

CITY OF SOUTH BELOIT
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
November 4, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: 5:00 pm, Council Chambers, City Hall by Mayor Fitzgerald

ROLL CALL: Present & answering to roll call were Commissioners Adleman, Morse, Prentice, Hedrington and Mayor Fitzgerald.
City Attorney David Kurlinkus was present
City Administrator Sonya Hoppes was present
City Clerk Tracy Patrick recorded the minutes
Department Heads in attendance:
Wastewater Superintendent Jeff Reininger
Street Superintendent Steve Haas
Police Chief Adam Truman
Assistant Fire Chief Brian Snyder
Community Development Director Shawna Henthorn

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Fitzgerald and recited by all members present.

INVOCATION: Finance Director, Don Elliott delivered the invocation.

APPROVE AGENDA: Commissioner Prentice made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Adleman second the motion. Voice vote carried the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

DeAnn Muth was present. Ms. Muth spoke about concerns regarding the sale of items from the Fire Department. If the City gets the Fire Department back, items will need to be repurchased. Ms. Muth would like the response times for South Beloit.

Phil Muth was present. Mr. Muth spoke about concerns regarding the odd/even parking Ordinance. Mr. Muth was advised the Ordinance enacted was so the emergency vehicles could get down the street, and street maintenance. Mr. Muth said the fees are astronomical and would like the Ordinance revised.

Julie Uram was present. Ms. Uram said she is seeking permission from the City to apply for an EPA Grant to reduce pollution and fund hubs in the event of a disaster. Ms. Uram would also like to use the grant for solar panels that would be placed on the building roof at Nature at The Confluence.

Josh Loyd was present. Mr. Loyd voiced numerous concerns and questions regarding the Fire Department. Mr. Loyd would like to request information about the Fire Department and said safety is a concern.

Mayor Fitzgerald said the City is working on the budget for next year. The State funding is decreasing and cannabis sales are down. Mayor Fitzgerald asked City employees in attendance for their length of service. Mayor Fitzgerald said the City doesn't just make decisions without doing research and to know what's best for South Beloit. Calls are made to the Council members and bullying Council as well as First Responders being boo'd.

Commissioner Morse said the Fire Department had issues for the past 2 ½ years. The City looked at options regarding hiring, adding incentives, pay increases and merger. Commissioner Morse said this is a new system and sure there will be hiccups during the early stage. This will be a model across states.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Commissioner Prentice made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on October 7, 2024 and October 21, 2024 and the Public Hearing Meeting held on October 21, 2024. Commissioner Adleman second the motion. Voice vote carried the motion.

REPORT OF OFFICERS:

1. Finance:
Commissioner Adleman made a motion to approve the claims paid from October 19 – November 1, 2024 in the amount of \$655,699.99. Commissioner Prentice second the motion. Roll call vote showed 5 ayes.
2. Attorney Report:
3. Reports:
City Administrator Report and Staff Report
Accounts and Finance-Commissioner Ryan Adleman
Health & Public Safety-Commissioner Ken Morse
Streets & Public Improvement-Commissioner Brian Hedrington
Public Properties-Commissioner Courtney Prentice
Mayor-Tom Fitzgerald

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Discussion and/or Motion Items:
 - a. Commissioner Adleman made a motion to approve Ordinance 2824 Approving a Contract for Purchase and Sale for the Real Property located at 851 Doner Drive, South Beloit, Illinois by the City. Mayor Fitzgerald said the Eastern Avenue building is in bad shape and full of mold. The cost for engineers estimate a new Streets Department Building is close to \$3 million. The City looked at the building on Gardner Street, and was not able to come to terms. 851 Doner Dr became available and the building can house most all the vehicles. Commissioner Morse second the motion. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 nay by Commissioner Hedrington.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion and/or Motion Items:
 - a. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve request to apply for an EPA Grant from Nature at the Confluence for the purpose of attaching solar panels and building modifications to the building at Nature at the Confluence. Commissioner Prentice second the motion. Roll call vote showed 5 ayes.
 - b. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve Ordinance 2826 Authorizing the sale of certain Personal Property owned by the City of South Beloit. Commissioner Prentice second the motion. Roll call vote showed 5 ayes.
 - c. Commissioner Adleman made a motion to approve Resolution 6566 Approving Estimated Tax Levy Amounts. Mr. Elliott said this is for the tax cap limits. Commissioner Morse second the motion. Roll call vote showed 5 ayes.
 - d. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve Resolution 6567 Approving a Professional Services Agreement with Winnebago County Health Department for Tobacco Enforcement Program Services. Commissioner Prentice second the motion. Roll call vote showed 5 ayes.
 - e. Commissioner Hedrington made a motion to approve hiring Oscar Mar-Garcia for Streets Department at a rate of \$20.00/hour. Commissioner Adleman second the motion. Roll call vote showed 5 ayes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 5:46 pm on a motion made by Commissioner Adleman the council approved going into Executive Session. Commissioner Prentice second the motion. The purpose of Executive Session is to:

1. Discuss personnel issues as provided by 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act.
2. Discuss Pending Litigations, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting as provided by 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(21) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act.
3. Review closed session minutes including semi-annual review of closed session minutes pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(21) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

RECONVENE TO
OPEN SESSION:

At 6:00 pm.

ROLL CALL:

Roll call showed all members previously at the meeting at the reconvening of the meeting.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Commissioner Morse made a motion to return to item a. under New Business to approve authorizing the City Administrator to sign the contract for 851 Doner Dr. Commissioner Adleman second the motion. Voice vote carried the motion with Commissioner Hedrington being opposed.

ADJOURN:

At 6:02 pm on a motion by Commissioner Adleman second by Commissioner Morse Voice vote carried the motion.

Mayor

City Clerk

Approved:

