

CITY OF TUSCOLA  
COUNTY OF DOUGLAS  
STATE OF ILLINOIS  
TUSCOLA CITY HALL  
January 23, 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. Alderpersons Brace, Hoey, and Shoemaker participated virtually. Mayor Kleiss led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

Jerry Jones, Tuscola resident, addressed council about Waste Management's services, by stating they dumped his trash last week and it blew all over the road. When he called to complain, Jones was told it is his responsibility to clean it up. Jones stated he has spoken with other citizens who have similar complaints. Jones made other comments relating to placement of his trash tote and the need for a new tote, as well as trash blowing all over town.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Kleiss went over the items on the consent agenda:

- Minutes of the January 9, 2023 meeting
- Financial report for December, 2022
- Payment of bills totaling \$327,235.04
- Pay request in the amount of \$209,439.62, from Cross Construction for the downtown improvement project (included in bill total)

Rund moved to approve the items on the consent agenda. Day seconded. VOTE YEA\* Brace, Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Waldrop. Day moved to approve the consent agenda for January 23, 2023, as presented. Morris seconded. VOTE YEA\* Brace, Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Waldrop.

Mayor

Mayor Kleiss reminded the city crews to be careful over the next two days while working in the predicted snow storm.

City Clerk – No Report

City Treasurer – No Report

City Attorney – No Report

City Administrator – No Report

Contracts and Agreements

- Mayor Kleiss asked for action on the proposal award to Ezell Excavating for demolition of the property at 202 S. Main. This proposal is contingent on receipt of title. Slaughter moved to approve the proposal from Ezell Excavating, Villa Grove, Illinois, in the amount of \$74,900, for demolition of the property at 202 S. Main, Tuscola, contingent on the city receiving title from the property owners. Waldrop seconded. VOTE YEA\* Brace, Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Waldrop.

- Administrator Hoel updated council on the bids received for the surplus truck. The Tuscola School District was the highest bidder with a bid of \$15,501.00. The second highest bid came in at \$5552.00. Hoel suggests that since the school district is an overlapping taxing district, we complete the sale to the School District for \$5553.00. Hoel added we have transferred equipment to adjacent taxing districts for less than best price in the past. Hoey moved to approve the sale of the surplus street truck to the Tuscola School District for \$5553.00. Shoemaker seconded. VOTE YEA\* Brace, Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Waldrop.

Other

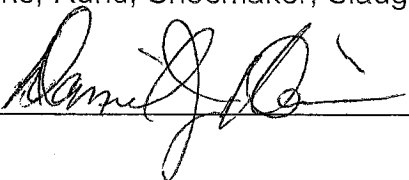
At Chief Hastings' recommendation, Mayor Kleiss presented the name of Dalton Donnals to be appointed as a part time police officer. Donnals is currently employed as a full time officer in Arthur. Rund moved to appoint Dalton Donnals as a part time police officer for the city at a rate of \$25 per hour, effective immediately. Slaughter seconded. VOTE YEA\* Brace, Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Waldrop.

Mayor Kleiss called council's attention to the annual tourism report which summarizes tourism activities and events for 2022. Treasurer Long gave council a graph showing hotel/motel tax revenue from 2011 – 2022. The revenue for 2022 is back to pre-pandemic levels, Long added.

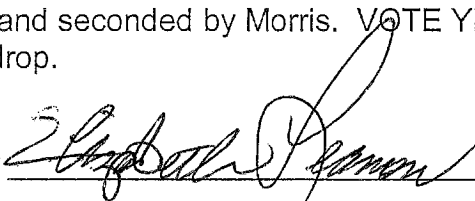
Mayor Kleiss opened discussion on the downtown greenspace area and possible plans for improvement. This would be the space between the Community Building and the Vault. Kleiss asked Administrator Hoel to take some photos of a recent improvement project in Mattoon, just south of the old train station and presented them to council for ideas about our area. Mayor Kleiss recommends making a trip to Mattoon to check out their improvements. Highlights of this area include: a shaded stage, seating, history of the downtown area, and a natural area. The city architects will be drawing up some designs of the greenspace area for council consideration.

Alderman Hoey asked Administrator Hoel about the mention in his report of a second fiber optic installation in the city and if this was going to be exactly what we just went through. Hoel answered he did not know 100% but he thinks so. Mayor Kleiss added he thinks Frontier is doing this because they have Covid related Federal funds. Hoel added the State Telecommunications Act gives all right of way in Illinois to the communications companies and there is nothing the city can do about it. Day stated this will not go over well in his ward adding, after the first fiber optic installation, there are damaged areas that have not been repaired.

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



Mayor



City Clerk