

CITY OF SOUTH BELOIT
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
April 21, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: 5:02 pm, Nature at the Confluence, 306 Dickop St, South Beloit, IL by Mayor Fitzgerald

ROLL CALL: Present & answering to roll call were Commissioners Adleman, Hedrington, Morse, Prentice, and Mayor Fitzgerald.
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 Adam Truman
Deputy 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, Donald Elliott delivered the invocation.

APPROVE AGENDA: Commissioner Adleman made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Prentice second the motion. Voice vote carried the motion. Commissioner Adleman made a motion to amend the agenda to remove Executive Session. Commissioner Morse second the motion. Voice vote carried the motion.

CORRESPONDENCE: Mayor Fitzgerald read a Proclamation recognizing South Beloit High School Class of 2025 – Ross Robertson’s achievements.
State Representative, Joe Sosnowski presented letters of recognition from Representative Sosnowski’s Office, and from Senator Andrew Cheseny’s Office.
Mr. Robertson thanked his family and the community for all their support.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
1. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on April 1, 2025. Commissioner Adleman second the motion. Voice vote carried the motion.

REPORT OF OFFICERS:
1. Finance:
Commissioner Adleman made a motion to approve the claims paid from April 5 - 17, 2025 in the amount of \$336,450.41. Commissioner Morse 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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve Ordinance 2842 Amending Various Provisions of Chapter 102 Traffic and Vehicles, Article II Stopping, Standing, and Parking. Commissioner Adleman second the motion. Administrator Hoppes said at the previous Council meeting the item was discussed regarding the odd/even parking being hard to monitor and enforce daily. The proposed ordinance will change odd/even parking to monthly. There will still be seasonal times to navigate. Roll call vote showed 5 ayes.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. From the Planning & Zoning Commission Board of Appeals Meetings held on January 15, 2025, March 19, 2025, and April 16, 2025 a positive recommendation was given regarding text amendments to Chapter 118, Zoning, regarding Prohibiting Flags, Commercial. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve Ordinance 2844 Amending Various Sections of Chapter 118, Zoning, regarding Prohibiting Flags, Commercial. Commissioner Adleman second the motion. Council members discussed the ordinance. Mayor Fitzgerald said the recommendation from the PZC Board was to allow a temporary feather flag sign for 30 days and would be for new businesses only. Community Development Director, Shawna Henthorn said the feather flag would require a Temporary Sign Permit to be obtained prior to the feather flag being put up. The 30 day period would begin when the sign permit is approved. Commissioner Prentice said he does not think 30 days is enough time. Commissioner Adleman said he would be ok permitting 60 days. Attorney Sosnowski said the recommendation came from the PZC Board after being referred to that board 3 times. The first time the item was sent to the PZC Board direction from Council was to eliminate the feather flags entirely, and an ordinance was prepared prohibiting feather flags. Council had a difference of opinions regarding the length of time to allow. Due to Council's debate Mayor Fitzgerald attended the PZC Board meeting. Attorney Sosnowski said the 3rd PZC Board is required to hear any text amendments to the Zoning Code, and advised if the Council is not in favor of the PZC Board's recommendation of 30 days the item would need to go back to the PZC Board for a 4th time. Attorney Sosnowski recommended passing the ordinance as prepared. If Council finds the 30 days is being adhered to and suitable, the ordinance can be amended to increase the number of days but would have to go back to the PZC Board again. Roll call vote showed 3 ayes and 2 nays by Commissioners Hedrington and Prentice. The ordinance passed.
- b. From the Planning & Zoning Commission Board of Appeals Meetings held on March 19, 2025, and April 16, 2025 a positive recommendation was given regarding a text amendment to Chapter 118, Zoning, regarding Electric Vehicle Charging Stations. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve Ordinance 2845 Amending Section 13, Special Uses, of Chapter 118, Zoning, regarding Electric Vehicle Charging Stations. Commissioner Adleman second the motion. Roll call vote showed 5 ayes.
- c. Commissioner Adleman made a motion to approve Resolution 6613 Approving an Agreement with Illinois Fire Chiefs Association to provide Fire Study Services for the City of South Beloit Fire Department. Commissioner Morse second the motion. Administrator Hoppes said after the Committee of the Whole meeting was held Council asked to bring in a company to evaluate the Fire Department. The City received 2 proposals. Pricing cost difference was \$25,612.50. Administrator Hoppes said she does not believe there's a need for both since the packages were apples to apples. Commissioner Prentice said the Chiefs Association discussed talking to community members. Mayor Fitzgerald said when the study in 2016 was completed by Firescope Mid-America they spoke with community members, and the City was told we needed help. Mayor Fitzgerald said once this study is completed the report will become public and the City will move on. Commissioner Adleman said the

process for the report will be 90 days, so the report should be presented in July. Commissioner Morse said he was good with the recommendation of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association. Commissioner Morse added the report will likely say there are fire service issues everywhere. Roll call vote showed 5 ayes.

- d. Commissioner Adleman made a motion to approve Resolution 6614 Appointing Member to the Fire Pension Board as follows:
- Mindy Swick is hereby appointed as Trustee for the Fire Pension Board to fill the unexpired three (3) year term of Nicole Castillo with term to expire in September 2026.

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

- e. Commissioner Adleman made a motion to approve an Agreement with Night Hawk for the Police Department. Commissioner Prentice second the motion. Police Chief, Adam Truman said the department currently uses Lexus Nexus. Nigh Hawk offers more for an increase of cost in the amount of \$160.00. Roll call vote showed 5 ayes.
- f. Commissioner Prentice made a motion to approve a revised Offer of Employment Letter to Jennifer Robinson. Commissioner Adleman second the motion. Roll call vote showed 5 ayes.
- g. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve a request for a Public Work event on Doner Drive for the Public Works Department on May 20, 2025. Commissioner Adleman second the motion. Roll call vote showed 5 ayes.
- h. Council discussed a Rental Registry requirement for property owners with rental properties. Attorney Sosnowski said Mayor Fitzgerald and City staff met with Paul Arena with the Rockford Rental Association. A draft ordinance was put together for Council discussion. Attorney Sosnowski reviewed the draft ordinance with Council, and said there would be no fee for the paperwork unless paperwork is not submitted annually by January 1 each year. If approved, registration would be required by January 1, 2026. Attorney Sosnowski reviewed the application information that will be required. Mayor Fitzgerald said the item came about due to the number of property owners who do not take care of their rental properties. The city does not want to penalize owners who do take care of their rental properties, however; the city wants to have contact information for the properties. Mayor Fitzgerald said Mr. Arena was not in favor of the registry, however: after speaking with the city he does understand the concerns. Commissioner Prentice said he is not in favor, and said the city has tools in its toolbox and feels the city can do a better job getting information through the sewer accounts. Mayor Fitzgerald said he sits in Code meetings monthly. Staff puts in time through the Code Hearing process and the city ends up settling on a lesser amount than what's awarded at the Code Hearing. Mayor Fitzgerald said landlords sometimes collect rent income but do not want to fix up or maintain the rental properties. Mayor Fitzgerald said the city does not pick on property owners since the violations are obvious just by driving by the property. Mayor Fitzgerald asked Council to review the ordinance. The ordinance will appear on a future Council Meeting agenda.

ADJOURN:

At 5:54 pm on a motion by Commissioner Adleman second by Commissioner Morse. Voice vote carried the motion.

Mayor

City Clerk

Approved: