

CITY OF TUSCOLA
COUNTY OF DOUGLAS
STATE OF ILLINOIS
November 12, 2013
Tuscola City Hall

Treasurer Long gave council a tutorial on the new City of Tuscola website ½ hour prior to the regularly scheduled meeting. The re-vamped website contains information on all city departments and codes, lists contact information for personnel and elected officials, has pool and park information, leaf pick-up schedules, rental and permit applications, and provides a link to the school district website.

The regular meeting of the City Council was called to order with Cleland, Henderson, Hoey, Maxey, Seip, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt and Mayor Kleiss in attendance. Mayor Kleiss led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Kleiss went over the items on the consent agenda:

- Minutes of the October 28, 2013 meeting
- Payment of bills totaling \$445,785.87, which includes the following pay requests:
- Pay request of \$42,570, from Main Street Construction for the Ervin Park fence project
- A change order of \$12,600, from Owen Tucker for the culvert and catch basin installation on the Hayes Branch project
- Pay request in the amount of \$7830, from Stark Excavating for the Scattering Forks channel improvements
- Pay request of \$187,705.32, from Beniach Construction for the route 36 sidewalk
- Pay request in the amount of \$4625, from Owen Tucker for Barker/Prairie TIF drainage improvements
- Two Community Building lease requests with alcohol: 1) Tuscola Home Center for their Christmas Party on January 11, 2014; 2) Hugo De La Rosa for a party on November 23, 2013

Hoey moved to approve the items on the consent agenda. Seip seconded. VOTE YEA* Cleland, Henderson Hoey, Maxey, Seip, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt. Maxey moved to approve the consent agenda for November 12, 2013. Henderson seconded. VOTE YEA* Cleland, Henderson, Hoey, Maxey, Seip, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt.

Mayor

Kleiss thanked Treasurer Long for organizing the City entry for the Veterans Day Parade held November 11, 2013.

Kleiss read a note from Frank Lincoln on behalf of the Tri County Shriner's Club. Lincoln thanked the city for allowing the club to conduct their fundraiser downtown and at the mall on October 19. Lincoln added the Tri County Club collected more funds in a single day than any other Shriner's Club.

City Clerk - Nothing

City Treasurer

Treasurer Long reported PMG Tuscola LLC, and Bruce and Andrea Robinson are delinquent on their TIF loans.

City Attorney - Nothing

City Administrator - Nothing

Ordinances

Mayor Kleiss presented an IMLRMA ordinance for council action. Administrator Hoel explained this is an annual ordinance with the Illinois Municipal League, authorizing the min/max agreement which allows us to self insure a portion of our loss fund. The city pays a lower premium (approximately \$15,000) for all insurance coverage, but has increased exposure – up to \$46,000, in the event of a large claim. Maxey moved to approve ordinance 2013-O-10, an ordinance authorizing the execution of the IMLRMA minimum/maximum contribution agreement. Truitt seconded. VOTE YEA* Cleland, Henderson, Hoey, Maxey, Seip, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt.

Contracts and Agreements

1. Administrator Hoel explained the second amendment to the Chastain & Associates agreement for engineering services on the Route 36 sidewalk project. The additional \$4500 covers construction delays and easement re-designs for property owners. Henderson moved to approve the second amendment to the Chastain & Associates agreement for engineering services on the Route 36 sidewalk project, not to exceed \$4500. Cleland seconded. Seip asked if we would get the Main Street and Route 36 signal back to sensor loops instead of timer. Hoel answered IDOT was working on that today. Hoey asked how we decide what engineering firms we use for our projects. Kleiss stated it is probably through our project work we've had in the past, based on what kind of luck we've had. Hoel answered it is based on qualifications and expertise of the firms. Hoel also believes in keeping the firms honest and feels billing practices matter. VOTE YEA* Cleland, Henderson, Hoey, Maxey, Seip, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt.

