Paving, had a price of \$16,250. Alderman Withers made a motion to approve the street work on E. Prospect. Alderman Geiken seconded the motion. Roll Call: ayes – Alderman Evans, Geiken, Johnson Anderson, Pacey, Satterlee, Wilson and Withers. Alderman Hoedebecke abstained. Seven ayes, one abstain, motion carried.

Alderman Evans asked if some of these streets could be oil and chipped to save money. Public Works Director LeClair wants to keep the roads as nice as possible, and he's worried about issues that come up with oil and chip, but he feels it's a move in the wrong direction.

Alderman Pacey asked about grinding of trees that are on the City right-of-way. Public Works Director LeClair is working on it.

PUBLIC SAFETY

There were no committee meetings.

Paxton EMA had their monthly meeting earlier this month. The Mutual Aid agreement came out of this meeting. This is voluntary participation on both sides of the agreement. Neither is fully accredited at this time. Alderman Evans stated that he feels that since neither side is accredited, the City should not enter into the agreement. Alderman Wilson asked if there would be a cost to the City. He also stated that the county has done a great job of working with the state and the City during this COVID-19 time. The City could be out funds if they are required to help with any events. There was further discussion on this issue. EMA Director Hanson was having technical issues and was unable to contribute to the discussion. This item was tabled until the adjourned City Council meeting on Thursday, April 30th.

There were no changes to the new dispatching contract with Sheriff's Department. Alderman Withers made a motion to approve the dispatching contract with the Sherriff's Department. Alderman Geiken seconded the motion. Roll Call: ayes – Alderman Evans, Geiken, Johnson Anderson, Pacey, Satterlee, Wilson and Withers. Alderman Hoedebecke abstained. Seven ayes, one abstain, motion carried.

Chief Cornett sent email out to the Aldermen regarding a new squad car for the police department. Funds are coming from impound, DUI, and drug seizures, to pay for the car. The car is \$38,158, with an additional \$4,461 to move equipment over. Alderman Withers made a

motion to approve the purchase of a new squad car with costs not to exceed \$45,000. Alderman Evans seconded the motion. Roll Call: ayes – Alderman Evans, Geiken, Johnson Anderson, Pacey, Satterlee, Wilson and Withers. Alderman Hoedebecke abstained. Seven ayes, one abstain, motion carried. The 2013 with 92,000 miles will be the squad car rotating out. This car will be bid on for sale.

There was discussion regarding placing a stop sign at Winter and E. Orleans. The Chief sent out a speed study and accident study for that intersection. There have been two accidents at that intersection. A speed study showed few high speeds. Alderman Geiken was approached by citizens living near that intersection for the stop sign. There was further discussion on this item, but no action taken.

CITY PROPERTY

There were no committee meetings and there was nothing on the agenda.

Alderman Evans mentioned that the check is in for the airport and the sale is final. Mr. Hrupsa is already moving forward with updates to the airport.

The brush pile will be burned more frequently and in smaller amounts to try to eliminate any nuisance from the burn.

LICENSE, PERMIT, ZONING & INSURANCE

There were no committee meetings.

Paster Levi Deitrich was in attendance today to discuss the possible annexation of the Grace Baptist Church, 931 S. Railroad Ave. He also wrote a letter to the City. He would like to be in the City because of the Police protection that the City brings. They are already on City water and sewer. They are not changing zoning, so they do not have to go through the Planning Commission. Alderman Withers made a motion to approve the annexation of the Grace Baptist Church, located at 931 S. Railroad Ave, to the City of Paxton. Alderman Pacey seconded the motion. Roll Call: ayes – Alderman Evans, Geiken, Johnson Anderson, Pacey, Satterlee, Wilson and Withers. Alderman Hoedebecke abstained. Seven ayes, one abstain, motion carried.

Mayor Ingold was emailed by Alderman Pacey about the idea of prorating liquor licenses with the intent to help the restaurants and bars that are closed right now. This would prorate the May 1 – October 31st fee. This makes the new due date in August. There was discussion on this. Alderman Pacey made a motion to **APPROVE ORDINANCE 20-7 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2020 LIQUOR LICENSE TO EXTEND THE RENEWAL DATE TO AUGUST 1, 2020 AND WAIVE/PRORATE FEES FOR MONTHS ESTABLISHMENTS ARE CLOSED DUE TO COVID-19 EMERGENCY ORDERED SHUT DOWN.** Alderman Withers seconded the motion. Roll Call: ayes – Alderman Evans, Geiken, Johnson Anderson, Pacey, Satterlee, Wilson and Withers. Alderman Hoedebecke abstained. Seven ayes, one abstain, motion carried.

COMMUNITY

There were no committee meetings.

Todd McNutt owns a communications company in Gibson City. He was asked to look in to setting up an audio system for downtown Paxton. His company did this in Gibson City about a

year ago. This would end up being a speaker every other light pole. These speakers can be controlled remotely. They can come on automatically and play advertisements as well as music. Emergency communications messages can be broadcast through these speakers as well. Bands playing can also be plugged into the speaker system and can be played through the speakers. With this, there is a wireless system included. This is not for the downtown businesses, but for visitors downtown to have access to Wi-Fi. There are limits on the Wi-Fi usage, so that no one can be on for an excessive amount of time during a 24-hour period. Now is the time to get the fiber or cabling conduit placed while the StreetScape project is happening. There is a subscription-based music service that has multiple channels that can be played over the speakers. WPXN can be pulled in to create the ads that are played. There are two microphones that can be used for any events and plugged into the speaker system. Timeframe for installation is quick, as long as they have access to what they need to install. There was discussion on budgeting for this project. Initially, Mr. McNutt thinks the price will be around \$85,000. The City will work with Mr. McNutt and gain more information for a more formal presentation once the Council can meet in person.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

There were no committee meetings.

There are some grants available from the State of Illinois. Information was sent out to all Chamber members and people started applying right away. Mayor Ingold located about 50 more non-chamber members and delivered applications to them. The City had 25 applications submitted. After all of the requirements were met, they ended up with about 13 applications. Notification of the applicants had to be printed in the paper seven days in advance of the closing. The Small Business Grant Resolutions topic will be discussed at the adjourned meeting on April 30th, which is after the seven days.

The Payroll Protection Program comes from a bank. Busey Bank and Farmers-Merchant National Bank are accredited to work with businesses on this program.

Brown Hay and Stevens were discussed as possible TIF attorneys for the City. They are located in Springfield. Mayor Ingold likes them as they are consultants and attorneys at the same location. Any others that were both were in Chicago or St. Louis. They have a very stable firm. A question was asked if we know their experience with a community of our size or have a list of anyone they serve? Mayor Ingold will get that information out to the Aldermen. Alderman Pacey asked about Jacob and Klein, a company in Bloomington, but they were representing Mr. Warner, so that might have been a conflict of interest. The Aldermen asked Mayor Ingold to get in touch with them to see if they are still working with him. This item will be discussed at the adjourned meeting on April 30th.

LONG TERM PLANNING

There were no committee meetings and nothing on the agenda.

OTHER

There was a parade held at Acolade on Pells St. The residents were out in the parking lot with masks and were practicing social distancing. It was a very emotional moment to see all the residents and how much they enjoyed the parade and seeing everyone.

At 8:45 p.m. Alderman Wilson made a motion to adjourn tonight's regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council until April 30th at 7:00 p.m. Alderman Johnson Anderson seconded the motion. All ayes - motion carried on a voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gwen Smith
City Clerk