

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

DECEMBER 7, 2015

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

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 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None.

Other Staff Present: City Manager Cody Hawkins, City Clerk Kari Haas, City Attorney Al Paulson, City Engineer Ron Yeager, and Finance Coordinator Lynn Weidenbenner.

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

AMEND AGENDA

None.

MINUTES

The minutes of the November 16, 2015 regular City Council meeting were presented and stood as presented.

Motion passed. Passed by unanimous yes voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor

Attended the following meetings and functions: IML Executive Committee meeting, East-West Gateway awards luncheon, SLM Water Commission meeting, meeting with Highland City Manager, Hunter's Creek Homeowners Association meeting, retirement ceremony for the SWIL Leadership Council, meeting with City Manager and Police Chief regarding disaster control procedures and plans, helped deliver Thanksgiving meals, Chamber meeting,

volunteered at the Visitor's Center, meeting regarding Huddle House financials, IML Winter Board meeting in Chicago, community sing-a-long at Espenschied Chapel.

City Council

Grodeon – Attended the following meetings and functions: Habitat for Humanity 5K, Turkey Trot fundraiser, Christmas Parade.

Schorr – Attended the following meetings and functions: School Board meeting, community Thanksgiving service, Chamber meeting, ribbon cutting at Meineke, Christmas Parade.

Weyant – Attended the following meetings and functions: Cleaned up the Santa Hut, helped deliver Thanksgiving dinner, Christmas Parade, blue grass band concert at American Legion, community sing-a-long at Espenschied Chapel.

McMahan – Attended the following meetings and functions: Christmas Parade.

City Manager – Nothing to report.

City Attorney – Nothing to report.

City Clerk – Nothing to report.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

2015 PROPERTY TAX LEVY (SECOND READING)

City Manager presented report for Council consideration of approval and adoption of the 2015 Property Tax Levy Ordinance.

Councilman Grodeon asked about the tax rate and how last year the rate increased a small amount after the certification from the County and what is going to be done to keep the tax rate flat this year. City Manager stated that they will revisit the rates when they are submitted from the County and always try to keep the rates from going up unless a resident's EAV goes up but will review it again at that step to keep the tax rate the same.

Councilman Grodeon asked about the Ambulance Fund and when that fund does balance out and is out of debt, what is going to happen to the funds that have been put into the Ambulance Fund each year so that it doesn't end up being overfunded. City Manager stated that the additional funds will be shifted and redistributed to other funds at that time but will keep enough funding in the Ambulance Fund to keep it balanced and keep it out of debt.

Schorr moved, seconded by McMahan, to approve the 2015 Tax Levy by adopting Ordinance No. 15-21.

Motion passed. AYE's – Grodeon, Schorr, Weyant, McMahan, Daugherty. NAY's – none.

COUNCIL – MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Councilman Weyant commented on the concerts in the park and asked if the Parks & Recreation Commission can look into starting those back up again or see if there is another business that would want to start those back up. City Manager stated that he will discuss that with them at a future meeting.

CITY MANAGER – MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

City Manager provided information to Council regarding the Phase II Electric Project design and the changes now that Ameren has committed to building a new ringbus. Kevin Wagner from IMEA and Marty Thomas from BHM&G were present to answer questions and provide additional information. City Manager stated that Ameren is wanting the City to sign a construction agreement for the City's electric project to coincide with their construction of their ringbus. Kevin Wagner provided information to Council why this project is needed for Mascoutah's reliability and why it is so important. Kevin Wagner stated that IMEA does endorse the project. Kevin Wagner stated that the ringbus will keep Mascoutah continually energized whether Ameren's line from Belleville or Mount Vernon goes out, Mascoutah will be able to keep power on. Kevin Wagner explained that right now Mascoutah's backup is the north substation which Ameren cannot guarantee any voltage especially during peak times, and with Mascoutah no longer generating there is no backup there either. Kevin Wagner stated that IMEA will cover the metering cost, but Mascoutah has to cover the expenses for the 2nd tap which is estimated at \$1.2 million which would be payable sometime in 2019. Kevin Wagner explained that Ameren is required to give the City one tap, but this is an opportunity for the City to purchase a 2nd tap to improvement reliability for the distribution system. City Manager stated that we have talked with Ameren about co-locating, but Ameren will not allow that; the City could go within their easement but would still need additional easements. City Manager explained that the second portion of this project is to run a new 138kV line up from the ringbus to the north substation and build a new substation which would give the City more distribution ability for the north. Marty Thomas stated that Ameren gives zero capacity from the 34/5 at the current north substation and there is no guarantee that they will provide any type of capacity during an outage. Marty Thomas explained that having the new line and substation at the north increases the reliability because if anything happens with the union substation or the southern line, the City will be without power until a fix can be made which depending on the problem could take hours, days, weeks or longer and there would be additional costs depending on if the City would need to hire an electric contractor to fix the problem or rent electric equipment. Marty Thomas stated that the estimated cost for the whole project is close to \$10 million, which includes the proposed ringbus, required additional transmission line and the north transmission line and new substation. Council had lengthy discussion regarding the project, needs of the City, and requirements from Ameren.

City Manager provided updated information on the repairs needed at the swimming pool and will have more information after cost estimates are received from Bill Reichert from EWR.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Weyant moved, seconded by Schorr, to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss Review of Closed Sessions Meeting Minutes – Section 2(c)(21) and Litigation – Section 2(c)(11) at 8:19 p.m.

Motion passed. AYE's – Grodeon, Schorr, Weyant, McMahan, Daugherty. NAY's – none.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

Schorr moved, seconded by McMahan, to return to Regular Session at 8:35 p.m.

Motion passed. Motion passed by unanimous yes voice vote.

MISCELLANEOUS OR FINAL ACTIONS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

McMahan moved, seconded by Schorr, to **adjourn at 8:36 p.m.**

Motion passed. Motion passed by unanimous yes voice vote.

Kari D. Haas, City Clerk