



**CITY OF MONMOUTH**  
**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023      **Time:** 6:00 p.m.      **Location:** 100 East Broadway  
Monmouth, Illinois

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**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:** Alderwoman Susan Twomey, Brian Daw, Jim Conard, Juan Pinedo, Kevin Ferry and John VanVleet **Absent:** Alderman Brad Bone **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 6, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes**

**It was moved by Alderman Ferry and seconded by Alderman Pinedo to approve the November 6, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes as presented. AYE:** Aldermen Daw, Conard, Pinedo, Ferry and VanVleet **NAY:** none **PASS:** Alderwoman Twomey **ABSENT:** Alderman Bone **MOTION CARRIED.**

**IV. PRESENTATION TO THE COUNCIL**

**A. Presentations or Citizen Inquired**

There were none to be heard or considered.

**C. Consent Agenda**

**1. Approval of Bills**

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

**V. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**A. MFD October Report – Chief Rexroat**

- ✚ The department responded to 156 calls in the month of October
- ✚ Smithfield invited the department to conduct training with their employees on the handling of hazardous materials.
- ✚ A number of presentations were made at schools and other organizations as part of the National Fire Prevention month.
- ✚ The North Station held their annual Halloween event in conjunction with the Lions Club, which served 200 hot dogs with around 400 people coming through the station.
- ✚ C & D Electric finished their lighting project of changing all bulbs to LED lights at the North Station. This changeover to LED lights will result in a big savings on the station's electric bill.

## **B. MPD October Report – Chief Switzer**

- In the month of October, the department had 49 arrests; responded to 19 accidents; had 1,398 MPD calls and 2,759 Dispatch calls.
- Officers spent 14 hours in court for 7 different traffic and criminal cases.
- An ALICE drill was held for ICS teachers and staff.
- As Chief, I spoke on the radio along with M-R Superintendent Ed Fletcher and Principal Ewing about a cyber security training program on social media that Principal Ewing was providing for the Junior High students and also their parents.
- The department gave a Halloween Safety talk to the MELC children.
- From the five applicants who tested for the department in the month of October, two qualified and were offered and accepted jobs with MPD.
- Monthly mandated on-line training was completed.

## **C. Presentation of the 2023 Property Tax Levy – Administrator Steinbrecher**

- The City's 2023 Tax Levy was \$2,734,000.
- 73.2% of the City's Property Tax Levy is used to make **mandatory** contributions to the Police and Fire Pension Funds.
- The 2023 Property Tax Levy to satisfy next year's recommended Police and Firefighters Pension contributions will be a \$230,000 increase going from \$2,734,000 to \$2,962,512, which is a 12.9% Tax Rate increase. This increase would require a Truth in Taxation Public Hearing; however, there is another option, which would be to institute a Public Safety charge on our Utility Bills. A Public Safety charge could be anywhere from a \$7-\$9 monthly charge.
- The City's growth in Assessed Valuation has gone from \$64,451,954 in 2013 to an estimated \$88,691,200 in 2023.
- The changes in the Property Tax Rate have gone from \$2.8233 per \$100 assessed valuation in 2013 to an estimated \$3.0463 in 2023, which is a traditional tax levy. With the increased mandatory pension contribution required for 2023, the property tax rate would go up to \$3.3403 per \$100 assessed valuation. The projected increase in the property tax rate is entirely caused by the City's constantly disproportionate State **mandated** increases in public safety pension contributions.
- Local taxes have contributed a total of \$18,631,300 to the Police and Fire Pension Funds over the last 14 years. Even with these significant increases in contributions, the City's unfunded liability has grown during this same time period. In the past 12 years, City contributions to Police and Fire pensions have increased 174%.

Administrator Steinbrecher concluded by stating that the City clearly faces a very significant financial challenge. After the ensuing discussion, the consensus of opinion was to go with a 9.9% levy and come back with a Public Safety tax proposal when all the final figures are available.

