

CITY OF TUSCOLA  
COUNTY OF DOUGLAS  
STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Tuscola City Hall  
September 22, 2014

The pre-council study session began at 6:45 PM. The purpose of the session was to discuss with representatives from the Farnsworth Group ideas and preferences for the proposed renovation of the Community Building. Council members gave their thoughts on HVAC upgrades, lighting, interior finishes, insulation, window and door replacement, a possible addition, and parking. The representatives from Farnsworth will come back to council in several weeks to go over more detailed plans for the building renovation.

The regular meeting of the City Council was called to order with Cleland, Henderson, Hoey, Maxey, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt, 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 8, 2014 meeting
- The financial report for August 2014
- Payment of bills totaling \$280,860.56
- Community Building lease request from Rachel Long for a wedding reception October 11, 2014
- Community Building lease request from Tim Hoey for a wedding reception on November 1, 2014

Shoemaker moved to approve the items on the consent agenda. Henderson seconded. VOTE YEA\* Cleland, Henderson, Maxey, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt. Alderman Hoey abstained. Motion carried. Maxey moved to approve the consent agenda for September 22, 2014. Truitt seconded. VOTE YEA\* Cleland, Henderson, Maxey, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt. Hoey abstained. Motion carried.

Mayor - Nothing

City Clerk – Nothing

City Treasurer

Treasurer Long reported Eddie Boutilier is the only TIF delinquency.

City Attorney – Nothing

City Administrator

Administrator Hoel announced the oil and chip was completed today and the street light painting project will begin next Monday. Hoel noted the 5K color run planners have asked to also hold a 3K, using the route previously approved by council.

Resolutions

Administrator Hoel discussed a resolution authorizing an agreement for processing credit card payments for utility bills, permits, licenses, etc. Hoel stated the city currently processes credit card payments through the State Treasurer's office. The services of Payment Services Network, Inc., will integrate more closely with our new utility billing software platform and offers service and security equal to or better than the existing service. Cleland moved to approve resolution 2014-R-6, a resolution authorizing the execution of an agreement for service with Payment Service Network, Inc., for the processing of credit card payments. Henderson seconded. VOTE YEA\* Cleland, Henderson, Hoey, Maxey, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt.

Contracts and Agreements

Treasurer Long addressed the agreement with Health Alliance for employee health insurance. Health Alliance has proposed a 9.6% increase to the premium, which is about \$18,000 a year for the city's portion. The increase to employees is \$11; family increase is \$25, Long added. The city pays for all of the employee's coverage and 2/3 of the family coverage. Hoey asked if this would be the last year for this plan. Long answered the city was told 2014 was the final year, but the government is allowing us to continue on a non affordable care act plan for another year. Health Alliance is seeing a 16% increase for those going with the affordable care act program, Long added. Hoey moved to renew the existing plan for employee health insurance with Health Alliance for one year and authorize Administrator Hoel to sign the documents. Shoemaker seconded. VOTE YEA\* Cleland, Henderson, Hoey, Maxey, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt.

Other


Mayor Kleiss opened discussion on abandoning the 200 West Barker Street right of way. Options from the last meeting are: 1) Do nothing; 2.) Accept the request to abandon the entire right of way, giving 50% to the north property owner and 50% to the south property owner; 3.) Keep a buffer and distribute the rest however council wants; 4.) Sell the property (not recommended). Council discussed property lines and trying to give each landowner enough property to get their outbuildings within their property lines. Attorney Bequette and Mayor Kleiss would like to see the most recent survey done on the properties in question. Administrator Hoel reported he has a copy of this survey. After some discussion about how much property each landowner should get, Shoemaker asked why the city needs to keep any part of the ground. Why not vacate the entire block? Bequette pointed out if the city does this, the property owner to the south will lose the driveway area he's been using. Bequette also thinks if we do this, one of the neighbors will do something the other does not like and Chief Hastings will get a call. Shoemaker thinks we have a potential problem forever with the person living to the south. Hoey would like council to do what it takes to never have to revisit this again. Administrator Hoel pointed out vacating the entire right of way will deprive the owners to the south access to their property. Cleland suggests keeping a buffer and giving each landowner 15' and see how that works. Henderson thinks there will be more hard feelings if we split the ground 50/50. Shoemaker thinks this is the only fair way to do this. Maxey feels a buffer, with each landowner getting the same amount of land, is also fair. Shoemaker asked Chief Hastings if there had ever been a problem before the Cramer's bought the property to the north. Hastings answered no; he had not ever been called to settle a dispute. Mayor Kleiss suggested taking a 'straw' poll to see whether or not the city should begin the hearing process required for vacation. Truitt moved to vacate the entire block of 200 West Barker Street. Shoemaker seconded. VOTE YEA\* Hoey, Shoemaker, Truitt. VOTE NAY\* Cleland, Henderson, Maxey, Slaughter. Maxey moved to partially vacate 200 West Barker Street, leaving 15-20' to the

north and 15-20' to the south. Henderson seconded. VOTE YEA\* Cleland, Henderson, Maxey, Slaughter. VOTE NAY\* Hoey, Shoemaker, Truitt. Attorney Bequette wonders if there is strong enough support to vacate. If not, there is no need to begin the hearing process. Mayor Kleiss stated it appears to him there may be enough votes to vacate a portion of West Barker. Council again discussed both sides of the issue and whether or not the neighbors would ever get along. Mayor Kleiss added a total vacation would not be fair to the Patton's when we look at the history. Vacating a portion may be a better way to go. Maxey thinks partial vacation is a win-win for everyone. Bequette pointed out that without six votes, we'll have to tell the landowners there is nothing we can do. Hoey added if the best we can do is get the landowner's property off the right of way, he's in favor of it. Cleland asked if we do a partial vacation and still have problems, can we go back and completely vacate the street. Bequette answered we can. Attorney Bequette and Administrator Hoel will move forward with the hearing process to vacate 200 West Barker.

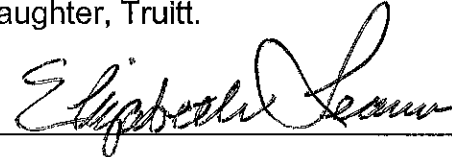
New Business

Mayor Kleiss introduced Scott Day, stating Day had agreed to fill out the unexpired term (April 2015) of Tim Seip, Ward II. Henderson moved to approve the appointment of Scott Day to serve as alderman from Ward II until after the April 7, 2015 election. Cleland seconded. VOTE YEA\* Cleland, Henderson, Hoey, Maxey, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt. Mayor Kleiss gave Alderman Day the oath of office and welcomed him to the council table.

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



Pro-Mayor



City Clerk