

MONTICELLO CITY COUNCIL

September 11, 2023

Mayor Stoner called the meeting to order and led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance, and Steve Keagle with the Church of Lodge led the Council in prayer. Roll call was taken by the City Clerk.

ROLL CALL:

Present: VOGT, LIVELY, DINIZ, WOODHAM, REED, BURRIS, KOON, BROADRICK, BROCK

Absent: PEARCY

Also Present: Terry Summers, City Administrator; Callie McFarland, Director of Community Development; Maura Metcalf, Finance/HR; Chief Rob Bross, MPD

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

At the request of Steve Shreffler, Mayor and Council held a moment of silence in honor of 9/11.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Claims Report (Claims dated August 29, 2023 through September 11, 2023)

Meeting Minutes — City Council Meeting Minutes, August 28, 2023

Permit Report — August 2023

Police Report — August 2023.

A motion was made by Alderman Reed, and seconded by Alderman Vogt, to approve the Consent Agenda items. The motion passed 9-0.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Railway Museum will be having their annual Railroad Days this Saturday and Sunday. The mayor congratulated the local winners of the News Gazette People's Choice Awards (20 Monticello businesses), and announced three new businesses: Dragonfly Treasures & More (opened), Simply JJ Boutique, and Modern Blend Salon Co. and Boutique (both coming soon).

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Ordinance 2023-50: An Ordinance Approving the Second Amendment to the Redevelopment Agreement Between the City of Monticello and Jackson Property Development, LLC, Concerning the Property Located at 200 W Washington Street, Monticello, Illinois

Callie McFarland presented the following:

On January 3, 2023, the City Council approved Ordinance 2023-04, a Redevelopment Agreement with Jackson Property Development, LLC awarding a Building Improvement Grant to the property owner in the amount of 50% of the total project cost of \$33,670, not to exceed \$10,000. The project consists of removing the shingled awning and replacing it with a canvas awning, replacing all 2nd and 3rd story windows on the south side, replacing broken limestone, removing steel signage, removing the AC unit, and repainting the doors. The City Council granted a first amendment to the original agreement (2023-34), extending the completion deadline from June 30th to September 30th, 2023. The building owner has engaged with a contractor who specializes in historic window renovation, who was able to begin work on the project the week of September 5th. As the project is anticipated to take 4-6 weeks, the project will not be completed by the September 30th 2023 deadline, so the applicant is asking for an extension of the project completion date to November 30, 2023.

A motion was made by Alderman Koon, and seconded by Alderman Woodham, to approve Ordinance 2023-50. The motion passed 9-0.

Resolution 2023-51: A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement for Railroad Construction Services by and between the City of Monticello and Norfolk and Western Rail Company (Norfolk Southern Railway Company, Successor)

Terry Summers presented the following:

In 2015, the City of Monticello entered into a jurisdictional transfer of the bridge that carries Old Route 47 over the Sangamon River. The state paid the city approximately \$6,000,000 to be used for bridge reconstruction or other motor fuel tax eligible projects. In August of 2016, the state sent a bridge rating letter to the city informing us that the latest bridge inspection report (2015) required the bridge to be closed. This closure was not disclosed prior to the jurisdictional transfer. In 2016, the City of Monticello ascertained the professional services of ESCA Consultants (ESCA) to perform a bridge retirement report. ESCA provided nine alternatives to access our city owned property and water main and a neighboring private parcel. Cost estimates were provided for each of the alternatives including bridge replacement of approximately \$6.3 million to alternate number 4A of approximately \$1.6 million. Alternate 4A was and has continued to be the preference of former City Councils. Alternate 4A requires the improvement of an existing at-grade private crossing of the railroad tracks obtained by the city from a previous property owner. The city has been working with ESCA to design and produce bid documents for this alternate and communicating with the railroad company since 2016.

Mr. Summers stated that the bridge demolition and installation of the access road will be a two-year process, and discussed that this is partially due to the protected bats and mudpuppies (tree removal has to be done at certain times of the year to protect these species). Alderman Diniz asked where the money for this is coming from (Motor Fuel Tax funds).

A motion was made by Alderman Reed, and seconded by Alderman Brock, to approve Resolution 2023-51. The motion passed 9-0.

ALDERMAN REPORTS:

Alderman Koon addressed the Mayor's Report given at the 8.28.23 City Council Meeting that was addressed to the City Council. Alderman Koon stated he felt the report was a little disturbing and ill-advised, and addressed the three points that the Mayor covered in his report, summed up as follows: 1) As a City Council we couldn't speak higher of the City staff, but we should not feel compelled to rubberstamp decisions; 2) I disagree with the vote (referencing to Ordinance 2023-48), but respect the 6 members who voted no and their decision. Alderman Koon feels they considered the effort put forth by City Staff, but believed the project was not worthy of their approval, and it is ill-advised to think otherwise; 3) As a City Council we are not anti-business, backing this statement with examples.

Alderman Broadrick agreed with Alderman Koon.

Alderman Brock agreed with Alderman Koon, and also congratulated the Public Works Department for their efforts on the State Street Project.

Alderman Burris questioned what is going on at the property adjacent to the Red Wheel, and Terry Summers informed him that he is unsure but the City has no plans in the works for this property.

Alderman Vogt stated she did not have an Alderman Report, but responded to Alderman Koon. Alderman Vogt stated that she felt like Alderman Koon was speaking like he was representing all of the aldermen, and noted he did not talk with everyone ahead of time to gather consensus. She reminded the aldermen that back in May (when new members of the Council were seated), she said the Council has been a cohesive group that does not always agree but comes together in the decision making process. Her understanding of an Alderman Report is we are here to report based on our wards. Alderman Vogt hopes in the future the reports are used as such, and if an alderman has an issue with the Mayor, it is addressed with the Mayor and not dealt with in this manner. The City Council is not a stage.

Alderman Lively stated that the painting on State Street looks great.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Bross reported that he will be giving a presentation to the kindergarteners at Faith Christian this Wednesday. He discussed an upcoming DUI Simulation which will be completed at MHS on September 25th prior to Homecoming. MPD is working with Connie Gyorr's group (Marissa's Purpose) for this presentation,

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

City Staff continues budget work, and Terry Summers has heard from all but one of the 2-person committees that are scheduled to meet September 26-29. He asked everyone to make sure they schedule a meeting during this time frame.

At 7: 19pm, a motion was made by Alderman Woodham, and seconded by Alderman Broadrick, to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted by: Jill Potts, City Clerk