

CITY OF TUSCOLA  
COUNTY OF DOUGLAS  
STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Tuscola City Hall  
July 28, 2014

The regular meeting of the City Council was called to order with Cleland, Henderson, Hoey, Maxey, Seip, 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 July 14, 2014 meeting
- Payment of bills totaling \$575,270.01
- Community Building lease request from Jane Lewis for a wedding reception September 27, 2014
- Community Building lease request from Kirk Rogers for a retirement party September 6, 2014
- Community Building lease request from Santiago Martinez for a birthday party August 16, 2014
- Request from the Cub Scouts to hold their day camp at Ervin Park June 15-19, 2015
- Approval for the Tuscola Can Do Committee to hold a 5K run on October 4, 2014

Hoey moved to approve the items on the consent agenda. Henderson seconded. VOTE YEA\* Cleland, Henderson, Hoey, Maxey, Seip, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt. Shoemaker moved to approve the consent agenda for July 28, 2014. Seip seconded. VOTE YEA\* Cleland, Henderson, Hoey, Maxey, Seip, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt.

Mayor - Nothing

City Clerk – Nothing

City Treasurer

Treasurer Long reported the following TIF delinquencies: Jeannine Garrett; PMG Tuscola; Eddie Boutelier; and Bruce and Andrea Robinson.

City Attorney – Nothing

City Administrator

Hoel announced our hail damage insurance claims are all going well. The city has close to \$500,000 in damages from the recent storm. The min/max will be triggered, Hoel added, and the city will most likely pay about \$46,000 of the \$500,000. Hoel went on to say the city is still money ahead when comparing insurance cost savings over the years to the amount paid out in cases where the min/max has been triggered. Hoel added he has a few questions about damages and will follow up with the insurance adjustors.

## Ordinances

Administrator Hoel opened discussion on an ordinance for recreational fires by stating our current ordinance does not allow fires of any kind except for burning charcoal to prepare food. Hoel presented an ordinance from another community for council to use as a starting point when deciding what to include in a recreational fire ordinance for the city. The sample ordinance allows for the use of fire pits, metal rings, and portable fireplaces as long as they are a safe distance from buildings, structures, or vehicles, and from flammable liquids or vapors. The fuel must be dry seasoned wood and no household or landscape waste or leaves. Burning must be supervised by an adult over the age of 18 and fires may not be left unattended until completely extinguished. Shoemaker asked what suggestions the fire chief had. Hoel stated Chief Hettinger suggests defining the size of the fire ring. Truitt stated she does not see anything in the ordinance that helps people with asthma. If the smoke from a recreational fire comes in her house, she should not have to breathe it. Truitt added she see nothing in the ordinance about being able to call and complain about someone's fire down the street. Hoel stated this would fall under a nuisance ordinance that deals with dense smoke. He and Attorney Bequette have discussed this ordinance, Hoel added, and the problem with the nuisance is it takes 30-45 days to go to court. The ordinance could include wording that the fire chief or police chief can notify the person of a nuisance and order them to extinguish the fire. Attorney Bequette stated he believes our current ordinance does need to be amended. Some things not allowed in our ordinance may not be objectionable to council. Also, a lot of things council would want to put a stop to someone could argue is fine as long as there is a hot dog over the fire. Bequette would like the ordinance to clearly state it is okay for the fire chief or police chief to tell offenders to put their fire out. Shoemaker would like to define the distance from structures rather than say a reasonable distance. Maxey thinks a 4x4 foot ring is plenty big enough and it should be no closer than 15-20 feet from structures. Maxey thinks there should be a size limit on the pit and a defined distance in the ordinance. Henderson asked about requiring fire pit owners to get a building permit. Council discussed fire size and distance from structures. Attorney Bequette pointed out many in town properties do not have enough room to put a fire pit on their property if the 15-20 foot requirement is added. Administrator Hoel stated he and Chief Hettinger had this same discussion and decided to not put requirements in the ordinance. Maxey agreed with Hoel and Chief Hettinger, stating size and distance should be left up to the enforcing officer. Shoemaker stated he does not like this at all. We are taking the easy way out. If we are going to let the fire chief and police chief enforce it, why do this at all? Shoemaker thinks if we are going to pass an ordinance, we should give parameters such as maximum size of the pit and minimum distance from structures. Mayor Kleiss is not in favor of more government but he likes the idea of defining recreational fires. Hoel suggests looking for some safe outdoor fire guidelines to put on the website. Attorney Bequette and Administrator Hoel will bring back a comprehensive amendment to the ordinance for council discussion at the next meeting.

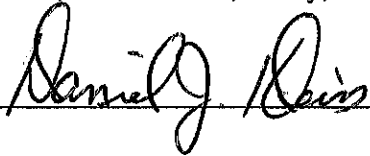
## Other

Mayor Kleiss announced the Seip family has moved their residence to outside the city limits and tonight will be alderman Seip's last meeting. Seip moved to approve his resignation from council, effective July 28, 2014. Maxey seconded. VOTE YEA\* Cleland, Henderson, Hoey, Maxey, Seip, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt. Mayor Kleiss stated he and the council will miss Seip. Kleiss has appreciated the fact that Seip's heart and mind have always been in the right place. Seip responded he has enjoyed serving on the council the past 14 years; he has seen a lot of good changes in these years. Seip complimented the employees and council and stated the city is in good shape.

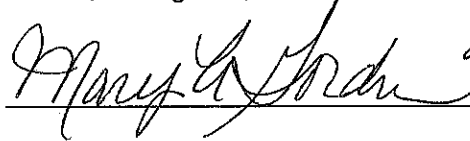
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Kleiss asked for council approval of his recommended appointment of Tim Hoey to the Public Works committee, as a replacement for Seip. Truitt moved to approve the appointment of Tim Hoey to the Public Works committee. Henderson seconded. VOTE YEA\* Cleland, Henderson, Hoey, Maxey, Seip, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Truitt. Seip invited council to stay after the meeting for refreshments provided by his wife Becky.

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



Mayor



Deputy  
City Clerk