



**CITY OF MONMOUTH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**



Date: Monday, June 4, 2018

Time: 6:00 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 6:00 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:** Aldermen Dave Rutledge, Alderwoman Susan Twomey, Aldermen Brian Daw, Bob Wells, Juan Pinedo and Dan Heatherly **Absent:** Aldermen Justin Thomas and Joe Clark **Also Present:** Mayor Rod Davies, City Clerk Susan S. Trevor, City Administrator Lew Steinbrecher, City Attorney Marcum Spears, MFD Chief Casey Rexroat, MPD Chief Joe Switzer, IT Director Ken Helms, Woodard and Curran Public Works Director Andy Jackson and Andy Bell-Baltaci of the Review Atlas. **Also Absent:** Building and Zoning Director Wade Woodward and MFD Chief Casey Rexroat

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of the May 21, 2018 Council Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Alderman Daw and seconded by Alderman Rutledge to approve the May 21, 2018 Council Meeting Minutes as presented. AYE: Aldermen Rutledge, Alderwoman Twomey, Aldermen Daw, Wells, Pinedo and Heatherly **NAY:** none **ABSENT:** Aldermen Thomas and Clark **MOTION CARRIED.**

IV. PRESENTATIONS TO THE COUNCIL

A. Presentations or Citizen Inquiries (All inquiries are limited to 3 minutes per City Ordinance)

There were none to be considered.

B. Proclamation

Mayor Davies read and presented to Mel Lynch a Proclamation recognizing his induction into the Illinois Aviation Hall of Fame on May 23, 2018 for his dedication to all phases of aviation – as a pilot, an aviation mechanic, an operator and instructor promoting safe flying and proper aircraft maintenance thus preserving the heritage of the founding of aviation and shepherding it into the modern pinnacle of air transportation in the world.

C. 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 Alderman Heatherly and seconded by Alderman Pinedo to approve the Bills as presented. AYE: Alderman Rutledge, Alderwoman Twomey, Aldermen Daw, Wells, Pinedo and Heatherly **NAY:** none **ABSENT:** Aldermen Thomas and Clark **MOTION CARRIED.**

V. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

A. Building and Zoning May Report – IT Director Ken Helms

- ✓ 35 Mowing Notices were sent this month
- ✓ The elevator shaft has been bored for James Grier Hall at Monmouth College
- ✓ The rendering building construction at Smithfield is seven weeks ahead of schedule.
- ✓ The roof repair at City Hall will begin in two weeks.
- ✓ The sewer collapse repair under City Hall is completed.

B. Woodard and Curran April Report

- The April report is contained in the Web Packet
- Director Jackson gave Woodard and Curran's Annual Year End Report as follows:
 - ❖ This is the fifth year of Woodard and Curran's contract with the City of Monmouth.
 - ❖ Health and Safety are a number one priority for W & C. Unfortunately, we experienced one lost time accident diagnosed as ulnar nerve palsy of the hand of an employee.
 - ❖ Roger Blackman, Dave Marston and Bob Gray received recognition for developing a fall prevention apparatus.
 - ❖ Regulatory reporting and effluent quality permit limits were met for the year as well as all water treatment levels.
 - ❖ The Public Works Department had a good year financially and came in \$38,940 under budget for the year.
 - ❖ The Public Works Customer service Office collected \$6,103,417 of revenue for water, sewer, landfill, recycling, garbage and Farmland services for the fiscal year compared to \$5,908,291 for FY 2017, which is an increase of 3.3%.
 - ❖ This past year W & C IT department and support staff instituted a new cloud-based GIS program for use in the mapping, inventory and maintenance tracking of the City's sewer collection system and the water distribution system.
 - ❖ The Public Works organization structure continues to be revisited to ensure it is operating effectively and efficiently.
 - ❖ W & C continue to assist the City in Capital Planning.

