

CITY OF SOUTH BELOIT
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
October 18, 2021

CALL TO ORDER: 5:00 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 Wiktorina Goscik was present
City Administrator Sonya Hoppes was present
City Clerk Tracy Patrick recorded the minutes
Department Heads in attendance:
Police Chief Adam Truman
Fire Administrator Dan Zerfass
Waste Water Treatment Plant Superintendent Jeff Reininger

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 Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Adleman second the motion. Voice vote carried the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Tim McMahon thanked the Council for recently approving the South Beloit Lion's Club Candy Day at the intersection of Dorr Rd and Prairie Hill Rd. Mr. McMahon asked if a request would still need to be submitted since the State of Illinois passed a law permitting pan handling. Mr. McMahon said the spindles on the gazebo at the City Park are broken and were supposed to be fixed months ago. Mr. McMahon said the planter sign by I-90 that was donated by the Lion's Club is all over grown with weeds. Flowers were planted by the Lion's Club and they died. Mr. McMahon said this is not a good representation by the City.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
1. Commissioner Morse made a motion to lay over the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on October 4, 2021. Commissioner Fitzgerald second the motion. Voice vote carried the motion.

CORRESPONDENCE:
1. Michael Dunn Jr. from Region 1 Planning Council (R1) was present to speak to Council regarding joining the Northern Illinois Council of Governments (NorthCOG). Mr. Dunn said R1 is a federal group similar to SLATS in Beloit that focuses on long range transportation planning and economic development assistance through the EDA. The group is governed by area Mayors and County Chairmen. Mr. Dunn explained NorthCOG was started a year ago. NorthCOG is restricted by the Federal Government to where boarders are, and who can be members based on population. North COG is not a flexible tool in delivering technical support or solutions to local government below a certain population. NorthCOG is a voluntary, not for profit corporation that represents members of the group with issues such as getting funding to better communities and towns. Mr. Dunn said South Beloit would be an equal partner, and spoke about the benefits to South Beloit of joining the group. Mayor Rehl said there needs to be a voice for the City in Springfield. Being part of this group will create additional voices. There is power in many voices, and joining the group would be beneficial to the City.

REPORT OF OFFICERS:

1. Finance:

Commissioner Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the claims to be paid from October 2-15, 2021 in the amount of \$397,752.34. Commissioner Adleman second the motion. Roll call vote showed 5 ayes.

2. Reports:

Staff Report-City Administrator, Sonya Hoppes
Accounts & Finance-Commissioner Tom Fitzgerald
Health & Public Safety-Commissioner Brian Hedrington
Streets & Public Improvement-Commissioner Ryan Adleman
Public Properties-Commissioner Ken Morse
Mayor-Ted Rehl

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion and/or Motion Items:

- a. David Phillip was sworn in by the City Clerk as Full-time Firefighter/EMT
- b. Commissioner Fitzgerald made a motion to reconsider Ordinance 2654 approving a Zoning Map Amendment in the One-Family Zoning District (R1) to Two-Family Residential Zoning District (R2) for the property commonly known as 540 South Bluff Street, South Beloit, Illinois, Winnebago County, with PIN No. 04-06-327-006. Filed by Bruce and Judith Warden and Amcore Investment Group. Mayor Rehl second the motion. Commissioner Fitzgerald said he believes Council should reconsider the item since there were unanswered questions, and there was nothing known from the applicant regarding what the plans for the property were. Commissioners Adleman, Morse, and Hedrington said they were not in favor of reconsidering the item due to the neighboring residents voicing their opposition to the zoning change. Roll call vote showed 2 ayes and 3 nays by Commissioners Adleman, Hedrington, and Morse. The motion failed.
- c. Commissioner Adleman made a motion to approve Ordinance 2657 authorizing the City to sell surplus City property at 233 S Harrison. Commissioner Hedrington second the motion. Roll call vote showed 5 ayes.
- d. Commissioner Adleman made a motion to approve Ordinance 2658 amending Section 38-7 of Chapter 38 Fire Prevention and Protection, Article I, in General, of the City of South Beloit Code of Ordinances. Commissioner Fitzgerald second the motion. Attorney Goscik explained the changes are from the previous discussion Council had at the last Council Meeting regarding open burning. Commissioner Morse said he is not in favor of extending the period to 8 weeks. Commissioner Morse said the extended period is too long and too much on people with respiratory issues. Commissioner Adleman said he is a working person, and does not believe 30 days is enough time to allow for open burning. Commissioner Adleman also said there is confusion for the dates, and could be changed from a date certain to the first Saturday in October to the Last Saturday in November. Commissioner Fitzgerald said there are other communities that open burn all year long. Commissioner Fitzgerald said he would recommend closing open burning on a Sunday instead of a Saturday. Commissioners Fitzgerald and Hedrington said they are in favor of a 6-week period as a compromise, with an option to extend if needed. Commissioner Morse would like to leave open burning to a 30-day period with the option to extend, and said residents with respiratory issues need to be represented. Mayor Rehl recommended laying the item over for further consideration. Commissioner Adleman made a motion to lay over Ordinance 2658. Commissioner Fitzgerald second the motion. Voice vote carried the motion.
- e. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve Ordinance 2659 amending various provisions of the City of South Beloit Code of Ordinances regarding Sewer Billing and Water Sprinkler Meters. Commissioner Fitzgerald second the motion. Attorney Goscik explained the ordinance removes sprinkler meters and credits. Sprinkler

meters would be phased out at the end of 2021. There will be a buyback program for the sprinkler meters that would be in place until December 2022. Pool owners would be given a 1-time credit for the initial fill of their swimming pool contingent on submitting a Swimming Pool Application to the City. The City will give a credit for based on the size of the swimming pool. Administrator Hoppes described the issues she has witnessed in the 6 weeks since she has been here that includes inaccurate reads being submitted, meters being connected the wrong way which makes the meter calculate the wrong read, and reads not being submitted monthly. The buyback program will make the residents whole for the amount they spent to purchase the meter when they turn in the meters. Commissioner Fitzgerald said staff is spending a significant amount of time on the phone with residents, at the counter, and entering and correcting reads that are inaccurate. Commissioner Adleman said there are too many issues with meters for the number of meters that are actually being used. Commissioner Morse asked if the City should consider lending out meters so that people with swimming pools could use when filling or topping off pools each year. WWTP Superintendent, Jeff Reininger explained the cost per gallon, and said most people only need to top off their pool each year. The proposed program would take care of residents for the 1-time credit upon filling the pool for the first time. Lending meters would be hard to track and possibly hard to get back after they are lent out. Mr. Reininger also said the meter materials are being made with a copper blend and tend to have leaking issues. Commissioner Fitzgerald said the City would either scrap the meters that are turned in or try to sell the meters back to the meter company. Roll call vote showed 5 ayes.

- f. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve Resolution 6272 approving membership to the Council of Governments. Commissioner Fitzgerald second the motion. Roll call vote showed 5 ayes.
- g. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve Resolution 6273 approving an agreement with Javon Bea Hospital for Emergency Dispatching Communication. Commissioner Hedrington second the motion. Roll call vote showed 5 ayes.
- h. Commissioner Adleman made a motion to approve Resolution 6274 approving an agreement with Fehr Graham regarding a Structural Evaluation. Commissioner Morse second the motion. Roll call vote showed 5 ayes.
- i. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve hiring Mark Robertson as part time in the Streets Department at a rate of \$11.00/hour. Commissioner Hedrington second the motion. Roll call vote showed 5 ayes.
- j. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve hiring Nick Miller as a paid-on-call firefighter/paramedic at a rate of \$12.00/hour. Commissioner Hedrington second the motion. Roll call vote showed 5 ayes.
- k. Council discussed Video Gaming Licenses. Mayor Rehl said the Councils prior decision to open the video gaming and adding an additional license classification for gaming licenses has created a tsunami of applications. Mayor Rehl asked Council to take a timeout in order to get an inventory of how many licenses there are and where the locations are. Commissioner Adleman said he would back a temporary moratorium. Initially, the unlimited license would provide additional revenue, however; now the licenses can be capped and revenue can be generated within the cap. Commissioner Fitzgerald said he thought the BG licenses being unlimited were acceptable because they had limitations regarding square footage. Commissioner Fitzgerald said he was not in favor of adding additional licensing to allow gas stations and convenience stores. These locations are not being monitored. Commissioner Fitzgerald said he believes that was a mistake. Council consensus was to have a temporary moratorium on gaming license for approximately 2 months to be brought back for Council approval as a Resolution at the next Regular Council Meeting. Staff will put together a map that will include the locations of each of the gaming licenses.

MISCELLANEOUS
LICENSES AND PERMITS:

1. Business Licenses:
 - a. Northwest Testing LLC

2. RLE's:
 - a. Erin GeRue-The Wheel
 - b. Karolynn Vance-Hidden Creek

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 6:22 pm on a motion from Commissioner Morse second by Commissioner Adleman the Council approved going in to Executive Session. The purpose for 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 the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired as provided by 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(5) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION:

At 7:05 pm.

ROLL CALL:

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

None.

ADJOURN:

At 7:05 pm on a motion made by Commissioner Morse second by Commissioner Hedrington. Voice vote carried the motion.

Mayor

City Clerk

Approved: