

Minutes
City Council Regular Meeting
August 10, 2020

CALL TO ORDER—ROLL CALL

The City Council of the City of Villa Grove met in regular session on Monday, August 10, 2020 in Council Chambers. Mayor Eversole Gunter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll call found the following members present: Alderman Pangburn, Blaney, Hooker, Griffith, and Garrett. Alderman Johnson was absent. Clerk Osborne, Police Chief Rea, Public Works Representative Randy Lake, and City Administrator Athey were also present. Contractors present were Andy Kieser, City Engineer from Fehr Graham, and City Attorney Marc Miller. Council followed all COVID 19 protocols for social distancing.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE -The Mayor stood and led all attendees in The Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA-Alderman Hooker motioned to approve the following Consent Agenda and a second was given by Alderman Garrett. Roll Call: Pangburn, yea, Blaney, yea, Hooker, yea, Griffith, yea, Garrett, yea. Motion passed.

1. **MINUTES OF THE LAST REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING, HELD JULY 13, 2020**
2. **CLOSED MINUTES OF THE LAST REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING, HELD JULY 13, 2020**
3. **MINUTES OF THE LAST REGULAR COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING, HELD JULY 27, 2020**
4. **CLOSED MINUTES OF THE LAST REGULAR COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING, HELD JULY 27, 2020**
5. **AUTHORIZATION FOR PAYMENT OF BILLS**
6. **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE MONTH ENDED JUNE 30, 2020**
7. **CASH BALANCE REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING JULY 31, 2020**
8. **IDOT RESOLUTION FOR 2020 MFT PLAN DOCS**

PUBLIC COMMENTS-Ken Cordes made the comment that the lights on the basketball court have not been lit at night. Mayor asked David Frost, in attendance, to please turn the lights on and he agreed. Belynda Allen spoke to encourage everyone to complete their census and the importance of that. Allen also mentioned the Mapping Program from Western Illinois University as a resource for city planning, and she spoke about the petition for the November ballot for question of the sale of water utilities to appear on the ballot. Discussion ensued about the request for the ballot question.

ENGINEERING REPORT-Andy Kieser was in attendance and started his report saying he will get the measurement reading instruments at the water plant. The MFT approvals from IDOT came back today. They will open bids on August 27, 2020 at 10 am at City Hall. The sewer plant project study Andy wants to include a committee with one council member, Public Works Director, Fehr Graham engineer should be all in on the meeting. Items they will be looking to update are the quotes received earlier to include complete information and payment rates for prevailing wage, and they have some different options to review-should be an in-depth discussion about lift stations, and all aspects together. Andy will work on setting up a meeting after Scott gets back from vacation. They are working on the decommissioning of the old plant and will finish the plans soon to send the bid out. He also reports that Cross Construction has completed their part of the bridge project and approves the payment on agenda.

OTHER REPORT COTW-Chief Rea reported on the quotes for body cameras and he recommends using the WatchGuard Company.

**Minutes
City Council Regular Meeting
August 10, 2020**

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT-The Strategic plan meetings for council members have been completed. The next steps will be meetings with focus groups-will be online. September meetings-for in person meetings have to follow protocols from the NIU group. We will have 2 sessions 3 hours on two nights back to back on Sept. 1-2, 2020.

MAYORAL REPORT-The Mayor invited Mike Cline to give a summary of the info on the wastewater treatment plant and the sale. Aqua Illinois and Illinois American Water both divide their service rates into area groupings of some sort. Everyone in the group pays the same rate. He stated a company would look for low debt cities to come in. Our rates would go down and the company would have to do upgrades and other things we would negotiate in the RFP.

The Mayor then spoke about her discussions with surrounding cities who have gone through the sale of their Water utility systems. She spoke to Fisher mayor. Their community supported lower rates and they report positive interactions since Il. American Water (IAW) has taken over. Sadorus is under a 10-year plan with IAW to replace water lines. They are satisfied. Sidney mayor stated they recently sold their water. For the 2-3 months in-rates went down and IAW is now replacing their water lines, as per agreement. Tuscola mayor-they buy treated water from IAW so the comparison is different. Some of these mayors got together and spoke to ICC about rate increases and they feel the process is very good and they were heard.

The Mayor also discussed conversations she had with the Chamber of Commerce about the letter that was read by Bruce Allen in the previous council meeting. The letter presented opposition to selling our Water Utilities. Some clarifications were made and the members say they are now supportive of us completing our research and they support overall what is happening. Rotary-guest speaker was the Mayor. She presented the report and explained what we are trying to accomplish. The Rotarians gave an overall positive reception to the meeting and thanked her for giving them the facts. The petition brought many phone calls to disseminate information, which worked out well. A special thank you to Mike Cline for sharing his expertise and time with us voluntarily.

BUSINESS

1. **Ordinance 2020-MC10 - An Ordinance Approving Sale of Surplus Property**-Alderman Blaney motioned to approve the sale of the Wilson Street property. Alderman Garrett seconded the motion. Roll Call: Pangburn, yea, Blaney, yea, Hooker, yea, Griffith, yea, Garrett, yea. Motion passed.
2. **Payment to Cross Construction for remaining balance due (final inv - \$67,786.00)**-Alderman Pangburn motioned to approve the final payment to Cross Construction in the amount of \$67,786 for the completion of their contract on the bridge work. Alderman Hooker seconded the motion. Roll Call: Pangburn, yea, Blaney, yea, Hooker, yea, Griffith, yea, Garrett, yea. Motion passed.
3. **Resolution to place question regarding utility operations on ballot for the November 3rd general election**-Attorney Miller spoke at behest of the Mayor about the timing of this issue to be on the ballot. He stated that at this time the council is still very early in the process and there is not enough information to make this type of decision for the November election. Alderman Garrett then motioned to TABLE this resolution for further study. Alderman Blaney seconded the motion. Roll Call: Pangburn, yea, Blaney, yea, Hooker, yea, Griffith, yea, Garrett, yea. Motion passed to TABLE this issue.
4. **Special legal counsel to advise on wind energy ordinance**-City attorney Miller's

Minutes
City Council Regular Meeting
August 10, 2020

recommendation is to contact a legal specialist to assist in writing an ordinance for Solar and Wind Energy. Alderman Hooker made the motion to authorize the Mayor to engage, in consultation with the City Attorney, special legal counsel to advise the city on the creation of a wind energy ordinance at an hourly rate not to exceed \$400 per hour for a total expense not to exceed \$7,000. Alderman Pangburn seconded the motion. Roll Call: Pangburn, yea, Blaney, yea, Hooker, yea, Griffith, yea, Garrett, yea. Motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION-Alderman Blaney motioned at 6:55 pm to move to Closed Session under the Open Meetings Act Section 2(c)(1) of 5 ILCS/120/2 Exceptions to the open meetings act for the discussion, appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees. Alderman Garrett seconded the motion to enter. Roll Call: Pangburn, yea, Blaney, yea, Hooker, yea, Griffith, yea, Garrett, yea. Motion passed. There will be no further action upon return to open session. Council returned to open session at 7:48 pm.

ADJOURNMENT-With no further business, Alderman Hooker motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m. Alderman Pangburn seconded the motion. Roll Call: Pangburn, yea, Blaney, yea, Hooker, yea, Griffith, yea, Garrett, yea. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle L. Osborne

Michelle L. Osborne, City Clerk
XC: Mayor and City Council; Building Inspector; Department Heads; File