

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE ZION CITY COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2024 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 2828 SHERIDAN ROAD, ZION, ILLINOIS

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Mayor McKinney called the meeting to order.

On call of the roll the following answered present: Commissioners McDowell, Holmes, Frierson, Fischer, and Mayor McKinney. A quorum was present.

Also present: Police Chief Eric Barden, Fire/Rescue Chief Justin Stried, Public Works Director Ray Roberts, Building & Zoning Director Richard Ianson, Accounts & Finance Director Kris Conway and City Attorney James Vasselli. City Administrator David Knabel was absent.

Mr. William Bremner led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

AGENDA CHANGES

It was moved by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner McDowell to accept the City Council meeting agenda with the following changes:

- Delete Item 12. **CLOSED SESSION** – (Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 “Open Meetings”) for the discussion of threatened and/or probable or imminent litigation, collective bargaining, purchase or sale of real estate and personnel

The vote on roll call was: Commissioners McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; Fischer, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING/APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner Holmes to open the Public Hearing for the Appropriation of the City of Zion for Fiscal Year beginning May 1, 2024 and ending April 30, 2025 at 7:03 p.m. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; Fischer, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

A memo (24-DOC-77) as received from Director Conway stating the City needs to pass an Appropriation Ordinance annually in order to have the legal authority to spend money. The Ordinance uses the City’s operating budget as a guideline. There are contingency line items in the different funds within the Appropriation Ordinance in the case there should be an unknown or emergency situation in which additional funds must be used. The total of the Appropriation is typically higher than the amount of funds that will actually be expended unless there is a major emergency situation. The total amount of the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Appropriation Ordinance \$67,098,176. The ordinance has been on file and available for viewing in the Clerk’s Office.

Mayor McKinney asked for any comments from the Public and there were none.

It was moved by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Holmes to adjourn the Public Hearing for the Appropriation of the City of Zion for Fiscal Year beginning May 1, 2024 and ending April 30, 2025 at 7:06 p.m. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; Fischer, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mary Lou Hiltibran, Zion ESDA Director, gave a monthly report of the recent activities that ESDA performs in assistance to the City. She invited those who wish to help make the City better to join ESDA. One can apply on the City’s website or get an application from an ESDA member. Mayor McKinney thanked Ms. Hiltibran and ESDA for all they continue to do for the City.

Omar Cruz, owner of Infinity Venue LLC, stated he is a new business in town having just opened a Banquet Hall at 3363 Sheridan Road. The venue is available for social events, fundraisers etc. He is here for the community to help with their needs.

CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Frierson that the Minutes be approved as follows:

- (a) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** of a Regular Meeting held on July 16, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

The vote on roll call was: Commissioners McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; Fischer, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner McDowell that the Bills be approved as follows:

- (b) **BILLS:** Vouchers 146464 through 146575 drawn on Huntington National Bank, N.A. Total: \$653,587.19.

The vote on roll call was: Commissioners McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; Fischer, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION/ROAD CLOSURE/LABOR DAY PARADE

Chief Barden stated he is requesting approval of a resolution for a road closure for the Zion Benton Labor Day Parade. Chief Barden stated the Special Events Committee is sponsoring the Labor Day Parade in the City of Zion on Monday, September 2, 2024. The parade will require the temporary closure of Sheridan Road from 23rd Street to 31st Street from 12:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Section 4-408 of the Illinois Highway Code authorizes the Illinois Department of Public Works & Buildings to issue permits to local authorities to temporarily close portions of State Highways for such public purposes or needs and parades and local celebrations.

It was moved by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Holmes that a Resolution (24-R-17) be passed requesting permission from the Illinois Department of Transportation for the temporary closure of Sheridan Road on Monday, September 2, 2024 from 23rd Street to 31st Street from 12:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; Fischer, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried. Resolution passed.

