

The City Council met in Regular Session in Council Chambers. Alderperson Stroh 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: Denis Bryant, Bob Cooper, Dan Griffin, Christopher J. Rilea, Richard "Tayler" Shore, Ross McDowell and Heather Miller.

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.

DISCUSSION: Alderperson McDowell made a motion to allow Alderperson Stroh to act as Mayor Pro Tempore, since Mayor Stadsholt is not in attendance. Seconded by Alderperson Griffin.

ACTION TAKEN: Voting Yes: Bryant, Cooper, Griffin, Rilea, Shore, McDowell and Miller
Voting No: None

PUBLIC COMMENT #1

DISCUSSION: My name is Felicia Farden and I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you as the new Region 53 Manager for the Birth to Five Illinois Initiative. Region 53 includes Mason, Tazewell, and Woodford Counties. This new initiative will include 39 Councils in regions across the state whose job it will be to develop and implement a community plan to ensure ALL children in their region have access to high quality early childhood education and care.

As a community, we will amplify family, provider, and community voices in the state policy-making process and give local and state leaders a more accurate understanding of the early childhood gaps in our region. Our community infrastructure will provide local residents and community leaders the support to come together and address early childhood needs within Mason, Tazewell, and Woodford counties. As a lifelong Region 53 resident, I am honored to contribute to this work.

For the last 4 years, I was a Court Advocate for Center for Prevention of Abuse, helping domestic and sexual violence survivors navigate the court system and connecting them with resources. Childcare was a main concern for the caregivers of young children, along with access to resources for them to thrive. As a parent of an autistic son, I know how important access to quality services in our area is. I accepted this position at Birth to Five Illinois because I want to advocate for parents/caregivers so they have a voice in policies that will directly affect their families. This role is new to me, and I am still gladly learning all I can, but I do not know all the answers to the questions you may have, but I will always guide you to those answers.

It is critical for us to engage a diverse group of community partners, including agency personnel and parents, so that this work is a success. I need your help. The relationships you have made in your work will be extremely valuable in helping identify potential representatives for the Action and Parent Councils. These Councils will create structures that enable local voice and ensure equity. I also count on individuals like you to help share information with others in your networks to keep them informed and build support. **No one knows these regions more than the people who live and work in them.**

ACTION TAKEN: None

DISCUSSION: Lynn Burgett addressed the City Council saying, there is a lot happening in the Early Childhood world. The annual state budget that just passed includes \$250 million to help fund the startup of the new IL Department of Early Childhood, and this community meeting should bring our elected officials up to speed with how the Birth to 5 Action and Family Councils have played a part in all of this. Hopefully, they will also cover some of the possible next steps. This will affect our community by bringing childcare of all kinds, Preschool for All (at the school districts), Head Start, and private preschools all under one new Early Childhood state agency.

ACTION TAKEN: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

DISCUSSION: Mayor Pro Tempore Stroh asked if there were any additions or corrections to the meeting minutes of July 2, 2024.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

DISCUSSION: Mayor Pro Tempore Stroh entertained a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted. Alderperson Griffin made the motion, seconded by Alderperson Shore.

ACTION TAKEN: Mayor Pro Tempore Stroh asked if there were any questions or corrections to the Treasurer's Report. There being none, the motion passed by the following vote:

Voting Yes: Cooper, Griffin, Rilea, Shore, McDowell, Miller and Bryant

Voting No: None

FINANCE REPORT

DISCUSSION: Mayor Pro Tempore Stroh entertained a motion to approve the Finance Report as submitted. Alderperson Griffin made the motion, seconded by Alderperson Miller.

ACTION TAKEN: Mayor Pro Tempore Stroh 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, Rilea, Shore, McDowell, Miller, Bryant and Cooper

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:

- Third Tuesday Coffee was today and Dr. Helaine Silverman presented the Mythic Mississippi, her project with the University of Illinois that focuses on rural tourism and history.
- I do not know if you remember, but probably six months ago. I was talking about a notification app for the citizens of Havana, and so I have done some research and I have found something that I am going to move forward with.
- I have had a couple questions about the bench program. I do not know if some of you remember, but it was probably two years ago that it ended. Where we bought benches, and then we had, people sponsor them and then they could purchase plaques. So we have had some interest in that. The benches are expensive; they are almost \$1,000.00 just for the bench and then \$325.00 for the plaque. The City would be reimbursed for the benches. I save \$50.00 per bench if I buy six. I do not think that is a good idea. I would rather if it is okay with you to move forward and just do it as they come along, because we want the benches to be consistent downtown. We want them to all look the same.
- The Mason County Fireworks is the City of Havana and the Havana Park District. We do the fundraising, pay the bills, advertising, and sign the contract. The Havana Park District books the bands, they arranged the food trucks, and they clean up. Those are the two entities. This year we were not going to have the parade, because we need more volunteers. We need people who want to take that on and luckily, Becky Silva and Sue Sutherland stepped up and did a fabulous job.

