

March 17, 2008

ROLL CALL, MINUTES, BILLS & PAYROLL

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Clinton, Illinois in session in the Council Chambers of City Hall, Monday, March 17, 2008. Mayor Ed Wollet, presiding. On roll call Commissioners Edmunds, Hickman, Wise and Milton were present.

Written motion was made by Commissioner Edmunds and seconded by Commissioner Milton that the minutes of the regular meeting of March 3, 2008 be approved as submitted. On roll call Commissioners Edmunds, Hickman, Wise, Milton and Mayor Wollet voted "Yes."

The bills and payroll were read.

Written motion was made by Commissioner Edmunds and seconded by Commissioner Milton that the bills and payroll be allowed as read and the Clerk be instructed to issue warrants on the Treasurer for the several amounts. On roll call Commissioners Edmunds, Hickman, Wise, Milton and Mayor Wollet voted "Yes."

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Milton presented watches to Jean Rogers and Jerry Bristow of the Police Dept. in honor of their 25-year anniversary with the City of Clinton. Also Mayor Wollet presented Rosie Wickenhauser, City Clerk her watch with an emerald stone added for the 30th anniversary with the City of Clinton.

Commissioner Milton announced he has one more introduction to Council – Frank a 7-year-old Chocolate Lab given to the Police Dept. from Logan County. Frank was retired from their department, however in the past week he has greatly improved with Officer Mike Haws the canine handler.

Mayor Wollet introduced Mr. Brad Townsend representing Northern Illinois University (and several corporate sponsors) and team members that prepared the IMAP study of the City of Clinton last fall. This tailored look and response about the City might benefit us in bringing out economic vitality in the community. This 127-page document will be at City Hall and the Library for anyone to reference.

Brad divided the report in three sections and touched on each with a focus on the third one – Opportunity for Success.

Findings- Interviews with individuals produced some good positives – like small town values – community services like police, fire, ambulance, public works and our local hospital.

Negatives –might include poor conditions of our streets at times – don't understand Tax Increment Financing (TIF's) and crime along with substance abuse were among several expressed.

Needs of the community – planning such as new parks – challenges in turning around some negative attitudes were a part of various interviews.

Comprehensive planning – the City has already set a president in updating the plan periodically (land use). Cooperation between city and county is a step forward with the newly formed DeWitt County Development Council.

Traffic – Parking – Tourism was all assessed and observed by the IMAP team.

Documents – Vision Plan takes a look at what remains to be done – needs to be done in a more formal way.

Operating Budget might be enhanced with charts and graphs along with notes for extra information in this document.

Pension Plans – police and fire are in good shape concerning funds. However the rest of the employees that is under ICMA 401 and 457 plans needs a fresh look since it has been cost prohibitive to join the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF).

Capital Improvements – 5-year process that gives more detail as to when and revenue source.

Personnel Policy – Procurement need some updates that are Federal requirements.

Insurance – Liability Package by IML Risk Management is very good.

Opportunities for Success – Number one should be Strategic Planning – which is vision with implementation. This helps the bottom line of economic development – whether a retailer or company wants to be a part of the community and do business in your town.

Form of Government – take into consideration the pros and cons of other forms of government – City Manager or City Administrator might help move the community in a positive direction.

Home Rule – can be achieved by reaching over 25,000 in population or by Referendum being the other choice. A definite plan or project should be in mind for implementing Home Rule. The increase of additional revenue helps with code enforcement of property improvement and fines to back up policy.

Economic development – Brad mentioned that obviously our community has already began improvements to the West and South West but a consensus for the downtown direction still needs to be worked out. Façade Grants from the TIF funds are a step in the right direction to help business owners and developers.

Quality of Life – Working on ways to change the stagnant state of the population.

Tourism – Creation of activities to bring back patrons to the downtown – Mr. Lincoln Square being an excellent site. Apple & Pork is an example of patrons coming back time after time. Something indoor in the winter months could be a possibility.

Wrapping up the presentation Brad answered a few questions, before the Council said they will be looking a little deeper into the study after having it in hand. Council thanked Brad for the interesting presentation.

Kym Whitted asked to be on the agenda this evening – coming to express her thanks on behalf of Headlines (beauty salon) no matter the outcome of the request for their Special Use Permit – it has been a learning lesson for all of them.

REPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Mayor Wollet asked the Clerk to read motion to appoint to the Police Pension Board.

Written motion was made by Commissioner Edmunds and seconded by Commissioner Milton to appoint Steve Tamburini to an unexpired term on the Police Pension Board – said term to expire May 1, 2009. On roll call Commissioners Edmunds, Hickman, Wise, Milton and Mayor Wollet voted “Yes.”

REPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STREETS & PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

Commissioner Hickman reported he is receiving complaints about items like railroad ties, blocks, tree trucks and big rocks on the city terrace to prevent people from parking on the boulevard and causing ruts.

It becomes a safety issue when the snowplow is out during the winter. Later he would like for the Council to get him some input into the enforcement of this issue.

