

CITY OF SOUTH BELOIT  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
June 16, 2025

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, and Mayor Fitzgerald. Commissioner Prentice was absent  
City Attorney Laura Goding 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 Morse made a motion to approve the agenda second by Commissioner Adleman. Voice vote carried the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on June 2, 2025. Commissioner Hedrington second the motion. Voice vote carried the motion.

REPORT OF OFFICERS:

1. Finance:  
Commissioner Adleman made a motion to approve the claims paid from May 31 – June 13, 2025 in the amount of \$573,710.16. Commissioner Morse second the motion. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 absent by Commissioner Morse.
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

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Jennifer Kuroda with the Sinnissippi Audubon was present to speak to Council about murals. Ms. Kuroda presented photos of mural projects from other cities that have

been beautified with mural paintings. 2 proposed murals were presented. The first, being a bald eagle and grasslands at Nature at the Confluence, and the second, the endangered whooping cranes at the Abbey Roads building next to City Hall. The project total is \$25,000.

2. Julie Uram, representative of Nature at the Confluence (NATC) was present. Ms. Uram said the project plan started over a year ago. NATC submitted a Hotel/Motel Grant Application for \$10,000. Commissioner Morse said the project has been on radar for the past 5 years and added that 1 mural was completed in the park in conjunction with the schools. Commissioner Hedrington suggested increasing the amount to the full cost of the project in the amount of \$25,000.
3. Karoline Qasem, Project Manager with Fehr Graham presented results from the Sewer Study prepared by Fehr Graham. Ms. Qasem reviewed two potential projects being a biosolids upgrade and a lift station improvement. The study determined that rates need to be increased by about 45% to cover expenses and maintain the system. Proposed rate increases would be phased over a five-year period. Jeff Reininger said the City currently bills around 1.2-1.4 million gallons per day while receiving 1.6-2 million gallons daily, indicating significant unaccounted-for intake at the Wastewater Treatment (WWTP) plant. Mr. Reininger said that while rates haven't increased significantly post-COVID, operating costs, particularly for lab testing, have doubled due to increased equipment and chemical costs, the sewer rates have not. Mr. Reininger spoke about the benefits of implementing Class A sludge treatment, and explained the difference between Class A and B sludge, stating that the Class A sludge allows for more flexibility in application and sale compared to Class B. Mr. Reininger said a lift station was previously considered at a cost of \$5,000,000, however the cost is now estimated at \$7,700,000. The need for the failing lift station project on South Bluff St is essential since the lift station is failing and poses a risk to the environment. Council agreed to hold a Special Council Meeting and develop a comprehensive plan to present to residents, which will emphasize the necessity of the upgrades and the potential savings from future improvements.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Discussion and/or Motion Items:
  - a. Commissioner Morse made a motion to layover Ordinance 2848 Amending Chapter 18, Businesses, by adding Article XII, Residential Rental Property Regulation until the Regular Council Meeting on July 7th. Commissioner Adleman second the motion. Voice vote carried the motion.
  - b. Commissioner Adleman made a motion to layover Ordinance 2852 Amending Chapter 10 – Animals, Article II – Dogs and Cats until the Regular Council Meeting on July 7<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Morse second the motion. Voice vote carried the motion.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion and/or Motion Items:
  - a. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve Resolution 6624 Approving the selection of the City's Health Insurance Plan for 2025-2026. Commissioner Adleman second the motion. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 absent by Commissioner Prentice.
  - b. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve Resolution 6625 Approving a Hotel Motel Funding Application from Nature at the Confluence in the amount of \$10,000.00. Commissioner Adleman second the motion. Commissioner Morse made a motion to amend the amount to \$25,000.00. Commissioner Hedrington second the motion. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 absent by Commissioner Prentice.
  - c. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve Resolution 6626 Approving a Settlement Agreement with Shawn Townsend. Commissioner Adleman second the motion. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 absent by Commissioner Prentice.

- d. Commissioner Hedrington made a motion to approve the retro approval for Fehr Graham to complete IDOT call for projects at a cost not to exceed \$4,800.00. Commissioner Adleman second the motion. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 absent by Commissioner Prentice.
- e. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve an Agreement with American Sign Language Interpreting. Commissioner Adleman second the motion. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 absent by Commissioner Prentice.
- f. Commissioner Adleman made a motion to approve hiring Ellah Turenne as Deputy Clerk at a rate of \$17.00/hour. Commissioner Morse second the motion. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 absent by Commissioner Prentice.

ADJOURN:

At 6:15 pm on a motion by Commissioner Adleman second by Commissioner Morse.  
Voice vote carried the motion.

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Mayor

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City Clerk

Approved: