

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF HOOPESTON

TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024

7:00 PM – CITY HALL

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Wise called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm following the pledge of allegiance.
- II. ROLL CALL – The following 6 alderpersons were present: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Lawson, Scharlach, Van Hyfte. Aldermen Garrett and Porth were absent. Mayor Wise, Clerk Hardcastle, and Attorney Miller were also present.
- III. AMENDMENT OR APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – Alderwoman Van Hyfte moved to approve the agenda as presented. Alderwoman Lawson seconded the motion. Motion was carried 6-0.
- IV. AMENDMENT OR APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PRIOR COUNCIL MEETING – Alderwoman K. Ferrell moved to approve the minutes from the May 7, 2024, meeting as presented. Alderman Eyrich seconded the motion. Motion was carried 6-0.
- V. APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF THE BILLS – Alderwoman Lawson made the motion to approve payment of the city’s bills. Alderman M. Ferrell seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Lawson, Scharlach, Van Hyfte – Nays: None – Absent: Garrett, Porth) and the bills were approved 6-0.
- VI. PRESENTATIONS – None
- VII. PETITIONS TO THE COUNCIL – None
- VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT – None
- IX. EXEXECUTIVE SESSION – None
- X. REPORT OF OFFICERS
  - a. Eyrich
    - i. 2005 CHEVROLET BIDS – Alderman Eyrich announced that the Water Department is putting out their 2005 Chevrolet pickup out for bids. Minimum bid is \$1000 and bid opening will be on 10:00 am on Friday, June 14, 2024. Specifications can be found at City Hall.

- ii. EPA GRANT – State Senator Chapin Rose announced an EPA loan to the City for upgrades to the city’s water treatment plant. \$1.3 million of that loan will be forgivable. Mayor Wise also thanked Senator Rose for his help getting that loan.

b. K. Ferrell

- i. ELECTRONIC RECYCLING – Alderwoman K. Ferrell thanked the organizers of the electronic recycling event. The next event will be held mid-September.
- ii. LAND BANK – Alderwoman K. Ferrell and Mayor Wise recently met with Mike Marron of Vermilion Advantage about the land bank and changes to the tax trustee process.
- iii. UPDATED FOOD TRUCK ORDINANCE – ORDINANCE 2025-1 – Alderwoman K. Ferrell presented the updated food truck ordinance for approval. Updates include the elimination of photos needed of the food truck, created an option for a \$200 yearly license instead of a \$20 daily fee, lastly it created a fee exemption for 501(c)3 organizations. Alderwoman K. Ferrell made the motion to approve the new ordinance. Alderwoman Van Hyfte seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Lawson, Scharlach, Van Hyfte – Nays: None – Absent: Garrett, Porth) and Ordinance 2025-1 was approved 6-0.

c. M. Ferrell

- i. Nothing to report.

d. Lawson

- i. POLICE DEPARTMENT TRAINING – The 3 sergeants just concluded Crisis Intervention Training.
- ii. NEW OFFICER – Newly hired Officer Dixon reported to the Police Training Institute.
- iii. PICKLEBALL COURTS – Alderwoman Lawson reported getting several inquiries from pickleball players if the city would have the tennis court at Northside Park lined for pickleball. Alderwoman Van Hyfte, Parks Chairman, said she would look into it.

