

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: Portia Brown, Bob Cooper, Dan Griffin, 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT #1

DISCUSSION: Tabitha Ebert who has a chicken coop in her backyard addressed the City Council about changing the City Ordinance 6.04.010 that states: "it shall be unlawful to keep or harbor any bovine, caprine, cervine, equine, ovine, swine or poultry within city limits."

ACTION TAKEN: None

DISCUSSION: Danny Richards the owner of Patriotic Americana On The River, encouraged the City Council to approve an ordinance on the golf carts and side-by-sides.

ACTION TAKEN: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

DISCUSSION: Mayor Stadsholt asked if there were any additions or corrections to the meeting minutes of August 17, 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 Ray 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: Cooper, Griffin, Ray, Stroh, Chaney, McDowell, Urish and Brown

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 Cooper.

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: None

MAYOR'S REPORT

DISCUSSION: Mayor Stadsholt reported on the following items:

- Mason District Hospital still needs donations for the cake walk for this year's Oktoberfest.
- We received a letter from the Chamber of Commerce saying the business group will no longer sponsor the 4th of July Fireworks. The letter asked the city, township, and county to take on the responsibility of organizing the event. Stadsholt said the city should check into whether there are grants available or other ways to pay for the fireworks show.

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:

- You all passed the ARPA funds last council meeting. Public Works Director, Jewel Bucy and I will get together and come up with a percentage of the ARPA funds. There are four things the ARPA funds can be used for and that is revenue replacement for the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, relative to revenues collected in the most recent fiscal year prior to the emergency, COVID-19 expenditures or negative economic impacts of COVID-19, including assistance to small businesses, households, and hard-hit industries, and economic recovery, premium pay for essential workers, and Investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure. We will receive the funds half this year and half next year.

ACTION TAKEN: None

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

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

- We have been having issues with telemetry at the water tower that sends signals to the water plant. I reached out to Gary Davis to get a name of a company that is good with telemetry and he gave me Britton Electronics & Automation Inc. They came down and checked out everything last week. We have been running the water tower and the pumps by hand for the last week. I would like to use some of the ARPA funds for a new control system for the water plant and the water tower.
- We have been having issues with lift stations due to the Havana Apartments.
- We had a surprise visit from Illinois Department of Labor Illinois OSHA.

ACTION TAKEN: None

POLICE CHIEF REPORT

DISCUSSION: Police Chief, Jeremiah Hindahl reported on the following:

- The Oktoberfest is this weekend and we will be blocking off part of Plum Street and Main Street and we will have spots blocked off for the cake walk.
- Once again we had a busy month with call of service.

ACTION TAKEN: None

FIRE MARSHALL/ZONING OFFICER REPORT

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

- The car show was very successful this year we had 163 entries.
- I have not heard when the 911 Mason County Illinois Emergency Telephone Systems Board will begin construction on the radio antenna.
- The conference is coming up for the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association. I will be taken over as President on October 19, 2021.
- This Saturday I have been asked to speak at Soldier Field for the 911 stair climb.

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 Griffin reported that mask mandates are in place.
ACTION TAKEN: None

LICENSES, ORDINANCE AND LEGAL

DISCUSSION: Alderperson Ray asked the council if they had a chance to go over the potential changes for the animal control ordinances.

ACTION TAKEN: None

PERSONNEL

DISCUSSION: No report

ACTION TAKEN: None

PLANNING

DISCUSSION: Alderperson Urish made a motion to approve the revised comprehensive plan, seconded by Alderperson Ray.

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

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

Voting No:

PROPERTY AND ZONING

DISCUSSION: Alderperson Ray made a motion to approve the demolition of 417 South Pearl Street, seconded by Alderperson Urish.

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, Griffin, Ray, Stroh, Chaney and McDowell

Voting No:

PUBLIC SAFETY

DISCUSSION: Alderperson Griffin made a motion to approve the request by the Oktoberfest Committee to use the City Streets on September 10, 2021 for the Annual Oktoberfest Parade, 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: Brown, Cooper, Griffin, Ray, Stroh, Chaney, McDowell and Urish

Voting No:

PUBLIC WORKS

DISCUSSION: No report

ACTION TAKEN: None

PUBLIC COMMENT #2

DISCUSSION: Brandon Smith asked Alderperson Ray if he had come up with a draft ordinance, as Ray stated he would. "There isn't support for it" Ray Said. When audience members insisted they wanted the council to take a vote on the matter, which Smith called "your responsibility" Ray said "I'll have it for the next meeting and we'll out it to rest for good." Ray cited objections to the golf carts and side-by-sides from Police Chief, Jeremiah Hindahl, Mason County Sheriff, Paul Gann, and the city's insurance carrier. "The insurance company tells me they don't like it. The Police Department doesn't like it and the Sheriff's department doesn't like it," Ray said." So I'm supposed to go against all three of those guys and do it anyway? Just give me a sensible reason." Several audience members listed villages and cities that do allow golf carts and side-by-sides of their streets, such as Manito, Forest City, Bath, Kilbourne, Lewistown, Lincoln, Canton, Chillicothe, Ipava and Beardstown. Unlike some of these other communities, Ray and other council members pointed out, three state and U.S highways cut through town and bring heavy truck traffic that could endanger anyone using a slow-moving golf cart or side-by-side. Ray said there are 1,000 trucks a day on city streets, while Alderperson Griffin said he has seen a count that puts the number at 500. Alderperson Urish pointed to the steep hill on Dearborn Street, which is also U.S 136 at that stretch, as a dangerous area that would be unsafe for the operation of a golf cart or side-by-side. "It's challenging on our behalf when we see other communities that are successful with this," Smith said. "Why can't that be here? Granted they don't have a Dearborn hill. They may not have the busy roads Ed was speaking of." Smith said supporters would get together to address the issues raised by alderman and get back to the council with suggestions.

ACTION TAKEN: None

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

ACTION TAKEN: The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm


Brenda Stadsholt, Mayor


Jesse Hall / City Clerk

Guests:

- Jeremiah Hindhal
- John Kachanuk
- Brenda Davenport-Fornoff
- Jewel Bucy
- Julie Ishmael
- Brandon Smith
- Larry Smith
- Damon Brown
- Gary Griffin
- Paul Roberts
- Gavin Maliska
- Chris Rilea
- Dan Richards
- Lori Fornoff
- Zoe Rilea
- Jessica Taylor
- Tabitha Ebert