RESOLUTION/PURCHASE/REAL PROPERTY/ NORTH SHORE WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT

Attorney Vasselli stated 15 years ago the City entered into an agreement with North Shore Water Reclamation District (NSWRD) to purchase 411 acres of land located in Trumpet Park. Since that time, the agreement has been amended 5 times. They are close to finally closing on the property. Legislation was prepared in order to authorize the Mayor, City Administrator and City Attorney to take all steps necessary to finalize the purchase and sale of the property. Commissioner Fischer asked if the City was purchasing all 411 acres. Attorney Vasselli stated they entered into an agreement with NSWRD to reject a portion of the property and purchase the remaining property. Mayor McKinney noted that it has been a long process to get to this point.

It was moved by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner McDowell that an Ordinance (24-R-18) be passed authorizing the City to take all steps necessary to purchase certain real property from North Shore Water Reclamation Water District. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; Fischer, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried. Resolution passed.

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE

It was moved by Commissioner Holmes, seconded by Commissioner McDowell that an Ordinance (24-O-67) be passed making Appropriations, totaling \$67,098,176 for all funds, for the City of Zion, Illinois for the Fiscal Year beginning May 1, 2024 and ending April 30, 2025. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; Fischer, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

ORDINANCE/PERSONNEL CHANGES/PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

A memo (24-DOC-78) was received by Director Roberts requesting changes to the Public Works Department Personnel Authorization. Director Roberts stated that in 2016 several Public Works positions were eliminated or changed to a part-time basis. One of the positions eliminated was the Engineering Department staff from 2 members to 1. With increased workload and reporting requirements from Federal, State and local entities, Staff feels the need to increase the Engineering Department. Since the hire of a full-time Administrative Assistant, the need for a part-time Administrative Assistant is no longer needed. Staff requests and recommends the addition of 1 full-time Engineering Technician and removal of 1 part-time Administrative Assistant. Upon approval, the salary and benefits will be reflected within the FY25 General and Water Funds.

It was moved by Commissioner Holmes, seconded by Commissioner Frierson that an Ordinance (24-O-68) be passed authorizing and approving changes to positions within the Public Works Department. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; Fischer, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

ORDINANCE/LIQUOR LICENSE/POLLO BACANO/3467 SHERIDAN ROAD

Mayor McKinney stated that an application was submitted from Pollo Bacano, Inc. for a Class A-1 Retail Liquor License located at 3467 Sheridan Road. At the July 24th meeting the Liquor Control Commission recommended approval of the license. This license does not include video gaming.

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner Holmes that an Ordinance (24-O-69) be passed authorizing the issuance of a Class A-1 Retail Liquor License to Pollo Bacano, Inc. located at 3467 Sheridan Road. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; Fischer, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

ORDINANCE/LIQUOR LICENSE/ZOGO'S SPORTS GRILL/2325 SHERIDAN ROAD

Mayor McKinney stated that an application was submitted from Zogo's Sports Grill for a Class A-3 Retail Liquor License located at 2325 Sheridan Road. Zogo's has been sold and the request comes from the new owners. At the July 24th meeting the Liquor Control Commission recommended approval of the license. This license mirrors the license obtained by the previous owners and does include gaming.

It was moved by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner Holmes that an Ordinance (24-O-70) be passed authorizing the issuance of a Class A-3 Retail Liquor License to Star 6855 Inc. DBA Zogo's Sports Grill. located at 2325 Sheridan Road. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; Fischer, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

ORDINANCE/LIQUOR LICENSE/INFINITY VENUE /3363 SHERIDAN ROAD

Mayor McKinney stated that an application was submitted from Infinity Venue, LLC for a Class F Retail Liquor License located at 3363 Sheridan Road. At the July 24th meeting the Liquor Control Commission recommended approval of the license.

