

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 25, 2014 REGULAR MEETING OF THE MOUNT CARROLL CITY COUNCIL

Jill Bess 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 Tom Charles, present,

ROLL CALL

Jim Rose, present, Bob Sisler, present, Doug Bergren, present, Mike Risko, present, and Joe Grim, present.

Alderman Risko led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Jeff Davis gave the invocation.

Alderman Rose moved and Alderman Grim seconded to approve the

MINUTES

minutes of the February 11, 2014 regular meeting as presented. Roll call vote: Aldermen Charles, yes, Rose, yes, Sisler, yes, Bergren, yes, Risko, yes, and Grim, yes. Vote: 6 yeses and 0 noes. The motion was carried.

Alderman Charles moved and Alderman Risko seconded to authorize

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

the payment of the accounts payable to date for the month of February 2014 as approved by the finance committee. Roll call vote: Aldermen Rose, yes, Sisler, yes, Bergren, yes, Risko, yes, Grim, yes, and Charles, yes. Vote: 6 yeses and 0 noes. The motion was carried.

Mayor Bates reported the bank account balances were at \$292,715.53 as of today before the accounts payable are paid.

FINANCIAL REPORT

COMMITTEES

The minutes of the committee meetings held on February 19th and 24th are included with these minutes and attached. Action items from those meetings were as follows:

Alderman Risko moved and Alderman Grim seconded to approve the

CEMETERY STONE

Cemetery board recommendation to hire Mr. John Apple to repair damaged

REPAIRS

stones in the City cemetery this coming May at the cost of \$3,000.00. Roll call vote: Alderman Sisler, no, Bergren, yes, Risko, yes, Grim, yes, Charles, yes, and Rose, yes. Vote: 5 yeses, 1 no and 0 absent. The motion was carried.

Alderman Risko moved and Alderman Grim seconded to approve the

SUMMER HELP

Cemetery board recommendation to again hire an individual to work at the City cemetery doing yard work and maintenance. Roll call vote: Aldermen Bergren, yes, Risko, yes, Grim, yes, Charles, yes, Rose, yes, and Sisler, yes. Vote: 6 yeses and 0 noes. The motion was carried.

Alderman Bergren moved and Alderman Risko seconded to approve the

BENCH PLACMENT AT

Cemetery board recommendation to approve the placement of a bench

CEMETERY

on the Doug Miller grave site in Section 4 of the City cemetery and have Mr. Miller coordinate the placement with Street Superintendent Eric Dauphin. Roll call vote: Aldermen Risko, yes, Grim, yes, Charles, yes, Rose, yes, Sisler, yes, and Bergren, yes. Vote: 6 yeses and 0 noes. The motion was carried.

Alderman Bergren presented the recommendation from the water &

WATER & SEWER

sewer committee to approve the purchase of a new meter for the sewer plant lab from Certified Balance and Scale at the cost of \$1,483. Roll call vote: Aldermen Grim, yes, Charles, yes, Rose, yes, Sisler, yes, Bergren, yes, and Risko, yes. Vote: 6 yeses and 0 noes. The motion was carried. Alderman Bergren noted that the approval to purchase the more expensive newer meter was done considering the future of repair parts being available and longevity of use.

Alderman Risko noted that the budget review for the street department

STREETS

was completed and the total was at \$321,950 for the coming fiscal year.

Alderman Charles reported of the February 25th finance committee meeting: FINANCE

1. The bills were reviewed and approved.
2. Discussion about the establishment of a Capital Improvement Fund. CAPITAL
The following was decided to be considered for uses: IMPROVEMENT FUND

- A. Water and sewer updates and to also include repairs and replacement of any and all equipment
- B. Emergency and disaster funding as needed

Alderman Charles presented the finance committee recommendation to send this information to the city attorney and have an ordinance drafted. Roll call vote: Aldermen Charles, yes, Rose, yes, Sisler, yes, Bergren, yes, Risko, yes, and Grim, yes. Vote: 6 yeses and 0 noes. The motion was carried.

3. Discussed the update of the sign ordinance reviewed last night at the committees.
4. Discussed ordinance violation issues.
5. Noted that the budget review of the water and sewer department would be on the agenda for the next department committee meetings.

Mayor Bates commented that there was not much activity at the Haas building due to the weather, and City Attorney Ronald Coplan stated that a court appearance was scheduled for February 28th. City Attorney Coplan reported that a notice had been sent out to Mr. Bob Boyd about his building on Market Street.

