

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 24, 2015 REGULAR MEETING OF THE MOUNT CARROLL CITY COUNCIL

Ms. Michelle Fossett 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 Paul Kaczmariski, absent, ROLL CALL

Jim Rose, present, Kevin Powers, present, Doug Bergren, present, Mike Risko, present, and Joe Grim, present.

Alderman Bergren led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Bob Hatheway gave the invocation.

Alderman Grim moved and Alderman Powers seconded to approve MINUTES  
the minutes of the November 10, 2015 regular meeting as presented. Roll call vote: Aldermen Rose, yes,  
Powers, yes, Bergren, yes, Risko, yes, Grim, yes, and Kaczmariski, absent. Vote: 5 yeses, 0 noes, and 1  
absent. The motion was carried.

Mayor Bates reported the bank account balances were at FINANCIAL REPORT  
\$544,885.71 as of today.

Alderman Risko moved and Alderman Powers seconded to authorize ACCOUNTS PAYABLE  
the payment of the accounts payable to date for the month of November 2015 as approved by the finance  
committee. Roll call vote: Aldermen Powers, yes, Bergren, yes, Risko, yes, and Grim, yes, Rose, yes  
and Kaczmariski, absent. Vote: 5 yeses, 0 noes and 1 absent. The motion was carried.

Alderman Grim reported of the November 24<sup>th</sup> water and sewer COMMITTEES  
committee meeting: WATER & SEWER

1. Alderman Grim reported that the water and sewer department employees have gone on a couple of treatment plant tours with the engineers. Will get a report from the employees at the next meeting.
2. Alderman Grim stated that the water and sewer department was seeking some quotes to see what it would cost to replace the van. To get a report back from the superintendent when he has compiled that information.

Alderman Risko reported of the November 24<sup>th</sup> finance committee meeting: FINANCE

1. The bills were reviewed and approved.
2. Alderman Risko presented the finance committee recommendation EMPLOYEE BONUSES  
to approve the annual bonuses to the city employees with the full time receiving a net amount of  
\$100 and the part time receiving a net amount of \$50 (per the employee handbook). Roll call  
vote: Aldermen Bergren, yes, Risko, yes, Grim, yes, Rose, yes, Powers, yes, and Kaczmariski,  
absent. Vote: 5 yeses, 0 noes and 1 absent. The motion was carried.
3. The finance committee discussed the Capital Improvement Fund CIF FEES  
fee and that the payment to the Mount Carroll Banking Center of \$3,000 monthly was set up to  
be funded with the fees on the water bills at \$3.00 monthly per household and the video gaming  
receipts. The State of Illinois has put a hold on the video gaming tax distributions. Alderman  
Risko presented the finance committee recommendation to approve a \$1.00 increase to the  
Capital Improvement Fund monthly fee and authorize the city attorney to draft an ordinance for  
the council's consideration. Roll call vote: Aldermen Risko, yes, Grim, yes, Rose, yes, Powers,  
yes, Bergren, yes, and Kaczmariski, absent. Vote: 5 yeses, 0 noes and 1 absent. The motion was  
carried.
4. The finance committee discussed an increase to the water and WATER & SEWER

sewer user rate fees. Alderman Risko presented the finance committee recommendation to approve a 10 cent increase to the water rate of \$4.80 per 1,000 gallons and the same amount increase of 10 cents to the sewer rate of \$5.25 per 1,000 gallons. Alderman Risko moved and Alderman Grim seconded to amend the recommendation to add that the water and sewer user rate increases would take effect February 1, 2016. Roll call vote on the amendment to the recommendation: Aldermen Grim, yes, Rose, yes, Powers, yes, Bergren, yes, Risko, yes, and Kaczmariski, absent. Vote: 5 yeses, 0 noes and 1 absent. The amendment to the recommendation was approved by unanimous roll call vote of council members in attendance. Alderman Grim moved and Alderman Risko seconded to approve the recommendation as amended. Roll call vote: Aldermen Rose, yes, Powers, yes, Bergren, yes, Risko, yes, Grim, yes, and Kaczmariski, absent. Vote: 5 yeses, 0 noes, and 1 absent. The motion was carried.