Some of the alleys are becoming impassable during the wet weather – however as they dry out, the department will be working on them as they can get to them.

REPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PROPERTY

Commissioner Wise reported that Well #9 now has a new motor and is back in operation. The Water Plant is also pretty much back to normal.

REPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

Commissioner Milton asked Chief Reidy to talk with Council about Sazou our current police dog.

Chief Reidy reported that our police dog Sazou had a stroke in January and has a vision problem that could result in blindness. They would like to retire Sazou and give him to Sergeant Sean Frytag, his handler.

Out of honor and respect for Sazou, the City will continue to pay the maintenance for her care.

REPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTS & FINANCES

Commissioner Edmunds reports that on April 7th he will be going through a more detailed discussion of the annual budget being prepared for 2008-2009.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Written motion was made by Commissioner Wise and seconded by Commissioner Hickman to approve a Conceptual Design Agreement of 60 acres of the Warner Moore Hyatt Trust Property by Farnsworth Group in the amount of \$2,550. On roll call Commissioners Edmunds, Hickman, Wise, Milton and Mayor Wollet voted “Yes.”

Written motion was made by Commissioner Hickman and seconded by Commissioner Wise to adopt Ordinance #1116, an Ordinance Vacating an Alley (E. Main & E. Adams to the end of Miller St.- Kelly Riggs). On roll call Commissioner Edmunds, Hickman, Wise, Milton and Mayor Wollet voted “Yes.”

Written motion was made by Commissioner Wise and seconded by Commissioner Hickman to approve the low proposal of Triple K Konstruction to install new Steel Doors at the Water Maintenance Dept. \$5,120. On roll call Commissioner Edmunds, Hickman, Wise, Milton and Mayor Wollet voted “Yes.”

Written motion was made by Commissioner Edmunds and seconded by Commissioner Milton to adopt Ordinance #1117, an Ordinance authorizing Sale of Personal Property owned by the City of Clinton, IL (Chain link fencing at Woodward Park). On roll call Commissioner Edmunds, Hickman, Wise, Milton and Mayor Wollet voted “Yes.”

The Amendment to the Redevelopment Agreement of Eagle Com. Inc or Eagle Theater Corp. – needs to be placed aside until the correct language is worked out.

Special Use Permit #340 – Headlines Salon was tabled at the March 3rd meeting.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wise and seconded by Commissioner Milton to bring Special Use Permit #340 – Headlines forward for discussion and consideration. On roll call Commissioners Edmunds, Hickman, Wise, Milton and Mayor Wollet – motion was unanimous.

City Attorney Steve Myers explained that there was an issue as to whether there was a contractual agreement for off street parking. At this time any action taken should be contingent upon the parking agreement put into effect. Dennis Tyanan the owner of 621 N. Madison St. will be the person to enter into this agreement.

Motion was read to open discussion – Written motion was made by Commissioner Hickman and seconded by Commissioner Milton to adopt Ordinance #1119, approving Special Use #340 (Headlines).

Council debated the pros and cons of the parking situation while voicing several concerns that somewhat remain unanswered.

The parking agreement before the Council has a two-year limit with possibilities of longer-term use upon the expiration.

At this time after much debate – Council work the situation out to make the Special Use Permit to contain a 2 year limit having the same expiration as the parking facility agreement with St. John’s Church.

Motion was then offered to amend the motion on the floor.

Written motion was made by Commissioner Hickman and seconded by Commissioner Edmunds to amend the motion to authorize the Special Use Permit #340 to contain a two-year limit commencing April 1, 2008. On roll call Commissioners Edmunds, Hickman, Milton and Mayor Wollet voted “Yes.” Commissioner Wise voted “Present”.

Next the main motion was offered as amended.

Written motion was made by Commissioner Hickman and seconded by Commissioner Milton to adopt Ordinance #1119, approving Special use #340 (Headlines), contingent upon Dennis Tynan entering into a contractual authorization for Parking Facilities, said Special Use Permit to be valid for two-year period commencing April 1, 2008, as amended. On roll call Commissioners Edmunds, Hickman, Milton and Mayor Wollet voted “Yes.” Commissioner Wise voted “Present”.

NEW BUSINESS

Written motion was made by Commissioner Wise and seconded by Commissioner Hickman to authorize the Mayor to sign the EPA Final Loan Amendment papers on the Water Plant Project. On roll call Commissioners Edmunds, Hickman, Wise, Milton and Mayor Wollet voted “Yes.”

Last item for new business – new radio for one of the squad cars that is currently without.

Written motion was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Edmunds to approve the purchase of a Motorola PN 1500 Mobil Radio for the Police Dept. and the installation not to exceed \$1,165. On roll call Commissioners Edmunds, Hickman, Wise, Milton and Mayor Wollet voted “Yes.”

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the meeting, motion was made by Commissioner Hickman and seconded by Commissioner Edmunds to adjourn. Motion was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rozella D. Wickenhauser
City Clerk