The Chadwick-Milledgeville School Superintendent Tim Schurman was in SCHOOL SALES TAX attendance in place of the West Carroll School Superintendent that was unable to attend this evening's meeting, and presented information about the 1 cent Carroll County Schools Facility Sales Tax Referendum question on the March 18th ballot. After a question and answer time and discussion, Alderman Risko moved and Alderman Bergren seconded to approve to have the mayor send a letter of support or a resolution regarding this question to the school. Roll call vote: Aldermen Charles, no, Rose, no, Sisler, no, Bergren, yes, Risko, yes, and Grim, yes. Vote: 3 yeses and 3 noes. Tie vote. Mayor Bates voted yes. Total of votes: 4 yeses and 3 noes. the motion was carried by majority vote of the council members present. Mayor Bates noted he would put together a letter or resolution and Alderman Sisler asked to see this before it was sent to the school if possible.

Ms. Jill Bess, a local realtor with Fawn Ridge Realty, was in attendance JILL BESS and stated she had made a presentation to the Mount Carroll Rotary Club about marketing the town for development, and she noted some of the gaps that she hoped the organizations and City could look at for promoting the town. She also reported she had purchased another building in the downtown and was considering its redevelopment.

Mayor Bates reported that the City received one proposal for grant GRANT SERVICES administration services for the CDAP grant awarded for the sewer lining project. Alderman Charles moved and Alderman Bergren seconded to accept the proposal from Sharon Pepin, Community Funding and Planning Services, to conduct the grant administration services for the CDAP grant project at the cost of \$5,800.00. Roll call vote: Aldermen Rose, yes, Sisler, yes, Bergren, yes, Risko, yes, Grim, yes, and Charles, yes. Vote: 6 yeses and 0 noes. The motion was carried.

TIF APPLICATION

Mayor Bates stated the next item on the agenda was the discussion and possible action regarding a memo from Mayor Bates and Clerk Cuckler regarding the TIF application submitted by Old Market Street, LLC, Series IV, Jill Bess, sole members, for 106 E. Market Street property. Ms. Jill Bess was in attendance and stated she felt it could be argued that the application should not have been denied for the work she had done, but she was not going to pursue that tonight. She stated she felt more of the information about the TIF funding should be made available to the businesses in town.

Mayor Bates reported under correspondence was a letter from Moring Disposal, Inc. reporting that they had picked up 23,680 pounds of recycling materials during the month of January 2014.

Alderman Rose moved and Alderman Grim seconded to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote: Aldermen Sisler, yes, Bergren, yes, Risko, yes, Grim, yes, Charles, yes and Rose, yes. Vote: 6 yeses and 0 noes. Mayor Bates adjourned the meeting at 8:47 p.m. ADJOURNMENT

The Mount Carroll City Council approved these minutes at the March 11, 2014 regular meeting.

Julie A. Cuckler
City Clerk & Collector

Name of Committee: Cemetery, Streets, Water & Sewer, License & Ordinance

Place of Meeting: City Hall

Date of Meeting: February 24, 2014

Time meeting called to order: 6:00 p.m.

Those Present: Mayor Bates, Aldermen Charles, Rose, Sisler, Bergren, Risko, Grim, Cemetery Board members Sheri Traum and John Boelkens

ITEMS OF BUSINESS DISCUSSED, RESOMMENDATIONS OR DECISIONS:

Also attending: Streets Superintendent Eric Dauphin, Water & Sewer Superintendent Russell Handel, Police Chief Fred Cass, MSA Professional Services Rep. Steve Haring, and Jim and Cheryl Fiser

