

The City Council met in regular session at the City Center. Mayor Stadsholt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. City Clerk, Jesse Hall called the roll and the following Alderpersons answered to their names: Portia Brown, Bob Cooper, Dan Griffin (By Phone), Ed Ray, James Stroh, Becky Chaney, Ross McDowell and Nick Urish.

A quorum was present. The minutes were recorded by City Clerk, Jesse Hall.

The pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was repeated by all City Officials and guests.

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**PUBLIC COMMENT #1**

**DISCUSSION:** None

**ACTION TAKEN:** None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**DISCUSSION:** Mayor Stadsholt asked if there were any additions or corrections to the meeting minutes of January 5, 2021.

**ACTION TAKEN:** There being none, the minutes are approved as submitted.

**FINANCE REPORT**

**DISCUSSION:** Mayor Stadsholt entertained a motion to approve the Finance Report as submitted. Alderperson Chaney made the motion, seconded by Alderperson Stroh.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Mayor Stadsholt asked if there were any questions or corrections to the Finance Report. There being none, the motion passed by the following vote:

Voting Yes: Brown, Cooper, Griffin, Ray, Stroh, Chaney, McDowell and Urish.

Voting No: None

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

**DISCUSSION:** Mayor Stadsholt reported on the following item:

- Swearing in of Ed Ray, Ward 2 Alderman.
- From now on, Alderperson Ray will be able to call Property and Zoning meetings. All of you have a copy in your packets of the updated Council Committees along with Standing Committees. Alderperson Ray will be on every committee Alderperson Bell was on and will be chairing Public Property and Zoning. Alderperson Cooper has been moved to Finance and Purchasing as well as the new Budget Officer.
- We have had a busy two weeks with a lot of meetings. The City hosted its first Zoom meeting yesterday for the Annual Standing Committee Meeting, it went well due to our staff setting it up. We may be doing more but it was an experiment on our part and it worked very well. At least half of the people attended the meeting in person at the City Center and half attended by Zoom. The City has been hosting the Annual Standing Committee Meeting since 2014. The City has hosted it each year on Martin Luther King's Birthday. Normally we have a luncheon however, this year we did not due to COVID-19. I appreciate Brenda Davenport-Fornoff and April Burgett adding to the meeting with an ED and a Chamber report. If you didn't attend the meeting or by Zoom, Savannah Burgett did a summary of the meeting.
- Today we had our Third Tuesday Coffee and it was well attended and very informative.
- The Atlas Pathfinder project just came to us on Friday morning. I have asked Alderperson Ray to call a Committee Meeting prior to the Special Council Meeting and have it on the agenda Thursday night. This is a time sensitive issue. It is similar to when the pipeline was here and it is an opportunity for the City. Alderperson Cooper came up with the idea of working with Gary Davis on the sidewalk out at the Business Park. Ken Sidwell is going to call Gary Davis tomorrow.

**ACTION TAKEN:** None

**CITY CLERK'S REPORT**

**DISCUSSION:** No report

**ACTION TAKEN:** None

**CITY TREASURER'S REPORT**

**DISCUSSION:** No report

**ACTION TAKEN:** None

**CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

**DISCUSSION:** No report

**ACTION TAKEN:** None

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

**DISCUSSION:** Economic Development Coordinator Brenda Davenport-Fornoff reported on the following items:

- I've been working on Landmarks Illinois; Most Endangered Historic Places in Illinois in 2021. I just found out about it Thursday and it is due Friday. Since I started putting this together, I have found there are different categories such as: briefly describe the property's current condition. The Historic Water Tower seemed to be the obvious choice. Bill Blessman and David Alan Badger are trying to get historic pictures. I found out that the Historic Water Tower in 1982 was designated by the American Water Works Association as an American Water Works Landmark. It's also in the National Historic Registry and is a protected landmark. Even though this wouldn't give the City any money it would make the City more attractive for grants. As we know, there is a lot of work to be done on the water tower. I even put in there if we wanted to bring it back to full capacity and have that 50,000 gallon tank to come back into our water system. Just to see what kind of grant the City could get. I will submit it on Friday.
- On Thursday this week we are going on a rural tour. It is through Kathie Brown and two people from the University of Illinois are coming. We are one of four towns that have been selected as an example to build a Tool Kit for tourism. Havana, IL, Grafton IL, Savannah, IL and Galena, IL. are the four that were selected.

