

**CITY OF MASCOUTAH
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
#3 WEST MAIN STREET
MASCOUTAH, IL 62258-2030**

DECEMBER 1, 2014

The minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Mascoutah.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Gerald Daugherty called the public hearing to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present:

Mayor Gerald Daugherty and Council members Ben Grodeon, Paul Schorr, and John Weyant. Council member Pat McMahan arrived at 6:51 p.m.

Absent:

None.

Other Staff Present:

City Manager Cody Hawkins and City Clerk Kari Haas.

Mayor Gerald Daugherty stated that this public hearing is to consider and review the proposed property tax increase for Mascoutah Special Service Area 1.

City Manager provided an overview of the proposed property tax increase for Mascoutah Special Service Area 1. City Manager explained that the property taxes for residents within the Special Service Area are not increasing; the rate for the Special Service Area is remaining at 0.375%. The amount of property taxes owed within the Special Service Area will only increase if the EAV increases or if the rate increases for another taxing district.

Council Discussion:

Council discussed how the developer is responsible for the remaining amount of the loan not collected from the SSA tax.

Councilman Grodeon asked about the \$20,000 request. City Manager stated that the \$20,000 is the loan amount for the SSA. City Manager explained that projections are done with regards to how much the City estimates to receive but if the County was to assess a property higher than what the City projected and the City did not request enough funds, then the City would not collect the entire 0.375% for that property. City Manager stated that levying for the whole loan amount ensures that the City captures the entire EAV for the SSA.

Councilman Grodeon asked about property owner's escrow accounts and if there was anything the City could do to help with the escrow increasing from the catch-up assessment. City Manager stated the City could put together a letter that the residents could provide to their banks to aid in explaining the "catch-up" assessment in order to help with their

increased escrow.

Public Comments:

Jason Holtman, resident of Crown Pointe – Voiced concerns over the published notice and the letter received. Voiced concerns over the back tax that was collected this past year. Voiced frustration over how the City did no due diligence to make sure the information was disclosed. Asked the City to fix the issue.

Discussion ensued regarding the SSA and the tax collected.

City Attorney stated that the City does not have a cause of action with the SSA or the developer; the resident has the cause of action with the SSA and the developer. City Attorney stated that if the City desires he can look into the issue to see if there is anything legally the City can do on behalf of the residents. Mayor stated that they will discuss this in the regular meeting.

There being no further questions or comments from the Council, Mayor Gerald Daugherty closed the public hearing at 7:18 p.m.

PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

City prayer was delivered by City Clerk Kari Haas. The Council remained standing and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gerald Daugherty called the meeting to order at 7:19 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Gerald Daugherty and Council members Ben Grodeon, Paul Schorr, John Weyant and Pat McMahan.

Absent: None.

Other Staff Present: City Manager Cody Hawkins, City Clerk Kari Haas and City Attorney Al Paulson.

Establishment of a Quorum: A quorum of City Council members was present.

AMEND AGENDA

None.

MINUTES

The minutes of the November 17, 2014 regular City Council meeting were presented and stood as presented. The minutes of the November 17, 2014 Executive Session meeting were presented and stood as presented.

Motion passed. Passed by unanimous yes voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor

Mayor presented proclamation proclaiming December 2014 as Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month.

Attended the following meetings and functions: IML Executive Committee meeting, annual holiday message at Charter, represented IML at National League of Cities in Austin, TX, addressed Cub Scouts.

City Council

Grodeon – Attended the following meetings and functions: Belleville Turkey Trot.

Schorr – Attended the following meetings and functions: Annual TIF Joint Review Board meeting, annual Thanksgiving service.

Weyant – Attended the following meetings and functions: Santa Hut.

McMahan – Attended the following meetings and functions: Annual TIF Joint Review Board meeting.

City Manager – Nothing to report.

City Attorney – Nothing to report.

City Clerk – Nothing to report.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

2014 PROPERTY TAX LEVY (FIRST READING)

City Manager presented report for Council consideration of approval and adoption of the 2014 Property Tax Levy by ordinance.

Councilman Grodeon asked about the Ambulance Fund and how much of an increase will be needed in the coming years to balance the fund. City Manager stated that the first couple years have a 9% increase factored in and the last two years have a smaller increase.

First reading. No action required.

COUNCIL – MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Mayor asked for an update on Harnett Street. City Manager stated that they have been finishing up the concrete work and the only remaining section needing to be cored out is in front of Dere Bere. Matt Stukenberg stated that the portion of road in front of Dere Bere will be cored and rocked tomorrow. Matt Stukenberg stated that by the end of Friday all the

asphalt should be done. Matt Stukenberg stated that miscellaneous curb and driveway repairs will be done over the next couple of weeks.

Councilman Grodeon asked if crosswalks will be put in on the areas that are completed. City Manager stated that he will discuss it with the City Engineer.

CITY MANAGER – MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

City Manager commented on parking on Harnett Street on the west end and that they are receiving complaints about traffic problems when cars are parked on both sides. Council was in agreement to look into restricting parking on one side on West Harnett. Councilman Grodeon asked why the plans were not made to allow for parking on both sides of the street. City Manager stated that there wasn't enough right-of-way to allow for a wider street.

City Manager provided information regarding the IMEA wholesale distribution refund. City Manager stated that this goes back to where Ameren used to charge IMEA \$0.70 per Mwh and it was increased to \$1.71 per Mwh. IMEA fought the huge increase and won. The decreased rate is now \$1.09 per Mwh. There will be a refund to each member city; Mascoutah's portion is around \$31,000. Each member city has the option to either take a lump sum payment or have the refund amount distributed through the next 4 months bills which would then be passed through to the residents. Council was in agreement to have the refund distributed through the bills so that the savings could be passed on to the residents.

City Manager provided information regarding the Phase II electric route design and will provide more documentation to Council at a future meeting.

Council discussed the question raised in the public hearing about the City Attorney looking into any recourse the City may have against the developer for failure to disclose the SSA and if there is anything the City can do legally to aid the residents. Council was in agreement to have the City Attorney look into the issue and see if there is anything legally the City can do.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jason Holtman – asked how the residents will be informed in the future regarding any action by the City. City Manager stated that he will either contact him directly or send a notice to all residents. City Attorney stated that they should have some sort of answer within 60 days.

MISCELLANEOUS OR FINAL ACTIONS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

McMahan moved, seconded by Weyant, to **adjourn at 7:45 p.m.**

Motion passed. Motion passed by unanimous yes voice vote.

Kari D. Haas, City Clerk