CEMETERY

1. Chair Comments. Generally meetings would start later in the year but there was business to consider.
2. Discussion of an endowment fund. The Mount Carroll Foundation would help to guide this and help with the set up. The first step would be to seek and secure pledges. To set a minimum limit to secure within a certain time period (over this next year). If that goal was met then the council could consider getting a specific endowment fund set up for the cemetery. If the goal was not met would discontinue the efforts. The Mount Carroll Foundation would set up a fund within the full endowment funds they have and an amount would be determined to be distributed to the City annually to be used by the city for certain cemetery purposes that would be specified and defined before the disbursements were distributed. Alderman Risko noted those uses could be any number of cemetery maintenance issues. Alderman Sisler expressed his concern with the establishment of an endowment fund and what assurances were there that future councils would not tap into those funds. Alderman Risko and Alderman Grim stated the funds would be under the Mount Carroll Foundation and handles with a bigger pool of funds that the council would not have access to. Cemetery board member Sheri Traum stated that she would handle the listing of the pledges presented this year. The consensus of the committee was to pursue this and consider a marketing plan for seeking pledges.
3. Alderman Risko reported that Mr. John Apple would be conducting a cemetery stone repair workshop again in May of this year. He stated he would stay another three days in Mount Carroll and help the City repair more of the stones in the old section. Cost would be \$3,000.00. * The recommendation to the council is to consider hiring Mr. John Apple to repair damaged stones in the City cemetery this coming May at the cost of \$3,000.00.
4. Part time summer help. *The recommendation to the council to again hire an individual to work at the City cemetery doing yard work and maintenance.
5. *The recommendation to the council to approve the placement of a bench on the Doug Miller grave site in Section 4 of the city cemetery and have Mr. Miller coordinate the placement with Street Superintendent Eric Dauphin.

LICENSE & ORDINANCE

1. A draft of the proposed Sign ordinance for the Historic District of Mount Carroll was read and reviewed.

Questions:

--Prohibited Signs

#7 What about signs that the City places on lamp posts. Needs to be clarified

--Applicability and Conformance

LICENSE & ORDINANCE CONTINUED

Questions

The review process needs to be clarified

--New Business Signs

Clarify if a sign is required or not. Someone may not want a sign. Wording needs to be changed a bit.

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The committee discussed the approval/denial mechanism. Concern the historic committee is the final decider. They should be reviewing and recommending approval or denial to the council and the council should make the final decisions.

The input from tonight would be incorporated into another draft for council review. Alderman Bergren stated he would put that together and get it back to the council.

2. The committee discussed looking into snow emergency regulations.
3. The committee discussed that matter that a complaint was presented to the Chief from a neighbor of Mr. Jim Johnson, that owns a vacant parcel along East Commercial Street. The neighbor was concerned about the noxious growth and whether it would be dealt with come this spring. The committee discussion was that if Mr. Johnson mows the parcel they were not aware of what other requirements they were to take action on.
4. Alderman Sisler's comment was he felt that the ordinance violations were not handled well. So he wondered what recourse does an individual or a council member have if violation notices or tickets are not issued when someone wants to make a complaint.
5. Mr. Jim Fiser, South Jackson Street, was in attendance and commented about his contacts to the police department this winter and recently regarding his complaints that the noise was disturbing to them in the evenings when Henry's Double K business has live music in the establishment. The police will not do anything to stop the noise from the bands. He asked if the council was going to do something about this. Mayor Bates noted he would be meeting with the City Attorney to discuss the regulations for the outdoor music events. This winter's issues could be discussed.

POLICE

1. The monthly report for the last three months were presented to the council members in attendance.
2. Discussion of squad car funding from other City funds.

WATER & SEWER

1. Supt. Handel reported the replacement of the grinder equipment at the treatment plant was quoted at \$23,000. He was looking at a May or June time frame for the work to be done.
2. Supt. Handel presented quotes for the replacement of a meter needed for the lab. The quick fix cost was at \$693 with no guarantee, a replacement of the same type of probe and meter that may not have any service in the near future was at \$1,093, and the new hand-held optic technology meter was at \$1,483. The newer one has the new technology that the company was moving towards. After discussion the committee decided to recommend to the council to purchase the new meter for the sewer plant lab from Certified Balance and Scale at the cost of \$1,483.
3. Alderman Grim reported that the recreation board was seeking public input regarding the fundraising that was done last year for a new pool cover. The actual costs are coming in at

COMMITTEES FEBRUARY 24, 2014 PAGE 3

a lot more than the \$3,000 estimate. He stated they were weighing their options and considering if other projects could be done with these amounts brought in each year or consider a three or four year plan to secure the funds for a new cover.

4. Mr. Steve Haring of MSA Professional Services was in attendance and discussed some of the grant options possible for doing a study of the City's sewer plant facility.

STREETS

1. Chair comments were the agenda items summarized.
2. Noted the completed and ongoing projects.
3. Completed the budget review for the Street Department. Final grand total for expenditures for the street department for fiscal year 2014-2015 were at \$321,950.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Minutes taken by Clerk Cuckler