

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF MARCH 24, 2008

The minutes of the regularly scheduled Monticello City Council Meeting of March 24, 2008 held in Council Chambers of the Municipal Building in Monticello, Piatt County, Illinois.

Meeting convened at 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Mitze
Deputy Clerk McFarland

Alderman: Allman
Hayes
Vanderkloot
Hiller
Brown
McHale
Corrie
Kuetemeyer

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Attorney Tracy
Clerk Fruendt
Student Advisor King

Mayor Mitze led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Alderman Hiller seconded by Alderman Brown to approve the Claims Report of March 24, 2008, City Council Meeting Minutes of March 10, 2008, and the Budget Report for the period ended February 29, 2008. Motion carried.

Mayor Mitze responded to a letter to the editor written by a previous Council colleague, reaffirming his support to the Council on being fiscally responsible. He stated that the "special interest groups" the author of the letter referred to as being favored by the Council's decision on the pool project were the pool patrons, on the community building were the seniors and potential users from the community, etc.

In old business, Mark McHale asked on the progress of the Turtle Pointe road repair project. Superintendent Allsop reported that he and Terry Summers were setting up a meeting with the Turtle Pointe residents to discuss the project. Chris Corrie asked about the possibility of if there ever was going to be high-speed wireless in town for the entire community. Kevin Hiller stated that wireless was especially important in his neighborhood and would there be any way for Mediacom to install it somehow? Superintendent Allsop said he recently discussed this with Mediacom and at that point, they hadn't considered it, but would look into it. Chief Miller reported that within 3 years, all emergency service operations would be digital, and grants would be available to help with funding.

Resolution 2008-11, Intergovernmental Agreement – Ameren Rate Increase authorizes the City of Monticello to join in a joint effort objecting to the Ameren rate increase. The City would be joining in with Bloomington, Urbana, Champaign, Normal and Decatur, and the cost to the City would be \$1580. Mayor Mitze said there would be no guarantees, but the potential increase would be \$15,000- \$20,000. A motion was made by Alderman Allman, seconded by Alderman Hayes to approve Resolution 2008-11. Motion carried.

Alderman Hayes reported that adult recreation open gym volleyball is still going on Wednesdays and Sundays, there is a \$1 participation fee. The winners of the Easter Coloring Contest have been announced: Britt Sheafe (9-12), Luke Dubson (5-8), and Maya Kaczor (4 and under). Their artwork is

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF MARCH 24, 2008

Alderman Hayes made a motion to go into closed session to discuss the acquisition of real estate. Alderman Allman seconded and the motion carried at 7:40 pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Mitze
Deputy Clerk McFarland
Attorney Finson

Alderman: Allman
Hayes
Vanderkloot
Hiller
Brown
McHale
Corrie
Kuetemeyer

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Attorney Tracy
Clerk Fruendt
Student Advisor King

The purpose of going into closed session is to discuss the acquisition of real estate. Superintendent Allsop reported that with the impending trial against the Wray Haines property on W. Bridge street, it is possible that Mr. Haines would offer to sell the property to the City.

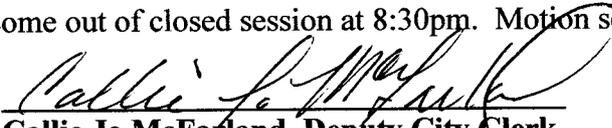
Attorney Finson, representing the City of Monticello in the Wray Haines case was present. Mr. Finson reported that appraisals for the City came in at \$113,000 (building demolished) and \$135,000 (site as-is). Mr. Haines had appraisals done which came back at \$180,000 and \$200,000. Mr. Finson requested guidance from the Council on whether or not they are interested in purchasing the property if it comes to that, and if so, a range to offer.

The site is located within a flood plain, and nothing could be built on it unless it is elevated and compensatory detention storage is provided. The alternative to purchasing the property is condemning it with a court-order, demolish the building and place a lien against the property. Mr. Haines would be unable to sell the property unless he paid the lien and the fines that have accrued against the property for being a public nuisance.

Alderman Kuetemeyer stated that he would rather the City purchase the property and use for City structures than develop it, while Alderman Vanderkloot stated that the City needs to get the property when it becomes available.

The Council directed Mr. Finson to offer between \$113,000 and \$150,000 for the property if Mr. Haines offered to sell it.

A motion was made by Alderman Hayes to come out of closed session at 8:30pm. Motion seconded by Alderman Kuetemeyer and carried.


Callie Jo McFarland, Deputy City Clerk
For the City of Monticello, Illinois