

# CITY OF TUSCOLA

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COUNTY OF DOUGLAS  
STATE OF ILLINOIS  
TUSCOLA CITY HALL  
September 13, 2021

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

## Public Comment

Adam Munds, a resident of Tolono, Illinois, addressed council about the possibility of holding a radio control event (RC FEST) that benefits Impact Life (Community Blood Services of Illinois) at Wimple Park. Munds' presentation included information about prior year's events showing participants, units of blood collected, and funds raised. Munds spoke to council about his planned layout for Wimple and changes that would need to be made at the park. After a few questions from council, Mayor Kleiss stated he and council members would study the proposal and get back with Munds.

## Consent Agenda

Mayor Kleiss went over the items on the consent agenda:

- Minutes of the August 23, 2021 meeting
- Payment of bills totaling \$279,470.13
- Pay request from Barton Electric for the Ervin Park project in the amount of \$16,636.10
- Kiwanis Kid Day fundraising October 8-9, 2021
- Tuscola Lions Club Candy Days collection October 8-9, 2021
- Downtown block party plan for September 25, 2021
- Fireworks Display plan for September 25, 2021
- RC Fest at Wimple Park July 30-31, 2022
- "T" painting on Prairie Street September 18-19, 2021

Hoey moved to approve the items on the consent agenda for September 13, 2021, after removing the RC Fest at Wimple Park from the agenda for more discussion. Rund seconded. VOTE YEA\* Brace, Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Slaughter, Waldrop. Mayor Kleiss gave an update on the fireworks display planned for September 25. The fireworks will be set off at Wimple Park at 9:00 pm on the 25<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the TCHS Homecoming Dance/Coronation being held outside at East Prairie. Day moved to approve the amended consent agenda for September 13, 2021. Brace seconded. VOTE YEA\* Brace, Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Slaughter, Waldrop.

Requested Time on the Agenda - None

## Mayor

Mayor Kleiss offered the city's condolences to the family of BJ Hackler, St. Joseph, IL. BJ was the village president for 36 years.

Mayor Kleiss commented on the 9/11 observance hosted by the TK Martin Post this past Saturday Sean Conner and fellow veterans did a fantastic job recognizing those who lost their lives protecting our country. Kleiss ended by saying the event was very moving and thanked those involved.

City Clerk – No Report

City Treasurer

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

City Attorney – No Report

City Administrator – No Report

Ordinances

1. Slaughter moved to approve ordinance 2021-0-10, an ordinance authorizing the sale of surplus public real estate at 111 East Wilson Street, Tuscola, IL. Day seconded. Mayor Kleiss noted the selling price was \$15,000.00. VOTE YEA\* Brace, Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Slaughter, Waldrop.
2. Hoey moved to approve ordinance 2021-0-11, an ordinance authorizing the sale of surplus public real estate at 607 East Wilson Street, Tuscola IL. Rund seconded. This property sold for \$5001.00. VOTE YEA\* Brace, Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Slaughter, Waldrop.

Contracts and Agreements

- Action was taken on the purchase of a new utility locator for the water/sewer departments. This tool will locate underground utilities for JULIE marking and is included in the budget. Rund moved to approve the purchase of a utility locator from Subsurface Solutions at a cost of \$6577.00. Day seconded. VOTE YEA\* Brace, Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Slaughter, Waldrop.
- Donohue Associates has submitted an agreement for professional services related to the design of the master meter station that serves the city's water distribution system. Administrator Hoel clarified this is the small building on the other side of the overpass. The building is showing deterioration and will be replaced with a new structure and some upgrades. Slaughter moved to approve the Professional Services Agreement with Donohue Associates for the design of the master meter station at a cost of \$9750.00. Morris seconded. VOTE YEA\* Brace, Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Slaughter, Waldrop.
- The extension of Progress Boulevard to the north to the ShopKo location was presented for discussion and action. Kirby Foods plans to renovate the ShopKo building for a grocery store and would like Progress Boulevard extended to provide access to the loading docks. A \$344,259.61 proposal for this extension has been submitted by Beniach Construction. Kirby Foods is willing to cost share and pay \$150,000 of the cost of the extension. Because of time constraints with bidding and increased engineering fees to prepare a full bid packet, staff recommends waiving formal bidding on the project and awarding the proposal for the extension. Hoey moved to waive formal bidding on the North Progress Boulevard extension. Rund seconded. Mayor Kleiss stated we do not take waiving formal bidding lightly. The unit costs are actually a bit lower than our last road project. Kleiss wanted the public to be aware of this and thanked Administrator Hoel for his due diligence throughout the process. Administrator Hoel added that preparing a bid packet for the project would require engineering costs of 6-8% of the total project cost. He believes in this instance we are saving time and money. VOTE YEA\* Brace, Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Slaughter, Waldrop. Rund moved to approve the proposal submitted by Beniach Construction in the amount of \$344,259.61, for the

North Progress Boulevard Extension. Brace seconded. VOTE YEA\* Brace, Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Slaughter, Waldrop.

Requests for TIF Assistance

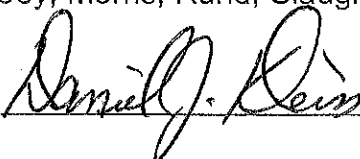
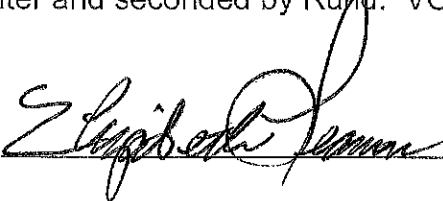
Administrator Hoel discussed the Kirby Foods cost sharing agreement for the North Progress Boulevard. Kirby will contribute \$150,000 to the extension, with the city covering the rest of the expenses. Day moved to approve the cost share agreement with Kirby Foods for their contribution of \$150,000 towards the North Progress Boulevard extension. Slaughter seconded. VOTE YEA\* Brace, Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Slaughter, Waldrop.

Other

Administrator Hoel discussed an addendum to the city's workplace policies regarding COVID-19. The federal mandate requiring employees be given up to 80 hours time off for COVID related illness expired December 31, 2020. At expiration, we reverted back to our short term disability which states the first week is on the employee, weeks 2-4 is short term disability and after the first month the disability goes to a third party disability insurance. Staff suggests the following for the city's workplace policy for COVID 19: (a) vaccinated employees not charged for the first week of a documented COVID related event – the city pays their salary for that week and (b) unvaccinated employees will follow the normal workplace policy and use personal time off for the first week of missed work. Slaughter moved to approve the COVID 19 addendum to the city's workplace policies. Hoey seconded. Rund asked about an instance of someone recovering from COVID and choosing not to vaccinate. Mayor Kleiss and Administrator Hoel felt that since the CDC has not clarified their position on whether or not the antibodies from having COVID are enough protection, and given the vaccination mandates we are seeing, the city should state only vaccinated employees will not be charged personal time for a COVID related time off situation. VOTE YEA\* Brace, Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Slaughter, Waldrop.

Due to lack of use, Day moved to terminate the corporate membership with the Fitness Center, effective December 31, 2021. Hoey seconded. VOTE YEA\* Brace, Day, Hoey, Morris, Rund, Slaughter, Waldrop.

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

 \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor  \_\_\_\_\_ City Clerk