It was moved by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner Holmes that an Ordinance (24-O-71) be passed authorizing the issuance of a Class F Retail Liquor License to Infinity Venue, LLC. located at 3363 Sheridan Road. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; Fischer, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

ORDINANCE/LIQUOR LICENSE/INN ON SHERIDAN /2723 SHERIDAN ROAD

Mayor McKinney stated that an application was submitted from 2723 Sheridan Rd LLC, DBA Inn on Sheridan for a Class B-1 Retail Liquor License located at 2723 Sheridan Road. This is a new classification recently added by the Council. The license will be for the sale of alcohol in the lobby area of the hotel. The sale of alcohol will be to hotel guests only. Additionally, access to the lounge area will require passage through the hotel and not have street access. At the July 24th meeting the Liquor Control Commission recommended approval of the license.

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner Holmes that an Ordinance (24-O-72) be passed authorizing the issuance of a Class B-1 Retail Liquor License to 2723 Sheridan Rd LLC, DBA Inn on Sheridan. located at 2723 Sheridan Road. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; Fischer, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried. Ordinance passed.

DEPARTMENTAL COMMENTARY

Director Ianson thanked all those who came out to the Zion Clean Up Days. Mayor McKinney asked how many dumpsters they filled. Director Ianson stated there were 8 and Waste Management did a good job managing the dumpsters. In the past the dumpsters were left on the property over the weekend and were picked up on Monday but this time they were picked up right after the Clean Up Days were over. Mayor McKinney asked if they will have another clean up in the fall. Director Ianson stated they will be discussing it further.

Director Roberts stated the Patching Program will be starting in the next few weeks. They will be doing large sections of patching to address the deep pot holes. There will also be a few alleys that will be done. He also noted that the Road Program will start at the end of November. The roads included will be Lewis to Galilee to 31st Street. No parking signs will be going up next week. Mayor McKinney asked how much grant money was used for the project. Director Roberts stated since 2015 there has been \$1.1 million in local City taxes used and over \$18 million of grants both State and Federally funded.

Chief Stried asked that the public use extra caution on the lakefront. They have responded to numerous calls for incidents on the lakefront. The fire department regularly trains together with neighboring communities to deal with these types of incidents. Additionally, applications are being accepted for full-time positions until September 13th. They hope to build an apprenticeship in the future. He also congratulated the Mayor on his Pioneer Award he received from the National Association for Black Journalists over the weekend.

Chief Barden commented on the following:

- He congratulated ZBTHS for their collaborative Back to School Bash as he heard it was successful.
- He has heard from bus drivers over the past few years that there have been people driving around the bus arms. He noted that cars should not be passing bus arms. He has also asked that the school change some of the bus stops to make things safer.
- The police department is taking applications for police officers to test in September. One can apply by going to applytoserve.com.

Director Conway reminded residents to keep an eye out for the new water bills. The bills are now being outsourced and they look a little different. She gave an example of a resident ignoring their bill because it looked different. She encouraged residents to open any mail that comes from the City of Zion to avoid any delays in paying their bill.

Commissioner McDowell reminded the public of the festivities for Labor Day beginning with the 56th Annual Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast in the ZBTHS south cafeteria at 8:00 a.m.

Commissioner Fischer reminded citizens to register to vote. Information is available on the Lake County Clerk’s website. City of Zion will be an early voting site which is managed by the County.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

August 9	2:00 p.m.	Coalition for Healthy Communities Fore R Youth Golf Outing
August 20	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Zion Township Board Meeting Zion City Council Meeting
September 2	8:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.	City Offices Closed for the Holiday Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast Zion-Benton Labor Day Parade
September 3	7:00 p.m.	Zion City Council Meeting

APPROVAL/PURCHASE OF PROPERTY

Attorney Vasselli stated that Administrator Knabel is requesting authority to negotiate on behalf of the City for the purchase of property for the new Fire Station No. 2.

It was moved by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Fischer to allow Administrator Knabel to negotiate the purchase of property on behalf of the City. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye; Frierson, aye; Fischer, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried. Resolution passed.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, it was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner Holmes, and unanimously approved the meeting be adjourned at 7:38 p.m. Motion carried.

City Clerk