

CITY OF TUSCOLA  
COUNTY OF DOUGLAS  
STATE OF ILLINOIS  
TUSCOLA CITY HALL  
April 12, 2021

A council study session was held at 6:45 pm, prior to the regular council meeting of April 12, 2021. Treasurer Long and Administrator Hoel went through the draft budget for FY 22 – May 1, 2021 through April 30, 2022. Since 2021 was not a good year for budgets, Long stated most of the operating budget line items have reverted back to the 2020 budget. A few exceptions to this are lower utility costs due to solar panels in use, audit costs due to grant monies, and insurance increases. Incomes are volatile because of decreasing mall leases, the Love's development, and COVID impacts. In addition, the ARP legislation provides for \$539,000 for Tuscola covid relief; however, this has not been included in the budget because qualifications and distribution methods are not clear. Long added the city will continue savings in reserved accounts at the current level: 1) \$120K for reserves 2) \$240,000 for equipment replacement 3) \$120K for street surfacing. Long then went over the recommended equipment replacement for FY22 – the Toro park utility vehicle; 2007 Ford F450 street department truck; Toro park mower; one police squad car. Discussion of various budgets:

- General Fund: anticipated audit increase, computer support; possible Cashford playground using Cashford funds no longer earning much interest; *municipal buildings* – minimal expenditure for flooring at Senior Center and lighting at City Hall; *streets* – replace collapsed shed, add gutter and door seals on street shed, additional \$20K for street pavement striping; *park* – rollover funding and expenses from last year for OSLAD grant projects and dog park (using donated funds); *pool* – many unknowns, estimated 35% increase over last operating year; *police* – collapsed shed (½ street and ½ police); *fire* – replace entry door, turnout gear, EMS /Extrication coveralls and possibly outfit old street truck as a fire brush truck.
- Water fund – meter station repairs or upgrades, Tuscola portion of joint line SCADA system, investigate grant for main replacements in Meadowview, roll bulk water coin to next budget.
- Sewer fund – additional funds for lift station pumps, south plant doors, north station windows, floor replacements and entry door.
- TIF – planning for TIF end of life, Moore Ave grant rolled to next year, possible downtown alley work and create aesthetically pleasing greenspace by Community Building, possible Amishland building work.
- Motor Fuel – Begin engineering work this year on IL Bond Funds to resurface Parke from Overton to railroad continuing on South Washington and North Central from Parke to Center.
- Tourism(draft) – marketing interstate visits, more content for print and social media ads, business grants for TV/radio/interstate signage and social media ads, discuss potential for shared employee with TCED, returning community activities as restrictions ease.
- Library – TBD.

The regular meeting of the City Council was called to order with Brace, Day (virtual), Hoey, Morris, Rund (virtual), Shoemaker, Slaughter, Waldrop, and Mayor Kleiss in attendance. Mayor Kleiss led the Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment - None

Consent Agenda

Mayor Kleiss went over the items on the consent agenda:

- Minutes of the March 22, 2021 meeting
- Payment of bills totaling \$245,726.49
- Community Building lease request with alcohol from John and Cathy Mannen for a wedding reception May 21-23, 2021.
- Tuscola GSA booster request for a 5K color run/walk and pancake breakfast on June 12, 2021

Hoey moved to approve the items on the consent agenda for April 12, 2021. Morris seconded. VOTE YEA\* Brace, Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Waldrop. Shoemaker moved to approve the consent agenda for April 12, 2021. Brace seconded. VOTE YEA\* Brace, Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Waldrop

Requested Time on the Agenda - None

Mayor

Mayor Kleiss mentioned he recently had the pleasure of hearing Sydney Hoel (daughter of Drew and Christy) sing at an event. Kleiss complimented Drew on his daughter's voice, adding he hoped everyone would have the chance to hear Sydney sing.

City Clerk – No Report

City Treasurer

Treasurer Long reported Eddie Boutilier and Red Barn Veterinary Services are delinquent on their TIF loans.

City Attorney – Absent

City Administrator – No Report

Contract and Agreements

Administrator Hoel discussed a DCEO public infrastructure grant the city may be eligible for. This grant is based on income by census tract areas, Hoel stated. Hoel would like to apply for these funds (up to \$550,000). The city's cost, if awarded, would be engineering and administrative fees, roughly 20% of award. Hoel went on to say the water mains in Meadowview are the priority project. Milano and Grunloh Engineers will handle preliminary engineering and grant applications for these funds at no cost, Hoel added. Morris moved to authorize preliminary engineering and DCEO grant application by Milano & Grunloh, Effingham, Illinois. Hoey seconded. VOTE YEA\* Brace, Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Waldrop.

TIF Assistance Requests

Mayor Kleiss introduced a TIF request submitted by Tuscola Packaging Group for the Amishland Red Barn. Kleiss clarified the Red Barn has nothing to do with the Red Barn Veterinary Service and this request is for the Amishland TIF Area, which is separate from the route 36/downtown TIF area. Administrator Hoel discussed the request after stating Tuscola Packaging has been in business for three years in Arcola. Tuscola Packaging has recently leased the Amishland Red Barn and is requesting funds to make alterations to the building. In addition to their packaging business Amity Landscaping, a sister business, will be co-located in

the Red Barn. Hoel added Tuscola Packaging is investing \$310,000 for upgrades, interior reconfiguration, and installation of a loading dock at the building. They are requesting a TIF grant of \$120,000. Hoel added this might require a special use permit and any approval should be contingent on this. Based on the TIF committee's recommendation, Morris moved to approve a TIF grant of \$120,000 from TIF 2 to Tuscola Packaging LLC. Shoemaker seconded. Zena Onstott was present on behalf of the Tuscola Packaging request and answered questions about why they are expanding and anticipated increased traffic back to the site, as well as potential conflicts with mall store deliveries, from the Mayor and council. VOTE YEA\* Brace, Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Shoemaker, Slaughter, Waldrop.

Other

Administrator Hoel checked with council about soliciting bids for demolishing the old street shed building. His plan is to get some proposals and try to get it down as soon as possible. Hoel stated he would hold off on rebuilding the shed. Also, Hoel mentioned there is some renewed interest on two properties deeded to the city some time ago. Bids will be solicited on these two properties located at 111 E. Wilson and 607 E. Wilson.

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



Mayor



City Clerk