

# CITY OF TUSCOLA

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COUNTY OF DOUGLAS  
STATE OF ILLINOIS  
TUSCOLA CITY HALL  
February 14, 2022

The Study Session of the City Council was called to order with Brace, Day (virtual), Hoey, Morris, Rund, Slaughter, Waldrop, and Mayor Kleiss in attendance. Mayor Kleiss opened the meeting with a history of the building space issue that began about a year ago when a snow storm collapsed the roof of the nearly 4,000 square foot building used by both the police and street departments. There is another building, the approximately 1,000 square foot former street office building that is in very poor condition and needs demolished. Additionally, we have found that modern fire apparatus is much taller than our fire buildings, so this issue needs to be addressed before we purchase the next fire truck. This discussion will center around the proposed replacement of that space, and the effort to gain more modern fire department space at the same time. Mayor Kleiss asked Administrator Hoel to open the discussion into the building needs in the police, street and fire departments. Administrator Hoel explained the concept at this point is to build an addition on to the east end of the existing street shed, possibly including a firing range for the police department; remodeling the north police/fire station for the exclusive use of the police department and building a new fire apparatus building on the south fire station lot. While costs are not yet known or estimated, this plan would provide necessary storage space for the street department; provide a firing range, evidence and impound space, wash bay and additional office space for the police department; and possibly two drive-through fire apparatus bays for the fire department. Hoel mentioned that this plan does eliminate the long-held plan of staging fire apparatus on both sides of the rail road tracks for a quick response time to both sides of town. Chief Moody explained that the north station has been used to store a truck that is not typically used as a first out response vehicle anyway. The first out response has come from the south station for several years and the Route 45 bridge provides a reasonably quick route around a stopped train. While he won't say that a north side of town fire station presence is an issue, the way response is currently set up and working well is from the south station. Hoel explained the possible funding mechanisms for these projects are the \$100,000 grant from DCEO, ~\$50,000 insurance proceeds from the collapsed shed, about half, or \$300,000, of the city's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, the FY 2022 budgeted \$300,000 for this project, with the remainder coming from the city's rainy day or operating funds. The next step in this process is working with an architect for concept design and cost estimating, then design for bidding. The project could potentially begin construction in calendar year 2022. Discussion on the various features of fire department buildings in the area. Mayor Kleiss explained that this building concept would bring city departments into the future by providing modern, functional space to serve employees and better facilitate city services. Hoel stated that with no council objection, he would begin preparing the DCEO grant documents for this building project budget.

The regular meeting of the City Council was called to order with Brace, Day (virtual), Hoey, Morris, Rund, Slaughter, Waldrop, and Mayor Kleiss in attendance. Alderman Shoemaker was absent. Mayor Kleiss led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment - None

### Consent Agenda

Mayor Kleiss went over the items on the consent agenda:

- Minutes of the January 24, 2022 meeting
- Payment of bills totaling \$205,420.45
- Community Building lease with alcohol for Miguel & Sandra Rivera for a quinceanera on February 18-20, 2022

Day moved to approve the items on the consent agenda. Morris seconded. VOTE YEA\* Brace, Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Slaughter, Waldrop. Hoey moved to approve the consent agenda for February 14, 2022. Waldrop seconded. VOTE YEA\* Brace, Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Slaughter, Waldrop.

Mayor – No Report

City Clerk – No Report

City Treasurer – Since Treasurer Long is attending the meeting on video, Administrator Hoel pointed out the annual tourism board report to council and the charts showing the 2021 hotel/motel tax receipts by the city. The charts show that the tourism economy, while not totally up to 2019 levels, has rebounded significantly from the 2020 pandemic shut down.

City Attorney – No Report

City Administrator – Hoel informed council that the city had taken delivery of the Toro MDX utility vehicle at the park. The purchase of that vehicle was approved many months ago, but had a long lead time on the order. Hoel also reported that he was contacted by the Cast Iron Pub owners who informed him that they would be working to build out the kitchen in their building instead of putting in a food truck as they had requested permission a couple of meetings ago. Hoel additionally informed the council he had received notice that Illinois American Water Company has filed for a large rate increase with the ICC. If approved as requested, that would result in an approximate 30% increase to the City.

### Contracts and Agreements

1. Council briefly discussed the intergovernmental agreement between Douglas County, the City of Arcola and the City of Tuscola for a water main project in the area west of Route 45 and out to Cabot Corporation. Douglas County has committed \$1 million of their ARPA funds to this project that would benefit much of the county residents. Morris moved to approve the intergovernmental agreement. Rund seconded. VOTE YEA\* Brace, Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Slaughter, Waldrop.
2. Administrator Hoel stated Donohue & Associates had worked on preliminary engineering for said waterline project for the Arcola Tuscola Joint Waterline Agency, which had been paid by Cabot Corporation. This agreement will take the project engineering through bidding and construction and will be paid by the Joint Waterline Agency. The Arcola City Council will also need to consider this agreement. Rund moved to approved the PSA with Donohue & Associates for Joint Waterline engineering services in the amount of \$24,300. Hoey seconded. VOTE YEA\* Brace, Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Slaughter, Waldrop.
3. Mayor Kleiss discussed a proposal from Straeffer Pump & Supply for a check valve replacement at the North Sewer Lift Station. Foreman Cruzan stated this is one of three check valves in the lift station and it is stuck shut resulting in only being able to use 2 pumps. Morris moved to approve the proposal to replace the check valve with Straeffer Pump and Supply in the amount of \$8,975. Waldrop seconded. VOTE YEA\* Brace, Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Slaughter, Waldrop.

4. Hoel presented a proposal from Leak Detection Services, Inc. for water leak detection. This would be a somewhat more extensive leak detection that we have had in the past. This is part of our ongoing efforts to reduce the amount of water loss in our system. Morris moved to approve Leak Detection Services, Inc. in the amount of \$20,661 for system wide leak detection services. Hoey seconded. VOTE YEA\* Brace, Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Slaughter, Waldrop.

Other

1. Mayor Kleiss stated he had received a resignation letter from street department employee Jon Higar. Jon is leaving the city for a position with Tuscola Township. Jon has worked for the city for 3 years and was a good concrete finisher and operated the road grader and will be missed. Hoey moved to accept the resignation of Jon Higar, effective February 11, 2022. Morris seconded. VOTE YEA\* Brace, Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Slaughter, Waldrop.
5. Administrator Hoel informed council of Jamey Mauzy's recent success in passing the Class II Sewer Operator License test. Once Mauzy receives his license, he can be installed as the responsible operator in charge of the Tuscola sewer plant, thereby releasing the City's arrangement with the current operator Mike Elsberry. Rund motioned to promote Mauzy to Sewer Operator III on the future date, determined by Hoel, when Mauzy is installed as the responsible operator in charge. Waldrop seconded. VOTE YEA\* Brace, Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Slaughter, Waldrop.

Mayor Kleiss announced a special meeting of the Tuscola City Council will be held on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 5 pm at Tuscola City Hall for the purpose of considering the awarding of a bid for the construction of the aforementioned water line of the Arcola Tuscola Joint Waterline Agency from west of Route 45 to Cabot Corporation. Hoel stated bids are slated to open on Friday, February 18. The City of Arcola is scheduled to also consider the awarding of a construction bid at their meeting of February 22, 2022.

1. The motion to adjourn was made by Morris and seconded by Waldrop. VOTE YEA\* Brace, Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Slaughter, Waldrop.

Daniel J. Kleiss Mayor Mary G. Jordan Deputy City Clerk