

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 26, 2012

The minutes of the regularly scheduled Monticello City Council Meeting of November 26, 2012 held in Council Chambers of the Municipal Building in Monticello, Piatt County, Illinois.

Meeting convened at 7:00pm

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Corrie
Deputy Clerk McFarland
Superintendent Allsop
Terry Summers

Alderman: Eades
Mitze
Murdock
Cummings
Brown
Hayes
Kuetemeyer
Hiller (7.30p)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Clerk Harlan

Mayor Corrie led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Alderman Eades made a motion, seconded by Alderman Hayes to approve the Claims Report dated 11/14/2012 thru 11/26/2012, and the Police Report dated October, 2012. Motion passed.

In the Mayor's Report, Mayor Corrie reminded everyone of the upcoming annual Monticello Christmas parade December 1st. He recognized fire chief Rick Dubson, Water Plant Operator Scott Bailey, and Public Works Director Gary Sebens for their efforts which led to the lowering of the City of Monticello's Insurance Service Office (ISO) Public Protection Classification from a rating of 5 to a 4 in year 2012.

In old business, Alderman Cummings asked for an update on investigating a new computer system that would assist staff in document inventory and searching. Superintendent Allsop reported that City Staff is looking at a server system capable of storage and searching of all documents, as well as a laser fiche system to scan and inventory all the documents. The eventual goal is to get all public documents available online, and provide the City Council with their own city email addresses hosted on the server.

In public participation, Dr. Barb Kammer commented as a physician on the Center for Disease Control's recommendations and findings of exposure of farm animals to children under 5 years old, particularly the potential for Histoplasmosis from contact with chickens. Stacy Cribbs felt the 150' setback for chickens in the proposed animal ordinance was unreasonable in size, and the council should either ban chickens or explain rationale behind the 150' setback. Nancy Brazas, an adjacent neighbor to the Metamorphosis School asked how many of the school supporters have been to her home to see the impact the animals have on her property. She felt to allow chickens and farm animals, there needs to be the appropriate setting and lot size, stating there were several neighbors on N. State Street present at the meeting to support her. Cody

Sanantonio questioned where the letters of support of the school keeping animals were, that Mayor Corrie said he would make available to the public. She said the neighbors knew the chickens were on her property when they moved in, and she is trying to preserve the Montessori school to the state it should be. She felt there has been disrespect and condescending attitudes from the City Council, and making a decision based upon a couple of neighbors rather than experts' opinions is unprofessional. She has received a lot of support from the community, and requests the Council either ban chickens altogether or make it a fair setback requirement. Maureen Holtz questioned Alderman Cummings for making a copy of a Freedom of Information Request from the Holtz's to the City of Monticello available to the public at the meeting. Alderman Cummings said he made copies for the public because the public was asking for them, and that was the most recent one he had. Mrs. Holtz felt there was a concern of 'abuse' of the FOIAs by the Council because the FOIAs were uncovering disturbing information. Steve Shreffler said he was disturbed that there were not enough copies made available of the information set out by Alderman Cummings. He felt that the City is violating state law by not making the zoning ordinance available to him and his requests are ignored. Kerry Kotteman spoke as an employee of the Metamorphosis Montessori School and a Monticello resident. Her neighbor has chickens which have escaped their enclosure, but she felt the dogs and cats in the neighborhood are more of a concern, and wondering what the difference was between the animals. Shelley Tangen, a parent of Montessori students, has not seen any published letters in support of the school. Both she and her husband are in the medical field and have never felt their children threatened by health hazards regarding the chickens. She feels the discussion is an attack on Cody Sanantonio, and asks the Council to choose a setback that will benefit the school.

Ordinance 2012-38; Adjustment to Section 35.42 of the Municipal Code - Police Department Hiring Standards for Part Time Officers, adjusts the Municipal Code to be in compliance with the Illinois Police Department Hiring Standards. The changes include the additions into the City code regarding age and hours of part time police department officers. The Monticello Police Department currently has three part time officers and five full time officers. A motion was made by Alderman Hayes, seconded by Alderman Murdock, and passed unanimously. Additionally, Alderman Hiller questioned if it would be worth considering making a contractual agreement with new hires, requiring a length of stay of employment with the City after completing PTI.

Ordinance 2012-39; Amendment to Chapter 112 of Title XI of the Municipal Code - Video Poker Machine License Fee Adjustment brings the existing Municipal Code regarding amusement and video gaming machines in line with the state statute. The City of Monticello passed the initial section in the code regarding video gaming machines in January of 2010. Since then, the State has further defined the regulations and requirements as it relates to municipalities. Some of the regulations include restricting the fee a non-home rule municipality can collect for each machine to \$25, allowing a limit on the number of machines per establishment (five at this time), and requiring a license to be on display at the location. This ordinance change further clarifies and updates the City's regulations on video gaming and amusement machines, reflecting the most recent requirements by the State of Illinois. As of yet, the City has issued a video gaming machine license to one establishment for two machines, and there are two other establishments awaiting State of Illinois Gaming Board approval. If approved, a copy of this video gaming machine ordinance will be provided to all video gaming machine license holders.

