



CITY OF MONMOUTH

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: Monday, December 4, 2023

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:** Alderman Brad Bone, Alderwoman Susan Twomey, Aldermen Brian Daw, Jim Conard, Juan Pinedo, Kevin Ferry and John VanVleet **Also Present:** Mayor Rod Davies, City Administrator Lew Steinbrecher, City Clerk Susan S. Trevor, City Attorney Marcum Spears, Building and Zoning Director Joe Clark, Communications Director Ken Helms, Woodard and Curran Public Works Director Andy Jackson, MFD Chief Casey Rexroat, MPD Chief Joe Switzer

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of November 20, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Alderman VanVleet and seconded by Alderwoman Twomey to approve the November 20, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes as presented. **AYE:** Alderwoman Twomey, Aldermen Daw, Conard, Pinedo, Ferry and VanVleet **NAY:** none **PASS:** Alderman Bone **MOTION CARRIED.**

IV. PRESENTATION TO THE COUNCIL

A. Presentations or Citizen Inquired

1. Max Leezer, 615 N. G Street, presented a petition to the Council asking for (B) 98.18 section of the Municipal Code not to be removed from the ordinance. This section excepts vehicles of people fishing from parking only in designated parking areas and would allow fishermen to drive across the earthen dam to reach the West side of the North Lake to fish. This would enable those that are older or not able to walk so far to reach the West side of the North Lake. Mayor Davies said the City would take it under advisement.

2. Craig Vivian, 410 N. 3rd Street, presented a petition from all but 3 houses on North 3rd Street in favor of placing a stop sign at the intersection of North 3rd Street and East Boston Avenue. He gave three reasons for the stop sign as follows:

1) All neighbors are in favor of the stop sign as the four blocks between East Broadway and the stop sign at East Detroit allow too much open street to build up speed.

2) There are two daycare facilities in this area of North 3rd and the daycare providers are concerned for the safety of the many children that attend these facilities.

3) There are more cars being parked on North 3rd, which makes it difficult to see at the intersections and that has led to many near accidents.

Mr. Vivian and the neighbors just want to make this street as safe as possible for the residents

B. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Bills

It was moved by Alderman Daw and seconded by Alderman Conard to approve the bills as presented. AYE: Alderman Bone, Alderwoman Twomey, Aldermen Daw, Conard, Pinedo, Ferry and VanVleet **NAY:** none **MOTION CARRIED.**

V. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

A. Building and Zoning November Report – Director Clark

- ✓ Department issued 11 junk and debris notices in November
- ✓ 3 grass and weeds notices were issued in November.
- ✓ The City is awaiting confirmation of reimbursement from the Strong Communities Program to proceed with the solicitation of bids for demolitions.
- ✓ **Brownfield Projects:** Phase 1 for the Munson Properties on South Main Street and West 6th Avenue were completed. Phase 2 will be started sometime in January or February.
- ✓ **Open Projects:** M.C. Stockdale Student Center, Smithfield Fresh meats, Buchanan Center for the Arts and 221 North Main Street.
- ✓ **Completed Projects:** Fire Wok Carry Out, 221 N. Main Street
- ✓ **Demolitions:** 1221 South Main Street and 414 West 2nd Avenue

B. Woodard and Curran October Report – Director Jackson

- Yard waste pickup will continue through December 12th-15th.
- Construction has begun on Phase 1 of the water main replacement project on West Harlem from North Main to North G Street.
- Notice for bid for the downtown sewer/water main project will go out this week with a bid opening on January 9, 2024.
- Notice for bid for the drilling of the new well will go out soon with a bid opening on January 11, 2024.
- In early January the department will be sending a mailing out for a lead line inventory. It will be a simple mailer asking residents to identify their lines coming into their homes. If people can't do this, Public Works will assist them. This project has a 15-year compliance window. It will be a very long and expensive project. Hopefully, there will some Federal grants to assist with funding the project.

C. Discussion on Property Tax Levy

Mayor Davies stated that at the last meeting the City did not have the actuarial figures for the pension contributions, but has since received them.

Administrator Steinbrecher explained that two weeks ago the City was looking at a 5% gap of \$230,000 with the figures that it had at that time. However, the figures came in significantly lower; therefore, the Administration is comfortable in recommending a 4.99% increase in the City's property tax levy. He then called attention to the quote from Foster and Foster Actuarial Valuation Report that stated by providing additional funding in excess of the minimum required contribution it would reduce the total employer cost over the life of the amortization period. By the City contributing \$400,000 in excess of the minimum required contribution to the pensions, it will help the City to reduce their unfunded liability. At this point, the Administration is comfortable it can balance the General Fund without implementing a utility or public safety tax and would ask the Council to authorize the City Attorney to prepare the Tax Levy Ordinance. Mayor Davies added that this would not increase the City's Property Tax rate, but he can't speak for the other six taxing bodies.

It was moved by Alderwoman Twomey and seconded by Alderman VanVleet to authorize City Attorney Spears to draft the Tax Levy Ordinance for a 4.99% increase in its property tax rate. AYE: Alderwoman Twomey, Aldermen Daw, Conard, Pinedo, Ferry, VanVleet and Bone **NAY:** none **MOTION CARRIED.**

D. Approval of 2024 Council Meeting Schedule

It was moved by Alderman VanVleet and seconded by Alderman Ferry to approve the 2024 Council Meeting Schedule. AYE: Aldermen Daw, Conard, Pinedo, Ferry, VanVleet, Bone and Alderwoman Twomey **NAY:** none **MOTION CARRIED.**

VI. ORDINANCES

A. 2nd Reading

1. 23-027, Stop Sign at Intersection of North 3rd Street and East Boston Avenue

It was moved by Alderman Conard and seconded by Alderman Pinedo to approve the installation of a stop sign at the intersection of North 3rd Street and East Boston Avenue. AYE: Aldermen Conard, Pinedo, Ferry, VanVleet, Bone, Alderwoman Twomey and Alderman Daw **NAY:** none **MOTION CARRIED.**

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

There was none to consider.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Alderman Daw and seconded by Alderman VanVleet to adjourn the December 4th meeting at 6:35 p.m. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.

Mayor Rod Davies

City Clerk Susan S. Trevor