

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 14, 2010 REGULAR MEETING OF THE MOUNT CARROLL CITY COUNCIL

Mr. Derrick Sipe rang the bell to announce the start of the meeting. RINGING OF BELL

Mayor Carl Bates called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. CALL TO ORDER

Roll call: Mayor Carl Bates, present, Aldermen John Boelkens, ROLL CALL

absent, Nina Cooper, present, Diane Lego, absent, Doug Bergren, present, Mike Risko, present, and Doris Bork, present.

Alderman Bork led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pastor Elizabeth Mascal, First Lutheran Church, Mount Carroll gave the invocation.

Alderman Cooper moved and Alderman Bergren seconded to MINUTES  
approve the minutes of the November 23, 2010 meeting and approve the noted amendment to the minutes of the October 26, 2010 meeting as stated in the paragraph regarding the minutes. Roll call vote: Aldermen Cooper, yes, Bergren, yes, Risko, yes, Bork, yes, Boelkens, absent, and Lego, absent. Vote: 4 yeses, 0 noes, and 2 absent. The motion was carried.

Alderman Bork moved and Alderman Risko seconded to ACCOUNTS PAYABLE  
authorize the payment of the accounts payable to date for the month of December 2010 as approved by the finance committee. Roll call vote: Aldermen Bergren, yes, Risko, yes, Bork, yes, Cooper, yes, Lego, absent, and Boelkens, absent. Vote: 4 yeses, 0 noes, and 2 absent. The motion was carried.

Mayor Bates reported that bank account balances as of today FINANCIAL REPORT  
totaled: \$690,547.36. Clerk Cuckler reported that the revenue and expense report through November 2010 was presented also. Alderman Risko moved and Alderman Bork seconded to approve the financial report as presented. Roll call vote: Alderman Risko, yes, Bork, yes, Cooper, yes, Bergren, yes, Boelkens, absent, and Lego, absent. Vote: 4 yeses, 0 noes, and 2 absent.

COMMITTEES

Alderman Bork reported of the December 14<sup>th</sup> finance committee FINANCE  
meeting:

1. The bills were reviewed and approved.
2. Mayor Bates reported of attending the government day at the West Carroll School 5<sup>th</sup> grade class today.
3. Alderman Bork presented the finance committee recom- HOLIDAY BONUSES  
mendation to approve the holiday bonuses again this year for the full time employees (net \$100), the part time employees (new \$50) and the city council (\$50 net). Roll call vote: Aldermen Bork, yes, Cooper, yes, Bergren, yes, Risko, yes, Boelkens, absent, and Lego, absent. Vote: 4 yeses, 0 noes, and 2 absent.
4. Alderman Bork presented the finance committee recom- NEW TIRES  
mendation to purchase new tires for the John Deere backhoe from Bushman's of Milledgeville, IL at the cost of \$1,155.00. Roll call vote: Aldermen Cooper, yes, Bergren, yes, Risko, yes, Bork, yes, Lego, absent, and Boelkens, absent. Vote: 4 yeses, 0 noes and 2 absent. The motion was carried.
5. Discussed the Municipal Summit in Freeport, IL on January 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss budget issues and problems facing the area communities. Mayor Bates stated he would try to attend.
6. Mayor Bates noted the MSA Update Report to consider action in old business.

Mayor Bates read the MSA Project Update. Regarding the Phase 2 Water Works Improvements "the majority of the warranty items have been addressed by Loberg Excavating. Concrete sidewalk repairs

remain as they were not fixed prior to the cold weather arriving. MSA spoke with Harn Construction, Loberg's concrete subcontractor, regarding the remaining repair work. Harn and Loberg are currently preparing a letter to the City responding to this matter."

Regarding the USDA Rural Development SEARCH Grant, "a "NO COST" task order for Project #00458016 has been drafted and ready for Mayor Bates' signature. MSA will develop and submit on behalf of the City of Mount Carroll, a SEARCH grant application for Wastewater Treatment Plant Facility Plan funding support of up to \$30,000. Congress and the President continue to work on the next fiscal year Federal budget which will include funding for this planning grant program. Steve Haring has been in contact and working with Julie Cuckler, City Clerk regarding the necessary support documentation needed from the city for the grant application." Alderman Risko MSA TASK ORDER moved and Alderman Cooper seconded to authorize the mayor to sign the task order with MSA to develop and submit a USDA Rural Development SEARCH Grant application at no cost to the City for Wastewater Treatment Plant Facility Plan Funding Support. Roll call vote: Aldermen Bergren, yes, Risko, yes, Bork, yes, Cooper, yes, Boelkens, absent, and Lego, absent. Vote: 4 yeses, 0 noes, and 2 absent. The motion was carried.

Mayor Bates reported for Lou Schau of the CDC. There are 23 vendors in the Kraft Building providing services and wares for sale. They are looking for more businesses and marketing this as they continue to improve the building.

Mayor Bates reported that Sharon Pepin, Community Funding and Planning Services provided a report of her survey of water and sewer rates of communities in the northwest Illinois area.

Clerk Cuckler reported that the Timber Lake Playhouse Board Member Arlene Juracek had provided more information about the banners proposed for the Mount Carroll downtown commemorating the playhouse 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They would like to have about twelve banners placed in the current brackets of the downtown street light poles starting around Memorial Day. No objections were voiced by the council members present.

