

CITY OF SOUTH BELOIT
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
September 5, 2023

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

ROLL CALL: Present & answering to roll call were Commissioners Hedrington, Morse, Prentice, and Mayor Fitzgerald. Commissioner Adleman was absent.
City Attorney Roxanne Sosnowski was present
City Administrator Sonya Hoppes was present
City Clerk Tracy Patrick recorded the minutes
Department Heads in attendance:
WWTP Superintendent Jeff Reininger
Police Chief Adam Truman
Street Superintendent Steve Haas
Fire Chief Jason Griffin
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 amend the agenda to move items e. and f. under New Business to immediately after Public Comment. Commissioner Prentice second the motion. Voice vote carried the motion. Commissioner Prentice made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Morse second the motion. Voice vote carried the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

e. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve hiring Austin Edgington as full-time EMT for the Fire Department at a rate of \$18.00/hour. Commissioner Prentice second the motion. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 absent by Commissioner Adleman. Clerk Patrick administered the Oath of Office to Austin Edgington as an EMT for the Fire Department. Mr. Edgington was pinned by family.

f. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve hiring Nick Jacobs as full time EMT for the Fire Department at a rate of \$18.00/hour. Commissioner Prentice second the motion. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 absent by Commissioner Adleman. Clerk Patrick administered the Oath of Office to Nick Jacobs as an EMT for the Fire Department. Mr. Jacobs was pinned by family.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Commissioner Prentice made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on August 21, 2023. Commissioner Morse second the motion. Voice vote carried the motion.

REPORT OF OFFICERS:

1. Finance:
Commissioner Prentice made a motion to approve the claims paid from August 19 – September 1, 2023 in the amount of \$646,404.66. Commissioner Morse second the motion. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 absent by Commissioner Adleman.

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

ORDINANCES-FIRST READ:

- a. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve the first read of Ordinance 2758 amending Section 50-5 of the Code of Ordinances regarding Fingerprinting. Commissioner Prentice second the motion. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 absent by Commissioner Adleman.
- b. Commissioner Morse made a motion to move Ordinance 2759 to the Zoning Board of Appeals prior to Council's approval. Commissioner Prentice second the motion. Attorney Sosnowski said the item would appear as a text amendment to the Zoning Code and would require a Public Hearing with any comments. Attorney Sosnowski reviewed the ordinance. Commissioner Prentice said he had issue with the requirement for hard wiring electrical instead of extension cords and consent from adjacent property owners. Commissioner Prentice said the requirement for hard wiring electricity would be the most expensive item for having chickens. Mayor Fitzgerald agreed with both issues of concerns from Commissioner Prentice. Input was provided by WWTP Superintendent, Jeff Reininger as a farmer what his opinion on the electrical requirements and stated that the outlets cause issues due to moisture and corrosion. Attorney Sosnowski said staff time and Code Enforcement policing were the reasoning regarding the adjacent property owners consent as there will likely be issues between neighbors. Commissioner Prentice said he felt it was no different than having a swimming pool since the noise is sometimes an issue between neighbors. Administrator Hoppes said the draft of the ordinance was based off the feedback from all 5 council members. Administrator Hoppes said when she called each council member for input Commissioner Adleman had asked for the electrical wiring as a precaution for fires. Commissioner Morse asked Fire Chief, Jason Griffin if the extension cords would be a hazard. Chief Griffin said extension cords are not allowed in businesses due to causing a fire hazard. The fire department would have no control over residential inspections as this would fall under the Code Enforcement department. Chief Griffin said he has seen instances where a chicken coop has caught fire from the heater. Commissioner Morse said he has seen a home burnt down due to Halloween decorations that were run from extension cords. Commissioner Hedrington said he did not believe he would be in favor of the ordinance to allow chickens. Attorney Sosnowski suggested Community Director Henthorn contact the Winnebago County Building Department Building Manager, Steve Girard and Fire Inspector, Jim Griffin for input and send out notes to council. The draft can remain the as is when the item goes to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Consensus was to follow the recommendations from Attorney Sosnowski. Voice vote carried the motion to forward the item to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

RESOLUTIONS:

- a. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve Resolution 6464 approving additional professional services with Fehr Graham for Wastewater Operator Assistance. Commissioner Prentice second the motion. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 absent by Commissioner Adleman.

NEW BUSINESS

CONTINUED:

- a. Commissioner Prentice made a motion to approve a request for the Homecoming Parade from South Beloit High School on September 15, 2023 on or about 1:00 pm.

Commissioner Morse second the motion. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 absent by Commissioner Adleman.

- b. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve a request for funding in the amount of \$500.00 from the Parks & Rec Advisory Board for Special Events to be held at the City Park once a month. Commissioner Prentice second the motion. Administrator Hoppes said the request is to help feed volunteers. The funds are expected to help with 2-3 events. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 absent by Commissioner Adleman.
- c. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve a request for Special Events from the Parks & Rec Advisory Board to be held on September 30, 2023 and October 28, 2023. Commissioner Prentice second the motion. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 absent by Commissioner Adleman.
- d. Commissioner Prentice made a motion to hire Corey Flores as full-time for the Wastewater Treatment Plant at a rate of \$17.85/hour. Commissioner Morse second the motion. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 absent by Commissioner Adleman.
- g. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve hiring Brandon Purdy as part-time Paramedic for the Fire Department at a rate of \$24.00/hour. Commissioner Prentice second the motion. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 absent by Commissioner Adleman.
- h. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve hiring Maria Starr as part-time Paramedic for the Fire Department at a rate of \$24.00/hour. Commissioner Prentice second the motion. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 absent by Commissioner Adleman.
- i. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve hiring DeCarlos Nora as part-time Paramedic for the Fire Department at a rate of \$24.00/hour. Commissioner Prentice second the motion. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 absent by Commissioner Adleman.
- j. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve hiring Conner Churchill as part-time EMT for the Fire Department at a rate of \$19.00/hour. Commissioner Prentice second the motion. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 absent by Commissioner Prentice.
- k. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve hiring Tara Baldwin as part-time EMT for the Fire Department at a rate of \$19.00/hour. Commissioner Prentice second the motion. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 absent by Commissioner Adleman.

LICENSES & PERMITS:

1. Miscellaneous Licenses:
 - a. Traonte Boulton

Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve the license second by Commissioner Prentice. Voice vote carried the motion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 5:53 pm on a motion made by Commissioner Prentice the council approved going into Executive Session. Commissioner Morse second the motion. The purpose of Executive Session is to:

1. Discuss personnel issues as provided by 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION:

At 7:05 pm.

ROLL CALL:

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

None.

ADJOURN:

At 7:05 pm on a motion made by Commissioner Morse second by Commissioner Prentice. Voice vote carried the motion.

Mayor

City Clerk

Approved: