

CITY OF SOUTH BELOIT
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
January 19, 2021

CALL TO ORDER: 5:08 pm, Council Chambers, City Hall by Mayor Rehl.

ROLL CALL: Present & answering to roll call were Commissioners Adleman, Fitzgerald, Hedrington, Morse, and Mayor Rehl.
City Attorney Roxanne Sosnowski was present
City Clerk Tracy Patrick recorded the minutes
Department Heads in attendance via conference call:
Police Chief Adam Truman
Fire Chief Administrator Dan Zerfass
Waste Water Treatment Plant Superintendent Jeff Reininger
Street Superintendent Mike Murphy

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

INVOCATION: Mayor Rehl asked for a moment of silence.

APPROVE AGENDA: Commissioner Morse made a motion to amend the agenda to move item 1. a. under New Business to immediately after the approval of the agenda. Commissioner Fitzgerald second the motion. Voice vote carried the motion. Commissioner Adleman made a motion to approve the agenda as amended second by Commissioner Morse. Voice vote carried the motion.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Therese Oldenburg was present to speak to Council regarding a grant that the City received from the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois for the Development of Kelly Creek Environmental Learning Landing and Trail in the amount of \$30,000.00 to work on Kelly Creek for the new park. Ms. Oldenburg gave a presentation of the Kelly Creek and its history. Ms. Oldenburg explained the issues with Kelly Creek regarding the garbage and debris that is in the Creek. Ms. Oldenburg reviewed how the funds will be utilized to clean up Kelly Creek as well as the vision for the area. Commissioner Morse made a motion to accept the grant from the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois for the Development of Kelly Creek Environmental Learning Landing and Trail in the amount of \$30,000.00. Commissioner Hedrington second the motion. Voice vote carried the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Commissioner Adleman asked that if there were more than 6 people who wanted to speak during Public Comment that Council waive the Ordinance and allow everyone to speak. Mayor Rehl said if there were more than 6 all comments would be allowed. Mayor Rehl read a public comment that was submitted by email from Ethan Kenny who stated he would like to see the online bill pay be updated to include auto payments. Mr. Kenny also said he received a Notice of Violation for parking his pop-up camper in his driveway for parking outside the dates of April 15-October 15 dates from the December ordinance change to Section 102-58. Mr. Kenny said he does not believe violations should be sent for newly revised ordinances. Mr. Kenny said he was able to store his camper, however; he does not live in a Home Owners Association and does not want to have regulations regarding parking in his driveway. Mr. Kenny ended on a positive note and thanked Council for their work in the City.

Jay Jackson said he was circulating an online petition regarding the RV Ordinance amendment. Mr. Jackson said the petition has been signed by 133 people and is expecting a lot more signatures from people who are opposed to the ordinance change. Mr. Jackson said there is no reason for the ordinance because there is already a setback of 5' in the Zoning section that regulates RV's. Mr. Jackson said he previously spoke with Mayor Rehl and was told that a 32' RV was acceptable, and now it is not. Mr. Jackson said there is no point to the ordinance since it's not a safety issue. Mr. Jackson asked if there were complaints regarding the item.

Mayor Rehl said because the item was not on the agenda, Council cannot take any action regarding any item, however; Council considers any public comments that are heard at meetings.

Sue Jackson said her husband (Jay) covered the concerns she had. Ms. Jackson said she is a trauma nurse, and has not seen any trauma to children that involved an RV being parked in a driveway such as a trampoline that has caused trauma. Ms. Jackson said they do not tell people who have trampolines not to have them because they are hazardous.

The City Clerk attempted to contact Gregory Lee by phone to hear his public comment, however she was not able to get an answer on the phone number that was left by him.

Angelo Eterno participated via phone and said he wanted to speak about trailers in the driveways. Mr. Eterno said he doesn't believe it hurts anyone, and that they have a cargo trailer for his small business. Mr. Eterno said he feels like he is being treated unfairly. Mr. Eterno also asked if the City was considering any chicken places in the City. Mr. Eterno said there are no KFC's or Popeye's Chicken places and he believes they would be a good addition.