Jennifer Anders, Engineer for Woodard & Curran continued with the Annual Year End Report and gave the updates on the capital projects that are in various stages of design and completion as follows:

- 1) A big part of this last year has been spent on Permit Modification for the WWTP. The original NPDES permit expired three years ago. The City has a dis-infection exemption, but this might not be granted to the City again.
- 2) Another important issue has been the increased discharge from Smithfield, which has led to meetings to implement an updated Phosphorus Discharge Operations Plan.
- 3) To continue to plan for the needs of the City and economic development, Jennifer Ander and Andy Jackson met with USDA representatives to initiate discussion of a downtown sewer interceptor replacement project. The USDA does low interest long term loans for this type of project. The existing sewer interceptor is over 100 years old and traverses under several downtown buildings.
- 4) Well # 10 construction was completed and online in September of 2017, which gave the City much needed additional water supply. Finished water capacity was increased by installation of another softening vessel at the North Water Treatment Plant.
- 5) LTCP/CSO Compliance is being addressed in three phases. Phase I was completed this year with the installation of larger screw pumps. Phase 2 design will need to begin in early summer to stay on the compliance schedule set forth by IEPA.
- 6) North Wastewater Pre-Treatment Plant improvements began with the replacement of 6,500 feet of force main pipe from the Smithfield pump station on N. 6th Street out to the pre-treatment plant. Smithfield provided some funding for the project which came in under budget by approximately \$195,000.
- 7) A second project (Phase 3) involving rehabilitation of the clarifier at the North Pre-Treatment Plant is underway and should be completed by September 2018.

C. Bluestem Energy Solutions Presentation (Development Services Agreement)

City Administrator Steinbrecher explained over the past couple of months he has been working with Blue Stem Energy Solutions, which is a company that generates low carbon footprint electricity at lower rates than the City is currently paying. A negotiated agreement has resulted from these meetings. This agreement would allow, at no cost to the City, for Blue Stem Energy to do a financial feasibility study to determine if it would be in the City's best interest to allow Blue Stem to provide low carbon footprint electricity to the City. Mark Herink from Blue Stem Energy explained to the Council the background of their company and its purposes as follows:

- The company is based in Omaha, Nebraska and was formed from a 94 year old construction company. We own and operate our own facilities and our projects tend to be small in nature.
- Our goal is to bring the generation of low carbon electricity closer to their customers.
- We focus on municipalities that are looking for green attributes and financial relief with their electricity.
- Blue Stem is always going to be focused on the economic value of a project.
- Our process is very data driven and customer centered. We are not tied to one technology.
- With the approval of our negotiated agreement with the City, Blue Stem will analyze the electrical situation in the City and customize opportunities for low carbon electricity in Monmouth. After reviewing the collected data, we would come back with an Energy Master Plan. Once an option is chosen, Blue Stem would assist with financing, procurement and installation of whatever option is selected.

Administrator Steinbrecher stated that he is recommending approval of the Development Service Agreement with Blue Stem with the understanding that it does not obligate the City to purchase any power from them. The City's only commitment is to provide information on our electrical consumption and to negotiate in good faith as a mutually exclusive agreement. Administrator Steinbrecher added that the Federal tax credits that are available for these projects are going to be reduced in 2019, which does give some degree of urgency for this project. **It was moved by Alderman Heatherly and seconded by Alderman Rutledge to approve the Development Services Agreement with Blue Stem Energy Solutions. AYE:** Alderwoman Twomey, Aldermen Daw, Wells, Pinedo, Heatherly and Rutledge **NAY:** none **ABSENT:** Aldermen Clark and Thomas **MOTION CARRIED.**

D. Proposed Revisions to Municipal Sign regulations Discussion

Administrator Steinbrecher said that he was not looking for any action tonight on the sign regulation revisions. He included in the web packet copies of the current Municipal Sign Ordinance, which does have provisions for prohibiting the flexible signs that the City has received complaints on. However, there are currently 40 Monmouth businesses that have prohibited signs at their places of business. There might be significant unintended ramifications on many Monmouth businesses if the City proceeds forward with enforcing this provision in the sign regulations. A point was also made that if a commercial property adjoins a residential area that lighted signs might also become an issue. Administrator Steinbrecher asked the Council to continue to review all aspects of sign regulation and convey their thoughts and concerns to him prior to revising and enforcing the current sign ordinance.

E. Stop Sign Discussion – South 8th Street and East 5th Avenue

Administrator Steinbrecher explained there are some citizens living in this area of the 3rd Ward who have expressed concern over the speeding by people driving South on South 8th Street as there are a large number of children living around this intersection. Chief Switzer said that there has only been one accident reported in the last year; however, that would not include any “close calls”. Several aldermen asked to defer action until they had a chance to drive through that area to observe the intersection and perhaps talk with the area residents.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Administrator Steinbrecher informed the Council that the Monmouth Area Chamber of Commerce is considering hosting a community garage sale on the square on July 14th.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Alderman Heatherly and seconded by Alderwoman Rutledge to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote with the exception of Aldermen Thomas and Clark, who were absent.

Mayor Rod Davies

City Clerk Susan S. Trevor