

CITY OF TUSCOLA  
COUNTY OF DOUGLAS  
STATE OF ILLINOIS  
TUSCOLA CITY HALL  
February 13, 2023

The regular meeting of the City Council was called to order with Brace, Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Slaughter and Mayor Kleiss in attendance. Alderpersons Shoemaker and Waldrop were absent. Mayor Kleiss noted both asked to be excused from tonight's meeting. Mayor Kleiss led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Kleiss went over the items on the consent agenda:

- Minutes of the January 23, 2023 meeting
- Payment of bills totaling \$242,321.17
- Pay request in the amount of \$10,020.00, from Clark Dietz engineering on the downtown improvement project (included in bill total)
- Pay request from Milano & Grunloh in the amount of \$16,500.00, for engineering services on the Meadowview water main (included in bill total)
- Pay request from Cross Construction in the amount of \$18,700.00, for the Carico Street water main repairs (included in bill total)
- Request from Boyer and Sappenfield to hold a client appreciation event at Ervin Park on May 5, 2023

Morris moved to approve the items on the consent agenda. Brace seconded. VOTE YEA\* Brace, Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Slaughter. Day moved to approve the consent agenda for February 13, 2023, as presented. Rund seconded. VOTE YEA\* Brace, Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Slaughter.

Mayor – No Report

City Clerk – No Report

City Treasurer – No Report

City Attorney – No Report

City Administrator – No Report

Ordinances

Administrator Hoel discussed a loan opportunity from the Public Water Supply Loan Program that could help with the costs of the Meadowview water main project as well as the master meter station replacement. Hoel stated if approved for a loan through this program, the city would likely see a low interest rate and some principal forgiveness. Milano & Grunloh will complete the IEPA loan application process. As part of this process, an ordinance authorizing the loan application and borrowing up to \$2,000,000.00, for the projects must be approved by council. Slaughter moved to approve ordinance 2023-O-1, an ordinance authorizing the City of Tuscola to borrow funds from the Public Water Supply Program through the IEPA. Brace seconded. VOTE YEA\* Brace, Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Slaughter. Hoel noted since these two projects were estimated, costs have

skyrocketed. He is hopeful the loan will be approved to help cover the overage costs on both projects.

### Resolutions

Treasurer Long discussed a rate increase implemented by Illinois American Water Company on January 1, 2023. The basic residential rate and the rate of the first block of usage for cities increased by 65%, Long stated. Based on the volume of water we purchase with Arcola, West Prairie, and Cabot, we get a volume discount, making the net effect to our water purchases a 30% increase or about \$170,000 per year. Long went on to say our sewer fund is healthy since the large bonds have been paid off and operating costs are stable. Long recommends a decrease in sewer rates to affect a 5% decrease in sewer income and an increase in water rates to increase water income by 20%, with a net effect of ~15%. Over the past six years, the city has absorbed IAWC increases except for the \$1 a month increase in 2021. Water operating costs have gone from 20% of overall costs of operating to more than 50%. Based on Long's recommendation, bills will increase approximately \$1 per month for little usage; \$3.60 for small families; \$6 for average families; and \$15 for large users. Rund moved to approve resolution 2023-R-1, a resolution adopting the 2023 water and sewer rate schedule. Morris seconded. VOTE YEA\* Brace, Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Slaughter.

### Contracts and Agreements

Mayor Kleiss stated Pilson Auto in Mattoon has secured two 2023 Dodge Durango Pursuit vehicles for our Police Department. The department currently has one 2020 vehicle; the rest are 2017 or older. The purchase of both new vehicles is covered in the capital replacement plan. Slaughter moved to approve the purchase of two 2023 Dodge Durango Pursuit vehicles from Pilson Auto Center at a total cost of \$89,254.00. Morris seconded. VOTE YEA\* Brace, Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Slaughter.

Hoey moved to approve the annual Employee Assistance Program agreement through Carle Health Care at a cost of \$945.00. Slaughter seconded. VOTE YEA\* Brace, Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Slaughter.

Administrator Hoel discussed the planned street project – Parke/Washington from Overton to Rt. 36, stating we have a large allotment (~\$295,000) of additional MFT funds from the state in addition to our standard MFT allocation and pavement maintenance reserves to fund the project. The design engineering is in this year's budget and construction is planned for the FY 24 budget but later this calendar year. Hoel went on to say, Jim Crane will act as engineer on this project and suggests we contract directly for the survey work. Day moved to approve the proposal submitted by Precision Engineering Group, Inc., for topographic survey services on the Parke/Washington street project and also survey North Central from Parke to Center, at a cost of \$22,700.00. Rund seconded. VOTE YEA\* Brace, Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Slaughter.

Administrator Hoel opened discussion on the bids for the street shed building by stating two bids were received and both were substantially higher than anticipated. Hoel is not sure why but would like to revisit the design and see if there is another way to accomplish what we want and can afford. Day moved to reject the bid of \$1,412,000, submitted by Commercial Builders, Inc. of Champaign and the bid of \$1,696,000, submitted by Grunloh Construction, Inc. of Effingham on the Tuscola Maintenance Building. Slaughter seconded. VOTE YEA\* Brace, Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Slaughter.

Day moved to approve the Planning Commission recommendation to approve a Special Use Permit for Community Solar Project by Elk Development, LLC at route 45 and North Line Road. Morris seconded. Hoey asked where exactly this will be located. Mayor Kleiss answered north of the cell tower and south of the power line to the north. According to Bob McNeill, project manager, the

area is roughly 45 acres; they plan to use 28 acres for the solar project. VOTE YEA\* Brace, Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Slaughter.

Rund moved to approve a wage increase for part time office assistant, Makenna Long, from \$12 to \$13 per hour. This is in keeping with the minimum wage requirement. Slaughter seconded. VOTE YEA\* Brace, Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Slaughter.

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

Samuel J. Beins Mayor Elizabeth J. Slaughter City Clerk