

CITY OF TUSCOLA
COUNTY OF DOUGLAS
STATE OF ILLINOIS
March 26, 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. Mayor Kleiss led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consent Agenda

Administrator Hoel went over the items on the consent agenda:

- Minutes of the March 12, 2012 meeting
- Payment of bills totaling \$194,238.63
- The financial report for February 2012
- Pay request of \$94,024, from Mid-States General & Mechanical for work on the south lift station
- Pay request from Howell paving in the amount of \$12,534.59, for the South Main resurfacing

Truitt moved to approve the items on the consent agenda. Seip seconded. VOTE YEA* Cleland, Henderson Hoey, Maxey, Seip, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt. Hoey moved to approve the consent agenda for March 26, 2012. Henderson seconded. VOTE YEA* Cleland, Henderson, Hoey, Maxey, Seip, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt.

Requested Time on the Agenda

The Lions's Club is requesting permission for two events on April 28, 2012; solicit for donations and sponsor the testing bus. Both events will take place in the downtown area. Mayor Kleiss asked Treasurer Long to let the club know they can go ahead with their plans.

Mayor - Nothing

City Clerk - Nothing

City Treasurer

Treasurer Long reported PMG Tuscola LLC, Darrel and Susan Latch, and the Scott Kibler Agency are all delinquent on their TIF loans.

City Attorney - Nothing

City Administrator

Administrator Hoel gave an update on some traffic delays in town. The water main contractor has begun pavement repairs on Pembroke, Washington and some @ Niles. Hoel hopes they will be completed this week. Both lanes of traffic on South Main will remain open until the actual resurfacing is done, which should be several weeks from now. Hoel reported there

has been no word on when the Niles street crossing might re-open. Currently, there is no plan for resolving the defective bore under Niles Street, Hoel stated. Mayor Kleiss asked how far we go with this before we notify the contractor we do not want the crossing closed any longer. Attorney Bequette answered the contractor has made proposals and the city has made proposals. So far, neither party agrees. Mayor Kleiss noted sometimes progress is an inconvenience for the citizens; however, it will be nice when the projects are completed. Treasurer Long added citizens do not need to come to City Hall to pay their water bills. They can do this at any bank in town. Shoemaker asked if the crossing being closed creates a safety hazard and wonders if the contractor realizes this. Attorney Bequette stated he does not think the city has any liability if streets in town are closed and volume increases in other areas. We are working with the contractor on a daily basis to be sure the streets are as high quality as possible and as many intersections as possible are open. The contractor has insurance should someone fall and injure themselves, Bequette stated.

Ordinances

Mayor Kleiss presented an ordinance to cede our bond volume cap. Administrator Hoel explained this is something we have done every year since becoming home rule. The City is not actually giving anything away, Hoel stated. The ordinance allows the City to allocate our share of tax exempt, private activity bonding authority. The City allows the Eastern IL Economic Development Authority to use our allocation, and combine it with other communities' doing the same. Maxey moved to approve ordinance 2012-0-3, an ordinance authorizing the ceding of private activity bonding authority. Truitt seconded. VOTE YEA* Cleland, Henderson, Hoey, Maxey, Seip, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt.

Mayor Kleiss presented the ordinance to amend the home rule tax. Henderson moved to approve ordinance 2012-0-4, an ordinance amending chapter 110.15 to increase the home rule municipal retailers' occupation tax and home rule municipal service occupation tax in the City of Tuscola. Slaughter seconded. VOTE YEA* Cleland, Henderson, Hoey, Maxey, Seip, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt.

Contracts and Agreements

Seip moved approve an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Tuscola, a home rule community, and Tuscola School District #301 for the transfer of sales tax revenue. Shoemaker seconded. VOTE YEA* Cleland, Henderson, Hoey, Maxey, Seip, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt. Jim Voyles, former Superintendent of Schools and speaking as a private citizen, commented to council about the approval of sales tax for the district. Voyles feels there are plenty of maintenance issues to be addressed by the district and the approval of sales tax funds will be a significant relief to the property tax payers of the school district.

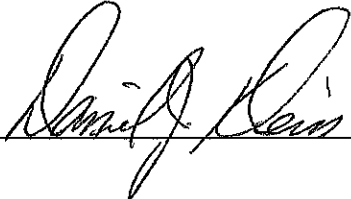
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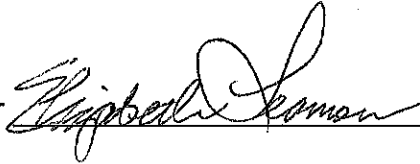
1. Mayor Kleiss addressed emails he received from Mr. York, 100 South Embarrass, concerning nuisance properties. York also wrote a letter to the editor about this issue. Kleiss went on to say, he does not agree with Mr. York and does not think it would benefit the City to try and acquire all the nuisance properties. Attorney Bequette pointed out we have procedures in place in regard to nuisance properties. The City goes after nuisance properties all the time, but we will never get every single property in town the way everyone in town would like it to be. Bequette also stated if the Police Chief and Building Inspector say a property is unsafe, we can get a court order directing the owner to fix it up. The problem with this is usually the landowner does not have the money. The City then has to decide if they want to spend public funds to

condemn the property, get a lien, and tear it down. Attorney Bequette encourages council to put this through the budget process and decide what amount can be spent for acquiring and tearing down nuisance properties. Bequette ended by saying this is something he and the staff are working on, but he does not think everyone will ever be completely satisfied. Administrator Hoel stated the vast majority of nuisance complaints are resolved successfully. This happens because Chief Hastings knocks on their doors, points out they are in violation and asks them to comply.

2. Slaughter moved to accept the resignation of City employee Kevin Cruzan, effective March 30, 2012. Cleland seconded. Mayor Kleiss stated he hates to see Cruzan go; he's been a good employee and we wish him the best. VOTE YEA* Cleland, Henderson, Hoey, Maxey, Seip, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt.

The motion to adjourn was made by Cleland and seconded by Truitt. VOTE YEA* Cleland, Henderson, Hoey, Maxey, Seip, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt.



Mayor  _____ City Clerk