ACTION TAKEN: None

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

DISCUSSION: No report

ACTION TAKEN: None

POLICE CHIEF REPORT

DISCUSSION: No report

ACTION TAKEN: None

FIRE MARSHAL/ZONING OFFICER REPORT

DISCUSSION: Fire Marshal/Zoning Officer, Matt Fliege reported on the following items:

- I did have some phone calls late last night and again this morning about what Havana actually does when there is inclement weather and things like that. I think I brought it up once before, but I just want to kind of reiterate what actually happens. When that does come around. We are notified usually the day before by the weather service. We have weather briefings the day of, usually during the day and then prior to. I go into my office and we kind of have like an operation center going on where we are monitoring in direct contact with the National Weather Service, our surrounding counties including Mason County, obviously with our Police Department and Public Works Department. So it is not like we're not prepared. We are very well prepared and we only push out information that is imminent to Havana itself.
- Our trustees interviewed Sam Stuhmer to be a probationary member of the Fire Department a little over a week ago. Some of you may remember Sam; he was part-time for public works in the summertime. He has now graduated and he works for Metal Culverts. We are excited to have him.

ACTION TAKEN: None

FINANCE AND PURCHASING

DISCUSSION: No report

ACTION TAKEN: 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: Alderperson Shore made a motion to approve a request by the Havana Chamber of Commerce to close the 100, 200 and 300 blocks of North Schrader for the 21st Annual Car Show on Saturday, August 10, 2024, seconded by Alderperson Cooper.

ACTION TAKEN: Mayor Pro Tempore Stroh asked if there were any questions. There being none, the motion passed by the following vote:

Voting Yes: Miller, Bryant, Cooper, Griffin, Rilea, Shore, and McDowell

Voting No: None

PUBLIC WORKS

DISCUSSION: No report

ACTION TAKEN: None

PERSONNEL

DISCUSSION: Alderperson McDowell made a motion to accept the resignation of Kamryn Horner, Dispatcher, seconded by Alderperson Bryant.

ACTION TAKEN: Mayor Pro Tempore Stroh asked if there were any questions. There being none, the motion passed by the following vote:

Voting Yes: Bryant, Cooper, Griffin, Rilea, Shore, McDowell and Miller

Voting No: None

DISCUSSION: Alderperson McDowell made a motion to hire Erin Fawcett as a full-time Dispatcher, seconded by Alderperson Shore.

ACTION TAKEN: Mayor Pro Tempore Stroh asked if there were any questions. There being none, the motion passed by the following vote:

Voting Yes: Cooper, Griffin, Rilea, Shore, McDowell, Miller and Bryant

Voting No: None

DISCUSSION: Alderperson McDowell made a motion to approve Samuel Stuhmer as a probationary member of the Fire Department, seconded by Alderperson Shore.

ACTION TAKEN: Mayor Pro Tempore Stroh asked if there were any questions. There being none, the motion passed by the following vote:

Voting Yes: Rilea, Shore, McDowell, Miller, Bryant Cooper and Griffin

Voting No: None

PUBLIC COMMENT #2

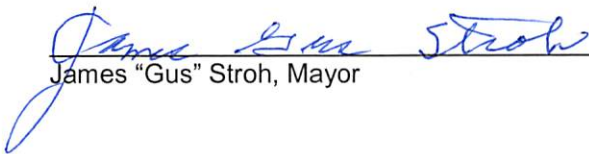
DISCUSSION: Wendy Martin, with the Mason County Democrat said, I do not know what the app is that Brenda Davenport-Fornoff has. I am sure it is a great app, and I am sure I will sign up for it. However, I feel like I need to remind people that this community has a newspaper and you do not have to put it on your phone. You can pick it up at the store. In addition, yes, we charge for it. \$1.25 a week or less if you subscribe. However, we know that we have tremendous reach. We know that 4000 people read that paper every week. That is one of the surest ways to get information out. So, if you are having something. If you just give the newspaper a copy of it we will write it up, but we know that we can reach people and tell them about things that are coming in. It is the oldest business in the county. We have been here since 1849. This is our 175 year for the Mason County Democrat.

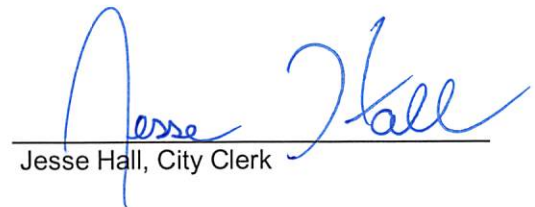
ACTION TAKEN: None

ADJOURNMENT

DISCUSSION: Mayor Pro Tempore Stroh entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Alderperson McDowell and seconded by Alderperson Griffin.

ACTION TAKEN: The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.


James "Gus" Stroh, Mayor


Jesse Hall, City Clerk

- Guests:**
- Brenda Davenport-Fornoff
 - Matt Fliege
 - Jeremiah Hindahl
 - Wendy Martin
 - Felicia Farden
 - Lynn Burgett