5. The finance committee discussed the planning for an improved, new sewer plant. And further discussed the sources of funding, such as a Business Development District and future rate increases to be considered for the Capital Improvement Fund. Proposal to consider an increase of \$10.00 per month per household to be implemented each year over a three-year time period. This should ease the community into the rate increase needed to pay towards a new treatment plant.

Alderman Grim moved and Alderman Risko seconded to pass Ordinance No. 2015-11-7, ANNUAL TAX LEVY ORDINANCE. Roll call vote: Aldermen Powers, yes, Bergren, yes, Risko, yes, Grim, yes, Rose, yes, and Kaczmariski, absent. Vote: 5 yeses, 0 noes and 1 absent. Ordinance No. 2015-11-7 was adopted by unanimous roll call vote of the council members in attendance. Grand total of the tax levy was \$241,500.

Ms. Sherry Morel and Ms. Michelle Fossett, the Mount UP events and coordinating council committees were in attendance to ask the council to consider helping with a tree lighting event for the planned Collectible Christmas activity on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Several activities are planned for the day and they asked if they could have a tree set up in the City's gazebo in the courtyard, and whether the mayor would attend the tree lighting ceremony at 5 p.m. on that day, and if the city could contribute some funds to offset some of the expenses. Mayor Bates stated he would be able to attend the tree lighting. Alderman Powers moved and Alderman Grim seconded to approve to contribute \$200.00 to the Mount UP committee for the tree lighting expenses for the Collectible Christmas event. Roll call vote: Aldermen Bergren, yes, Risko, yes, Grim, yes, Rose, yes, Powers, yes, and Kaczmariski, absent. Vote: 5 yeses, 0 noes and 1 absent. The motion was carried. Ms. Morel and Ms. Fossett thanked the council for the support with this project.

The council members present discussed the proposal to negotiate a Tax Increment Finance (TIF) agreement with the Kunes' Country Auto Group for the redevelopment of the business along Route 64 in town. Mayor Bates stated he would talk with the tax assessor about the increment that could be realized from Kunes' new development. Alderman Powers moved and Alderman Grim seconded to authorize the mayor and TIF Attorney Kathy Orr to negotiate a TIF redevelopment agreement with the Kunes' Country Auto Group. Roll call vote: Aldermen Risko, yes, Grim, yes, Rose, yes, Powers, yes, Bergren, yes, Kaczmariski, absent. Vote: 5 yeses, 0 noes and 1 absent. The motion was carried.

Mr. John Swiech, CDC, was in attendance and reported the CDC was working on an economic development project. Ms. Michelle Fossett from the Mount UP committee was in attendance and reported that one of the goal groups was working on an ice skate donation drive

and the coordinating council would be meeting again on January 7, 2016. Alderman Grim reported the parks and recreation goal group from the Mount UP were planning a meeting for December 3<sup>rd</sup> here in City Hall at 6 pm. The council members present discussed a round table meeting scheduled for December 18<sup>th</sup> in Dixon, IL to talk about the proposed property tax freeze being considered by the state legislators. Mayor Bates reported the recycling statistics from Moring Disposal was that 26,040 pounds were picked up during the month of October 2015. Mayor Bates reported of the hearing date scheduled for November 30, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. at the Carroll County Courthouse regarding the lawsuit filed against the City by Mr. Craig Vietmeyer. Mayor Bates reported of the community relations board meeting scheduled for December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Thomson Correctional Facility. Mayor Bates reported of the November 19<sup>th</sup> Northern Illinois Mayor's Association meeting in town.

Alderman Grim moved and Alderman Powers seconded to adjourn the ADJOURNMENT meeting. Roll call vote: Aldermen Rose, yes, Powers, yes, Bergren, yes, Risko, yes, Grim, yes, and Kaczmariski, absent. Vote: 5 yeses, 0 noes and 1 absent. Mayor Bates adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

The Mount Carroll City Council approved these minutes at the December 8, 2015 regular meeting.

Julie A. Cuckler  
City Clerk & Collector