

CITY OF TUSCOLA
COUNTY OF DOUGLAS
STATE OF ILLINOIS
TUSCOLA CITY HALL
October 15, 2019

The regular meeting of the City Council was called to order with Cleland, Day, Hoey, Rund, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt, 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 September 23, 2019 meeting
- Payment of bills totaling \$293,226.69
- Request from the Rotary Club to collect food for SAM's Food Pantry October 26
- Community Building lease request with alcohol from Fabian & Maira Mayela Morales Herrera for a birthday party October 18-20
- Kiwanis Club re-schedule of their food collection to November 15-16

Hoey moved to approve the items on the consent agenda. Day seconded. VOTE YEA* Cleland, Day, Hoey, Rund, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt, Waldrop. Truitt moved to approve the consent agenda for October 15, 2019. Cleland seconded. VOTE YEA* Cleland, Day, Hoey, Rund, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt, Waldrop.

Requested Time on the Agenda

Sean Conner, representing the VFW, addressed council about the Veteran's Day Parade on November 11, 2019. The parade will begin at the park at 10:15 am; go down Main Street to Van Allen, and then east to the Courthouse. A remembrance will be held at the Courthouse. Conner added the police and fire departments have been invited to join the parade and the Lincoln's Challenge Band will take part.

Mayor

Mayor Kleiss welcomed new Tuscola Journal reporter Kendra to the council meeting.

City Clerk – No Report

City Treasurer

- Treasurer Long reported Eddie Boutilier and Red Barn Veterinary Services are delinquent on their TIF loans.
- Long called council's attention to the FY19 annual financial report submitted by Larsson Woodyard & Henson LLP. Long stated our auditor is currently out of town but would be happy to come to a meeting and give his report. The auditing firm gave the city a clean opinion, Long reported. This means the financial statements are presented fairly. In the statements we see the revenue has slowed down. Expenses have been controlled, though, so our net position increased by about \$950,000 this year. The only debt we

have outstanding are two MFT bonds and two IEPA loans. Long then discussed pension funding, stating the city is with IMRF. The net pension liability is determined by actuaries and fluctuates from year to year. The main reason for this is changes in what IMRF earns on their investments. The city's portion of pension funding is usually 6-5% - 12%, Long added.

- Long called council's attention to the Annual Treasurer's Report in their packets. The report will be published in the local papers and filed with the state.

City Attorney – Absent

City Administrator – No Report

Ordinances

Administrator Hoel discussed the annual ordinance with the Illinois Municipal League Risk Management Association (IMLRMA). Passage of the ordinance is required in order to take part in the min/max insurance program Hoel stated. The city has had to pay more than the premium only one year out of all the years we have participated. Due to decreased values of some of the city's vehicles, and taking into consideration the early pay discount, the premium is \$1400 less this year than last. Cleland moved to approve ordinance 2019-O-10, an ordinance authorizing the execution of the IMLRMA minimum maximum contribution agreement. Waldrop seconded. VOTE YEA* Cleland, Day, Hoey, Rund, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt, Waldrop. Shoemaker moved to approve the city's insurance renewal with IMLRMA at a cost of \$140,624.36. Hoey seconded. VOTE YEA* Cleland, Day, Hoey, Rund, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt, Waldrop.

Contracts and Agreements

MSA has submitted an amendment in the amount of \$3300, to their agreement with the city for the Ervin Park improvement project. Administrator Hoel stated he believes this amount is very reasonable. The amendment to the agreement calls for separating out contract items and re-bidding the Ervin Park project. This is necessary because the only bid originally received on the project was way over our estimate, Hoel added. Truitt moved to approve the amendment to the Professional Services Agreement with MSA in the amount of \$3300, for revising plans and specifications and re-bidding the Ervin Park improvement project. Rund seconded. VOTE YEA* Cleland, Day, Hoey, Rund, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt, Waldrop.

Tabled Discussion Topics

Mayor Kleiss opened discussion on the Warrior Softball windscreen discussion from last council meeting. Kleiss stated he would like to see a compromise on the proposal and wonders if it would be possible to decrease the size of the screen, leave 100' on either side for better viewing. Several council members agreed with this suggestion. Jack Ledbetter, project organizer, stated he does not want to upset anyone and he feels the screen will add aesthetically to the ball diamond. After some brief discussion, council and Ledbetter settled on the compromise to reduce the screen size and leave 100' on either edge of the screen for better viewing. Mayor Kleiss thanked Ledbetter for his work on this project and for securing private funding for the expense involved.

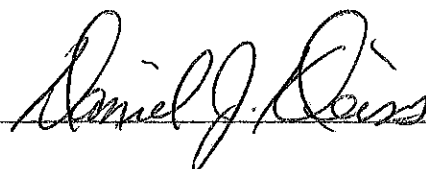
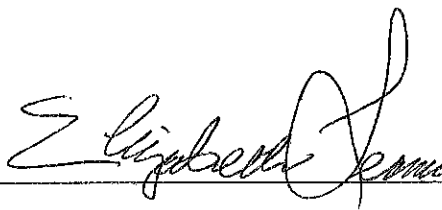
Other

Administrator Hoel addressed the Plan Commission decision regarding the preliminary and final subdivision plats for North Ward Square Estates. Hoel noted the Plan Commission has approved these plats, with waivers. One waiver reduces the setbacks from 25' front and rear and 8' side to 20' front and rear and 6' side. The reduced setbacks will match existing neighborhood conditions. The other waiver eliminates the requirement for water and sewer laterals to the property line since both will be located in the rear common area, with easements for access. Mike Carroll, one of the developers, reported some condos will be built on a few of these lots. Also, they hope to have some serious bids next week and begin work in November. Shoemaker moved to accept the Plan Commission's recommendation and approve the preliminary and final plats for the North Ward Square Estates, with the waivers previously discussed. Truitt seconded. VOTE YEA* Cleland, Day, Hoey, Rund, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt, Waldrop.

Administrator Hoel discussed the property tax levy estimate and stated he and Treasurer Long would like to prepare for a 2.5% and 4.5% levy increase for council consideration at the next meeting. Hoel stated the estimate starts the process. For several years we did not raise the levy and for the last several years we have had small increases in order to keep the tax rate as close to the same as possible, Hoel pointed out. Now that revenues are down, and taking into consideration the large sales tax refund to one of the taxpayers, we should start thinking about getting the number up and keeping up with changes so we can avoid a major shortfall. Shoemaker asked if it would be possible to prepare more calculations in addition to the 2.5 and 4.5 for council to consider. Long stated this does not create a lot of movement in the numbers but she can easily do this. Long will do the 2.5 and 4.5 and possibly some calculations between

At the Mayor's request Day moved and Rund seconded council go into executive session to discuss personnel. The time was 8:07 pm. VOTE YEA* Celand, Day, Hoey, Rund, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt, Waldrop. The meeting was called back to order at 8:29 pm with Cleland, Day, Hoey, Rund, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt, Waldrop, and Mayor Kleiss present.

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

 _____ Mayor  _____ City Clerk