



CITY OF GIBSON | 101 E 8TH STREET, PO BOX 545, GIBSON CITY, IL 60936
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MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF GIBSON CITY
Monday, October 25, 2021

Call to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Dan Dickey.

Roll Call:	Ward #1 Susie Tongate,	Present	Vacancy	
	Ward #2 Randy Wyant,	Present	Aaron Franks,	Absent
	Ward #3 Scott Davis,	Present	Michelle Celeschi,	Present
	Ward #4 Denis Fisher,	Present	Laura Miller,	Present
	Junior Alderman Haley Wahl		Present	

Others present: Chief Adam Rosendahl, Supt. Wayne Link, Mike Friend of Farnsworth; Pastor Nick Carlson, New Beginnings Church; Dale Denny and others representing Harvest Fest, Erick Tjarks, Marty Nuss IPG Insurance, Paul Patel, Dairy Queen, Mike McDonald representing private benefit, Diane Donohue and Tom Kuester, residents with flood concerns, Ross Brown, Ford County Chronicle. (See complete sign-in sheet attached)

Alderman Denis Fisher led council in Pledge of Allegiance.

Alderman Laura Miller made motion to approve minutes of October 11th, 2nd by Alderman Randy Wyant, Motion carried 7-0.

Visitors:

Mike McDonald requested Sangamon Avenue between 8th and 9th be barricaded on Saturday November 6 from noon-7:00 p.m. He is hosting a private benefit "Miracle for Macy" for an 8-year-old diagnosed with cancer. Event will have a bounce house, games, etc. Mayor Dickey suggested using 9th between Ace Hdwe and the American Legion from Sangamon to the alley, to allow access to businesses on Sangamon during open hours. All agreed and Supt. Link will provide barricades.

Tom Kuester of 618 Gray Drive addressed council with his concerns about the drainage problems in their neighborhood. August 12th is an exception, but 3"-4" caused flooding yesterday. The water does not move, he feels there must be a blocked or collapsed storm drain and asked what the city will do to correct this. Mayor Dickey replied that he has requested a Task Order from the engineers that will be voted on at the next regular meeting. Diane Donohue echoed Kuester's concerns, and Mayor Dickey assured them

that he and Supt. Link will investigate this as well as having the engineering study, and a plan to correct is forthcoming.

Paul Patel, owner of the Dairy Queen also asked for City help to contact the State and the Railroad to ask that drainage ditches be cleaned/created, whatever is needed. His business suffered major damage on August 12th, and he closed early yesterday to sandbag doorways to prevent runoff from flooding his business again. Mayor Dickey and Supt. Link will come to see Mr. Patel at the Dairy Queen tomorrow and work together on a plan.

Billie Jo Denny, spokesperson for Harvest Fest Committee reported to the council that they are restructuring and have developed a committee with officers and board members, a bit more official. Also presented income and expense reports (see attached) and stated that they are working hard to become an asset to the community not just during Harvest Fest, but throughout the year. Their intentions are to 'give back' in a variety of ways and welcome outside suggestions.

Committee Reports: None.

Approval of Bills:

TIF #3 1 check \$1,945.31 Fisher, Motion, 2nd, Celeschi, MC 5-0 Davis & Miller abstained due to owning property in TIF 3.

TIF #2 (7 checks) \$825,888.89, Motion to approve by Alderman Miller, 2nd by Alderman Fisher, Motion carried 7-0.

General Fund: \$261,675.00 Motion made by Alderman Fisher, 2nd by Alderman Wyant to approve all General Fund checks as presented. Motion passed 7-0 with

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Shull read his report for September, Alderman Davis asked for confirmation on dollar amount currently in reserves for emergencies. Treasurer Shull stated that he and Peg have different reports, he will talk with her to confirm exact amount, somewhere near \$1million. Davis suggested that when emergency funds are used, replacement will be discussed in next year's budget meeting.

New Business:

Agenda Item A – Mayoral appointment of Erick Tjarks to fill the vacant seat in Ward 1 that was held by Greg Houtzel. Motion to approve this appointment made by Alderman Tongate, 2nd by Alderman Celeschi, motion carried unanimously. Atty Marc Miller did the swearing in of Erick Tjarks and he took his seat at the table.

Agenda Item B Mayoral appointment of Keith Lipka to fill the vacancy on the Planning Commission due to Ted Timm moving. Mayor took the referral from Mary Timm, President of the Planning Commission. Motion to approve this appointment made by Alderman Celeschi, 2nd by Alderman Miller. Motion approved unanimously.

Agenda Item C Terry Whitebird, Ford County EMA Coordinator presented a report on the August 12th flood. He filed reports with the State and shared that he has learned individuals can speak with their own insurance agents about flood insurance, but there is no flood insurance available through the government. Overall, the flood management process went as smoothly as possible.

Agenda Item D Stealth Mode Construction of Mahomet presented a task order to repair the masonry on the front/top of the Police Department. Mayor Dickey stated that this is a necessity for safety and recommended approval. Motion to approve this work order in the amount of \$11,325.00 was made by Alderman Miller, 2nd by Alderman Tongate. Motion approved unanimously.

Agenda Item E Marty Nuss of Insurance Providers Group reviewed the changes to health benefits for city employees. The new policy begins December 1, 2021. Currently, Blue Cross Blue Shield has been good for the employees, and it is staying the same as far as benefits. Ancillary benefits – dental, vision and health, is still best covered by Humana. Overall increase in premiums is 3.85%, which is particularly good. Motion to approve this renewal as presented made by Alderman Tongate, 2nd by Alderman Fisher, motion approved unanimously.

Agenda Item F Resolution of Intent to support a TIF 4 being created for the benefit of One Earth Energy expansion to the north of their current facility. Attorney Gwen Crawford summarized the process. One Earth Energy purchased 103 acres of ground in 2019 and it was annexed into the city and zoning was changed from Ag-1 to Manufacturing. OEE has now purchased an additional 103 to the west, and the same process needs to be done, annexation and zoning change. City Attorney Marc Miller will prepare those documents while Gwen will work with OEE and City on projections for TIF 4. Motion made by Alderman Wyant to approve this resolution of intent as presented, 2nd by Alderman Celeschi. Atty. Miller advised council that anyone owning property in any TIF District should abstain from voting on creation of the new TIF. Motion carried with 5 ayes, and Aldermen Davis and Miller abstaining due to owning property in the TIF.

Agenda Item G Resolution to approve using City emergency funds to provide a grant to the GAHRF (Gibson Area House Rehab Foundation 503-C Charity) was presented and Pastor Nick Carlson reviewed the work and dollars spent to date, as well as upcoming needs. The first phase was considered 'essentials' of replacing water heaters, furnaces and refrigerators. 2nd phase is ready to begin, which will include drywall replacement, mold remediation, foundation issues, flooring, etc. Pastor stated that the dollar amount needed at this time is \$210K. To date 64 homes have applied for assistance, and \$173,000 has been spent from the donations. Alderman Celeschi asked if this is going to continue into new damage from yesterday's heavy rains. Pastor Carlson replied that is undecided at this time, but there is a real need to complete restoration from the August 12th flood. Mayor Dickey added that he would rather see the city spend money on improvements than have people abandon homes and the city be stuck with demolition. Again, Alderman Davis, Chairman of Finance stated that this is what emergency funds are for, and we can plan to reimburse dollars spent at a later time.

Alderman Celeschi again asked about the legality of using tax dollars that are only benefiting some of the taxpayers. Atty. Miller stated this is fine because the Resolution is directing a payment for the express purpose of restoration to taxpayer homes. Motion to approve this Resolution in the amount of \$250K to GAHRF made by Alderman Wyant, 2nd by Alderman Miller. Roll call vote, motion passed 6 ayes, Alderman Fisher abstained. Mayor Dickey thanked Pastor Carlson and the GAHRF Committee for their dedication to this necessary task.

Agenda Item H & Agenda Item I Mayor Dickey explained to council that the current accepted protocol for writing checks is to have all 3 signatures from Mayor, Treasurer, and City Clerk. It has become apparent that if one of those 3 people are away, then checks cannot be issued. To correct this, he advised council to approve continuing with 3 signatures when all are available and approve that 2 signatures will suffice if/when one signer is away. Motion to approve this change as presented made by Alderman Davis, 2nd by Alderman Fisher. Motion approved unanimously.

Agenda Item J Quote to purchase a spray patch machine. Supt. Link explained that in past years an outside contractor has been hired to perform oil & chip to our streets, and during that process the city pays for gravel and provides a truck. It can really slow down work to have the truck tied up for this use. Mayor Dickey and Supt Link have seen the quality of work done by the spray patch machine under consideration, and feel that by having our own machine, it will pay for itself within 3-4 years, as well as not tying up equipment. The total price with options, training, and 2-year warranty is \$81,535.18. Alderman Davis reminded council that this line item is in the current budget at \$85,000. Motion to purchase as presented, not to exceed \$85,000 was made by Alderman Celeschi and 2nd by Alderman Miller. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion to adjourn made by Alderman Tjarks, 2nd by Junior Alderman Haley Wahl, meeting adjourned.

APPROVED
Mayor Daniel E Dickey

ATTEST
Janice L Hall
City Clerk