

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 13, 2015 REGULAR MEETING OF THE MOUNT CARROLL CITY COUNCIL

Ms. Elizabeth McMillin 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 Rose led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. John Boelkens gave the invocation.

Alderman Grim moved and Alderman Risko seconded to approve the MINUTES minutes of the December 23, 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 January 2015 as approved by the finance committee. Roll call vote: Aldermen Rose, yes, Sisler, yes, Bergren, yes, Risko, yes, Grim, yes, Charles, yes. Vote: 6 yeses and 0 noes. The motion was carried.

Mayor Bates reported that the bank account balances as of today FINANCIAL REPORT were at a grand total of \$406,004.64.

Alderman Risko reported of the January 13th cemetery board meeting: COMMITTEES CEMETERY

1. Alderman Risko noted that all members of the board were in attendance. The work done by the city crew was limited right now due to the weather.
2. Alderman Risko reported of the Mount Carroll Foundation Cemetery Endowment Project. The goal of pledges needed to fund the endowment was set at \$10,000. To date the amount pledged was at \$4,200.
3. Alderman Risko reported that Mr. Appell from Connecticut that GRAVESTONE REPAIR worked on the maintenance and cleaning of the older gravestones last year after his workshop with the Campbell Center had made contact about doing the same project again this year. Would do again at the same cost of \$3,000.00. After discussion, the majority of the committee members agreed to recommend to the city council to approve the expense to Mr. Appell for the repair and maintenance of the old gravestones at the cemetery again this year. (To have in the budget for next fiscal year)
4. Discussed the status of the Tautz property adjoining the cemetery TAUTZ PROPERTY property. It was noted that the deed was ready for the Herb Tautz and Bob Tautz to sign in front of a notary public. Mayor Bates stated he would proceed with that matter.
5. Mayor Bates noted that Superintendent Dauphin should be considering his budget items for this next year for the cemetery.

Alderman Risko reported of the January 27th streets committee meeting: STREETS

1. The crew has been busy with equipment maintenance and plowing snow.
2. The Christmas decorations have been removed from the lamp posts.
3. There have been three grave openings this last month.
4. The crew would be tree trimming when not plowing snow.
5. Discussed the development of the ice skating rink at the park.

6. Discussion about the "Letter to the Editor" reference to the placement of the Christmas decorations and removal of the US flags. A communication break down that the American Legion members wished to have the flags up on the lamp posts through December 7th to recognize Pearl Harbor Day.

Alderman Charles reported of the January 13th finance committee FINANCE meeting:

1. The bills were reviewed and approved.
2. Alderman Charles presented the proposed disbursement for the INSURANCE BILL premium payment to the Illinois Municipal League risk Management Association. To have in the bills for the next meeting.
3. Alderman Charles stated he wished to have the water and sewer BUDGET budget projections for the first meeting in February.
4. Reviewed the police department budget projections. The committee approved the totals and the final gross amount was at \$237,450.

Mayor Bates stated he was saddened to report of the death of Mr. Lou LOU SCHAU Schau, President of the Mount Carroll Community Development Corporation (CDC), on January 6, 2015. It was announced that there was a funeral service for Mr. Schau in Geneva, IL on Monday, January 12th and a memorial service scheduled in Mount Carroll at the Market Street Commons building on January 16th starting at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. John Swiech, former member of the CDC, was in attendance and reported that the CDC has had an emergency meeting and he would be helping out for a time yet to be determined. He stated he would report back with more information when they have reviewed all of the operations of the CDC board.

Alderman Risko noted that he had been working with Mr. Schau to PEOPLE FOR PROGRESS present the People for Progress accomplishments report to the council at the next meeting. He stated he could still make this briefing demonstration to the council. This would be a helpful tool to transition into the MAPPING program.

Alderman Risko moved and Alderman Bergren seconded to approve to GRAVESTONE REPAIRS hire Mr. Jonathan Appell to work on the cemetery gravestones again this year at the cost of \$3,000.00. Roll call vote: Alderman Sisler, yes, bergren, yes, Risko, yes, Grim, yes, Charles, yes, and Rose, yes. Vote: 6 yeses and 0 noes. The motion was carried.

Under general audience Alderman Risko reported that the Welcome to GENERAL AUDIENCE Mount Carroll billboard sign was completed and should be put up in the near future.

Under correspondence, Mayor Bates noted the letter from Moring CORRESPONDENCE Disposal, Inc. reporting that 35,340 pounds of recycling were picked up in town during the month of December. Alderman Risko noted the letter from the emergency siren company. He wanted to look into another option for providing emergency alerts to the residents. Mayor Bates reported of the Freedom of Information request made by Alderman Sisler for: "A list of all costs incurred by the City of Mt. Carroll for the acquisition of the "Meinsma property" on North Mill Street, Mt. Carroll, IL. To include, but not limited to; all legal fees paid to the city attorney, court costs, services fees and publishing costs." Mayor Bates reported of the letter from the Office of the Attorney General, State of Illinois, regarding the Open Meetings Act Request for Review as follows from the first paragraph of the letter to the City Clerk: "The Public Access Bureau has received a Request for Review under section 3.5(a) of the Open Meetings Act (OMA) (5ILCS 120/3.5(a) (West 2012) from Mr. Robert Sisler alleging that the City of

Mount Carroll (City) violated OMA in connection with its December 9, 2014, police committee meeting. Specifically, Mr. Sisler alleges that there was no agenda posted for the police committee meeting on that date. Enclosed is a copy of the Request for Review.” City Attorney Ronald Coplan was in attendance and reported he had drafted a response to this letter that he wished the clerk and mayor to review before submitting to the Attorney General.

Alderman Bergren moved and Alderman Risko seconded to adjourn the ADJOURNMENT meeting. Roll call vote: Aldermen Charles, yes, Rose, yes, Sisler, yes, Bergren, yes, Risko, yes, and Grim, yes. Vote: 6 yeses and 0 noes. Mayor Carl Bates adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

The Mount Carroll City Council approved these minutes at the January 27, 2015 regular meeting.

Julie A. Cuckler
City Clerk & Collector