

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 14, 2012 REGULAR MEETING OF THE MOUNT CARROLL CITY COUNCIL

Mr. Dan Kruse 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, Jim Rose, ROLL CALL
present, Bob Sisler, present, Doug Bergren, present, Mike Risko, present, and Doris Bork, present.
Aldermen Charles led the Pledge of Allegiance.
Mrs. Mary Boelkens gave the invocation.

Alderman Rose moved and Alderman Bergren seconded to approve the minutes MINUTES
of the January 24, 2012 regular meeting as presented. Roll call vote: Aldermen Charles, yes, Rose, yes,
Sisler, yes, Bergren, yes, Risko, yes, and Bork, yes. Vote: 6 yeses and 0 noes. The motion was carried.

Alderman Charles moved and Alderman Risko seconded to authorize the ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
payment of the accounts payable to date for the month of February 2012 as approved by the finance
committee. Roll call vote: Aldermen Rose, yes, Sisler, yes, Bergren, yes, Risko, yes, Bork, yes, and
Charles, yes. Vote: 6 yeses and 0 noes. The motion was carried.

Mayor Bates reported the bank account balances were at \$352,287.41 as FINANCIAL REPORT
of today. Alderman Charles moved and Alderman Bergren seconded to approve the financial report as
presented. Aldermen Sisler, no, Bergren, yes, Risko, yes, Bork, no, Charles, yes, and Rose, yes. Vote: 4
yeses and 2 noes. The motion was carried.

Mayor Bates presented the recommendation from the water & sewer COMMITTEES
committee meeting from January 31st to direct the city attorney to draft the ordinance to increase the
sewer user charge from \$4.00 to \$4.75 per 1,000 gallons (of water used each month). WATER & SEWER
Alderman Sisler commented perhaps a raise in fees was warranted, but he wished it noted that he felt we
needed to control these expenses and did not think that we had been doing that. Alderman Charles
commented that when we do the budget for this next year those would be issues to consider. He noted
there wasn't a good time to raise the rates, but they had not been raised for a long time. He reminded
everyone about the Health and Welfare fund and how it could be used for those in need. Alderman Bork
stated she could see we needed the money, but if all of the old bills had been collected she felt we would
have had the money. Alderman Bergren and Alderman Risko commented about the needs of the sewer
department and the need for more revenue. Roll call vote: Aldermen Bergren, yes, Risko, yes, Bork, no,
Charles, yes, Rose, yes, Sisler, no. Vote: 4 yeses and 2 noes. The motion was carried.

Alderman Charles reported of the February 14th finance committee meeting: FINANCE

1. The bills were reviewed and approved.
2. Mayor Bates noted the change to some of the city's bank accounts BANK ACCOUNTS
per the bank's requirements to business non-interest bearing. Noted that the following accounts
were still considered interest bearing accounts: Special Revenue, Motor Fuel Tax and Revolving
Loan Fund. Alderman Risko stated that he would review the bank accounts and provide a
recommendation regarding the deposits in the bank or banks in town.
3. Alderman Charles provided the finance committee recommendation ACCOUNTS FOR
to add the (water and sewer bill) accounts on record that are in a lien COLLECTION AGENCY
at the recorder's office to the collection agency and work with the property owners for the
balances not collected. Roll call vote: Aldermen Risko, yes, Bork, yes, Charles, yes,

- Rose, yes, Sisler, yes, and Bergren, yes. Vote: 6 yeses and 0 noes. the motion was carried.
4. Discussed interfund transfers used for payroll in December.
 5. Alderman Charles provided the finance committee recommendation **RURAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE** to approve the expenses (of lodging and registration for Alderman Bergren) to attend the Rural Development Conference next month in Peoria, IL at a cost not to exceed \$250.00 to the city. Roll call vote: Aldermen Bork, yes, Charles, yes, Rose, yes, Sisler, yes, Bergren, yes, and Risko, yes. Vote: 6 yeses and 0 noes. The motion was carried.
 6. Mayor Bates noted that he and the finance committee members would be attending a Financial Summit session for municipalities in Freeport, IL tomorrow, February 15th, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The event would be hosted by Mayor George Gaulrapp of Freeport.

Ms. Anne Haliotis and Ms. Penny Kreuzsch, Humane Society of Carroll **PETSMART GRANT** County and the Heartland Pet Welfare, were in attendance and addressed the council about the implementation of the “Zero-Population-Growth Trap-Neuter-Return Project” that their organizations have partnered to manage over a two-year period with the help from a \$15,600 grant from the PetSmart Charities. The goal is to finance the spay/neuter surgeries of approximately 350 stray and feral cats in the Mount Carroll and Savanna area. They answered questions about the project and noted that they would be contacting the Mount Carroll residents in several neighborhoods with the known feral cat colonies. The council members present expressed their appreciation to the two organizations.

Under general audience, Mr. Jeff Woodside, East Street, expressed his **GENERAL AUDIENCE** appreciation to the council for the past support to the Pheasants Forever organization. The Carroll County Chapter was number one in education spending. Mr. Percy Vesperman, Jackson Street, expressed his concern about the city’s decisions on expenses and spending money. Mr. Dan Kruse, Clay Street, presented a letter to the council expressing his concern with the purchase of the new taser equipment for the police department. Mayor Bates noted that he was rescheduling a meeting with Mr. Dan Payette of Blackhawk Hills R,C & D regarding the iFiber construction in the area. Mayor Bates reported he would be meeting with Mr. Jay Zickau, Zickau Construction, about starting the community house bathroom project. He reported that Mr. Zickau provided copies of his certificates from the USEPA and Public Health & Safety, Inc. of Chicago, IL regarding lead based paint safety for remodeling, repair and painting activities.

Alderman Sisler and Alderman Bork expressed their concern about any interfund transfer from the cemetery endowment fund. Mayor Bates noted that the amount recently was transferred to the general fund as a loan to meet a payroll. The question was posed to the city attorney. City Attorney Coplan stated he would like to refer to some past history on this matter before making any statement, but he was aware of some discussions about the fund when the City took over all of the operations and handling of the cemetery from the past Cemetery Association Board. Alderman Charles stated it would be our intent to get the money back into the fund.

Alderman Sisler mentioned a newspaper article regarding how the “Children Playing” signs could be misinterpreted.

Alderman Sisler asked about the rules for calling a boil order after water leak repair or other situations. Mayor Bates stated that the committees would be meeting on February 27th with the department heads. If the water & sewer superintendent were in attendance he would be the one to ask about that matter.

Alderman Rose moved and Alderman Bergren seconded to adjourn the meeting. ADJOURNMENT
Roll call vote: Aldermen Charles, yes, Rose, yes, Sisler, yes, Bergren, yes, Risko, yes, and Bork, yes.
Vote: 6 yeases and 0 noes. Mayor Bates adjourned the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

The Mount Carroll City Council approved these minutes with the following amendment at the February 28, 2012 regular meeting.

Amendment:

Page 2, Third Line from the bottom

Change to: "Alderman Sisler mentioned the January 25, 2012 article from the Carroll County Review and quoted the following: "According to the Illinois Department of Transportation, children warning signs should not be used since they may encourage children to play in the street and may encourage parents to be less vigilant."

Julie A. Cuckler
City Clerk & Collector