

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

MARCH 17, 2014

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

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Mayor Gerald Daugherty called the budget workshop to order at 6:04 p.m.

Present:

Mayor Gerald Daugherty and Council members Ben Grodeon, Paul Schorr, and John Weyant. Council member Pat McMahan entered the meeting at 6:07 p.m.

Absent:

None.

Other Staff Present:

City Manager Cody Hawkins, City Clerk Kari Haas, Finance Coordinator Lynn Weidenbenner, Assistant City Manager Lisa Koerkenmeier, and City Engineer Ron Yeager.

City Manager and Finance Coordinator provided an overview of the proposed FY14/15 budget. Council discussed the proposed FY14/15 budget assumptions, revenues, expenditures, and ending fund balances.

Mayor Gerald Daugherty closed the budget workshop at 6:53 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Gerald Daugherty called the public hearing to order at 6:53 p.m.

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, City Engineer Ron Yeager, Assistant City Manager Lisa Koerkenmeier, and Finance Coordinator Lynn Weidenbenner

Mayor Gerald Daugherty stated that this public hearing is to consider and review the proposed Fiscal Year 2014/2015 budget for the City of Mascoutah.

City Manager provided an overview of the proposed budget.

Public Comments:

None.

Council Discussion:

None.

There being no further questions or comments from the Council, Mayor Gerald Daugherty closed the public hearing at 6:55 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 7:01 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, City Attorney Al Paulson, Finance Coordinator Lynn Weidenbenner, City Engineer Ron Yeager, and Assistant City Manager Lisa Koerkenmeier.

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

AMEND AGENDA

None.

MINUTES

The minutes of the March 3, 2014 regular City Council meeting were presented and stood as corrected. The minutes of the March 3, 2014 Executive Session meeting were presented and stood as presented.

Motion passed. Passed by unanimous yes voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Shane Wilson – Commented on the road conditions. Asked about potholes on his street at 8th and Church and if he needs to fix them or if they are going to be fixed by the Street

Department. Asked about the citations he was issued for parking violations and if he was going to have to go to court for that. City Manager stated that he knows he was working on some resolutions with the Assistant City Manager. City Attorney stated that they can file for a continuance. City Manager stated that he can have the City Attorney file for a continuance but will need to see some movement on an improvement to the area beforehand.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Fire Chief Joe Zinck – absent – February 2014 report was provided.

Public Safety Director Bruce Fleshren – absent – Police Detective Jared Lambert was present for questions. February 2014 report was provided.

Finance Coordinator Lynn Weidenbenner – Monthly financials provided. Mayor asked about the Gas Co (Ameren) line item being over. Finance Coordinator stated that this is the first year the gas bills were booked this way since the franchise agreement was revised a couple years ago, so we only had an estimate to go by on what would be used.

City Engineer/Director of Public Works Ron Yeager – Status report on public projects and monthly building permits report provided. Councilman Schorr asked about having Harnett Street back open soon. City Engineer stated that they are planning to start working on Harnett Street tomorrow to do what repairs we can to hopefully open the street back up. Councilman Schorr asked about the 2013 roads program and what punch items are still being waited on. City Engineer stated that there is still some backfilling to do and some removal of plastic from the handicap ramps and still waiting for the change orders documentation. Councilman Schorr asked about Fuesser Road project and the sidewalk and if there was enough right-of-way to do the sidewalk from Townsend Square to 6th Street. City Engineer stated that there shouldn't be an issue but is still waiting for more information from the engineer. Councilman Weyant asked about Perrin Road and if it was started today. City Engineer stated that the work has been pushed back a week until the asphalt plants open.

Assistant City Manager Lisa Koerkenmeier – Monthly report was provided. Councilman Grodeon asked about the rezoning hearing. Assistant City Manager stated that there is no development proposal for the property to be rezoned but the property is between two other commercial properties so it will help with marketing of the property. Councilman Schorr asked about the independent party sales projections for the Huddle House project. Assistant City Manager stated that with working on the bond issuance, there needed to be a third-party, or independent, sales projections analysis which was received last week.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor

Attended the following meetings and functions: Chamber meeting, spoke with the Boy Scout Troop 44, SWIC Liberal Arts building ribbon cutting, reception with SWIL Realtors Association, participated in National Meals on Wheels day, retirement ceremony for Sgt Chris Kalen at Scott AFB.

City Council

Grodeon – Attended the following meetings and functions: St. John's trivia night.

Schorr – Nothing to report.

Weyant – Attended the following meetings and functions: Chamber meeting, MIA meetings for rodeo, St. John's trivia night, play at High School.

McMahan – Attended the following meetings and functions: MIA meetings for rodeo.

City Manager – Nothing to report.

City Attorney – Nothing to report.

City Clerk – Nothing to report.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

CONSENT CALENDAR (OMNIBUS)

The February 2014 Fund Balance Report and Claims & Salaries Report were provided under the omnibus consideration.

Councilman Schorr asked about the asbestos survey on 315 W Main and if we are going to own that property after the demolition. City Manager stated that we will place a lien on that property and there is a process to foreclose on that lien to take over the property.

Councilman Weyant asked about the tires purchased from Gary's Tire Center and if we had checked in town prior to purchasing. City Manager stated that he will double check but they almost always do check in town before purchasing out of town.

Weyant moved, seconded by Grodeon, to accept all items under Omnibus consideration.

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

BUDGET 14/15 – PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE (FIRST READING)

City Manager presented report for Council consideration of approval and adoption of the City's FY14/15 Budget.

No action required. First reading.

CODE CHANGE – ELECTRIC, WATER & SEWER RATES (FIRST READING)

City Manager presented report for Council consideration of approval of revisions to Chapter 11 – Electric System and Chapter 38 – Water and Sewer Rates of the City Code by adoption of ordinance.

Councilman Schorr commented on the increases and stated that he does agree to capture the increases from suppliers.

Council discussed holding off on the electric rate increases until the rate study is done. City Manager will review the increases and have a recommendation at the next meeting.

No action required. First reading.

ADOPTION OF WEAPONS POLICY (FIRST READING)

City Manager presented report for Council consideration of approval of revisions to Chapter 28 – Personnel Code of the City Code establishing a Weapons Policy by adoption of ordinance.

Councilman Schorr asked if this policy would apply to the library even though the City does not own the property anymore. City Attorney stated that this policy would not but they would be governed by the state statutes.

Councilman Schorr asked about the use of private vehicle prohibition. City Attorney and City Manager will revisit that prohibition before the next meeting.

No action required. First reading.

COUNCIL – MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Councilman Schorr asked if a decision had been made on the mowing for the cemetery. City Manager stated that he received a couple proposals but is still reviewing them.

Councilman Schorr asked about the utilities for the Chapel and if there are events still happening there. City Manager stated that he knows they have a few weddings a year and some other small events throughout the year.

Councilman Schorr asked about progress on the money owed by Murphy for the SSA. City Manager stated that staff is still working on it.

Councilman Grodeon asked about cell phones. Finance Coordinator stated that the cell phone bill includes the wireless cards for the Ambulances, building iPad, and electric and water/sewer laptops.

CITY MANAGER – MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

City Manager provided information regarding the electric utility rates. Stated that he did have IMEA look at a couple of commercial bills and we were higher than Ameren. Stated that he would like to have a professional come in and do a comprehensive rate study on our system to let us know what we should be charging to provide the electric service. Council was in consensus to have the City Manager get pricing on what a study would cost.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Schorr moved, seconded by Grodeon, to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss Personnel – Section 2(c)(1) at 8:02 p.m.

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

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

Grodeon moved, seconded by Schorr, to return to Regular Session at 8:37 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 8:40 p.m.**

Motion passed. Motion passed by unanimous yes voice vote.

Kari D. Haas, City Clerk