

CITY OF TUSCOLA

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

The regular meeting of the City Council was called to order with Brace, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Waldrop and Mayor Kleiss in attendance. Alderman Day 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 February 27, 2023 meeting
- Payment of bills totaling \$338,754.74
- Community Building lease with alcohol from Santiago Vazquez for a birthday party April 14-16, 2023
- Request to use Wimple Park for a Cub Scout Day Camp July 14-15, 2023
- Request to hold Moose Lodge car show at Ervin Park July 22, 2023

Hoey moved to approve the items on the consent agenda. Shoemaker seconded. VOTE YEA* Brace, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Waldrop. Rund moved to approve the consent agenda for March 13, 2023. Brace seconded. Ken Fernandez, representing the Moose Lodge, told council the car show event would follow the same format as last year's. There will be no need for closures. A brisket truck will be on site during the event and Dianne Ducey will do a live stream broadcast. VOTE YEA* Brace, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Waldrop.

Mayor

Mayor Kleiss offered the city's condolences to the family of Dr. Robert Smith. Dr. Smith passed away on March 11, at the age of 99. Smith was a lifelong veterinarian in Tuscola, served on the City Council for many years, was active in his church, and always had Tuscola's best interests at heart.

The TCHS play 'Grease' was a great production! Kudos to the Tuscola Drama Club.

Congrats to the TCHS boys basketball team on their 3rd place finish in state.

City Clerk – No Report

City Treasurer – No Report

City Attorney

Bequette noted a signed settlement agreement has not been received from the Castle Mall owner; however, we were able to get a demolition order in our last court appearance. The mall owners and their attorney were present at the hearing and agreed to the demolition order. Progress has been made, Bequette added, and he looks forward to coming back to council to say we own the property.

City Administrator – No Report

Requests for TIF Assistance

Mayor Kleiss reported he and Administrator Hoel have been contacted by an investment group interested in purchasing the mall property. This group is requesting TIF funds to complete due diligence activities before closing on the property. Administrator Hoel added funds had been awarded some years ago to this group for the same type activities. The deal fell through before completion. This request is a continuation of the prior activities. Even though TIF has ended, this project is ongoing and the TIF funds are in reserve for the project. Hoey moved to approve awarding of up to \$86,000 in TIF funds to ARANA II, LLC Surveying, Engineering, Consulting, and Legal for possible acquisition of the Tuscola Outlet Mall. Rund seconded. VOTE YEA* Brace, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Waldrop.

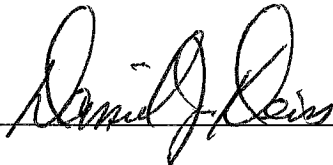
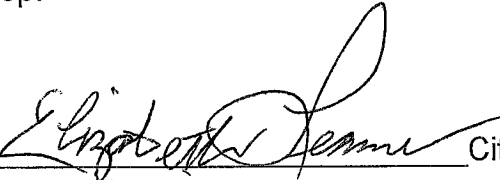
Other

Mayor Kleiss offered the name of Lisa Wasailoski to fill the position of the upcoming vacancy in the Records Clerk position. Lisa's start date is 3-4 weeks from today (3/13). The rate of pay is \$20.50 per hour, with a 50 cent per hour increase after the six month probationary period. Shoemaker moved to approve the appointment of Lisa Wasailoski as a Records Clerk @ \$20.50 per hour. Waldrop seconded. VOTE YEA* Brace, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Waldrop.

Council was able to look at planning drawings submitted by Hitchcock Design Group for the greenspace east of the Community Building. Administrator Hoel discussed the three options submitted. All three have features in common – stage, open area, some parking, and dressing up the current building to look like a train depot. Cost range is \$200,000 - \$250,000. Ideas for use include: outdoor dining, small festivals, concerts, and farmer's markets. Scenarios for use of the area were discussed and whether or not it would be rented or signed up for on a first come first served basis. Council discussed parking and stage size between concept B and C, which are otherwise pretty similar. After more discussion, it was decided Administrator Hoel will ask the design team for more detailed 3D drawings based on concept B and C for council to look over.

Administrator Hoel set up committee meetings for budget discussions during the week of March 27. Public Works will meet at 3 pm on March 27; Public Safety at 5 pm, March 30; Community Development and Planning at 4 pm, March 28, and Finance and Administration at 4 pm, March 29.

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

 _____ Mayor  _____ City Clerk