

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 8, 2013 REGULAR MEETING OF THE MOUNT CARROLL CITY COUNCIL

Ms. Cindi Wiersema 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.
Alderman Charles led the Pledge of Allegiance.
Mr. John Boelkens gave the invocation.

Alderman Bork moved and Alderman Sisler seconded to approve the MINUTES
minutes of the December 18, 2012 regular meeting with the following amendment to be added: "The
mayor said that we (Aldermen) were not allowed to talk with the auditors except through him." In
comments Alderman Bergren stated he thought that sounded reasonable because when do they start
charging us and questioned whether a not to exceed cost be set. Mayor Bates commented that when he
talked with the representative he stated that the questions should be directed through the mayor to him.
Alderman Bork commented that they said that the aldermen could talk with them. Roll call vote:
Aldermen Charles, yes, Rose, yes, Bergren, yes, Sisler, yes, Risko, yes, Bork, 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 2013 as approved by the finance
committee with the Moore Monument bill being changed to \$2,925.00 instead of \$3,000.00. Roll call
vote: Aldermen Rose, yes, Sisler, yes, Bergren, yes, Risko, yes, Bork, yes, Charles, yes. Vote: 6 yeses
and 0 noes. The motion was carried.

Mayor Bates reported the bank account balances were at \$522,988.82 as FINANCIAL REPORT
of today before the accounts payable are paid.

COMMITTEES
Alderman Charles reported of the January 8th finance committee meeting: FINANCE

1. The bills were reviewed and approved with the Moore Monument bill being changed from
\$3,000.00 to \$2,925.00.
2. Alderman Charles provided information about the purchase FUNDING FOR TRUCK
of the 2007 dump truck from the Mount Carroll Township and proposed financing. Upon
purchase of the 2007 dump truck the city will sell the 1990 and 1992 dump trucks by sealed bid.
To advertise and seek bids by February 11th and open the bids at the Finance Committee meeting
on February 12th at 6:45 p.m.
3. Alderman Charles presented the finance committee recommendation TIF DISBURSEMENTS
to approve the following disbursements from the TIF Account (Special Tax Allocation Fund):
\$18,630 to the City debt service fund to be used towards the payment of the IEPA Loan for the
water works improvements, \$2,356 to the City general fund to reimburse legal expenses, \$6,825
to the City general fund to be used towards the purchase of the new dump truck, \$687 to the City
water and sewer funds for an old water bill that went into bankruptcy for the old bowling alley
facility, \$5,106 to the City revolving loan fund as payment towards the Mt. Carroll Community
Development Corporation loan for reimbursement of a redevelopment project, \$6,611 to the
State Bank of Pearl City (Mt. Carroll Banking Center) for reimbursement of a redevelopment
project, \$1,000 to Schneider House Furniture for reimbursement of a redevelopment project,
\$1,000 to New Morning Glass for reimbursement of a redevelopment project, \$1,000 to Mount
Carroll Café for reimbursement of a redevelopment project, \$1,375 to Mt. Carroll Bowling

Center for reimbursement of a redevelopment project. Total \$44,590. Roll call vote: Aldermen Sisler, yes, Bergren, yes, Risko, yes, Bork, no, Charles, yes, and Rose, yes. 5 yeses, 1 no and 0 absent. The motion was carried. Alderman Sisler asked that the minutes also reflect consideration to review some of the old water bills sent to the collections agency for possible reimbursement in the future review of TIF disbursements.

4. Alderman Charles reported that the committee reviewed and discussed the Moring Disposal, Inc. request to consider amending the current contract for waste removal services. The matter was tabled to another meeting scheduled for January 12, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. in City Hall.

The council discussed the update regarding the properties on Mill Street and Market Street. City Attorney Coplan was in attendance and reported of the status MILL ST PROPERTY hearing set he attended on January 14th regarding the Mill Street property.

Mrs. JoAnne Haas and Mr. Loran were in attendance to discuss what was needed for the repair of the Market Street property. A structural engineer's approved proposal to repair the west wall of the structure is needed.

