

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 11, 2020 REGULAR MEETING OF THE MOUNT CARROLL CITY COUNCIL

Ms. Ashley Roux rang the bell to announce the start of the meeting.

RINGING OF BELL

Mayor Bates called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Roll call: Mayor Carl Bates, present, Aldermen Paul Kaczmarski, present, ROLL CALL

Doug Bergren, present, Kevin Powers, absent, Jeff Elliott, absent, Mike Risko, absent, and Joe Grim, present.

Alderman Grim led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Bob Hatheway gave the invocation.

Alderman Grim moved and Alderman Kaczmarski seconded to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2020 regular meeting as presented. Roll call vote: Aldermen Kaczmarski, yes, Bergren, yes, Grim, yes, Mayor Bates, yes, and Aldermen Powers, Elliott and Risko, absent. Vote: 4 yeses, 0 noes, and 3 absent. The motion was carried.

MINUTES

Alderman Grim moved and Alderman Bergren seconded to table the approval of the minutes of the January 23, 2020 special meeting to the next meeting. Roll call vote: Aldermen Bergren, yes, Grim, yes, Kaczmarski, yes, Mayor Bates, yes, and Aldermen Powers, Elliott, and Risko, absent. Vote: 4 yeses, 0 noes, and 3 absent. The motion was carried.

MINUTES

Alderman Kaczmarski reviewed and moved to approve the accounts payable to date for the month of February as presented. Seconded by Alderman Grim. Roll call vote: Aldermen Grim, yes, Kaczmarski, yes, Bergren, yes, Mayor Bates, yes, and Aldermen Powers, Elliott, and Risko, absent. Vote: 4 yeses, 0 noes, and 3 absent. The motion was carried.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Mayor Bates reported that the bank account balances were totaling \$973,487.25 as of today.

FINANCIAL REPORT

COMMITTEES

Mayor Bates noted that with the absences this evening the committees did not have quorums to present any action so the the committee business was put on the agenda during the regular meeting.

Chief Marth reviewed his monthly activity report for January. He noted

POLICE

the 2017 squad was still in the shop waiting for parts to complete the repairs. He reported of the progress with the computer upgrade of the Village Police software and looking into resources for a laptop replacement when needed. He reported of another training mandate requirement from the State and he would be checking on schedules for these in the area. He reported of the positive feedback from the middle school principal regarding the department's presence at the school this year. He noted he had contacted Brandon Ballard of the Mayfest event to have information about all of the activities for this year. He reported of using the CodeRed alert system for a recent water boil order in the northeast section of town.

Alderman Kaczmarski moved and Alderman Grim seconded to approve the contribution of \$25.00 to the West Carroll High School Post Prom event. Roll call vote: Aldermen Kaczmarski, yes, Bergren, yes, Grim, yes, Mayor Bates, yes, and Aldermen Powers, Elliott and Risko, absent. Vote: 4 yeses, 0 noes, and 3 absent. The motion was carried.

FINANCE

Regarding old business and pending items Mayor Bates and Mr. Dan

DOWNTOWN SIDEWALK

Pepin of CFPS, Inc. reported that the engineers had submitted their

GRANT APPLICATION

information to move forward on the grant application for the downtown sidewalk replacement project.

Mayor Bates reported that a cost estimate had been submitted by Eaton

SURVEY

Land Surveying for the property located along North Galena Street. He stated he would like to have this discussed at the next meeting when more of the council members were in attendance.

Mayor Bates there was another status hearing date set on the Davis Trust for March 10th.

DAVIS TRUST

Mr. Pepin reported that they were continuing work on the TIF district extension and reviewing the property assessments to be incorporated in the new report.

Ms. Ashley Roux, Mount Carroll Summer Youth Ball organization was in SUMMER YOUTH BALL attendance and addressed the council about the summer youth ball program for the 2020 summer season. She reported that the current board members established a not-for-profit organization and were working very hard to revitalize the summer program for this year. They were starting the fundraising work to purchase new uniforms, equipment and an "UTV" vehicle to be used to maintain the ball diamonds. They would like to work with the City to get the batting cage and storage building reconstructed, work on the drainage of the ball fields and spruce up the current dugout areas and buildings. Mayor Bates and the council members in attendance thanked Ms. Roux for updating the council and stated that they would be very supportive in working with the board members towards their goals.

