

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF HOOPESTON

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 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 4 alderpersons were present: K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Porth, and Scharlach. Mayor Wise and Clerk Hardcastle were also present. Attorney Miller was present on Zoom.
- III. AMENDMENT OR APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – Alderwoman K. Ferrell moved to approve the agenda as presented. Alderman Porth seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.
- IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING – Alderman M. Ferrell moved to approve the minutes of the previous council meeting. Alderwoman K. Ferrell seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.
- V. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF THE BILLS – Alderwoman K. Ferrell moved to approve the payment of the city’s bills. Alderman Porth seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Porth, Scharlach – Nays: None – Absent: Eyrich, Garrett, Lawson) and the bills were approved 4-0.
- VI. PRESENTATIONS – None
- VII. PETITIONS TO THE COUNCIL – None
- VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT
 - a. Josh Clifton addressed the council and stated that it has been 89 days since the attack on his girlfriend. He is still requesting the city to hire a 3rd police officer to be on duty at all times. It is his opinion that the city council does not want to make tough choices and take a strong stance on crime. We have huge crime rates and businesses or people do not want to move in. Mr. Clifton went on to describe crime in Chicago. He has heard several alderpersons say that if they are not on a committee then there is nothing that they can do. Mr. Clifton stated that alderpersons oversee everything and if they do not think they have a voice then they should resign. If Robin Lawson is the chairman of the police committee, it does not matter, but they can find a way to hire more officers.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

X. REPORT OF OFFICERS

a. EYRICH

i. Absent.

b. K. FERRELL

i. TIRE/ELECTRONIC RECYCLING – Alderwoman K. Ferrell is still working on getting a tire and electronics recycling collection set up for the beginning of October and is hoping to have them both on the same day.

c. M. FERRELL

i. Nothing to report.

d. GARRETT

i. Absent.

e. LAWSON

i. Absent.

f. PORTH

i. Nothing to report.

g. SCHARLACH

i. Alderman Scharlach advised that the fire department is working on a few things and he will report on them at the next meeting.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS – None

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

XIII. NEW BUSINESS – None

XIV. MAYOR COMMENTS

- a. HOTEL DEVELOPMENT – Mayor Wise distributed the latest version of the hotel development agreement. There are several items in the agreement that will have to be filled out by the developer. There was lengthy discussion on the proposed roadway and the language governing the roadway and who has to pay for what. Attorney Miller advised that the language needs to read that the road will be built to the city’s specifications and get approval from the city engineer. Mayor Wise then reviewed the other sections of the agreement. He then reviewed the financials of the agreement; the city would be putting in \$50,000 from the TIF fund, \$200,000 from the remaining City of Hoopeston ARPA funds, and \$600,000 from the Vermillion County ARPA funds. The ARPA money has to be allocated by the end of 2024 and spent by the end of 2025. Mayor Wise asked Attorney Miller to explain the escrow agent. Alderman M. Ferrell asked what the exact definition of road funds meant in the agreement. Mayor Wise read the definition listed in the agreement. Attorney Miller stated that we could flesh those definitions out more. Alderman Scharlach asked about highway access and if IDOT had funding available for that. Mayor Wise stated that it is up to the developer to fund the connection to the highway. Mayor Wise then stated that the agreement will be brought up at the next meeting.
- b. GOLF CART PATH – Mayor Wise announced that the golf cart path on the west side of Kirby Foods is open. He thanked Kirby Foods for allowing the path to be placed there. He reminded residents that this is for golf carts only and has seen several cars on the path. Signs will be put up and other options are being considered to keep cars off of it.

XV. ATTORNEY COMMENTS – None

XVI. 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, and the meeting was adjourned.