

CITY OF SOUTH BELOIT
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 2, 2018

CALL TO ORDER: 5:00 pm, Council Chambers, City Hall by Pro Tem Mayor Commissioner Chambers.

ROLL CALL: Present & answering to roll call were Commissioners Chambers, Duffy, Fitzgerald, and Jones. Mayor Rehl was absent.
City Attorney Aaron Szeto was present
City Clerk Tracy Patrick recorded the minutes
Department Heads in attendance:
Fire Chief Mike Davenport
Police Chief Pat Hoey
Public Works Superintendent Jeff Reininger

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Commissioner Chambers and recited by all members present.

INVOCATION: None.

APPROVE AGENDA: Commissioner Duffy made a motion to amend the agenda moving Items 1. a. and b. prior to Report of Officers second by Commissioner Fitzgerald. Voice vote carried the motion to approve as amended.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Margie Bertholomey who is a Library Board Member was present to speak about the Election results regarding the Library Bonds as a citizen. Ms. Bertholomey spoke about irregularities in the recent election regarding improperly printed ballots, and improper advice given by pole workers, which she personally witnessed.
Attorney Szeto said at 6:45 a.m. he was made aware of a ballot issue by a citizen who went to vote and stated there was an issue with the ballot they were given not having the referendum question on it. At 8 a.m. Attorney Szeto went to the County Clerk's Election Office in Rockford. It was determined that all the ballots were not out at Faith Lutheran church. The issue was addressed and corrected. Attorney Szeto said he spoke with Librarian, Doreen Dahlman later that day who said she was informed by residents who went later in the day to vote at other locations that were given a wrong ballot as well. It is unknown how many votes were affected. The Library will need to determine what steps, if any they will take regarding the election.
Ms. Bertholomey said the Library has been in touch with the Election Authority and was told there were some irregularities in Precinct 6 and 3. The Election Authorities will be reviewing all of the ballots. Ms. Bertholomey said it doesn't matter how you were going to vote for the issue, however; if you did not have an opportunity to vote either way you were disenfranchised, and that's wrong. Ms. Bertholomey is upset there hasn't been any public discussion with the exception of wild speculation on social media.
Commissioner Chambers said the City is waiting on the County Clerk's reaction to the issue. The County Clerk is the one who would need to initiate any action that may come.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 1. Commissioner Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on March 19, 2018. Commissioner Duffy second the motion. Voice vote carried the motion.

NEW BUSINESS: 1. a. Commissioner Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the promotion of Police Officer James Sanders to the rank of Sergeant second by Commissioner Jones. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 absent by Mayor Rehl.
b. Clerk Patrick administered the Oath of Office to Sergeant James Sanders. Sergeant Sanders thanked Council for the opportunity to serve.

REPORT OF OFFICERS: 1. Finance:

- a. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the claims to be paid from March 17-30, 2018 in the amount of \$195,801.87. Commissioner Fitzgerald second the motion. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 absent by Mayor Rehl.

2. Attorney Report:

None.

3. Commissioner's Report:

Accounts & Finance-Commissioner Linda Chambers
Public Health & Safety-Commissioner Tom Fitzgerald
Streets & Public Improvements-Commissioner Lori Duffy
Public Properties-Commissioner Nick Jones

NEW BUSINESS
CONTINUED:

Discussion and/or Motion Items:

1. c. Commissioner Duffy made a motion to approve a request to waive an Application fee for a Special Use Permit in the amount of \$750.00 for South Beloit School District 320. Commissioner Jones second the motion. Commissioner Chambers stated the request is for a new electronic sign at Clark School. The district is planning on 2 more new electronic signs to be put at Blackhawk Elementary and Riverview. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 absent by Mayor Rehl.
- d. Commissioner Fitzgerald made a motion to approve Resolution 5948 authorizing the Mayor to sign a Professional Agreement with Fehr Graham for Preliminary Engineering Services for Federal Participation. Commissioner Jones second the motion. City Engineer, Mick Gronewold was present to speak to Council regarding the resolution. Mr. Gronewold provided a background regarding the grant awarded to the City to connect the bike path in Wisconsin and Illinois. The Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) Grant awarded the grant to the City in 2012. The original project plan was to connect the bike path to the Wheeler Bridge. Because of the determination that the bridge is historical the bids were more than expected or affordable the project stalled out for several months. In October another change in scope was submitted to change the project to Park Avenue. In February the City received approval for the change in scope from the Illinois Department of Transportation. The new plans will go out for bid soon. Approval is needed for the engineering portion to move the project forward. Mr. Gronewold said the total grant award was in the amount of approximately \$665,000. Of those funds \$90,000. has been spent. The total cost for the project will be \$780,000. For the City's 80/20 split the City will have to put in \$190,000. If approved, construction will begin in 2019. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 absent by Mayor Rehl.
- e. Commissioner Duffy made a motion to approve Resolution 5949 approving and authorizing the Mayor to sign an Engagement Agreement with Kane McKenna & Associates, Inc to provide TIF Consulting Services. Commissioner Jones second the motion. Attorney Szeto explained the Annexation Agreement with Mid States included language that would require the City to see if the property would meet the qualifications required to create a TIF. Attorney Szeto said Mid States has already signed a reimbursement agreement for consulting costs. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 absent by Mayor Rehl.
- f. Commissioner Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the purchase of turnout gear for the Fire Department in the amount of \$7,925.97. Commissioner Jones second the motion. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 absent by Mayor Rehl.
- g. Commissioner Fitzgerald made a motion to approve hiring James Griffin as part-time Fire Inspector for the Fire Department. Commissioner Duffy second the motion. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 absent by Mayor Rehl.

MISCELLANEOUS
LICENSES AND PERMITS:

1. RLE's:
 - a. Heather Belknap-American Legion
 - b. Lindsay Bilek-Artisan

Commissioner Duffy made a motion to approve all licenses second by Commissioner Jones. Voice vote carried the motion.

ADJOURN:

At 5:55 pm on a motion made by Commissioner Fitzgerald second by Commissioner Jones. Voice vote carried the motion.

Mayor

City Clerk

Approved: