



**CITY OF MONMOUTH  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**



**Date:** Monday, November 21, 2016

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Location:** 100 East Broadway  
Monmouth, Illinois

**I. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Rod Davies called the meeting to order in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 100 East Broadway at 7:00 p.m. and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**II. ROLL CALL**

City Clerk Susan S. Trevor called the roll and those answering **Present were:** Alderwoman Dawn Johnson, Aldermen Dave Rutledge, Brian Daw, Bob Wells, Dennis Willhardt and Joe Clark **Absent:** Alderman Heatherly and Alderwoman Susan Twomey **Also Present:** Mayor Rod Davies, City Administrator Lowell Crow, City Attorney Marcum Spears, City Clerk Susan Trevor, MFD Chief Casey Rexroat, MPD Chief Bill Feithen, Community Development Director Paul Schuytema and Director of Building and Zoning Wade Woodward

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. November 7, 2016 Council Meeting Minutes**

**It was moved by Alderman Daw and seconded by Alderwoman Johnson to approve the November 7, 2016 minutes as presented. AYE:** Alderwoman Johnson, Aldermen Rutledge, Aldermen Daw, Wells, Willhardt and Clark **NAY:** none **ABSENT:** Alderman Heatherly and Alderwoman Twomey **MOTION CARRIED.**

**IV. PRESENTATION TO THE COUNCIL**

**A. Presentations or Citizen Inquiries**

**1. Audit Overview – Matthew Schueler, CPA Partner from Sterling Wipfli Office**

Mr. Schueler gave an overview of the 2015-2016 Financial Report for the City. In highlighting the impact of pending accounting principles, Mr. Schueler said that the vast majority of the impact accounting principles is on the police and fire pension funds. Mayor Davies explained that the City is currently meeting and exceeding their contributions to the police and fire pension funds. City Attorney Spears added that the State of Illinois is aware of the problems with underfunded pension liabilities. Mayor Davies thanked Mr. Schueler for his thorough review of the City's Financial Report.

A concerned citizen, Justin Thomas, stepped to the podium to ask a question about the audit. He stated that he had referenced the audit on the Illinois Comptroller's website and noticed that in 2017 the bond payment is 2 million dollars, but in 2032 it was roughly 6.7 million dollars. Mr. Thomas was concerned as to how the City would manage the payments. Mayor Davies explained that it is 0 coupon debt in 2036 when that debt matures. At that time the City would re-finance. The City is able to manage the two million dollar payments between the annual contribution from Farmland and the Water and Sewer fund. The City abates most all the debt service levy and only levies \$350,000. The debt service was set up as a 0 coupon debt in order to manage the payments and in order to re-finance when the debt service matures. Mr. Thomas thanked the Mayor for clarifying the issue for him.

## **B. Consent Agenda**

### **1. Approval of Bills** (Items on Consent Agenda will not be discussed unless a request is made to remove an item for discussion)

**It was moved by Alderwoman Johnson and seconded by Alderman Rutledge to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with the approval of the bills being the only item to be considered. AYE:** Aldermen Rutledge, Daw, Wells, Willhardt, Clark and Alderwoman Johnson **NAY:** none **ABSENT:** Alderman Heatherly and Alderwoman Twomey **MOTION CARRIED.**

## **C. Committee of the Whole Discussion Items – possible action to follow**

### **1. MFD October Report – Chief Rexroat**

- The department responded to 118 calls during the month of October with only 1 fire call.
- Four (4) new portable radios were purchased. With many of the radios over ten years old, it is necessary to begin replacing them. In order to keep costs down, the purchases of new portable radios will be phased in with a few being added each year until replacements are complete.
- The department is also working on purchasing a new Thermal Imaging Camera as the current one is 14 years old and is constantly having to have batteries replaced.
- An Ice Rescue Training Class conducted by a company from Michigan has been scheduled here for January. MFD is going to invite several other communities to participate.

### **2. MPD October Report – Chief Feithen**

- One new squad car has been received, but the department is still waiting on the utility vehicle which should be finished the beginning of next week.
- Brandon Blackman attended the third of three evidence technical classes at Northwestern University. Techniques of processing crime scenes is the focus of the classes.
- Lt. Jerry Kinney has been accepted at the FBI Academy. His expenses will be paid for by the Federal government.
- Department investigators arrested three people in a meth arrest. The street value of the seized meth is \$2,200.
- Chief Feithen praised Officer Luke Johnson for going above and beyond his duty in assisting and walking with an elderly gentleman who appeared confused and wouldn't get in his car.
- Sgt. Bratcher and Officer Larry Meyer responded to a well-being check requested by the daughter of an elderly woman and found that the woman was having trouble with her cell phone. They determined that her phone was not charged; therefore, Sgt. Bratcher drove to his house to get an old phone charger that he was able to connect to the lady's phone to get it charged. This is another example of our officers going out of their way to care for the people of our community.

### **3. Approval of Liability Insurance Renewal**

Administrator Crow said that the administration is recommending renewal of the City's liability insurance with our current carrier, Gallagher. Two additional coverage's have been added to the package: 1) Loss of revenue up to 1.6 million dollars in case of a major catastrophe 2) Cyber security against attacks such as Ransomware. There is also an increase of \$7,000 in premium due primarily to worker's comp cost increases. **It was moved by Alderman Daw and seconded by Alderman Wells to approve renewing the City's liability insurance with Gallagher. AYE:** Aldermen Daw, Wells, Willhardt, Clark, Alderwoman Johnson and Alderman Rutledge **NAY:** none **ABSENT:** Alderman Heatherly and Alderwoman Twomey **MOTION CARRIED.**

### **4. Façade Matching Grant Applications Approval**

Community Development Director Schuytema explained that this a matching grant program that is designed to help restore the historic appearance of buildingd in the downtown area. All applications are reviewed by the Façade Grant Committee. If an application is approved by the committee, then it comes to the Council for approval. The maximum grant is \$7,500 with the applicant match at 50%. There are currently four applications being recommended for approval by the Façade Grant Committee: Attorney David Reid Clark, Buchanan Center for the Arts, Josh Smith owner of the old Banker's Life Building on West 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Bryan Scott Young. **It was moved by Alderman Rutledge and seconded by Alderwoman Johnson to accept the recommendations of the Façade Grant Committee and approve the above-stated applicants. AYE:** Aldermen Wells, Willhardt, Clark, Alderwoman Johnson, Aldermen Rutledge and Daw **NAY:** none **ABSENT:** Alderman Heatherly and Alderwoman Twomey **MOTION CARRIED.**

### **5. Request for Class I Liquor License – Justin Lipes**

Mr. Lipes, who is the owner of the indoor shooting range the Tac Shack, prefaced his request for a Liquor License for a new bar/restaurant business with a background of concerns regarding his shooting range. He felt the City was, through the Building and Zoning Director, Wade Woodward, unduly targeting him for noise complaints when he had complied with all the requirements when building his shooting range. He expressed his concern that the City did not support small business owners and was joined at the podium by Bryan Robbins, who said that he too felt that small business owners were not being adequately supported. Jason Robbins, brother of Bryan Robbins and owner of the former Bowman-Caldwell building on South Main Street, explained that he was concerned as well for the support of local business owners, but that he and Mr. Woodward were working together to take care of the sprinkler issue in his building. He expressed that he felt that it was important for the City and the small business owners to work together. Mr. Lipes concluded his remarks with stating that due to his perceived lack of support for small businesses he was not going to pursue his request for a Class I Liquor License and would look to locate his new business elsewhere.

## **V. ORDINANCES**

### **A. 16-025, Amending Chapter 115, 115.25, "Limitation on Number"**

**It was moved by Alderman Rutledge and seconded by Alderwoman Johnson to approve the amendment to Chapter 115, 115.25, "Limitation on Number" thus increasing the number of Class I Liquor Licenses to 14. AYE:** Aldermen Willhardt, Clark, Alderwoman Johnson, Aldermen Rutledge, Daw and Wells **ABSENT:** Alderman Heatherly and Alderwoman Twomey **NAY:** none **MOTION CARRIED.**

## **VI. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **A. Administrator Crow Updates**

1. Administrator Crow reminded everyone that Shop Small Businesses is this coming Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup> and to be sure to go out and support our local businesses.

2. City Hall will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday this coming Thursday and Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

**It was moved by Alderman Wells and seconded by Alderman Rutledge to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote with the exception of Alderman Heatherly and Alderwoman Twomey, who were absent.**

---

**Mayor Rod Davies**

---

**City Clerk Susan S. Trevor**