

October 13, 2009

Minutes of the reconvened meeting of the City Council of the City of Clinton, Illinois in session in the Council Chambers of City Hall, Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2009. Mayor Ed Wollet, presiding. On roll call Commissioners Edmunds, Hickman, Wise and Milton were present.

Mayor Wollet said that when the Oct 5th meeting left off, a motion made by Commissioner Wise and seconded by Commissioner Hickman to adopt Ordinance #1168, Ordinance amending Section 7-8-3(A) of the City Code of the City of Clinton, Illinois was on the floor.

With that said by Mayor Wollet, Commissioner Wise responded to questions from Commissioner Milton asking for a review of the increases in the past eight years to bring the Water Dept. to such a healthy increase (water only). The last increase was ahead of the improvements to the water treatment plant because the City was not sure what the monetary costs to support a lime softening plant was going to be. Increases have increased for lime, wages, insurance, electricity and chlorine naming only a few things and not to mention bringing any capital projects into this picture - shows the funds are just not covering everything. Auditors will review water production costs each fiscal year for recommendations of adjustments from this time forward.

Commissioner Edmunds had placed on file at the Oct. 5th meeting an Ordinance to amend the Sewer Rates that were significantly increased some 15 years ago when the Illinois EPA mandated the City of Clinton to proceed with Sewer Separation Project. His reasoning was to go ahead with the water increase and lower the sewer rates after the bonds were paid off to make a wash of the monthly water bills. To support this idea he went over the different rate structures prepared by Greg Myroth of MACTEC.

Another caution Commissioner Edmunds expressed to Council is the rapid rise of 20.2% in accounts receivable water billing from 2008 to 2009 being a full year. Staff will need to come up with a plan to reduce these delinquent accounts.

Mayor Wollet commented that the quality of Clinton water has certainly improved. Many surrounding towns around us are receiving higher increases from companies that own the water rights and the process has become privatized.

With no further discussion, the question was called.

Written motion was made by Commissioner Wise and seconded by Commissioner Hickman to adopt Ordinance #1168, Ordinance amending Section 7-8-3(A) of the City Code of the City of Clinton, Illinois (Water rate increase). On roll call Commissioners Hickman, Wise, Milton and Mayor Wollet voted "Yes." Commissioner Edmunds voted "No."

Since the On File items from Oct. 5th meeting has been on file for over 7 days, they can be considered if Council would like to do so.

Commissioner Edmunds said he would like to bring forth the Amendment to Sewer Rate Ordinance.

Written motion was made by Commissioner Edmunds and seconded by Commissioner Milton to adopt Ordinance #1169, an Ordinance amending Section 7-9-8 of the City Code of the City of Clinton, Illinois (Sewer Rates).

Discussion – Commissioner Edmunds said he pretty well agrees with Commissioner Hickman that developing a capital reserve because of significant expenditures on the sewer system – however the nature of the economy – dramatic increases in the receivables – now the water rate increases – Medicare/social security decreases are bound to create undo pressure.

Commissioner Hickman stated that his concern is the sewer evaluation study may come back with a recommendation for a costly project and those funds will be needed plus more. He hates to lower the rates at this time when the fund is only just getting “by”.

Commissioner Wise said we should find out the direction we are heading, since he would like to stay status quo on sewer rates.

The rate can still be lowered to support the costs of that project if that should be the case.

Written motion was made by Commissioner Edmunds and seconded by Commissioner Milton to adopt Ordinance #1169, an Ordinance amending Section 7-9-8 of the City Code of the City of Clinton, Illinois (Sewer Rates). On roll call Commissioners Hickman, Wise, Milton and Mayor Wollet voted “No.” Commissioner Edmunds voted “Yes.”

Items from the agenda placed on file at the Oct. 5th meeting – motions were offered.

Written motion was made by Commissioner Hickman and seconded by Commissioner Wise to approve the material for the repair of a storm sewer on W. Washington St. – not to exceed \$7,500. On roll call Commissioners Edmunds, Hickman, Wise, Milton and Mayor Wollet voted “Yes.”

Written motion was made by Commissioner Wise and seconded by Commissioner Hickman to approve the purchase of 3 Vertical Files for the Police Dept. – not to exceed \$627. On roll call Commissioners Edmunds, Hickman, Wise, Milton and Mayor Wollet voted “Yes.”

Written motion was made by Commissioner Milton and seconded by Commissioner Edmunds to approve the purchase of computer and software for Fire Dept. – not to exceed \$7,750. On roll call Commissioners Edmunds, Hickman, Wise, Milton and Mayor Wollet voted “Yes.”

Lastly, an item for the Police Dept. will be placed on file for consideration at a later meeting.

On File – Purchase from CDS Office Tech – 2 CF 230 Tough Books \$10,094 (Federal Grant paying \$7,500).

Motion was made by Commissioner Edmunds and seconded by Commissioner Hickman to adjourn the meeting. Motion was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rozella D. Wickenhauser
City Clerk