e. Scharlach

- i. Nothing to report.
- f. Van Hyfte
  - i. PERSONNEL – The Parks Department had a full time employee resign and a part time employee just started. Park Superintendent Stebbins is going to work with his current crew for the time being.
  - ii. POOL OPENING – The McFerren Park Pool is slated to open on Memorial Day. The pool manager has requested that the floor in the pool house be painted. Estimated cost is \$6300. This was already built into the budget.
  - iii. OUR TOWN HOOPESTON – The WCIA Our Town Hoopeston event will be on Friday, May 31, 2024 in the downtown area. There will be free food and entertainment. Mayor Wise had a request to waive the food truck permit fee for this event. Alderwoman Van Hyfte advised that the Burger Bank will be providing hot dogs, Lorraine Theater will be providing popcorn, and the Rotary Club will have their ice cream trailer there. Consensus among the council was that since free food was already being given out, then any other food trucks wanting to participate would have to pay their normal fee.
- g. COMMUNICATION TO THE COUNCIL – None
- h. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None
- i. NEW BUSINESS – None
- j. MAYOR COMMENTS
  - i. COMPUTER/NETWORK BACKUP AND SECURITY – Mayor Wise presented a proposal from our IT consultant regarding computer backup and security. There are 2 separate requests for this; a monthly backup of our Microsoft 365 accounts which will be \$123.75 per month with a one time setup fee of \$119. The second request is for Xcitium remote assistance solution for \$390 per year. A solution was found through the State of Illinois for security and the fees were waived for that service. A motion was made by Alderwoman Lawson to allow the Mayor to enter into a contract for these services. Alderman M. Ferrell seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Lawson, Scharlach, Van Hyfte – Nays: None – Absent: Garrett, Porth) and the motion was approved 6-0.
  - ii. UPDATED SOLAR ORDINANCE – Due to discrepancies between the red-lined version and the clean version sent by Attorney Keyt’s office, the updated solar ordinance was tabled until clarification could be made.

- iii. NIMS TRAINING – Mayor Wise asked EMA Director Brad Hardcastle to go over what NIMS training was and which sessions aldermen needed to take.
- iv. ANIMALS IN THE PARK – Mayor Wise reminded residents that animals have to be on a leash while in the park. Alderwoman Lawson indicated that she was going to investigate why Vermilion County Animal Control has not been working in the city. Mayor Wise also asked residents to make sure and clean up after their animals. There are fines on the books for failure to do this.
- v. PARKVIEW COURT – The Vermilion County Housing Authority is in the process of emptying out Parkview Court and will be demolishing the complex. The mayor put down any rumors of the housing complex being used to house undocumented immigrants.
- vi. 310 E MAIN ST UPDATE – Mayor Wise met with the structural engineer, building owner Gail Lane, and contractor Brian Silver regarding the structure. The group reviewed options for repairing the structure and an option was found that would fulfill building code requirements and be relatively inexpensive. The structural engineer is writing everything up and the mayor will be meeting with an appraiser on Friday to get the value of the building.
- vii. 511 W MAIN ST UPDATE – Alderman Scharlach asked what is going on with 511 W Main St. Mayor Wise answered that the project is waiting to go out to bids. The city may be able to take it down themselves.
- viii. DOWNTOWN BUILDING DEMOLITION UPDATE – The former Doyle building is ready to be taken down. The contractor will have to work with Silver Brothers on the 310 E Main and adjacent building, depending on what the building owner wants to do.

k. COMMENTS BY THE ATTORNEY

- i. 819 S FIFTH ST – All the heirs to the property have agreed to convey their interests in the property to the city. The city will still have the expense of cleaning it up. There were 2 liens found on the property from the State of Illinois. The liens were put on the property by the Secretary of States office with some association to vehicle usage. These were put on 10 years ago and are 20 year liens. The city would not be able to sell the property until the liens are lifted. The amount of the liens were \$2100 when they were first put in, however, there are penalties and interest accruing for 10 years. Mayor Wise asked if the liens could be waived since the city took ownership. Attorney Miller recommended contacting a state legislator for assistance.

- ii. 517 S DIXIE HWY – All parties in the property have been served but time has not expired for the owners to respond. The owners have been cleaning up at the property.
  - iii. HENNINGS BUILDING – The owner was served a 15 day notice, once those 15 days are up, the suit will be filed in court.
  - iv. COX LAW FIRM AGREEMENT - All parties have signed the agreement. The city did get another bill from the firm. Attorney Miller recommended not paying that bill since it was sent after the agreement was signed and was in addition to the amount in the agreement.
  - v. HOTEL DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT – The process is still ongoing.
- I. ADJOURNMENT – there being no further business to come before the council, Alderwoman K. Ferrell moved to adjourn the meeting. Alderman M. Ferrell seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.