A motion was made by Alderman Hayes, seconded by Alderman Brown to approve Ordinance 2012-39. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 2012-40; IMLRMA (Risk Management Insurance) Renewal is the annual renewal of the City of Monticello's general liability and worker's compensation insurance. The renewal for the upcoming year will cost the city \$177,482.22. If approved at this council meeting, the City of Monticello will be able to take advantage of the early discount offered through IMLRMA. A motion was made by Alderman Mitze, seconded by Alderman Hayes to approve Resolution 2012-40. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Alderman Hayes to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for Shared Fiber Optic Network, seconded by Alderman Hiller. For the past several months, representatives from the City of Monticello, Piatt County Board, Monticello Schools and Allerton Library have been meeting to discuss the possibility of designing and installing high speed fiber optic into the community. Metro Communications Company, Inc., a provider based out of Sullivan, Illinois, will be running the infrastructure from Sullivan up Route 105 to connect to the State of Illinois' ICN fiber project along I-72. Representatives from the four entities have identified a route for the fiber extension through town to first connect to public facilities, with the long-term goal of providing accessibility to private businesses and residents to connect to. This intergovernmental agreement covers equal cost sharing for the design engineering services portion of the project, with the goal to gain a cost estimate of the project. Design engineering will include fiber extensions and hand-hold boxes to be installed, and has been estimated at \$20,000. The City Council approved funding in the current fiscal year's budget for this fiber-optic cable project. The motion passed unanimously.

Alderman Eades reported that the Fire Department Open House in October served 380 hot dogs to visitors. The fire department has been training on patient's assessment and AED, and had several calls in October, including 5 fire calls, 12 medical calls, and 2 gasoline spills. Alderman Mitze commended Police Chief Galloway on the citizen call-back program. Chief Galloway also invited businesses to take advantage of the Police Department's security assessment program. Alderman Hiller invited the public to Frontier's Customer Appreciate day at the Brown Bag restaurant, Thursday, November 29th from 11-1pm, and to volunteer for the Lunch with Santa on the Train sandwich making. He reviewed upcoming events in Monticello including the Polar Express, Lunch with Santa on the Train, the Jolly Shop, Reds of Christmas, Hometown Holiday Open House, Country Pantry, Christmas Parade, Santa at the Depot and Christmas in Bement. Alderman Hayes reviewed Monticello Parks & Recreation Department programs including Adult Volleyball, Strong for Life, Senior Bingo, Make-it Take-it crafts, the coloring contest and the house decorating contest. The driving range is closed for the year, and the Sangamon River Trail is open after repair. Residents in Piatt County can look forward to the 2013 MPRD guide mailing in January. The Recreation Department has also received preliminary reports from Land Tech, the consultant the City of Monticello is using to develop a recreation master plan.

Mayor Corrie led the discussion of the Animal Ordinance. Revisions were made by the City's attorney based upon the direction of the City Council, which limited the number of chickens (hens only) to 6, defining an "occupied residence," expanding the definition of the 150' setback for animal enclosures, and the addition of the requirement to register with the City and receive an

inspection of the premises for those who have chickens. The Council decided to discuss at a study session the opportunity for those community wide that currently have chickens, to be grandfathered in to the proposed ordinance change.

As required by the State of Illinois, the City of Monticello must approve and file a tax levy before the last Tuesday of December. As discussed in the previous council meeting, the City Council agreed to keep the tax rate steady. The Special Service Area #2 rate is \$0.50 per \$100 of assessed value. Both ordinances will be considered by the City Council at the next meeting.

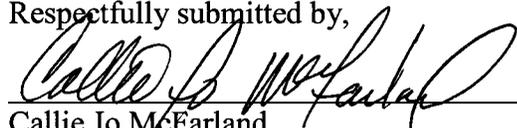
As per City Council direction, City Staff is investigating municipal electric aggregation. If the council chooses to place the option of electric aggregation on the spring referendum for public consideration, the Council must decide whether to contract with a supplier before the referendum, or utilize the services of a consultant. A supplier, such as Integrys, which the City of Monticello currently buys energy from for public buildings, would be responsible for community outreach, publication and education regarding the issue, and ultimately be the supplier for the community should the referendum pass. A municipal aggregation consultant would also perform the community outreach, education and support, and be responsible for bidding out the project. Neither approach would be of any cost to the municipality, even if the referendum failed, unless the city backed out of the agreement. The council may also want to consider requesting a civic contribution from the supplier, which is an amount in revenues per kwh pledged back to the municipality by the supplier. City Staff will be meeting with an aggregation consultant later in the week, and the City Council will have a full report outlining the pros and cons of each of the two approaches before the next Council meeting.

Monical's Pizza Corporation has offered to dedicate approximately the south half of their lot on Bridge Street to the City of Monticello. Given that the majority of this lot is within the flood plain and the city's desire to undertake floodplain prevention activities, city staff felt this parcel could be of benefit for future detention and storage. City staff and an engineer representing Monicals Pizza Corporation agreed upon a boundary line, and the proposed boundaries have been professionally surveyed. As there will be no public improvements and the subdivision is less than 4 lots, a minor subdivision approval is needed, which will be presented to the City Council at the December 10th City Council meeting.

Superintendent Allsop once again commended Scott Bailey, Rick Dubson and Gary Sebens for their efforts in lowering the City's ISO rating, stating that the City is very fortunate to have them as employees.

With no further business, a motion was made by Alderman Hayes, seconded by Alderman Murdock to adjourn at 9:05pm.

Respectfully submitted by,



Callie Jo McFarland
Deputy Clerk, City of Monticello