

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, November 9, 2021

The monthly meeting of the Paxton City Council was held on Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

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

Roll call showed the following aldermen in attendance: Crutcher, Evans, Geiken, Pacey, Wilson, and Withers. Also, in attendance were: Mayor Bill Ingold, Treasurer/Comptroller Tammy Jensen, Police Chief Coy Cornett, Water/Sewer Supervisor Bob Carleton, Street/Alley Supervisor Jesse Houtzel, Attorney Marc Miller, and members of the audience and press.

The mayor led the meeting in the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

Mayor Ingold asked if there were any changes, corrections or additions that needed made to the minutes from the October Council meeting. Alderman Wilson made a motion to approve the minutes of the October Council meeting. Aldermen Pacey seconded the motion. All approved on a voice vote.

LIST OF CLAIMS

Alderman Evans made a motion to approve the lists of claims, except for the claims for EIEC and DHM. Alderman Pacey seconded the motion. Roll Call: ayes – Alderman Crutcher, Evans, Geiken, Pacey, Wilson, and Withers. Six ayes, motion carried.

Alderman Withers made a motion to approve EIEC bill. Alderman Pacey seconded the motion. Roll Call: ayes – Alderman Evans, Geiken, Pacey, and Withers. Abstain – Crutcher and Wilson. Four ayes, two abstains, motion carried.

Alderman Wilson made a motion to approve DHM bill. Alderman Pacey seconded the motion. Roll Call: ayes – Alderman Crutcher, Evans, Geiken, Pacey, and Wilson. Abstain – Withers. Five ayes, one abstains, 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 Geiken seconded the motion. Roll Call: ayes – Alderman Crutcher, Evans, Geiken, Pacey, Wilson, and Withers. Six ayes, motion carried.

FINANCE/BUDGET – ALDERMAN WILSON

Discussed Tax Levy Ordinance 21-15. This allows the city to levy what is needed from the county for annual amounts listed in taxes. Motion made by Wilson, seconded by Pacey. Roll Call: ayes – Alderman Crutcher, Evans, Geiken, Pacey, Wilson, and Withers. Six ayes, motion carried.

Discussed Library Maintenance Tax Resolution Ordinance 21-16. This allows the city to levy taxes for the maintenance of the library facility. Motion made by Pacey, seconded by Wilson. Roll Call: ayes – Alderman Crutcher, Evans, Geiken, Pacey, Wilson, and Withers. Six ayes, motion carried.

Discussed Min/Max Ordinance 21-17. This allows the city to limit the maximum amount paid into insurance with an agreement to pay at least a minimum for insurance purposes Motion made by Pacey, seconded by Wilson. Roll Call: ayes – Alderman Crutcher, Evans, Geiken, Pacey, Wilson, and Withers. Six ayes, motion carried.

Discussed Bond Abatement Ordinance 21-18. This means that the city doesn’t levy for the amount that we pay for refunding bonds each year. Motion made by Wilson, seconded by Pacey. Roll Call: ayes – Alderman Crutcher, Evans, Geiken, Pacey, Wilson, and Withers. Six ayes, motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS – ALDERMAN WITHERS

Discuss proposal for drainage issues – Jesse was out working in the area by Fall and Eastview and there are several problems. Pipe size, tree roots, clay tile, collapse, mud are all problems we are experiencing. Working with Farnsworth to determine possible solutions for this.

Discuss quote for roof replacement of the filter building at the Waste Water Treatment Plant – Received estimate from PopeJoy Roofing for \$14,000 for membrane type roofing. This quote includes removing the existing roof, put down a coverboard, then put down membrane and give warranty on the project.

Estimate for tuckpointing is \$14,350. Several corners have bricks that will need to be pulled out and replaced. Water is going back behind the brick and it is going through freeze/thaw process and expanding the problem.

Alderman Withers asked when they might get to the roof and at that time, possibly this year. Multiple companies were approached for estimates but only one was received. PopeJoy was advised that prevailing wage would be required for this work to be done. City Comptroller Jensen asked if money for this project would come from Rebuild Illinois funds and the mayor said that it was possible to use some funds for this project. **Alderman Withers motioned to utilize Rebuild Illinois funds for roof replacement not to exceed \$20,000.** Alderman Wilson seconded the motion. Roll Call: ayes – Alderman Crutcher, Evans, Geiken, Pacey, Wilson, and Withers. Six ayes, motion carried. **Alderman Withers then made the motion to utilize Rebuild Illinois funds as needed for tuckpointing work not to exceed \$20,000.** This was seconded by Alderman Wilson. Roll Call: ayes – Alderman Crutcher, Evans, Geiken, Pacey, Wilson, and Withers. Six ayes, motion carried.

Water/Sewer Supervisor Carleton stated that three University of Illinois faculty visited the water plant to complete an energy study. They asked if solar was a consideration and while it was a consideration there is a space limitation for where the solar panels could be placed on the property.

Street Supervisor Houtzel stated they have cut 24 trees as of today and should be around 50 trees cut by the end of the week.

PUBLIC SAFETY – ALDERMAN PACEY

Chief Cornett mailed out the actual contract that will be utilized with PBL Unit 10 school system and it will take effect in February 2022. The approximate cost is \$84,160 and the school will cover 75% and the city will cover the remaining. The school will pay quarterly. The amount listed is for wages and includes all benefits for this officer. Alderman Withers asked if this includes a vehicle. Chief Cornett says it has been discussed however at this time, a vehicle may be provided by the city. The school will be providing work space, office materials and supplies. This contract is to cover the financial/money cost for that officer. When the SRO is off on the weekends/holidays, the officer could be utilized by the city with the city covering the overtime costs. The officer will also be spending some time at Clara Peterson to help cover elementary children's programs. Press member Brumleve asked who the SRO would be and Chief Cornett stated that the prospective candidate is Brandon Ryan however it is not set in stone and it will still be a decision made between Chief Cornett and Superintendent McClure. **Alderman Evans made the motion to proceed with the SRO contract. The motion was seconded by Alderman Wilson.** Roll Call: ayes – Alderman Crutcher, Evans, Geiken, Wilson, and Withers. Abstains – Alderman Pacey. Five ayes, one abstains, motion carried.

Minnick property has been cleaned up after an additional trip to court this week. The property has been cleaned up and will continue to be monitored.

Chief Cornett advertised for a police officer through Indeed.com and also through Ford County Chronicle –thirty-three applicants so far.

Halloween went well with over 450 bags handed out and all materials were handed out by 5:30pm.

Alderman Pacey asked about 850 E Patton property – it is in litigation.

CITY PROPERTY – ALDERMAN EVANS

Meeting held November 4th to discuss camping at Bixby Park. Several citizens were present. As a committee it was decided to not move forward on campsites. Alderman Evans also discussed the idea of purchasing an air burner. The mayor called a company in Florida for information on what would be needed. It was suggested to get a 23 ft air burner at a cost of \$162,000.

First step is to apply for the EPA approval. There is then a 6 month wait for the equipment. Other options are to burn one day a week or one day every two weeks to be aware of impact on vet clinic and homes in that area. Another option would be to not pick up brush and let people burn but that is not a good solution. There is an air burner in St. Joe that could be visited to see how it works. The mayor will send out a video on how this works. Alderman Crutcher asked if maybe a neighboring city/town might want to cost share. Alderman Wilson asked about the need for an additional employee to monitor and work the air burner and Street Supervisor Houtzel stated that they would have to have someone there loading brush when it is in use. Alderman Evans asked

about life span of the air burner and the mayor stated that another mayor advised that they have had their burner for over 20 years and it is subjected to the element without issue. Alderman Wilson asked that a decision on the air burner be tabled until the council has had an opportunity to review a video on how the air burner works.

LICENSE, PERMIT, ZONING & INSURANCE – ALDERMAN GEIKEN

Alderman Geiken stated that the zoning map has been updated and will soon be ready to be sent to the Zoning Commission. The mayor asked if it is our intention to notify the ZBA and planning commission. Attorney Miller stated that the body needing to meet would be the planning commission and then submit their decision to the council.

COMMUNITY – ALDERMAN HOEDEBECKE

No meeting or information this month.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – ALDERMAN COX

No meeting or information this month.

LONG TERM PLANNING- ALDERMAN CRUTCHER

Alderman Crutcher stated that a meeting was held last Thursday. Two items discussed were items already approved tonight for tuckpointing and roof work on the waste water treatment plant. Additionally, an air burner was discussed and that was discussed further tonight. The mayor discussed the money that is coming in from Rebuild Illinois, CARES ACT, and then grants from various sources. As a last resort, USDA is offering loans at low interest however borrowing money is not a preferred option.

Water Supervisor Carleton spoke about the decking/planking out at the waste water plant. He stated that some of this could be done if we could locate planks. Mr. Friend visited the plant and stated that there are three types of blowers that could be used out at the plant. A centrifugal blower does not alter the amount of electricity that we are using. There is a turbo blower that can be used with a transmission package and an advantage is you can modulate the amount of air you produce by adjusting the rpm's and this is available with a vfd – this would be the most expensive of the three blowers. The last blower, positive displacement can be equipped with a vfd as well and is in use in several locations. Mr. Friend stated that they can reach out to Ameren to determine if there are rebates or recommendations that can be made to help reduce electrical costs that are currently around \$5000 a month. Changing the diffusers would require permission from the EPA however this would eliminate the need for three blowers. Vendors are gathering prices and estimates for this project. The other item looked at was by-pass valves that help with large storm water events. The actuators on those valves are not working and it is causing additional problems. The cost of replacement valves will be investigated and shared with the council when available. Supervisor Carleton stated that if we could get the big leaks taken care of then items such as the diffusers might be saved a few years before needing replacement. Alderman Pacey stated that it is needed to prioritize the problems in order to evaluate the best use of Rebuild Illinois and CARES money and to mitigate problems at the waste water plant in order to help with future EPA audits. Mr. Friend stated Farnsworth could do a thorough evaluation/proposal for repairs/replacements at the waste/water plant and then the council can determine the most effective use of the available funds. Mr. Friend will put together a proposal and send to the mayor. Alderman Pacey asked if there was any consensus on storm water. The mayor stated that some of the problems appear to be able to be handled by the city however Street Supervisor Houtzel stated some of the repairs are areas where our equipment will not go deep enough and outside assistance will be needed. Another item of consideration is lights in Pells Park. Farnsworth electrical engineers can evaluate lighting project at the park. Lastly was discussion about Nexsite to help with business development.

OTHER BUSINESS -

Discuss and Approve changes to Chapter 33 – Residency Requirement – The FOP requirements are to be able to travel within 30 minutes to get to work while the Teamsters requirements are different. Alderman Wilson stated that these job functions are not equal. Currently the requirement is that an employee must live within the city limits and that changes made have been to attract new employees and retain employees. The non-union Teamsters employees have positions that require them to be on call and available. Heather Haile, Utility Billing Clerk, asked to speak and stated that she is planning on moving to a new home about 17 miles away and that is why she is asking for a change to the requirement. Alderman Wilson and Geiken stated that they don't see much of an issue with a 30-minute drive and that they would like to retain employees when possible.

Alderman Wilson will work on verbiage/language changes for the Chapter 33-Residency Requirement to present at the next council meeting.

Alderman Withers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 pm and was seconded by Alderman Wilson. All approved on a voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzie Shell
City Clerk