

CITY OF TUSCOLA
COUNTY OF DOUGLAS
STATE OF ILLINOIS
October 8, 2012
Tuscola City Hall

The regular meeting of the City Council was called to order with Cleland, Henderson, Hoey, Maxey, Seip, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt, and Mayor Kleiss present. Deputy Clerk Gordon served as acting Clerk for the meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Tuscola Boy Scouts Kyle Zimmer, Zach Hanners, and Connor Bare.

Consent Agenda

Administrator Hoel went over the items on the consent agenda:

- Minutes of the September 24, 2012 meeting
- Payment of bills totaling \$134,915.63
- Pay request of \$31,525, from Owen Tucker for work on the Barker/Prairie Street TIF drainage improvements
- Final pay request from Howell Paving for the South Main and Progress Boulevard resurfacing projects in the amount of \$24,490.59.
- Community Building lease with alcohol for Jose Ramirez for a birthday party on October 27, 2012

Seip moved to approve the items on the consent agenda. Maxey seconded. VOTE YEA* Cleland, Henderson Hoey, Maxey, Seip, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt. Cleland moved to approve the consent agenda for October 8, 2012. Shoemaker seconded. VOTE YEA* Cleland, Henderson, Hoey, Maxey, Seip, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt. Seip asked if the TIF drainage detention pond would have a drain in the bottom. Hoel stated it would; we are waiting on final sign off from the drainage district before this is completed. The drain will go right into the creek, Hoel added. Shoemaker asked if the drain would have backflow in it. Hoel answered it would not because the detention basin is designed to take surcharge from the creek. Hoey asked why the south side of the bank was taken back so far. Hoel stated this is how it is supposed to work. When the creek level comes up, it will spill over into the detention basin, rather than someone's home. Hoey asked if the downstream improvements will take pressure off the ditch. Hoel answered the vast majority of the impact on the floodplain comes from the downstream channel improvements – from Prairie Street bridge to I-57. The south bank of the Hayes Branch will be excavated substantially, Hoel stated, and this additional storage is where the primary impact in the floodplain will come. Hoey asked for a timeline on this. Hoel answered it would be when we can acquire the easement area; it will be a few month's worth of work. Mayor Kleiss added the key is to make sure our engineering firm and the drainage district engineers are all on board with the plan. These improvements should make a huge difference in the drainage in that area.

Time on the Agenda

DeAnn Bates addressed council and publicly thanked Carly McCrory for the great job she has done for the city. Bates feels we are letting a good one get away; McCrory is very conscientious, a hard worker, self starter, and a go getter. Bates added she is happy for McCrory; Champaign is getting a great employee. Bates finished by saying McCrory is a daughter of Tuscola and she is sad to see her go. Mayor Kleiss agreed, adding McCrory was a good employee for TEDI and has done a great job with tourism and marketing.

Mayor - Nothing

City Clerk - Nothing

City Treasurer

Treasurer Long reported PMG Tuscola LLC and Jeff and Kristin Winans are delinquent on their TIF loans. Treasurer Long called council's attention to the City's recent audit and explained how the audit is conducted. The auditors take at least three days to go over the city's books and records, Long stated. The auditors choose random transactions from everything under \$10,000, we do throughout the year and they look at everything over \$10,000. They pull checks to be sure they are signed, look at time cards, and look at all approvals. The auditors make sure everything was done according to our procedures; the government accounting standards; and they make sure everyone understands our procedures. Every transaction must be touched by a minimum of two – but more likely four or five – of our people. The auditors also speak privately with employees to see if they have any reason to believe procedures are not being followed. This year, TEDI is listed in our audit book as a component unit, even though they are a separate entity. Long explained this is because the city gave TEDI a large amount of grant funds this past fiscal year. Also, there is a single audit section in the book. The reason for this is the \$1.17 million in federal grants we got this year. The auditors go through every payment, check, grant document, etc. on these grants.

City Attorney - Nothing

City Administrator – Nothing

Other

Administrator Hoel spoke to council about the swimming pool leak, stating there are many variables that affect the diagnosing process. There have been several new penetrations to the wet well, such as drain lines and the new gutter return lines. Each new pipe that comes into the wet well has a seal around it, Hoel stated. He and Foreman Cruzan suspect we are losing the bulk of the water around some of those seals. They are testing various levels and conditions to zero in on exactly where the loss is. Hoel went on to say they think this may be combined with a leak in the main drain. Hoel hopes to have something more definitive in two weeks. Shoemaker asked if so far it is City personnel looking into this. Hoel stated it is; the contractor was not as cooperative as Hoel had hoped he would be. Hoel feels we will need to bring in some outside experts once we have reached a 90% solution on our own.