**ACTION TAKEN:** None

**PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**

**DISCUSSION:** No report

**ACTION TAKEN:** None

**POLICE CHIEF REPORT**

**DISCUSSION:** No report

**ACTION TAKEN:** None

**FIRE MARSHALL/ZONING OFFICER REPORT**

**DISCUSSION:** Fire Marshall, John Kachanuk reported on the following items:

- I received a request from a lady who wants to rezone a piece of property down behind Sycamore Hotel. More to follow on that and I will give that information out to the council within the next couple of days. February 10<sup>th</sup> is when the Planning Commission has been asked to convene to give their opinion on rezoning this property.
- In Gary's report last council meeting on the water tower he noted that one of the antennas on the water tower was falling off. The two antennas that are up there are the Police Departments and the Fire Departments. We are going to be in the process of looking for a new home for the antennas. Among one of the places we are looking at is Ameren tower on Mason Street. We also reached out to American Tower. Antically when they put up the Verizon tower. They came up to Kevin Noble and I and said if we ever wanted to put up any antennas on there just give us a call and we will work out a deal. So I have reached out to them attentively. It is going through their system to get to the right person to contact me. More to follow on that.

**ACTION TAKEN:** None

**FARNSWORTH ENGINEERING GROUP REPORT**

**DISCUSSION:** No report

**ACTION TAKEN:** None

**FINANCE AND PURCHASING**

**DISCUSSION:** No report

**ACTION TAKEN:** None

**HEALTH AND SANITATION**

**DISCUSSION:** Alderperson Chaney, reported that there has now been 40 deaths in Mason County and 1,176 positive cases.

**ACTION TAKEN:** None

**LICENSES, ORDINANCE AND LEGAL**

**DISCUSSION:** No report

**ACTION TAKEN:** None

**PERSONNEL**

**DISCUSSION:** Alderperson McDowell made a motion to hire Thomas Cooper as a full-time Public Works employee with the condition that he must be qualified to spray for mosquitos and other pests before his probation period is over. Seconded by Alderperson Chaney.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Mayor Stadsholt asked if there were any questions. There being none, the motion passed with the following vote:

Voting Yes: Urish, Brown, Cooper, Ray, Stroh, Chaney and McDowell.

Voting No: Griffin

**PLANNING**

**DISCUSSION:** No report

**ACTION TAKEN:** None

**PROPERTY AND ZONING**

**DISCUSSION:** Alderperson Ray, reported that he will be in contact with City Clerk, Jesse Hall to schedule a committee meeting at 5:30pm.

**ACTION TAKEN:** None

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

**DISCUSSION:** No report

**ACTION TAKEN:** None

**PUBLIC WORKS**

**DISCUSSION:** Alderperson Brown, reported on behalf of Public Works Director, Jewel Bucy.

- Jewel Bucy talked to Mike Kane and Mike is concerned about the old concrete wall at the Historic Water Tower.
- Anyone who has sticks and limbs in their yard should put them on the curb and the City will pick them up.
- Signs were ordered December 3, 2020 for the Gilson Lane and McNeil Lane but come to find out they were never ordered.
- Pedigo wants the MFT oil and chipping for next summer.
- Would like to purchase a new truck and service body for the Public Works Water Department.

**ACTION TAKEN:** None

**DISCUSSION:** Alderperson Brown made a motion to approve the purchase of the new truck for the Public Works Water Department in the amount of \$39,255.56. Seconded by Alderperson Stroh.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Mayor Stadsholt asked if there were any questions. There being none, the motion passed with the following vote:

Voting Yes: Griffin, Ray, Stroh, Chaney, McDowell, Urish, Brown and Cooper.

Voting No:

**PUBLIC COMMENT #2**

**DISCUSSION:** None

**ACTION TAKEN:** None

**DISCUSSION:** Mayor Stadsholt entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Alderperson McDowell, and seconded by Alderperson Urish.

**ACTION TAKEN:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

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Brenda Stadsholt, Mayor

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Jesse Hall / City Clerk

**Guests:** Jeremiah Hindhal  
Brenda Davenport-Fornoff  
Wendy Martin  
John Kachanuk