Mayor Bates reported he had a written note from Mr. James Johnson the owner of the property along East Commercial Street that was given a Notice to Abate a nuisance by January 18th. Mr. Johnson stated that he had asked Mr. Bob Law to help him clean up the property, but he was out of the state until this spring. Mr. Tom Cravatta an area neighbor of the Commercial Street property was in attendance and commented that he hoped the council would continue to move forward to clean up this nuisance. Alderman Risko moved and Alderman Sisler seconded to allow an extension to Mr. Johnson to have this property cleaned up by May 1, 2013. Roll call vote: Aldermen Bergren, yes, Risko, yes, Bork, no, Charles, yes, Rose, yes, and Sisler, yes. Vote: 5 yeses, 1 no and 0 absent. The motion was carried.

Alderman Bergren moved and Alderman Risko seconded to utilize the services of Sharon Pepin (Community Funding and Planning Services) to complete the grant application for the CDAP Public Infrastructure grant at a cost of \$3,500.00. Roll call vote: Aldermen Risko, yes, Bork, yes, Charles, yes, Rose, yes, Sisler, yes, Bergren, yes. Vote: 6 yeses and 0 noes. the motion was carried.

Alderman Risko stated that he wished to report about the proposal that was submitted by Storm Sirens, Inc. He stated it was a follow up to some conversations he has had with residents that have said they could not hear the current storm warning siren when it has gone off in the past. The company stated that they would do an assessment at no cost and that was what they had done. In their research they proposed to have one more siren installed in the south end of town. The total cost for all of the equipment was estimated at about \$19,000.00. Alderman Risko stated he would like to make some inquiries with some other agencies to see if there are some grants available to help fund something like this. The council members present did not voice any objections to Alderman Risko suggestion to research grants for storm warning sirens.

Alderman Sisler moved and Alderman Rose seconded to approve the January committee meetings date from January 21st to January 22, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in City Hall. 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. The committees involved are streets, police, water and sewer, license & ordinance, and cemetery board.

Under general audience Mr. Len Anderson addressed the council about his disappointment regarding the newspaper article recently in the Sterling newspaper regarding questions about the loan and funding for the Kraft Building rehabilitation. He commented it was hard to know whether the City Council was pro business in town or not. Mr. Tom Cravatta was in attendance and commented he did not feel he received all of the cooperation he would have liked being a business owner in the south end of town.

GENERAL AUDIENCE

Under correspondence Mayor Bates recognized the letter from the engineering firm Fehr-Graham and noted the report from Moring Disposal, Inc. that 22,880 pounds of recycling was picked up during the month of December.

Alderman Risko addressed the council and asked Alderman Sisler if he had a copy of the letter from the Illinois EPA he had reported about at past meetings. Alderman Sisler stated he did and provided those copies to the council members. Alderman Risko asked about a Freedom of Information request submitted by Mr. Gerald Bork asking for information about exempt employees under the Fair Labor Standards Act. Did anyone know what was being asked here? Alderman Sisler commented that we were asking if there were any employees on staff now that were exempt. He knew that there was someone that should be. Alderman Charles stated that there were some things being considered in the new employee handbook that was going to be up for discussion. Alderman Bergren and Risko asked if this was a question that could have been asked without submitting a FOIA request. Discussion of recent FOIA requests.

Mayor Bates stated he had contacted a representative from the City's consulting auditing firm that there were still some questions about the City's finances. He stated he asked about a ball park cost for a forensic audit to be done. He stated the cost would be about an initial \$20,000 retainer then costs could go from \$50,000 to \$60,000. Clerk Cuckler commented that she was not afraid of this because there is no money missing or lost. The consensus of the council present was to ask what was needed to pursue a written quote for a forensic audit.

Alderman Risko commented that he appreciated Mr. Anderson and what he contributes to the town. He reported of the Mount Carroll and Savanna Rotary Club contribution to the school district by purchasing 20 iPads for the reading programs. He also noted the monies received into the Mount Carroll Foundation with a matching challenge grant.

Alderman Charles moved and Alderman Bork 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 yeses and 0 noes.

The Mount Carroll City Council approved these minutes at the January 22, 2013 regular meeting.

Julie A. Cuckler
City Clerk & Collector