Alderman Grim moved and Alderman Kaczmariski seconded to accept, with RESIGNATION regret, the resignation submitted by City Attorney Ronald Coplan, effective immediately. Mayor Bates reported that Mr. Coplan had been the city attorney for 46 ½ years. He stated he would miss working with him and was looking to purchase a gift card to express our appreciation. Roll call vote on the motion: Aldermen Bergren, no, Grim, yes, Kaczmariski, yes, Mayor Bates, yes, and Aldermen Powers, Elliott and Risko, absent. Vote: 3 yeses, 1 no and 3 absent. The motion was carried.

Alderman Kaczmariski moved and Alderman Grim seconded to approve the IEPA LOAN Pay Request #7 to submit to the IEPA for the WWTP Loan disbursement for the Leander Payment Application No. 5 for \$805,011.55 and MSA Professional Services, Inc. Invoice No. 9 for \$43,697.75 for a total of \$848,709.30. Roll call vote: Aldermen Grim, yes, Kaczmariski, yes, Bergren, yes, Mayor Bates, yes, and Aldermen Powers, Elliott, and Risko, absent. Vote: 4 yeses, 0 noes, and 1 absent. The motion was carried.

Mayor Bates stated that when he was presented with the final CITY ATTORNEY decision from City Attorney Ron Coplan about his resignation they discussed some options for a new city attorney. His recommendation was to contact the firm, Ward, Murray, Pace & Johnson, P.C. of Sterling, IL. Mayor Bates reported he met with Mr. Tim Zollinger and Mr. Trent Bush from the firm that works with the municipal clients, and stated he had contacted a couple of those communities. Mr. Bush was in attendance for this evening's meeting and presented his personal and professional background, the firm's experience with TIF and community development, litigation and ordinances, and noted some other area community clients, such as, Morrison, Amboy, and Sterling. Mayor Bates reported he had talked with the city's TIF consultant, Kathi Orr, and she also agreed with this firm's recommendation. Alderman Grim stated he had talked with a city administrator from a community that works with this firm and that individual was please with the work done by this firm for them. Alderman Kaczmariski stated he was encouraged that the firm worked with large and small communities and he respected Mr. Coplan and Ms. Orr's favorable recommendations. Alderman Bergren expressed his concern with the transition and asked whether the firm worked in Carroll County often. Mr. Bush stated that they had reached out to Mr. Coplan but would not set up anything without confirmation from the City. He stated they did work quite frequently in Carroll County along with the other surrounding counties. Alderman Grim moved and Alderman Kaczmariski seconded to approve the engagement letter with Ward, Murrasy, Pace & Johnson, P.C. to represent the City of Mount Carroll as its appointed City Attorney. Roll call vote: Aldermen Bergren, yes, Grim, yes, Kaczmariski, yes, Mayor Bates, yes, and Aldermen Powers, Elliott, and Risko, absent. Vote: 4 yeses, 0 noes, and 1 absent. The motion was carried.

GENERAL AUDIENCE

Under general audience Ms. Maria Krull asked about the speed limit in the downtown. Mr. Len Anderson reported that some dirt from a construction project was delivered by Tautz Excavating at the Stone House.

Mayor Bates reported there was a survey form from US Congress Member Cheri Bustos wanting to know the towns' priorities.

Alderman Grim moved and Alderman Kaczmariski seconded to adjourn ADJOURNMENT the meeting. Roll call vote: Aldermen Kaczmariski, yes, Bergren, yes, Grim, yes, Mayor Bates, yes, and Aldermen Powers, Elliott, and Risko, absent. Vote: 4 yeses, 0 noes, and 1 absent. The motion was carried. Mayor Bates adjourned the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

The Mount Carroll City Council approved these minutes at the February 25, 2020 regular meeting.

Julie A. Cuckler
City Clerk & Collector