Trevor Walmer participated via phone and said he received a violation for a trailer that was parked on the side of his carport that is parked on gravel. Mr. Walmer said he reviewed the ordinance and does not understand the violation and would like to know what the issue is, and how he would be able to correct the violation. Attorney Sosnowski said Code Enforcement Officer, Shawna Henthorn was present at the meeting, and she would contact him regarding his violation.

Commissioner Fitzgerald said staff is not to be blamed or criticized for any ordinance. Council determines what ordinances are or are not passed.

Commissioner Adleman read a Personal Statement regarding concerns he had from the personal attacks on Facebook that took place over the weekend. In part, Commissioner Adleman said the Council is here to do what they believe is best for all citizens, not just one segment or another. The amendment regarding RV's was brought forth due to the amount of complains the City receives about RV's and Trailers in driveways. In trying to do what's right for everyone, compromises have to be made. Commissioner Adleman said the RV debate is no different. There are citizens that love to access their RV's and others who may see them as a safety concern or an eyesore in their neighborhoods. The recent amendment was a compromise, as a way to keep children safe in their yards and driveways but also allow for RV access during the times they are most needed. At times Council is presented with ordinance issues that need to be addressed, and as a community of friends and neighbors, we don't have to always agree, but should strive to be civil. Commissioner Adleman said he saw quite a few comments and posts on social media with his photo and contact information that began this past Friday. Out of all the outrage and public shaming, he received 2 emails from concerned citizens, to which he promptly contacted those citizens and explained his position. Commissioner Adleman prides himself in communication, and said he will always talk things out with anyone in a civil manner and setting. Commissioner Adleman clarified that he has an uncle that owned storage units in South Beloit that were sold approximately 2 years ago. To suggest that he or any of his family would benefit from the amendment decision is completely uninformed, false, and is the ultimate definition of Fake News. Commissioner Adleman said what concerns him most about the misinformation, is the impact on his wife and children who are part of the City. Also, what this damage does to our close-knit family community. Commissioner Adleman said he cares about the City and for it's future. Commissioner Adleman said posting questions, complaints, or concerns on social Media is not the most effective avenue to reach out to council members. Commissioner Adleman asked that any City related issue be addressed by contacting City Hall or any council member. Information can be found on the City's website.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Commissioner Morse made a motion to lay over the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on January 4, 2021. Commissioner Hedrington second the motion. Voice vote carried the motion.

REPORT OF OFFICERS:

1. Finance:

Commissioner Hedrington made a motion to approve the claims to be paid from December 31, 2020 – January 15, 2021 in the amount of \$800,385.91. Commissioner Fitzgerald second the motion. Roll call vote showed 5 ayes.

2. Attorney Report:

Attorney Sosnowski provided a Recreational Vehicle (RV) Summary due to questions from Council that compares South Beloit's Ordinance to what is allowed in Rockton, Machesney Park,

Rockford, Roscoe, and Beloit. Attorney Sosnowski reviewed the comparison and said that South Beloit's ordinance allows more than Rockton, Machesney Park, Rockford, and Beloit. South Beloit's ordinance allows 2 RV's so long as 1 is in parked in the side and/or rear yard as opposed to Rockton's allowance of 1. Attorney Sosnowski reminded Council the reason for the December ordinance was due to past discussions regarding the driveway parking and to allow for more RV parking. Previously the City's Code of Ordinance did not allow for any front yard parking-only side and rear yard parking. The consensus at the time of discussion was to allow for some front yard driveway parking from a seasonal standpoint.

Code Enforcement Officer, Shawna Henthorn was present to speak about the notices that were sent out and some of the complaints she gets. CE Officer Henthorn said the first notices were sent out after Labor Day. At that time she received calls from angry citizens regarding no driveway parking. CE Officer Henthorn said she received numerous complaints from citizens on both sides favoring and not in favor regarding RV parking. Last week there were approximately 40 letters sent-out. CE Officer said it's hard to enforce when there are so many changes made to the code, and needs direction from Council regarding the RV parking.

Commissioner Fitzgerald said he spoke with CE Officer Henthorn and Commissioner Adleman. Commissioner Fitzgerald said he would like to delay any violations until spring. The item was discussed for a year due to previous complaints from citizens not wanting to see their neighbors' campers in their driveways all year long. This was where the seasonal parking was considered. Commissioner Fitzgerald said the City's code is the most lenient compared to neighboring communities, however; he would like to see some consideration given to RV owners who may have been impacted by Covid and would not have the financial resources to store their campers. Commissioner Adleman said he agreed with Commissioner Fitzgerald regarding holding off on the Notice of Violations until the October 15th date. Commissioner Adleman said he wants to be fair to everyone, and due to the lack of communication would want to get the information out to residents in preparation for the requirements that will be enforced in November.

Mayor Rehl reminded Council that under the old Ordinance there was no parking allowed in the driveway.

Jay Jackson said he had previous discussions regarding his RV and there were no issues with the length of his RV or parking in his driveway. Mr. Jackson said he has 12' at the end of his driveway, and there were no concerns at the time.

Commissioner Fitzgerald said he believes there are no issues until it extends into the City's right-of-way. Commissioner Fitzgerald said Council makes decisions and there are no comments until it affects them. Council made compromises regarding the seasonal parking.

Council discussed the requirements for RV's regarding driveway parking and determined no action could be taken at this time.

3. Commissioner's Report:

Accounts & Finance-Commissioner Tom Fitzgerald
Health & Public Safety-Commissioner Brian Hedrington
Streets & Public Improvement-Commissioner Ryan Adleman
Public Properties-Commissioner Ken Morse

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion and/or Motion Items:

b. Commissioner Fitzgerald made a motion to approve Ordinance 2588 authorizing the disposal of personal property owner by the City of South Beloit (1994 Chevy Van Camera Truck). Commissioner Adleman second the motion. Roll call vote showed 5 ayes.

c. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve Ordinance 2589 amending Chapter 106 Utilities, Article III Sewers and Sewage Disposal, Section 106-160 of the City of South Beloit Code of Ordinances. Commissioner Adleman second the motion. WWTP Superintendent, Jeff Reininger said the City is part of the Rock River Watershed Group, of which he is the representative for the City. The purpose is to have testing done on the Rock river and some other tributaries to help prevent from doing more micro nutrient removal with the treatment plant than we already have to do. This is a joint effort with other treatment plants. Mr. Reininger said the purpose for the Ordinance would be to help pay for testing and engineering costs similar to what Roscoe has already approved. Mr. Reininger said he prefers to go this route because he has concerns regarding having a shortage in the sewer fund if the City elects that option. The City 's membership fee is approximately \$13,000.00. The membership dues cost for 2021 would be added to the City's sewer billing for each service in the amount of \$4.00 then .34 cents per month thereafter. Mayor Rehl asked for the item to be laid over until the next

meeting. Commissioner Adleman made a motion to layover Ordinance 2589 second by Commissioner Fitzgerald. Voice vote carried the motion.

- d. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve Ordinance 2590 An Ordinance Annexing certain territory of the City of South Beloit, Winnebago County (1 Buddyville-3.03 Acres). Commissioner Fitzgerald second the motion. Roll call vote showed 3 ayes and 2 nays by Commissioners Adleman and Hedrington.
- e. Commissioner Hedrington made a motion to approve Resolution 6170 authorizing the Mayor to execute an Addendum to Intergovernmental Agreement dated December 18, 2018, for the operation and funding of an Integrated Records Management System (RMS) and to adopt the Northern Illinois Data Management System Bylaws. Commissioner Adleman second the motion. Attorney Sosnowski said this is an extension of the previous agreement of allow for the purchase of membership into the Records Management Systems (“RMS”). This is the next step that adopts bylaws into the Northern Illinois Data Management System that governs how everyone will share the data. Attorney Sosnowski reviewed the initial agreement that was previously approved. Commissioner Fitzgerald asked how the costs were determined. Attorney Sosnowski said the costs were based off of the number of licenses, and calls for service. Chief Truman said the number of licenses is in accordance to how many laptops are in the squad cars. Roll call vote showed 5 ayes.
- f. Commissioner Adleman made a motion to approve Resolution 6171 approving a Policy for Conducting Abbott Labs Binaxnow Covid-19 Antigen Testing. Commissioner Hedrington second the motion. Fire Chief Dan Zerfass said the Fire Department has 2 employees who have been approved to administer the testing. City Staff and Council Members will be the only people being tested. Roll call vote showed 5 ayes.
- g. Commissioner Adleman made a motion to approve Resolution 6172 authorizing the purchase of an additional pump for Lift Station #4 by Flow Technics, Inc. at a cost not to exceed \$8,805.00. Roll call vote showed 5 ayes.
- h. Commissioner Fitzgerald made a motion to approve Resolution 6173 approving the twenty-ninth IEPA Loan Disbursement in the amount of \$216,389.00. Commissioner Adleman second the motion. Roll call vote showed 5 ayes.
- i. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve hiring Scott Formankiewicz as paid-on-call firefighter for the Fire Department. Commissioner Adleman asked how many part-time firefighters are needed for the Fire Department. Fire Chief Zerfass said there are currently 20 part time firefighters. There are currently 10 inactive employees who are not participating. Of those 10, 1 has resigned, and 2-3 people will be that will be released for no participation. 2 of tonight’s hires will work a 7 am – 5 pm shift. Commissioner Hedrington asked what the pay is for the part-timers. Chief Zerfass said \$11.00 for a basic firefighter, \$13.00 for an EMT, and \$14.00 for a paramedic. Commissioner Fitzgerald second the motion. Roll call vote showed 5 ayes.
- j. Commissioner Fitzgerald made a motion to approve hiring Brandy Perry as paid-on-call firefighter for the Fire Department. Commissioner Adleman second the motion. Roll call vote showed 5 ayes.
- k. Commissioner Hedrington made a motion to approve hiring Thomas Couch as paid-on-call firefighter for the Fire Department. Commissioner Morse second the motion. Roll call vote showed 5 ayes.
- l. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve hiring Brittany Copano as paid-on-call firefighter for the Fire Department. Commissioner Hedrington second the motion. Roll call vote showed 5 ayes.
- m. Commissioner Adleman said he has ideas for putting in to place a Constant Contact email system that residents could sign up for. This would allow the City to put out notices through email that would keep the citizens informed of what’s going on with the City regarding regulations, ordinance changes or anything that could be shared. Commissioner Adleman said he would like to see a Communications or Economic Development person be hired for either part time or full time. Commissioner Adleman said the price for the Constant Contact email system would be determined by the number of emails that are signed up for the system. Mayor Rehl said he would be in favor of the idea and hiring a person to take care of it such as Commissioner Adleman suggested. This would allow a person to spend more time with people and businesses for more opportunities.
Commissioner Hedrington left the meeting at 6:27 pm.
Mayor Rehl said he would like to see a City Manager hired. This would help with more communication with businesses and potential developers.

Commissioner Adleman said he has a quote from the City's IT person for what would be needed to stream the Council Meetings. He also has a second person coming to meet with the City Clerk regarding what would be needed to set up the Council Chambers for recording.

MISCELLANEOUS
LICENSES AND PERMITS:

1. Business Licenses:
 - a. Mid-States Concrete Industries, LLC
 - b. Restorations by Glen (R.B.G.)
 - c. Sugar River Machine, Inc.

Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve all the licenses second by Commissioner Adleman. Voice vote carried the motion.

ADJOURN:

At 5:41 pm on a motion made by Commissioner Fitzgerald second by Commissioner Morse. Voice vote carried the motion.

Mayor

City Clerk

Approved: