

The City Council met in Regular Session in Council Chambers. 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: Bob Cooper, Dan Griffin, Ed Ray, Gus Stroh, Portia Brown, 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 December 20, 2022.

**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: Griffin, Ray, Stroh, Brown, Chaney, McDowell, Urish and Cooper

Voting No: None

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**DISCUSSION:** Mayor Stadsholt entertained a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as submitted. Alderperson McDowell made the motion, seconded by Alderperson Griffin.

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

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

Voting No: None

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

**DISCUSSION:** No report

**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:

- January 19, 2023 is National Popcorn Day. Mason County was the number one producer of popcorn in the United States in 2012. We are the number one producer of popcorn in Illinois every year. I've talked to Weaver Popcorn and they are popping popcorn for us on January 19, 2023. Also, we are going to

be posting trivia questions on Facebook to try and educate our community that Illinois is the number one producer of popcorn.

- Mayor Stadsholt and Gary Davis presented Streetscape Phase B to about 25 different agencies for an opportunity for a grant with the Illinois Basis Funding Review on December 21, 2022 at Spoon River College. Hopefully we'll hear something soon. I just wanted to let the City Council know, I don't think we understand what is happening here in Havana. Since 2017, we have had twenty-one new businesses, sixteen of those were in vacant buildings and we have had four relocated businesses to our downtown. A lot is happening in Havana, not, because of me but because of the Mayor, City Council, Ron Hills, Streetscape Phase A and the TIF projects.
- I have continued to work on the QR codes when I have time and this is probably a 10 year project; it's very time consuming. On the City of Havana's website and you can go on the website, go to our city, then go to explore Havana. You can click on an address, you can listen and see a video of what the building use to be and how it has progressed over the years. David Allen Badger is putting my QR codes in his quarterly books. Also, there are QR codes on the front of the buildings. There are a lot of activities going on and all of which make a difference for attracting more business not only downtown, but also to the rest of our community.
- The Mural Project will be very similar to the Façade Program and the Blade Sign Program. We have allocated \$30,000 for the Façade Program from the ARPA funds and that would be the same for the Mural Project. This would come from the ARPA funds for tourism. The top amount would be \$10,000 per project. One project per building, we would do a 75/25 split with the City paying 75% and the business owner paying 25%. The murals wouldn't have any marketing or advertising. It would comply with the downtown guidelines. The project would be first come first served until the funds were depleted and would be under the C-1-A business district. Also, you must have ground floor commercial use. The location and design would be approved by the Economic Development Committee that includes, Bob, Nick and myself. The dimensions would be specified. I wanted to make it retroactive to January 1, because I appreciate the fact that there are business owners that are willing to put their own dime forward without any program. In the case that the business owner does not own the building, then they will have to get permission from the building owner.

**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:** No report

**ACTION TAKEN:** None

#### **FINANCE AND PURCHASING**

**DISCUSSION:** Alderperson Cooper made a motion to approve the Mural Project out of the exiting ARPA Budget, 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: Ray, Stroh, Brown, Chaney, McDowell, Urish, Cooper and Griffin

Voting No: None

#### **HEALTH AND SANITATION**

**DISCUSSION:** No report

**ACTION TAKEN:** None

#### **LICENSES, ORDINANCE AND LEGAL**

**DISCUSSION:** No report

**ACTION TAKEN:** None

**PLANNING**

**DISCUSSION:** No report

**ACTION TAKEN:** None

**PROPERTY AND ZONING**

**DISCUSSION:** No report

**ACTION TAKEN:** None

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

**DISCUSSION:** No report

**ACTION TAKEN:** None

**PUBLIC WORKS**

**DISCUSSION:** Alderperson Brown made a motion to hire Jared Bohler as a Contract Operator for the City of Havana’s Wastewater Treatment Plant, seconded by Alderperson Urish.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Mayor Stadsholt asked if there were any questions. Public Works Director, Jewel Bucy, explained that we have to have somebody right away to get the City back in compliance with the EPA. There being no further questions, the motion passed with the following vote:

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

Voting No: None

**PERSONNEL**

**DISCUSSION:** Alderperson McDowell made a motion to hire Andrew Flinn as a full-time Public Works employee, seconded by Alderperson Chaney.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Mayor Stadsholt asked if there were any questions. Alderperson McDowell asked Public Works Director, Jewel Bucy to touch on Andrew Flinn’s qualifications. Jewel explained Andrew has some City experience working for Petersburg in the summers, he can operate the backhoe, can do drywall and concrete work. He does a lot of things that we use. So unfortunately, I hate putting him on the garbage truck, but that’s where he’s going to start. But, I think he’s a good candidate. There being no further questions, the motion passed with the following vote:

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

Voting No: None

**PUBLIC COMMENT #2**

**DISCUSSION:** None

**ACTION TAKEN:** None

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**ACTION TAKEN:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

  
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Brenda Stadsholt, Mayor

  
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Jesse Hall, City Clerk

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|----------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Guests:</b> | Jeremiah Hindahl | Brenda Davenport-Fornoff |
|                | Matthew Fliege   | Jewel Bucy               |
|                | Chris Rilea      | Helen Spencer            |