Alderman Cooper moved and Alderman Bergren seconded to pass RESOLUTION NO. R2010-12-10 Resolution No. R2010-12-10, A Resolution Supporting the West Carroll School's Consideration to Have the Carroll County Sales Tax Initiative Brought to the Carroll County Voters. Roll call vote: Aldermen Risko, yes, Bork, yes, Cooper, yes, Bergren, yes, Boelkens, absent, and Lego, absent. Vote: 4 yeses, 0 noes and 2 absent. The resolution was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

Alderman Risko moved and Alderman Bork seconded to pass ORDINANCE NO. 2010-12-9 Ordinance No. 2010-12-9, AN ORDINANCE LEVYING TAXES FOR ALL CORPORATE PURPOSES FOR THE CITY OF MOUNT CARROLL, CARROLL COUNTY, ILLINOIS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING MAY 1, 2010 AND ENDING APRIL 30, 2011. Roll call vote: Aldermen Bork, yes, Cooper, yes, Bergren, yes, Risko, yes, Lego, absent, and Boelkens, absent. Vote: 4 yeses, 0 noes, and 2 absent. Ordinance No. 2010-12-9 was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Derrick Sipe and Jim Wiersema of the F.A.S.T. Trax Snowmobile SNOWMOBILE TRAIL Club of Thomson, IL were in attendance to request the council consideration to allow another snowmobile trail into and through town from the south at the Land of Oz, Inc. business to the burning grounds area where there is a parking area for snowmobiles coming from the north now. They have

received permission from all of the private landowners along the route and request permission to travel along the roadway in the 300 block of West Benton Street to the Mill Street intersection and to take the trail through the park to the Gerald Schubert property where they would travel northeasterly to cross North Galena Street at the driveway into the burning grounds area. Their request was to also extend the hours of operation to 1:00 or 2:00 a.m. Alderman Risko was concerned about any noise complaints and liability issues. Mr. Wiersema stated their club does have a liability insurance policy and they could provide a certificate of this to the city. Mayor Bates noted that one of the club's members has been working with him to find the best route this year and the weather was also looking good. He stated he would like to see this be allowed at least on a trial basis and ask the city attorney for feedback on any other issues to consider before authorizing a draft of an ordinance. Alderman Bork did express her concern about the liability issues. Chief Fred Cass commented that he thought it would be a bit generous to go any later than midnight for operation through town, and he thought the ditch area crossing in the park was a bit deep and could be a hazard. Alderman Risko moved and Alderman Bergren seconded to allow the F.A.S.T. Trax Snowmobile Club to set up the designated route through town for right now and to provide information about insurance coverage. Roll call vote: Aldermen Bork, no, Cooper, yes, Bergren, yes, Risko, yes, Boelkens, absent, and Lego, absent. Vote: 3 yeases, 1 no and 2 absent. The motion was carried. Mr. Wiersema stated that they would provide the insurance information and come back to a future meeting. Mayor Bates stated they would ask the city attorney for his feedback, questions and concerns.

Mayor Bates reported that an application for a liquor license had been submitted by Mr. Troy Tucker of Rockford, IL to sell alcoholic beverages at his future restaurant, Bella Food and Spirits at the 110 West Market Street location in the downtown. The City Code limits the number of licenses to no more than eight (8) at any one time. In order to provide another license the Council is being asked to consider amending the current code. Alderman Risko moved and Alderman Cooper seconded to authorize the city attorney to draft the ordinance to amend the liquor code to add one more license to the number of licenses. Roll call vote: Alderman Cooper, yes, Bergren, yes, Risko, yes, Bork, yes, Lego, absent, and Boelkens, absent. Vote: 4 yeases, 0 noes and 2 absent. The motion was carried.

Mrs. Anna Gray, 913 N. Washington Avenue, was in attendance and wanted to report that she was still experiencing water changes and discoloration. She stated she had reported this to the superintendent as well. Mayor Bates reported that Superintendent Handel was trying to assess all of the issues and they have been talking with the staff at the Good Samaritan Center. There is one issue when they test the sprinkler system there. He stated he would check on whether that issue was fully resolved or not.

Alderman Risko reported that he had met with Clerk/Collector Cuckler about the delinquent and history past due water and sewer bills to better understand the report. He noted that more of the problems are with renters. He asked about whether the council would consider a proposal to just bill the landlords for the water and sewer bills. Clerk Cuckler stated she felt there was at least one community she was aware of that did that. The council members present voiced their approval to have the clerk contact come other communities and see if there are others that just bill the landlords and see how this was implemented.

Mr. Steve Haring, MSA Professional Services, was in attendance and wished the council a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Mayor Bates noted that the council did approve the task order for the grant application to the USDA. Mr. Haring thanked the council and stated he would put that together as soon as possible.

Mayor Bates reported that he received a letter from the local Girl Scout chapter about the upcoming cookie sales in January. He noted the letter from Wendling Quarries about the price increase for rock this upcoming year. He noted the letter from Moring Disposal, Inc. regarding the recycling pick up in November. They picked up 33,580 pounds.

Alderman Cooper moved and Alderman Bork seconded to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote: Aldermen Bergren, yes, Risko, yes, Bork, yes, Cooper, yes, Lego, absent, and Boelkens, absent. Vote: 4 yeses, 0 noes, and 2 absent. Mayor Bates adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

The Mount Carroll City Council approved these minutes as presented at the December 28, 2010 regular meeting.

Julie A. Cuckler  
City Clerk & Collector