

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: Denis Bryant, Bob Cooper, Dan Griffin, Christopher J. Rilea, Richard "Tayler" Shore, James "Gus" Stroh, 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.

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**PUBLIC COMMENT #1**

**DISCUSSION:** Melanie Daniels addressed the City Council about a proposal for a ban on open burning of yard waste in city limits. I am the daughter of Helen Sarff and the late Robert Sarff. I was born here in Havana. I moved to Texas in 1982 where I met my husband Jim. My husband and I purchased our home almost four years ago, having moved from Austin, Texas to be near family, and really live a small-town life. I witnessed terrible smoke like I'd never seen before on Friday night. My mission today is to get everybody on board to changing the wording in city ordinance, Chapter 8.36 - BURNING to disallow the burning of leaves in town by citizens. The first point I want to make is everyone in this community has the right to breathe clean air. My second point is smoke from burning leaves is a carcinogen. And that word scares me. It seems like every time I turn around, somebody has some sort of cancer. I'm not here to shame anybody, but we all know cigarette smoke is not good for our lungs. It can cause cancer, but that is a choice that person can make. However, having to breathe somebody else's smoke from burning leaves is not something that I can choose not to do. I have to go outside. I have to take my dogs out. I can't just stay inside. My friend Sheryl Siebenborn lived here 15 years ago and tried to get the ordinance changed at that time. And I'm not sure what happened, but I would just like to ask that we don't wait another 15 years before we make a change to this ordinance. We are fortunate to have a tree dump. We are fortunate to have great sanitation team. I just do not feel like there is any reason that we need to have burning in our yards. I was just thinking about the elderly and everybody with asthma, COPD, emphysema, allergies. I have tracheal stenosis and when I get into something like that, a pollutant. It inflames.

**ACTION TAKEN:** None

**DISCUSSION:** Jim Daniels said to tell you how bad it was Friday night, and it is not the first time. It comes in through our dryer vents. It comes in through all the crawl space openings. You know, everybody has those around here, and it completely gets into the house. It is not as if you can escape it, because we had to pull our stuff out of the dryer and wash it again. It is that bad. And for all the people who are stuck at home, older people. This is an older community with many older people with a lot of breathing problems. That is who we should be doing this for. The people that cannot breathe, and if they are in their house and they are experiencing the same thing we did, you know they are stuck there and they cannot breathe.

**ACTION TAKEN:** None

**DISCUSSION:** Richard Crum said I live on the other side of Main, down by these nice neighbors here, but I have an elderly neighbor down the street that has chronic lung breathing problems, and when they are burning leaves, she cannot go outside. It affects her so badly, and we cannot open our windows to air our houses out or anything like that. I do not see it as prevalently as some neighborhoods might, but it is still there, and it still affects the health of our neighbors, residents and kids. I was a resident of Salem for 15 years. They had a burn ban. So what did they do? What do you do with the leaves? They just had a certain day of the week; you raked all your leaves up to the curbside. They would come along with the leaf collection truck. They sucked all the leaves up off the curb, and then they took them, recycled them, and turned them into compost. Problem solved.

**ACTION TAKEN:** None

**DISCUSSION:** Lydia Poler said I would like to thank our street department. I mean, I am older, getting a lot older. I do not have to do anything, but just put it in the can. The guys come and they empty it for me. You know, if I am having a good day I will take it to the tree dump myself. But these guys are incredible. They are very respectful. So really, I do not understand why we need to burn when we have such a great street department that will do all that for us.

**ACTION TAKEN:** None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**DISCUSSION:** Mayor Stadsholt asked if there were any additions or corrections to the meeting minutes of November 5, 2024.

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

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**DISCUSSION:** Mayor Stadsholt entertained a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted. Alderperson Bryant made the motion, seconded by Alderperson Shore.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Mayor Stadsholt 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: Bryant, Cooper, Griffin, Rilea, Shore, Stroh, McDowell and Miller

Voting No: None

**FINANCE REPORT**

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

**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, Rilea, Shore, Stroh, McDowell, Miller, Bryant and Cooper

Voting No: None

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

**DISCUSSION:** Mayor Stadsholt entertained a motion to approve the annual \$100.00 employee Christmas Bonus. Alderperson McDowell made the motion, seconded by Alderperson Rilea.

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

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

Voting No: None

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

- There will be a luncheon on December 17, 2024, at the City Center at 11:30 a.m. for our Public Works Department.
- A person who came to the Smithsonian Exhibit last year. Just fell in love with Havana. Her name is Helaine Silverman; she has been back several times. She works for the University of Illinois and she is going to help our new museum to be, to receive a grant. She has already made progress on that. She is hosting a meeting on Thursday, December 12, 2024, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Harvester Inn (150 N. Main Street), Canton. Discussion to consider implementing a new tourism-promoting route featuring American pioneer history in Western Illinois towns with attractions into the present day.

**ACTION TAKEN:** None

**CITY CLERK'S REPORT**

**DISCUSSION:** City Clerk, Jesse Hall, reported that he received Supplement No. 23 from Municode and asked council members to bring in their Ordinance Books to be updated.

