

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

SEPTEMBER 5, 2023

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

COUNCIL WORKSHOP – ELECTRIC EXPANSION PROJECT

Mayor Pat McMahan called the workshop to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present:

Mayor Pat McMahan and Council members John Weyant, Walter Battas, Nick Seibert and Mike Baker.

Absent:

None.

Other Staff Present:

City Manager Becky Ahlvin, City Clerk Melissa Schanz, City Attorney Al Paulson.

Discussion:

Verbal Blakey with BHMG was present to give background information leading up to the current situation to the Council on the Powercon Switchgear change order, JF Electric change order and BHMG Project change order.

Mayor Pat McMahan closed the workshop at 7:00 p.m.

PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pat McMahan called the meeting to order at 7:02p.m.

ROLL CALL

Council members John Weyant, Walter Battas, Nick Seibert, Mike Baker and Mayor Pat McMahan.

Absent: None.

Other Staff Present: City Manager Becky Ahlvin, City Clerk Melissa Schanz, City Attorney Al Paulson, and Executive Assistant Emily Quellmalz

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

AMEND AGENDA – No Reason to Amend Agenda

MINUTES

The minutes of the August 21, 2023 regular City Council meeting were presented and approved as presented. The minutes of the August 21, 2023 executive session meeting were presented and approved as presented.

Motion passed. Passed by unanimous yes voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Eric Mercer, a resident of Mascoutah, voiced his concerns with the city.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor – Hoped everyone had a great Labor Day Weekend.

City Council

Weyant – Nothing to Report.

Battas – Nothing to Report.

Seibert – Congratulated MHS on being Ranked #1 in the Illinois Metro East by US News & World Report.

Mike Baker – Nothing to Report.

City Manager – Announced information about Paint Mascoutah Purple for Domestic Violence Month.

City Attorney – Nothing to report.

City Clerk – Nothing to Report.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

An Ordinance of the City of Mascoutah Establishing the Main Street Business District; Approving a Business District Plan; Authorizing the Imposition and Collection of a Sales Tax within such Business District; and Approving Certain Actions in Connection with the Establishment of such Business District.

City Manager presented report for Council approval to adopt an ordinance to establish the Main Street Business District, approve the Business District Plan, authorize the imposition and collection of a sales tax within the Business District, and approve certain actions in connection with establishing the Business District. Staff feels this new Business District will benefit the city, businesses and citizens in many ways.

Councilman Weyant stated that he feels this is a good idea and hope this incentive will attract new businesses.

Councilman Battas stated he has concerns; disagrees with the estimated revenue and thinks the increase in sales tax will discourage people from shopping local. He also stated that he had never heard of a clear plan on how the money will be used. Staff stated that the money will be approved on a case-by-case basis by the Council.

Councilman Seibert stated he is in favor of this and feels we have been missing out in the past.

Councilman Baker stated that he has issues with the documents and does not believe in raising taxes just to raise taxes. He also stated that in his opinion consultants want to sell services.

Mayor McMahan explained that he feels this is a good idea and that this will not hurt but help the business owners. He stated that he feels like there are many business owners and residents that are in this area that could use the financial help to make their property better which in turn makes the community better.

City Manager also commented stating that no one at the last Chamber meeting apposed the new Business District.

There was no further discussion.

Seibert moved, seconded by Weyant to approve and adopt Ordinance No. 23-10, an ordinance establishing the main Street Business District; approving a business district plan; authorizing the imposition and collection of a sales tax within such business district; and approving certain actions in connection with the establishment of such business district.

Motion passed. AYE's – Weyant, Seibert, McMahan. NAY's – Battas, Baker.
ABSENT – none.

Resolution of Support for the Illinois Safe Routes to School Program to Evaluate Current Routes, Plan for Future Routes to Schools, and Create Educational Materials
City Manager presented report for Council approval and adoption of a Resolution of Support for a non-infrastructure grant application for the Illinois Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program to evaluate walking and biking routes, plan for safer walking and biking routes, and create educational materials for families on safe routes to walk and bike to school; and authorization to apply for a SRTS grant and to enter into an agreement with the State of Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

Council supports the Safe Routes to School Program.

There was no further discussion.

Baker moved, seconded by Battas to approve, and adopt Resolution No. 23-24-08, a Resolution of Support for a non-infrastructure grant application for the Illinois Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program to evaluate walking and biking routes, plan for safer walking and biking routes, and create educational materials for families on safe routes to walk and bike to

school; and authorization to apply for a SRTS grant and to enter into an agreement with the State of Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

Motion passed. AYE's – Weyant, Battas, Seibert, Baker, McMahan. NAY's – none.
ABSENT – none.

Resolution of Support for the Illinois Safe Routes to School Program for the N. County Road Safe Crossings Project

City Manager presented report for Council approval and adoption of a Resolution of Support for an infrastructure grant application for the Illinois Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program the N. County Road Safe Crossings Project and authorization to apply for a SRTS grant and to enter into an agreement with the State of Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

Council supports the Safe Routes to School grant application and agreement with (IDOT)

There was no further discussion.

Seibert moved, seconded by Baker to approve and adopt Resolution No. 23-24-09, a Resolution of Support for the Illinois Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program the installation of traffic control devices on N. County Road and authorization to apply for a SRTS grant and to enter into an agreement with the State of Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

Change Orders – North Substation Upgrades Project

City Manager presented report for Council consideration of change orders for construction of the North Substation Upgrades Project.

Verbal Blakey with BHMg gave an overview of the change orders and answered any remaining questions the council had.

There was additional discussion by Council, City Attorney, Staff and BHMg about the escalation fee.

There was no further discussion.

Baker moved, seconded by Battas to approve the change orders as presented without the Powercon escalation change order in the amount of 272,298.

Baker moved, seconded by Seibert to pay the original invoice for materials and labor from the original contract for dates 10/4/2021 to 5/17/2023.

Motion passed. AYE's – Weyant, Battas, Seibert, Baker, McMahan. NAY's – none.
ABSENT – none.

Engineering and Design Services – MetroLink Electrical Services

City Manager presented report for Council approval of an Engineering and Design Services Agreement with Gonzalez Companies, LLC for engineering and design services for the MetroLink expansion project.

Councilman Baker stated that he feels it is not cost effective for the city to put electric to the new MetroLink Station.

There was no further discussion.

Weyant moved, seconded by Seibert to approve the Engineering and Design Services proposal from Gonzalez Companies, LLC – Option B in the amount of \$54,095 and authorize appropriate officials to execute the necessary documents.

Motion passed. AYE's – Weyant, Battas, Seibert, McMahan. NAY's – Baker.
ABSENT – none.

COUNCIL – MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Councilman Battas asked if we could put oil & chip information on the City Hall Marque when it gets scheduled. Staff stated that they will put the information on the sign.

Councilman Baker asked for the City's list of equipment that the Council has requested in the past. City Manager stated that the list is being reviewed by the Vehicle/Equipment Maintenance Department and should be available soon.

Councilman Baker also asked if the City could provide him with the amount the City has spent so far on the Phase II Electric Project. City Manager stated she would have to work with staff on getting those numbers.

CITY MANAGER – MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS – NONE

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Eric Mercer, a resident of Mascoutah, had additional comments.

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Battas moved, seconded by Weyant, to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss Litigation at 8:04 p.m.

MISCELLANEOUS OR FINAL ACTIONS

Councilman Baker also asked about the engineer position that the City has open. Staff stated that they had one interview with no success. Councilman Baker recommended a headhunter. Other council members and the Mayor stated that everyone in this area is having trouble finding engineers and that maybe we should reevaluate the position or salary before moving forward.

ADJOURNMENT

Weyant moved, seconded by Battas, to adjourn at 8:21 p.m.

Motion passed. Motion passed by unanimous yes voice vote.