CITY OF HOOPESTON

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 2021

CITY HALL

1. CALL TO ORDER: In the absence of Mayor Crusinberry, Clerk Lane called the council meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. ROLL CALL: All eight council members were present.

Clerk Lane called for a nomination for Mayor pro tem. Alderman Wise made the motion to elect Alderwoman Florek for Mayor Pro tem. Alderman Garrett seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken and Aldermen Eyrich, Ferrell, Garrett, Lawson, Porth, Richards and Wise voted aye. Florek abstained and she was elected 7 ayes, zero nays and one abstained. Florek took the Mayor position.

1. Approval of Agenda: Garrett moved to approve the agenda seconded by Richards. Agenda was approved 8-0.
2. Approval of Minutes: Lawson moved to approve minutes of the June 1 council meeting. Richards seconded the motion and minutes were approved 8-0.
3. PAYMENT OF BILLS: Lawson moved to approve payment of bills. Garrett seconded the motion after removing a bill to Supreme Radio that he needed to look into. Roll call vote taken and bills were approved for payment as amended 8-0.
4. PRESENTATIONS:

Mike Davis of the Land Bank addressed council with information and grant opportunities. He described how the grants could be used to help the city with demolishing targeted properties. Eight properties have been identified for demolition. The city needs to list and prioritize the next eight properties. Mike also spoke of rehab grants that may be available to homeowners based on income. Mike will be at the next council meeting.

Members of the swimming pool committee gave an update on what is happening at the public pool. Attendance has been ranging from 80-100 per day. Special events and activities are ongoing. As a fundraiser Subway Cards are being sold for $10. A Luau fundraiser will be held on August 7th. The committee is still looking into allowing food or concessions.

1. NO PETITIONS TO COUNCIL
2. REPORTS OF OFFICERS
3. EYRICH: The surplus backhoe was sold for $5555. Department is trying to keep up with mowing. New mowers are needed and will not be available until at least August.
4. FERRELL: Motions made to move forward with sending letters to the state on three buildings the city wishes to condemn. First, Ferrell made the motion to move forward with 217 E Main seconded by Lawson. Roll Call vote 8-0 the motion. Next she made the motion to condemn 222 Bank Street and forward to the state. Seconded by Wise. Roll call vote: Eyrich, Ferrell, Florek, Lawson, Porth, Richards and Wise voted aye and Garrett voted no. Motion passed 7-1. Next 306 E Main seconded by Garrett.

Discussion on whether or not the city has the authority to condemn a property took place. Per fire chief Bird, the city does not have the authority to make that determination. No vote taken on the motion and motion was rescinded. After questions and discussion whether or not the city can declare a building dangerous Ferrell made motions to undo the previous votes. Ferrell moved to undo the vote on the 217 E Main property with a second from Wise. Roll call vote taken and all eight council members voted aye. Ferrell moved to undo the vote taken on 222 E Main seconded by Richards. Roll call vote taken and all eight members voted aye. Ferrell moved to undo the vote taken on 217 E Main seconded by Wise. Roll call vote taken. Eyrich, Ferrell, Florek, Lawson, Porth, Richards and Wise voted aye. Garrett voted no. Motion passed 7-1. Ferrell made a motion to declare 217 E Main a dangerous building and send to state. Wise seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken. Motion passed 7-1 with Garrett the no vote. Ferrell moved to declare 222 Bank St a dangerous building seconded by Wise. Roll call vote taken. Eyrich, Ferrell, Florek, Lawson, Porth, Richards and Wise voted aye and Garrett voted no. Motion passed 7-1. It was determined that action on 306 E Main should wait for information from the mayor.

 Ferrell presented Ordinance 2022-2 that limits residential use of downtown buildings unless there is a business in the lower level. Lawson seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Eyrich, Ferrell, Lawson, Porth, Richards and Wise voting aye. Florek and Garrett voted no. Motion passed 6-2.

1. FLOREK: A new water heater at the pool has been repaired. Other repairs are being made to equipment. Addressing the odor, Florek explained that churning of the lagoons cause the odor and normally the aerators keep the odor down. Some of the aerators are not working, waiting on parts.
2. GARRETT: EMA has revised COVID19 guidelines lining up with the state guidelines.
3. LAWSON: Announced two new firemen, Zach Carter and Jacob Haskins. Only burning natural vegetation is allowed in the city.
4. PORTH: No report
5. RICHARDS: No report
6. WISE: The only bid for the sidewalk program was from Silver Brothers. Wise made a motion to accept the bid with a second from Garrett. Roll call vote taken and the bid was approved 8-0. Tree removal will continue in the fall with a hit and miss during the summer.
7. NO COMMUNICATIONS
8. NO UNFINISHED BUSINESS
9. NO NEW BUSINESS
10. NO MAYOR COMMENTS
11. PUBLIC COMMENT: Members of the swimming pool committee re addressed council asking that council take a vote on the food issue. It will be taken under advisement by the City’s pool committee.
12. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Wise moved to go into executive session to discuss personnel. Ferrall seconded the motion. Council went into Executive Session at 8:45 PM. Lawson moved to come out of Executive Session seconded by Garrrett. Council came out of Executive Session at 9:14pm.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Lawson to adjourn seconded by Garrett. Council adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Gail Lane, City Clerk.