2. Hoel discussed a professional services agreement with Chastain & Associates for the Amishland infrastructure improvements. The agreement covers construction plans, observation and documentation for road construction at Amishland Village, as well as preparing and submitting permits for water and sewer extension. Hoel went on to say the agreement cost is 10% of the total estimated project cost of \$483,800, paid on actual billed hours. Truitt moved to approve the professional services agreement with Chastain & Associates for the design, bidding, and construction engineering to complete the extension of the infrastructure for the Amishland Village, up to \$48,380. Seip seconded. VOTE YEA* Cleland, Henderson, Hoey, Maxey, Seip, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt.

Requests for TIF Assistance

Administrator Hoel discussed a TIF request submitted by Ted Rund for the Tuscola Professional Building at 107 W. South Central. Rund is requesting TIF assistance for roof replacement and awning repairs to his building. Mediacom, the VFW, and several other tenants are in this building, Hoel stated. Seip moved to approve the TIF committee recommendation of a TIF grant of 50%, up to \$29,700, for roof and awnings to Ted Rund, owner of the Tuscola Professional Building, 107 W. South Central. Henderson seconded. VOTE YEA* Cleland, Henderson, Hoey, Maxey, Seip, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt.

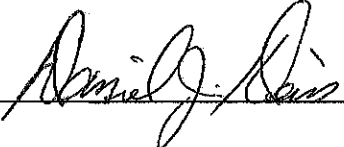

Other

Treasurer Long called council's attention to the tax levy documents before them. Based on a flat EAV, Long has estimated a levy of 2.5%. Long noted the County has not provided the EAV. The levy can be adjusted prior to adoption of the ordinance at the first December meeting as long as the levy is less than 5%. Hoel commented if the EAV stays flat, the 2.5% levy will increase taxes on an \$80,000 home by \$6. Long agreed. Shoemaker added if the EAV goes up, the tax will go down. Long pointed out the tax rate history, stating in 1992 the rate was \$1.70 per \$100 of EAV. This dropped dramatically with the mall sales tax and we've stayed even the last 10-15 years at under 80 cents. Mayor Kleiss commented this is good information. He wants to continue keeping taxes flat. Truitt moved to approve the FY 2014 tax levy estimated at 2.5%, as presented. Cleland seconded. VOTE YEA* Cleland, Henderson, Hoey, Maxey, Seip, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt.

Mayor Kleiss opened discussion on the issue of dog walking at Ervin Park and wondered if dogs could run on the diamonds during the winter months. Maxey suggests allowing owners to use the northeast diamond for this, only in the off season, until a permanent place can be established. Shoemaker asked what people do now. Most council feel citizens use the park diamonds and walking path and do not clean up after their dogs. Henderson asked about using the fenced area near the tracks on the west side of the park. The fence belongs to the city; however, the area between the fence and railroad belongs to the railroad. Discussion was held on using Wimple Park, or using snow fence to make a dog run area on the northeast diamond at Ervin Park. Council also discussed beginning and ending dates for using the diamonds if council decides to allow this. Shoemaker feels our park and diamonds are set up for organizations and children. If we want to put something at the park for dogs, that might be okay; he likes the idea of Wimple for this, though. He wonders how sharing uses for the ball diamonds would work out. Maxey pointed out most people will not walk out to Wimple but they will walk to the city park. The whole premise is people are supposed to clean up their litter. Maxey doesn't foresee the ball diamonds being littered like Wimple in the spring. If citizens cannot police themselves, we should stop allowing them to use the

diamond. Mayor Kleiss commented he is trying to find a cheap method to solve the problem instead of spending \$40,000 for a fence to make a special dog run area that maybe only ten dog owners would use. Maxey added it is frustrating that all diamonds have signs prohibiting pets, but still people take their dogs and let them run without cleaning up after them. Truitt wonders how you can allow the use of the diamonds for a few months and then take it back. Kleiss believes you need limits when first trying something new. Seip brought up the idea of allowing dogs at the north sewer plant. Hoel stated this area is fenced off for a reason. Most council was against using the ball diamonds for a dog run and thought it would be best to look at the issue during the next budget cycle.

The motion to adjourn was made by Henderson and seconded by Shoemaker. VOTE YEA* Cleland, Henderson, Hoey, Maxey, Seip, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt.

 _____ Mayor  _____ *Assistant*
City Clerk