

March 23, 2015

CITY OF TUSCOLA
COUNTY OF DOUGLAS
STATE OF ILLINOIS
Tuscola City Hall
March 23, 2015

Council met at 6:45 pm to discuss the comprehensive plan and review proposals submitted for updating the plan. Greg Crow and Stephanie Brown, MSA Professional Services, were present to go over their proposal and answer council's questions. Greg introduced himself and gave some information about MSA, stating they are a consulting firm located in Champaign, Illinois, with 300 professional service employees. MSA works primarily with municipalities on planning projects; economic development plans, and grant writing. Stephanie Brown introduced herself to council and noted she has done a lot of downtown plans and comprehensive plans with smaller to mid-size communities since joining MSA two years ago. Brown began by going over the timeline for developing a comprehensive plan. This is a 10 month process, Brown stated; eight months for data collection and public input and the last two months for draft review, final comments and adoption. Public involvement will include a project website, staff meetings, steering committee meetings, and stakeholder interviews. The steering committee will be made up of 10-12 individuals who are involved in the community and a variety of groups within the community. Stakeholders are people who want to be involved and provide information, but may not be able to serve on the steering committee. Brown proposes some type of booth at a festival or community event to get the public involved in the planning process. MSA wants to give the public constant communication and hopes for constant communication from the public in the way of feedback. Brown went on to say MSA will set up a project website, directly linked to the city's website, for public surveys looking at community amenities and visual preferences. This is a good way to pick up on 'hot' topics in the community, Brown added. Administrator Hoel asked how MSA tempers the visual preferences when the preferred plans allow for less development. Brown answered the comp plan does not provide a policy, only guidelines. If you know this is where the results are heading, it may be one of those things where the policy provides for them and you give developers extra incentive to obtain the visual preferences. Greg Crow added the steering committee will be the checks and balances for this type of situation. Shoemaker asked how many plans MSA has done for similar size communities. Crow answered he and Brown worked on the Monticello and Eureka comprehensive plans. They have also worked on the comprehensive plan for Casey and a downtown plan for Arcola. Company-wide, MSA completed 32 planning documents over the past four to five years. After a question from Maxey, Crow stated in the case of the Monticello plans, MSA worked closely with the council. Shoemaker is curious about how MSA increases their odds for success on the public input surveys. Brown answered the stakeholders would have email lists and people they talk to on a regular basis, encouraging them to fill out the survey. Utilizing social media and more conventional methods will also help get the word out. Maxey asked what their target percentages are to consider the surveys a success. Brown answered in a lot of cases, 10% would be considered a success. Having a presence in the community during a public event enables them to get more information out to the public. Administrator Hoel suggested council look at the links he emailed out last week. These are Monticello and Eureka comprehensive plans prepared by MSA.

In the absence of Mayor Kleiss, Hoey moved and Cleland seconded Alderman Henderson act as Mayor Pro-Tem for the March 23 meeting. VOTE YEA* Cleland, Day, Hoey, Maxey, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt. Henderson abstained. Motion carried. The regular meeting of the City Council was called to order with Cleland, Day, Henderson, Hoey, Maxey, Shoemaker, Slaughter and Truitt in attendance. Mayor Kleiss was absent. Mayor Pro-Tem Henderson asked Paul Wisovaty of the American Legion to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consent Agenda

Administrator Hoel went over the items on the consent agenda:

1. Minutes of the March 9, 2015 meeting
2. Financial report for February 2015
3. Payment of bills totaling \$59,870.71
4. Request from Becky's Buddies to conduct fundraising in the downtown area on May 23, 2015

Hoey moved to approve the items on the consent agenda. Day seconded. VOTE YEA* Cleland, Day, Henderson, Hoey, Maxey, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt. Maxey moved to approve the consent agenda for March 23, 2015. Shoemaker seconded. VOTE YEA* Cleland, Day, Henderson, Hoey, Maxey, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt.

Time on the Agenda

Paul Wisovaty, representing the Polish Legion, requested council's permission to sell poppies as their fundraising activity April 3 & 4, 2015. Funds from poppy sales are used for scholarships to children and grandchildren of veterans. Wisovaty added the Polish Legion scholarship name has been changed to the Leo Plaszczynski Memorial Scholarship. Wisovaty also announced the Memorial Day ceremonies will be sponsored by the Polish Legion. Bill Enyart, retired Major General, will be the guest speaker for the Memorial Day services.

