

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

The monthly meeting of the Paxton City Council was held on Tuesday, May 12, 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, Hoedebecke, 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 April Council meetings and the committee meeting minutes for April.

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

LIST OF CLAIMS

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

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

FINANCE/BUDGET

There were no committee meetings.

Alderman Wilson spoke regarding the amended appropriations ordinance. Treasurer /Comptroller Jensen stated that this is something that is done every year. Funds are appropriated in July and this update balances everything out. Alderman Wilson made a motion to **APPROVE ORDINANCE 20-14 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR 2019-2020**. Alderman Geiken seconded the motion. Roll Call: ayes – Alderman Evans, Geiken, Hoedebecke, Johnson Anderson, Pacey, Satterlee, Wilson and Withers. Eight ayes, motion carried.

Mayor Ingold spoke regarding what to do with some of the money from funds from the sale of the airport. There was discussion. The Aldermen stated they would like to hold on to these funds and get a quote for the roof repairs of the Pells Park Pavilion. Treasurer/Comptroller Jensen stated that they are being very conservative when it comes to projecting sales tax revenue.

PUBLIC WORKS

Alderman Withers discussed the road repairs to E. Prospect, S. Fall, and E. Bogardus Streets. This work was planned on being completed this year and the funds are in the general fund. Brad Polson, United Paving, will be completing this work. Alderman Wilson made a motion to approve this work. Alderman Geiken seconded the motion. Roll Call: ayes – Alderman Evans, Geiken, Hoedebecke, Johnson Anderson, Pacey, Satterlee, Wilson and Withers. Eight ayes, motion carried.

The patchwork on Meridian Terrace was discussed. This was listed as a lower priority. There was discussion. It was decided to wait on these repairs for the time being.

The repairs to E. Center Street were discussed. This work is around \$3,000 and was caused by water damage. Funds for this repair are coming out of the water department. There's an additional area that Public Works Director LeClair is hoping to patch, but didn't have a quote just yet. That additional area could cost up to \$4,000. Alderman Geiken made a motion to complete both repairs for a cost not to exceed \$8,000. Alderman Hoedebecke seconded the motion. Roll Call: ayes – Alderman Evans, Geiken, Hoedebecke, Johnson Anderson, Pacey, Satterlee, Wilson and Withers. Eight ayes, motion carried.

PUBLIC SAFETY

There were no committee meetings and nothing on the agenda.

The process has started of giving verbal and written warnings for ordinance violations. Chief Cornett said that they are still doing these and will be giving Notices to Appear next.

CITY PROPERTY

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

LICENSE, PERMIT, ZONING & INSURANCE

There were no committee meetings.

Alderman Satterlee spoke regarding the requested annexation of 1170 E. Larson. The Planning Commission met earlier this evening. The committee made a recommendation to annex 1170 E. Larson and change zoning from R1 to R2. Rosemary Harper is wanting to hook up to City sewer. Public Works Director LeClair was asked if he sees any issues with them hooking up to the City sewer. He sees no issues. The City will inspect the work done to ensure that things were done correctly. Old septic systems are supposed to be filled in as well. Alderman Withers made a motion to **APPROVE ORDINANCE 20-15 AN ORDINANCE REZONING AND ANNEXING 1170 E. LARSON**. Alderman Pacey seconded the motion. Roll Call: ayes – Alderman Evans, Geiken, Hoedebecke, Johnson Anderson, Pacey, Satterlee, Wilson and Withers. Eight ayes, motion carried.

Alderman Satterlee spoke regarding the requested annexation of 1126 Eastview. The Planning Commission met earlier this evening. The committee made a recommendation to annex 1126

Eastview and change zoning to R2. Alderman Evans made a motion to **APPROVE ORDINANCE 20-16 AN ORDINANCE REZONING AND ANNEXING 1126 EASTVIEW**. Alderman Withers seconded the motion. Roll Call: ayes – Alderman Evans, Geiken, Hoedebecke, Johnson Anderson, Pacey, Satterlee, Wilson and Withers. Eight ayes, motion carried.

There was a request to revisit allowing chickens and coops inside town. You can have chicken or a chicken coop, but it cannot be within 150 ft of a residence that isn't owning the chickens. There have been multiple requests from residents owning chickens. There was discussion on this item. The Mayor will do some research on some other communities that allow chickens and come back to this item next month.

COMMUNITY

There were no committee meetings and nothing on the agenda.

Mayor Ingold spoke regarding the 4th of July Celebration and the Swine and Dine event. Regarding fireworks, the City contributes funds towards their purchase. Donations are also solicited. This solicitation has not happened this year. Fireworks are also in short supply at this time, and there's no guarantee that the City could get fireworks in time for the event. Alan Meyer, Chamber President spoke and would like to wait until closer to the event to make any decisions. Depending on what happens on the Governor's level, the City is going wait to make a decision until closer to the event. The question was asked if the Chamber hosts an event on City property, does the City have any liability if anyone gets sick. City Attorney Miller stated that if the City allowed the Chamber to hold the event and follow the proper protocols, by the governor, it would be very hard to hold the City liable. If the governor doesn't open things up, and the City holds the event anyway, our insurance would likely not cover the City in this event. A question was asked if the State licenses people putting on a firework show. City Attorney Miller said that the local fire department is the one that licenses the fireworks. Bigger concern is the activities at Pells Park. There was further discussion on this item. This item will be discussed at the June City Council meeting.

The Ford County Board passed a resolution supporting local businesses. City Attorney Miller stated that he appreciates the sentiment of the Board. He's concerned that going against the governor's order could expose the City and businesses to economic exposure to liability. There was discussion on this. City Attorney Miller feels that the City should follow the order from the governor. He did say that the City could pass a resolution stating a political position that the governor should open up downstate area businesses. Chief Cornett stated that businesses can contact Ford County Public Health Director Lana Sample for guidance. If a person has a state license and decides to open, they could be in jeopardy of losing that license. They could also be liable for anything that happens on their property and might not be covered by their insurance.

There was discussion about the city of Effingham opening up. City Attorney Miller stated that it was not the city, but the county. The governor stated that any county defying the stay at home order would be in jeopardy of receiving state funding going forward.

Alan Meyer spoke on this issue as well. There was further discussion.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

There were no committee meetings and nothing on the agenda.

LONG TERM PLANNING

There were no committee meetings and nothing on the agenda.

OTHER

At 8:00 p.m. Alderman Wilson made a motion to adjourn tonight's regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council. Alderman Withers seconded the motion. Roll Call: ayes – Alderman Evans, Geiken, Hoedebecke, Johnson Anderson, Pacey, Satterlee, Wilson and Withers. Eight ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gwen Smith
City Clerk