**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:

- We had Third Tuesday Business Coffee today at MAM Art Center and heard a little bit about the museum. That grant that the Mayor was talking about is a \$10,000.00 grant that we are getting for the museum. We already have some glass cases bought from a business that went out. So this is something to look forward to for next year. It will constantly be having new programs and things like that. I think it is a good location. We are finding that not always having the Third Tuesday Business Coffee at the City Center is a good thing; it kind of creates a little bit more interest from the public. We hope to get other business that are not just downtown, to come to those.
- I sent an email to S & S Signs asking about the welcome signs, since they said the end of October it would be another week or so. I have yet to hear back from them.
- The Community Transition Grant, at the end of January we have to have a project. Dan said something last meeting about a sidewalk on the East side of Promenade due to high foot traffic. Take it from Franklin to Mound Street on just the one side and then all the way down Promenade.
- The app is going great. I would like to thank the Democrat for putting the article in the newspaper. People are now starting to get in touch with me about events or rescheduling things to put on the app. So between the Democrat and the app, I think everybody will know what's going on and when.

**ACTION TAKEN:** None

### **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**

**DISCUSSION:** Public Works Director, Jewel Bucy, reported on the following items:

- We got the tree out at the City Center.
- Riverside Club gutters need to be cleaned out.
- The courthouse decorations have to go up and garland around the light poles.
- Well #4 is still down. Cahoy was supposed to be here today to start putting things back together. There were a couple bigger rocks they fished out of the bottom of the well and they are afraid that there might be a hole in the screen. So we are going to camera it and check on that. Then they will clean the gravel around the well and start putting it back together.
- I talked to Kelly at TBK Bank and I told her she could have their sign back because we are not going to paint. She said it was okay and that they will get a contractor to paint it.
- The field rep from Viking Industrial Painting came by and wanted to climb our water towers to see how they looked, so I let him. Now I'm just waiting on a report back from him.
- I reached out to Keith Plavec from Maurer-Stutz, Inc. a couple of times, I waited until 3:30 p.m. today, and I still have not heard back from him. I wanted to know what is going on with our mussel survey. I want to know how that is going to affect NPDES permit for the discharge. I wanted to get an update on what is going on with the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

**ACTION TAKEN:** None

### **POLICE CHIEF REPORT**

**DISCUSSION:** No report

**ACTION TAKEN:** None

### **FIRE MARSHAL/ZONING OFFICER REPORT**

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

- We ended up getting the old antenna removed from the old water tower last week. That was a project we had worked into the budget for this year. We finally got it taken care of Friday.
- The Fire Department is going to be doing the Red Wreath Campaign during the Holidays. We are going to be setting that up next week or the week after. So you will see the fire station all lit up.

**ACTION TAKEN:** None

### **FINANCE AND PURCHASING**

**DISCUSSION:** Alderperson Cooper made a motion to reallocate the obligated ARPA funds for the Murals and Blade Signs to Downtown Improvements in the amount of \$8,108.11, seconded by Alderperson Rilea.

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

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

Voting No: None

**DISCUSSION:** Alderperson Cooper made a motion to use the unobligated ARPA funds for Replacing Lead Service Lines in the amount of \$16,027.83, seconded by Alderperson McDowell.

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

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

### **HEALTH AND SANITATION**

**DISCUSSION:** No report

**ACTION TAKEN:** None

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

**DISCUSSION:** Alderperson Rilea made a motion to waive the first reading of Ordinance 1488, An Ordinance Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Business Development District No.1 Redevelopment Agreement by and between City of Havana, Illinois and Tami Davidage (110 N. Plum St.), seconded by Alderperson Shore.

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

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

**DISCUSSION:** Alderperson Rilea made a motion to approve Ordinance 1488, An Ordinance Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Business Development District No.1 Redevelopment Agreement by and between City of Havana, Illinois and Tami Davidage (110 N. Plum St.), seconded by Alderperson Cooper.

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

Voting Yes: Rilea, Shore, Stroh, McDowell, Miller, Bryant, Copper and Griffin  
Voting No: None

**DISCUSSION:** Alderperson Rilea presented Ordinance 1489, An Ordinance Levying Taxes for all Corporate Purposes for the City of Havana, Mason County, Illinois, for the fiscal year commencing on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of May, A.D., 2025 and ending on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of April, A.D., 2026.

**ACTION TAKEN:** None

**DISCUSSION:** Alderperson Rilea presented Ordinance 1490, An Ordinance Authorizing the Sale of Certain Items of Personal Property Owned by the City of Havana, Mason County, Illinois

**ACTION TAKEN:** None

### **PLANNING**

**DISCUSSION:** Alderperson Shore made a motion to approve the 2025 Holiday/Council Meeting Schedule as presented, seconded by Alderperson McDowell.

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

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

### **PROPERTY AND ZONING**

**DISCUSSION:** No report

**ACTION TAKEN:** None

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

**DISCUSSION:** No report

**ACTION TAKEN:** None

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

**DISCUSSION:** Alderperson Bryant made a motion to approve the curb cut request by Scott Hackman, seconded by Alderperson Shore.

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

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

Voting No: None

**PERSONNEL**

**DISCUSSION:** None

**ACTION TAKEN:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENT #2**

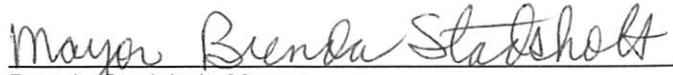
**DISCUSSION:** None

**ACTION TAKEN:** None

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**ACTION TAKEN:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

  
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Brenda Stadsholt, Mayor

  
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Jesse Hall, City Clerk

**Guests:**

- Jewel Bucy
- Brenda Davenport-Fornoff
- Matthew Fliege
- Jeremiah Hindahl
- Alex Noble
- Carson Harris
- Jim Harris
- Melanie Daniels
- Jim Daniels
- Lydia Poler
- Richard Crum
- David Alan Badger
- Cheryl Hance
- Sheryl Siebenborn