

CITY OF SOUTH BELOIT
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
July 3, 2023

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

ROLL CALL: Present & answering to roll call were Commissioners Adleman, Hedrington, Morse, Prentice, and Mayor Fitzgerald.
City Attorney David Kurlinkus was present
City Administrator Sonya Hoppes was present
City Clerk Tracy Patrick recorded the minutes
Department Heads in attendance:
WWTP Superintendent Jeff Reininger
Street Superintendent Steve Haas
Police Chief Adam Truman
Fire Lieutenant Bill Henthorn
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 Adleman made a motion to approve the agenda second by Commissioner Prentice second the motion. Voice vote carried the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
Mary Mitchell spoke about chickens in the city limits. Ms. Mitchell said she lives in the Willowbrook subdivision and explained she thought they were permitted through Roscoe township. She later received a letter from Roscoe Township stating she was misinformed, and they are not. Ms. Mitchell said they have a 22 year-old autistic boy and would like to keep the chickens. Ms. Mitchell said chickens provide many benefits. Other communities allow them by permit.
Kara Person said he had hens and had to re-home them. Ms. Person said she received a code violation deeming them a nuisance. Neighbors are supportive, and she is asking council to allow chickens with restrictions.
Lindsay Dutch said she is neighbors with Ms. Person and does not see them as a nuisance. Ms. Dutch said they are well kept and safe with Ms. Person.
Michelle Matthys said she is neighbors with Ms. Person. She has no issues with the chickens and states they are clean and educational.
Kari Rockway came in support of Ms. Person. Ms. Rockway said there is no smell, noise, or disruptions.
Samantha Harrison said she provides Ms. Person with bio waste for her chickens.
Gabrielle Wallish said she was in process of getting chickens and found out they are not permitted. Ms. Wallish said she previously had them in Beloit and had a good experience with them. They provide sustainability and enjoyed the chickens. In her opinion, cats and dogs are worse.
Tim Wallish said the chickens are educational, and that's what it's all about.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
1. Commissioner Prentice made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on June 20, 2023. 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 June 17 – July 1, 2023 in the amount of \$249,270.65. Commissioner Adleman second the motion. Roll call vote showed 5 ayes.

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

RESOLUTIONS:

- a. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve Resolution 6453 re-appointing members to the Library Board as follows:
- Duane Farnsworth is hereby appointed to a (3) three-year term set to expire on July 1, 2026
 - Emily Sager is hereby appointed to a (3) three-year term set to expire on July 1, 2026

Commissioner Adleman second the motion. Roll call vote showed 5 ayes.

- b. Commissioner Prentice made a motion to approve Resolution 6454 appointing members to the Zoning Board of Appeals as follows:
- Julie Uram is hereby appointed as a Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals to fill the unexpired (5) five-year term of Margaret Downing with said term to expire in September 2027.
 - Joyce Blade is hereby appointed as a Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals to fill the unexpired (5) five-year term of Thomas Hartwig with said term to expire in September 2023, and to fill a new (5) five-year term upon the expiration of the existing term with said term to expire in September 2028.

Commissioner Adleman second the motion. Roll call vote showed 5 ayes.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve a request for a Block Party on August 19, 2023 from the South Beloit Church of Christ at 241 South Hacket from Noon-5:00 pm. Commissioner Adleman second the motion. Roll call vote showed 5 ayes.
- b. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve a request from the South Beloit Historical Society for funding from the Hotel/Motel Fund in the amount of \$10,000.00. Mayor Fitzgerald said the Hotel/Motel Fund has certain restrictions for funds to be given. There needs to generate overnight stays. Commissioner Adleman said the application appears to have answered all the questions and is complete. Roll call vote showed 5 ayes.
- c. Commissioner Prentice made a motion to approve a request from the Bruce Nichols Boys and Girls Club for funding from the Hotel/Motel Fund in the amount of \$10,000.00. The motion died for a lack of a second. Mayor Fitzgerald said most people including council members have kids that went to the Boys and Girls Club. Council would have wanted to provide funding, however; based on the information provided, the application does not qualify.
- d. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve hiring Douglas Townsend as Part-time seasonal employee for the Waste Water Treatment Plant at a rate of

\$15.00/hour. Commissioner Adleman second the motion. Roll call vote showed 5 ayes.

- e. Commissioner Adleman made a motion to discuss allowing chickens within the city limits. Commissioner Prentice second the motion. Commissioner Adleman said he appreciated the time and information of the residents who spoke in Public Comment. Commissioner Adleman said he has had residents reach out to him that are opposed to allowing chickens in the city. Commissioner Adleman said he doesn't feel like he can decide based on 15 people out of 8,000 residents. Commissioner Adleman said he would like to see the item go to a referendum to let the residents decide. Commissioner Hedrington said he's not sure either way and agrees to have the item go to a referendum. Commissioner Morse agreed with sending the question to a referendum. Commissioner Prentice asked Attorney Kurlinkus what the referendum would do other than get a consensus from the voters. Attorney Kurlinkus said the referendum would be a non-binding referendum to get a feeling from the public that council could use as background to determine if there is enough of a feeling either way. Council could do an ordinance without a referendum. Mayor Fitzgerald said he had a neighbor once who had chickens. Personally speaking, he did not see it as a nuisance. Mayor Fitzgerald said council has to consider all of the city. Commissioner Prentice said he has no issue with chickens, and he is unsure with the number of residents that are voters. Commissioner Prentice said he doesn't believe council will win either way, and delaying the question won't help. It was determined that City Administrator Hoppes will speak individually with council members and get a consensus from each member. Administrator Hoppes said staff will do homework and stay in touch with Kara Person.

MISCELLANEOUS
LICENSES & PERMITS:

1. RLE's:
 - a. Brittany Brooks-FasMart #5156
 - b. Arthur Kinney-FasMart #5232

Commissioner Adleman made a motion to approve all licenses second by Commissioner Prentice. Voice vote carried the motion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 5:46 pm on a motion made by Commissioner Adleman the council approved going into Executive Session. Commissioner Morse second the motion. The purpose of Executive Session is to:

1. Discuss Pending Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting as provided by 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (11) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

RECONVENE TO
OPEN SESSION:

At 6:08 pm.

ROLL CALL:

Roll call showed all members previously at the meeting at the reconvening of the meeting.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

None.

ADJOURN:

At 6:08 pm on a motion made by Commissioner Adleman second by Commissioner Morse. Voice vote carried the motion.

Mayor

City Clerk

Approved: