

CITY OF SOUTH BELOIT
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
January 6, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: 5:00 pm, Council Chambers, City Hall by Mayor Fitzgerald

ROLL CALL: Present & answering to roll call were Commissioners Hedrington, Morse, and Mayor Fitzgerald. Commissioners Adleman and Prentice were absent.
City Attorney Roxanne Sosnowski was present
City Administrator Sonya Hoppes was present
City Clerk Tracy Patrick recorded the minutes
Department Heads in attendance:
Wastewater Superintendent Jeff Reininger
Police Chief Truman
Assistant Fire Chief Brian Snyder
Street Superintendent Steve Haas
Community Development Director Shawna Henthorn

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Fitzgerald and recited by all members present.

INVOCATION: Finance Director, Don Elliott delivered the invocation.

APPROVE AGENDA: Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Hedrington second the motion. Voice vote carried the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Josh Loyd spoke about Facebook and news media reporting. Mr. Loyd said there are negative connotations that diminish trust. Mr. Loyd said the concerned citizen group are not disgruntled. Citizens' concerns are valid and should be exploring all options.

Mayor Fitzgerald said the city does not do business on Facebook, nor does he conduct business on his personal Facebook page and further spoke of Facebook posts that are disturbing. Mayor Fitzgerald said he has been personally accused of doing something wrong or illegal. Mayor Fitzgerald read a letter that was sent to the concerned citizen group, and said the agreement for fire services has been discussed numerous times in Council Meetings that are always open to the public.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
1. Commissioner Hedrington made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on November 11, 2024, the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on November 25, 2024, the Minutes of the Public Hearing held on December 16, 2024, and the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on December 16, 2024. Commissioner Morse second the motion. Voice vote carried the motion.

REPORT OF OFFICERS:
1. Finance:
Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve the claims paid from December 14, 2024 – January 3, 2025 in the amount of \$597,494.78. Commissioner Hedrington second the motion. Roll call vote showed 3 ayes and 2 absent by Commissioners Adleman and Prentice.
2. Attorney Report:
3. Reports:
City Administrator Report and Staff Report
Accounts and Finance-Commissioner Ryan Adleman
Health & Public Safety-Commissioner Ken Morse

Streets & Public Improvement-Commissioner Brian Hedrington
Public Properties-Commissioner Courtney Prentice
Mayor-Tom Fitzgerald

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Discussion and/or Motion Items:

- a. Commissioner Morse made a motion to lay over Resolution 5676 Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement with Winnebago County for Fire Dispatch. Commissioner Hedrington second the motion. Voice vote carried the motion.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve Ordinance 2832 Approving authorizing the sale of certain personal property owned by the City of South Beloit. Commissioner Hedrington second the motion. Streets Superintendent, Steve Haas reviewed the 2001, and 2007 International trucks that are being sold at auction. Roll call vote showed 3 ayes and 2 absent by Commissioners Adleman and Prentice.
- b. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve Resolution 6585 Approving a Marketing Agreement with Utility Service Partners Private Label, Inc. d/b/a Service Line Warranties of America. Commissioner Hedrington second the motion. Attorney Sosnowski said the program would be offered to residents to purchase insurance coverage for the maintenance of sewer lines that would provide coverage from the wall of the house to the main, and would cover the cost of repair. Mayor Fitzgerald expressed concern with the “varying factors” of the contract. Attorney Sosnowski said the City of Rockford has this, and there have been no issues. WWTP Superintendent, Jeff Reininger said residents would be a monthly fee of \$11.00. Mr. Reininger said he has looked at this program for over 4 years, and believes it would be good to consider for residents. Mr. Reininger offered to have the company come to a future council meeting and provide a presentation. Commissioner Morse made a motion to layover the item to the February 3rd meeting. Commissioner Hedrington second the motion. Voice vote carried the motion.
- c. Commissioner Hedrington made a motion to approve Resolution 6586 Approving an Impound Proposal with Greater Rockford Auction to provide Motor Vehicle Towing and Impound Services. Commissioner Morse second the motion. Police Chief, Adam Truman said the proposal was prompted by and abandoned RV. The city currently has 3 tow agencies on its Tow List; however, none of the 3 could tow the RV. The RV was towed to Rockford Auto Auction by A-Z Towing. Chief Truman discussed the pros for the proposal, and 2 proposed lists. Chief Truman said Greater Rockford Auction will never refuse a vehicle, they have unlimited storage, and some money would come back to the city. The con was that wait time could be longer. Chief Truman explained how the locals would still have tow business through the city. Tows through the Greater Rockford Auction would only be for impounds, police ordered tows and ceased autos. Mayor Fitzgerald asked that the item be laid over so all council members could weigh in. Commissioner Hedrington made a motion to layover Resolution 6586. Commissioner Morse second the motion. Voice vote carried the motion.

ADJOURN:

At 5:46 pm on a motion by Commissioner Hedrington second by Commissioner Morse. Voice vote carried the motion.

Mayor

City Clerk

Approved: