

CITY OF SOUTH BELOIT
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
February 3, 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, 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 Officer in Charge Stephanie Hruska
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, Don Elliott delivered the invocation.

APPROVE AGENDA: Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Prentice second the motion. 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 January 6, 2025, and the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on January 21, 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 January 18 - 31, 2025 in the amount of \$1,019,425.82. 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

Commissioner Adleman made a statement regarding the false alarm call at Clark Elementary School on Tuesday, January 28, 2025. Commissioner Adleman addressed the inaccurate reporting that was put out by the news media regarding the call, as well as statements made by the South Beloit School District Superintendent. Commissioner Adleman spoke about the inaccurate reporting of the response time of “around 10 minutes” to the actual response time being 4 minutes and 37 seconds. Commissioner

Adleman also spoke about the efforts the city took to try to attract and retain full time staff at the South Beloit Fire Department. Commissioner Adleman said the decision to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Town of Beloit for staffing services was the right decision.

Council members discussed updating the Fire Study that was obtained in 2016.

Commissioner Morse said the study is important to show citizens the shortage is a country wide fact.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve Ordinance 2834 Authorizing the issuance of a Class G-Convenience/Fuel Store Gaming Retail Liquor License for Gardner Liquor Inc. d/b/a Everett's Wines, Spirits & Beer. Commissioner Prentice second the motion. Roll call vote showed 5 ayes.
- b. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve Ordinance 2835 Amending various sections of Chapter 118, Zoning, Regarding Prohibiting Flags, Commercial. Commissioner Hedrington second the motion. Attorney Sosnowski said at the December 2, 2024 meeting the feather flags were discussed. Many of the flags are in the right-of-ways that are causing site obstructions. Attorney Sosnowski reviewed the current ordinance regarding feather flags that provides these types of flags to be temporary and must be bought in nightly. Attorney Sosnowski said the item went to the Planning and Zoning Commission, and the recommendation given was to prohibit the flags. Attorney Sosnowski reviewed the comments made by Council members at the December 2nd Council Meeting. Mayor Fitzgerald said there has been alot of discussion regarding the flags. He believes if the flags are up when they are not able to be they could be pulled by the streets department. Commissioner Morse recommended issuing permits for the flags. Attorney Sosnowski said if the flags are allowed to continue being up they could be pulled, however; the city would have to log who could be allowed especially on Blackhawk Blvd and Gardner Street. Commissioner Adleman said he understands allowing the flags for new businesses, but the city can't police the flags and can't allow the obstruction in the right-of-ways. Commissioner Prentice said he was 60/40 in favor of allowing. Mayor Fitzgerald suggested allowing the flags for a maximum of 30 days. Administrator Hoppes said direction to relook at the code for allowing feather flags came from Council. Commissioner Hedrington said he would only allow new businesses to have the feather flags for a term of 60 days. Attorney Sosnowski said the code is complaint driven, and the complaints coming in regarding feather flags are from other businesses. Commissioner Morse made a motion to layover Ordinance 2835 second by Commissioner Adleman. Voice vote carried the motion.
- c. Attorney Sosnowski said Ordinance 2836 Adding Section 62-60 to Chapter 62, Article III to prohibit the unregulated transfer or sale of food and beverage products infused with cannabis or containing any amount of Tetrahydrocannabinol Acetate Ester (THCO) was requested by Council. These are unregulated and being sold as pop products. Attorney Sosnowski said there are some home rule communities where these products are being sold. Attorney Sosnowski asked that the item be laid over and said there are discussions in the General Assembly to see how the Illinois Legislation governs these items. Commissioner Adleman made a motion to layover Ordinance 2836 to the March 17th Regular Council Meeting second by Commissioner Morse. Voice vote carried the motion.
- d. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve Resolution 6589 Correcting previously assigned Resolution Number. Commissioner Hedrington second the motion. Voice vote carried the motion.
- e. Commissioner Adleman made a motion to approve Resolution 6591 Approving a Professional Services Proposal with Fehr Graham to amend the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Site Remediation Program Enrollment for the property located at 126 Shirland Avenue to include the Union Pacific Railroad