Jim Harbaugh, Commanding Officer of the VFW Post 10009, presented a certificate of appreciation to the council and Mayor. Harbaugh added a big thank you for all the city has done for VFW Post 10009, especially their participation in the Veteran's Day parade.

Mayor - Nothing

City Clerk – Nothing

City Treasurer

Treasurer Long reported Eddie Boutilier is the only TIF delinquency.

City Attorney – Nothing

City Administrator - Nothing

Contracts and Agreements

- Shoemaker moved to approve the proposal as presented and submitted by MSA Professional Services for comprehensive plan preparation at a cost of \$32,000. Cleland seconded. VOTE YEA* Cleland, Day, Henderson, Hoey, Maxey, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt.
- Administrator Hoel reported the staff has been looking for a used bucket truck. Our current bucket truck (1999) has many miles on it and needs to be replaced. Hoel has found a good used privately owned bucket truck in Michigan with only 15,000 miles. The owners are willing to bring the truck down for us to look at, but have asked we have the authorization to purchase in place to avoid the necessity of making a second trip. Day moved to authorize the purchase of a 2001 bucket truck, subject to the approval of Foreman Cruzan and Administrator Hoel after their inspections, at a cost of \$25,900, with the trade in of the city's current bucket truck. Cleland seconded. VOTE YEA* Cleland, Day, Henderson, Hoey, Maxey, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt.

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- Jamaica Pyrotechnics has submitted a \$25,000 contract for this year's fireworks display. Treasurer Long noted we are able to spend more on the fireworks this year, because of public donations from the letter writing campaign last year. Maxey moved to approve the \$25,000 contract with Jamaica Pyrotechnics for the fireworks display, submitting a down payment of \$6250 upon execution of the contract. Truitt seconded. VOTE YEA* Cleland, Day, Henderson, Hoey, Maxey, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt.
- Administrator Hoel pointed out the Rotary committee met with several different vendors for the new playground equipment. There was a competitive process to arrive at the final vendor, but it was not a formal bid. Henderson moved to waive formal bidding on the new Rotary playground equipment and surface. Cleland seconded. VOTE YEA* Cleland, Day, Henderson, Hoey, Maxey, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt. Hoel reported Rotary has raised \$66,617.59 for this project, which satisfies the match the city agreed upon. The Rotary funds, plus the city pledge of \$67,500, will more than cover the cost of the equipment and future maintenance. Truitt moved to place an order with Cunningham Recreation for the Rotary playground equipment at a total cost of \$109,670.74. One half of the total cost will be paid when the order is placed, with the balance paid upon delivery and installation. Maxey seconded. VOTE YEA* Cleland, Day, Henderson, Hoey, Maxey, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt.

Other

Administrator Hoel reported The Vault has asked permission to display artwork on the concrete pad between the sidewalk and curb just south of their building. Hoel stated he has discussed this with Chief Hastings and there are no visibility issues. Truitt moved to approve the display of artwork on the concrete pad just south of The Vault, 100 West North Central. Hoey seconded. VOTE YEA* Cleland, Day, Henderson, Hoey, Maxey, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt.

Hoey asked where we are with the unsightly homes around town that need to be cleaned up. Attorney Bequette answered he will be filing suits on these before the next council meeting.


Maxey congratulated Alderwoman Truitt on her granddaughter (Lexi Sluder) being crowned Miss Tuscola. Maxey also gave kudos to Duff Hoel and the Tuscola citizens who worked on the ball diamond at the park. In addition, Maxey thinks the street lights look great!

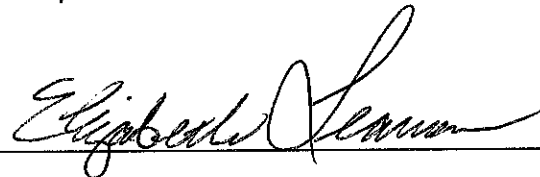
Shoemaker reported some people have asked him about the maintenance of wooden playground at the park. Shoemaker looked it over and reports there are several rough spots. Administrator Hoel answered this is an annual maintenance task.

Maxey is appreciative of the wheel chair sidewalk and access to the pavilion.

Henderson wished everyone good luck in the upcoming election. Be sure to get out and vote!

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

 Pro - Mayor
TEM

 City Clerk