

CITY OF TUSCOLA
COUNTY OF DOUGLAS
STATE OF ILLINOIS
TUSCOLA CITY HALL
December 27, 2016

The regular meeting of the City Council was called to order with Cleland, Day, Henderson, Hoey, Shoemaker, Slaughter, and Mayor Kleiss in attendance. Alderwomen Truitt and Waldrop were absent. Mayor Kleiss led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

Lowell Lamb, 408 East Overton Street, addressed council about some issues that have been on his mind for a while. Lamb thanked council for not approving either of the proposals submitted for uses of the old North Ward property, adding he likes the property as is. Lamb questioned the pool being full of water and allowed to ice over as it did earlier this month. He is concerned about what this might have done to the perimeter of the pool and thinks this is likely to cause problems. Mayor Kleiss stated the contractor recommends draining slightly. Administrator Hoel added we have never drained the pool in the past; the pool leaked and this caused the water level to go down. Now that the pool actually holds water, we only drain down to the transition to the stainless steel. This is the recommendation of the manufacturer, Hoel added. Another concern of Lamb's is the city's discussion at the last meeting about RV's, campers, trailers, etc., parked in yards. He believes trying to force people to do something on their personal property will not work. Lamb added this legislation is unnecessary and unwarranted; we already have legislation on the books that provide a bit of flexibility. Lamb stated this is not a homeowner's association that people sign covenants agreeing to certain things in order to live there; this is a town of people who are already living here. Doing this (enacting legislation) may force people to live in certain conditions that they don't agree with and don't have a chance to agree or disagree with. Lamb added he has not spoken to Chief Hastings but feels this puts him in a bad light. What we are doing is affecting people on their private property, Lamb stated, and we need to be careful of this. Mayor Kleiss thanked Lamb for his comments and concern for the pool. Kleiss added some of the changes council is considering will help Chief Hastings with his job of enforcement. Kleiss went on to say we share Lamb's thoughts about private property and try not to encroach too much; however, we have to balance this with concern for the property of others and make sure no one is encroaching on their property. Lamb asked about the 'improved surface' discussion, stating he was concerned about this. Administrator Hoel answered one provision discussed for front yard setback parking would require parking on an improved surface. This is what we currently do with RV's, boats, campers, Hoel added. Alderman Hoey stated the complaints he has had are from neighbors of certain properties who are concerned about their values declining. Day pointed out we discussed this thoroughly at the last meeting and Chief Hastings stressed this is intended more for repeat offenders. Hastings is more than willing to work with citizens who have extenuating circumstances. The main purpose of the discussion was to shorten the notice time and give Chief Hastings more authority to enforce, Day added. Shoemaker added we are doing this at the request of Chief Hastings and taking his advice into consideration. We hope to make changes that will improve the current legislation and benefit all. Mayor Kleiss stated this will be discussed further in the New Year.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Kleiss went over the items on the consent agenda:

- Minutes of the December 12, 2016 meeting
- Financial Report for November 2016

- Payment of bills totaling \$143,973.78
- Pay request from Building Systems of Illinois, Inc. in the amount of \$39,244.30, for the Community Building renovations
- Community Building lease request with alcohol from the National Wild Turkey Federation for a banquet January 27, 2017

Hoey moved to approve the items on the consent agenda. Henderson seconded. VOTE YEA* Cleland, Day, Henderson, Hoey, Shoemaker, Slaughter. Cleland moved to approve the consent agenda for December 27, 2016. Shoemaker seconded. VOTE YEA* Cleland, Day, Henderson, Hoey, Shoemaker, Slaughter.

Mayor – No Report

City Clerk – No Report

City Treasurer

Treasurer Long reported the TIF delinquencies are Eddie Boutilier, Red Barn Vet Services, and Rachel Puckett.

City Attorney – Nothing

City Administrator - Nothing

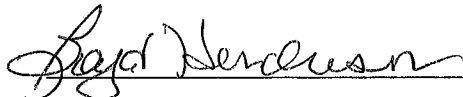

Contracts and Agreements

Treasurer Long pointed out we dropped a big part of our Health Reimbursement Arrangement when we changed health plans, but still have a smaller one for our opt out employees. We also have a Section 125 flex spending. Currently we are administering these in house and paying our auditors to go over the records each year. Long proposes the city use Benefit Planning Consultants for the administration of the Section 125 and HRA, adding this will be more convenient for the employees and we will no longer need to have private medical records in our files. Long went on to say during the last four years, we have averaged \$800/yr. to the auditors for going over the HRA records; the cost estimate from Benefit Planning Consultants is \$1200/yr. Long feels this will be well worth the extra cost. Henderson moved to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Benefit Planning Consultants for administration of the Section 125 Flexible Spending Account and Health Reimbursement Arrangement, at a cost of \$1200 per year. Shoemaker seconded. VOTE YEA* Cleland, Day, Henderson, Hoey, Shoemaker, Slaughter.

Other

Alderman Cleland asked how much longer Van Allen will be blocked off for construction of the new county building. Administrator Hoel pointed out the contractors are past the date we originally allowed. He will check after the holidays and let council know.

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

 David Henderson President Mayor  Elizabeth J. Lemo City Clerk