

CITY OF TUSCOLA

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

The regular meeting of the City Council was called to order with Brace, Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Waldrop, 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 23, 2023 meeting
- Payment of bills totaling \$1,072,795.35 including
- Pay Requests: Wohltman Construction - \$331,141.50 for fire station
 Wohltman Construction - \$141,745.50 for maintenance building
 Clark Dietz for downtown improvements –
 engineering \$28,421.24
- Community Building lease with alcohol for Mercedes Austin for a wedding reception
November 17-19, 2023
- Approval of Christmas Town 5K run/walk and parade routes on December 2

Day moved to approve the items on the consent agenda. Brace seconded. VOTE YEA*
Brace, Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Waldrop. Morris moved to approve
the consent agenda for November 13, 2023. Shoemaker seconded. VOTE YEA* Brace,
Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Waldrop.

Requested Time on the Agenda

Paul and Sue Wisovaty addressed council about the upcoming Salvation Army Bell Ringing
campaign and planned dates for this year. The Salvation Army will collect funds beginning
this weekend at various locations in Tuscola. The Wisovaty's reminded council all funds
collected in Tuscola stay in Tuscola. Alderman Slaughter asked Wisovaty how many years
he has been organizing the Salvation Army Kettle Drives. Wisovaty has been part of the
Salvation Army drives since 1986. Council members were the first to give to this year's
campaign.

Mayor

Mayor Kleiss read a note from Kim Higgins on behalf of the Kiwanis Club. The Club
thanks the city for the financial assistance with the Kiwanis Kid's Day and appreciates the
city's continued support.

Mayor Kleiss read a letter from Equistar Chemicals (Lyondell) letting the city know of the
plans for closure of the Tuscola facility. According to the letter, employees will no longer be
in service after September of 2024, and all buildings will likely be demolished by this time.

Economic Development Director Moody added Equistar would entertain inquiries from interested parties but the property has not been listed as yet.

City Clerk – No Report

City Treasurer

Treasurer Long called council's attention to the Christmas Town schedule for the first weekend in December.

City Attorney – No Report

City Administrator – No Report

Ordinances

Administrator Hoel updated the board on the insurance comparisons he recently received. Once again, the Illinois Municipal League Risk Management Association (IMLRMA) is the best option for the City, Hoel stated. Hoel went on to say, by approving the insurance with IMLRMA, we are also approving participation in the Min/Max program, a form of self-insurance with a 20% discounted premium but the possibility of paying an additional 20% plus 30% in the event of a large loss. In all the years the city has taken part in this program, we have only experienced a loss one time. Hoey moved to approve ordinance 2023-O-11, and ordinance authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to execute the IMLRMA Min/Max contribution agreement in the amount of \$118,280.06, for the period 12/31/23 – 12/31/24. Waldrop seconded. VOTE YEA* Brace, Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Waldrop.

Contracts and Agreements

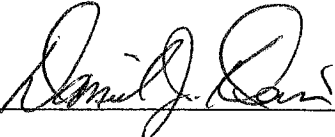
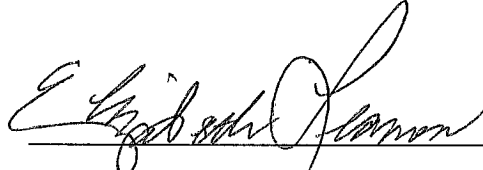
1. Mayor Kleiss presented a Professional Services Agreement with Donohue and Associates for consulting services on the SCADA controls for the water/sewer systems. Administrator Hoel pointed out the current services needed are estimated at \$2500 - \$3500. Rund moved to approve the Professional Services Agreement for general consulting with Donohue and Associates. Day seconded. VOTE YEA* Brace, Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Waldrop.
2. The city has an opportunity to replace the second zero turn mower listed in the capital replacement plan, Administrator Hoel stated. Graber Building Supply/Awesome Machines recently took delivery on another zero turn mower and proposes a price of \$15,918.96, plus trade in of our current unit. Morris moved to approve the purchase of Toro Z Master mower from Graber Building/Awesome Machines at a cost of \$15,986.00, with trade in of our current unit. Shoemaker seconded. VOTE YEA* Brace, Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Waldrop.

Other

Administrator Hoel opened discussion on the possibility of designating one side of Justice Street as a 'no parking' zone. As in previous situations, the 'no parking' if approved, would be on the same side of the road as the fire hydrants. Hoel added he wanted to get this out for public comment and further discussion. No action is required tonight.

Mayor Kleiss opened discussion on the property tax levy and what the percentage increase council would like to see. Treasurer Long has provided amounts for increases from 3% to 4.95%. The 2022 City rate was .7983, which is lower than it has been since 2013, Long stated. As an example, if we were to go with the 4% increase, the rate would be .8061. Overall, there is a very small difference between all the percentage increases and not a significant increase in revenue or cost to homeowners. Administrator Hoel pointed out the rate setting EAV is projected to be 3%; an increase in 3% would be keeping the tax rate the same. Treasurer Long would like to have the increase tonight so the ordinance can be prepared and on file for viewing before action at the first meeting in December. After more discussion, it was decided to plan for a 4% rate setting EAV for the 2023 property taxes.

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

 Mayor  City Clerk