## VI. RESOLUTIONS

### A. 23-009, Joint Animal Control Contract

Mayor Davies explained that this is the renewal of the annual Joint Animal Control Contract with the County. **It was moved by Alderman Conard and seconded by Alderman Pinedo to approve the renewal of the 2024 Joint Animal Control Contract with the County.** **AYE:** Alderwoman Twomey, Aldermen Daw, Conard, Pinedo, Ferry and VanVleet **NAY:** none **ABSENT:** Alderman Bone **MOTION CARRIED.**

## VII. ORDINANCES

### A. 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

#### 1. 23-027, Stop Sign at Intersection of North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and East Boston Avenue

Chief Switzer explained that in response to requests to place a stop sign at the intersection of East Clinton and North 3<sup>rd</sup> due to an accident that occurred at this intersection, he studied North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street from East Broadway to East Detroit, where there is an existing stop sign. He stated that he felt that the intersection at East Boston and North 3<sup>rd</sup> would be a better placement as it would be in the middle of the distance between East Broadway and East Detroit where there is a stop sign. During the ensuing discussion, Alderman Daw felt a yield sign at North 3<sup>rd</sup> and East Boston would be adequate while Alderwoman Twomey felt that too many cars pick up speed between East Broadway and East Detroit and therefore a stop sign at North 3<sup>rd</sup> and East Boston would be more appropriate. **It was moved by Alderwoman Twomey and seconded by Alderman Pinedo to approve installing a stop sign at the intersection of North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and East Boston Avenue.** **AYE:** Aldermen Conard, Pinedo and Alderwoman Twomey **NAY:** Aldermen Daw, Ferry and VanVleet **ABSENT:** Alderman Bone **MOTION FAILED due to lack of votes for passage and will be brought back for a 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading at the December 4<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting.**

#### 2. 23-028, Paid Leave for All Workers

City Attorney Spears explained that beginning January 1, 2024 all employers in the State of Illinois must provide employees 1 hour of paid leave per 40 hours worked (5 days) annually. These 40 hours can be carried over annually. IML is recommending for Home-Rule Communities to opt out of this State act; however, there may be a legal challenge to opting out. Administrator Steinbrecher added that the City currently provides more paid leave than this Act requires. **It was moved by Alderman Ferry and seconded by Alderman VanVleet to approve Ordinance 23-028 for the City to opt out of the State Paid Leave for All Workers Act.** **AYE:** Aldermen Conard, Pinedo, Ferry, VanVleet, Alderwoman Twomey and Alderman Daw **NAY:** none **ABSENT:** Alderman Bone **MOTION CARRIED.**

#### 3. 23-029, Vacating Roadway in McEwen Court

City Attorney Spears explained that after the Council's approval at the November 6<sup>th</sup> meeting to vacate the Southern portion of the Cul-de-Sac in the McEwen subdivision, he discovered there was a platted street that had never been used. He added that to the property requested to be vacated in the ordinance he drafted. **It was moved by Alderman Conard and seconded by Alderman Daw to approve Ordinance 23-029 that would vacate the Cul-de-sac and the platted street in the McEwen Court subdivision.** **AYE:** Aldermen Pinedo, Ferry, VanVleet, Alderwoman Twomey, Aldermen Daw and Conard **NAY:** none **ABSENT:** Alderman Bone **MOTION CARRIED.**

**VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**A. Per Illinois Statute 5ILCS 120/2 to consider the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees.**

**1. It was moved by Alderman Ferry and seconded by Alderman Daw to go into Executive Session at 6:40 p.m. AYE:** Aldermen Ferry, VanVleet, Alderwoman Twomey, Aldermen Daw, Conard and Pinedo **NAY:** none **ABSENT:** Alderman Bone **MOTION CARRIED.**

**2. It was moved by Alderman Ferry and seconded by Alderwoman Twomey to return to Regular Session at 6:50 p.m. AYE:** Alderman VanVleet, Alderwoman Twomey, Aldermen Daw, Conard, Pinedo and Ferry **NAY:** none **ABSENT:** Alderman Bone **MOTION CARRIED.**

**IX. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was none to consider.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

**It was moved by Alderman Daw and seconded by Alderman Ferry to adjourn the November 20th meeting at 6:50 p.m. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote with the exception of Alderman Bone, who was absent.**

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**Mayor Rod Davies**

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**City Clerk Susan S. Trevor**