Administrator Hoel informed council he would like to get the South Washington Street pavement repairs bid and possibly done this fall. Hoel suggests going with Jim Crane to put the bid together for this. Hoel stated he hopes the bid can be awarded by the end of the month. Administrator Hoel has Crane's standard engineering and construction guidance agreement, which is the same agreement and rate as we've had with him in the past. Cleland moved to approve the engineering and construction guidance agreement with Jim Crane for the South Washington Street pavement repairs, at a fee of 7.5% of the awarded contract price. Seip seconded. Hoey asked if the repairs to South Washington would be asphalt. Hoel explained Crane thinks we can use a shallower concrete patch where all the valve boxes were placed. The patch would be 2" below grade. Then, the top will be asphalt. This will allow adjustment to the valve boxes and do a better job of expanding some of the compaction issues. Roll was taken on the motion to approve the engineering agreement with Jim Crane. VOTE YEA* Cleland, Henderson, Hoey, Maxey, Seip, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt.

Hoel reported he and Chief Hettinger have not had a chance to follow-up on the fire truck purchase. Hoel added he has spoken with many council members about this. There has been discussion about new trucks and building additions. Seip says we should get the truck ordered and take a look at a building. He and Chief Hettinger discussed the possibility of having only one fire station in town. The Chief said this might work, according to Seip. Administrator Hoel thinks there may be some confusion regarding the building issue. The bays we currently have are adequately sized for every truck we own, except the ladder truck. It is not difficult to find an engine or rescue that will fit in our bays. The ladder truck is the only truck that will not fit. If we resolve it for this one truck, we are not likely to have the issue again until we go to replace the truck again, Hoel stated. Hoey asked about the age on the equipment being replaced. He was told the ladder truck is a 1972; the squirt is 1969; the fire truck is 1981. Mayor Kleiss pointed out the new equipment we are going with, the 'quint', is a pumper/ladder truck. Kleiss would like to get competitive bids on such a big purchase, though. He would like to see bids on equipment that would give us some options. Administrator Hoel pointed out we got side tracked a lot on the last purchase trying to design our bid process. Each of the trucks is custom built; someone designs them and someone builds them. One company helps design the truck; you take their design and specs and bid it. Once the bids are in, it is up to us to compare, determine what has been done differently and make sure all the important options are included. Truitt asked Seip if Chief Hettinger thought it was no longer necessary to have a north station. Seip answered the Chief said the previous fire chief felt the north and south stations were needed. Chief Hettinger told Seip he thought we could live with just the station on the south side. Maxey pointed out the fire department does not do anything with the north station, other than use it to store three pieces of apparatus. Maxey is sure the previous chief felt it was necessary to have a north and south station because of the trains dividing the town. Truitt is in favor of a bay on the north side. If the city could acquire some property on the north side and put up a new bay, this would be her preference. Henderson moved to solicit bids on a new quint truck. Hoey seconded. Shoemaker thanked Administrator Hoel and Treasurer Long for their help with financial explanations. This is a big ticket item and we owe it to everyone to justify why we are doing what we do, Shoemaker stated. Shoemaker went on to say, he researched purchasing a fire truck on the internet. He learned it is difficult for a city to justify because maintenance records don't show anything and there are a lot of intangibles on safety. Shoemaker appreciates the current specs that were provided and he is satisfied the design team tried to help with the maintenance issues and budgeting. What we have discovered, Shoemaker stated, is that we are trying to decide something that is rather difficult.

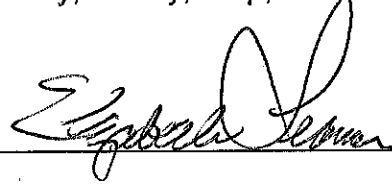
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Administrator Hoel added there is a governing body that tells fire truck builders what standards to use. For instance, the standard for making repair parts is 25 years. Roll was taken on the motion to solicit bids on a new quint truck. VOTE YEA* Cleland, Henderson, Hoey, Maxey, Seip, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt.

Mayor Kleiss announced there will be a study session on the downtown project before the next council meeting. The motion to adjourn was made by Henderson and seconded by Shoemaker. VOTE YEA* Cleland, Henderson, Hoey, Maxey, Seip, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt.



Mayor



City Clerk