

**CITY OF EARLVILLE  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
REGULAR SESSION FEBRUARY 3, 2016  
City Hall Council Room, 210 W. Railroad Street, Earlville, IL**

**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Alderman Harp called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

The following members were present: Alderman Robin Austin, Alderman Ken Bonine, Alderman Brock Harp, Alderman Chuck Jenkins, and Alderman Michael Konsoer. Absent: Alderman Walter Grimm.

Visitors at the meeting were Martha Dankenbring, Ryan Richardson, Mike Hall, Mike Heiston, Wilma Stillwell, Rose Stockley, Roger Torman, Pat Waldron, Joe Plumlee, Officer Valdez, Laura Valdez and three Valdez children, Steve Mongan, Tamara Abbey (News-Tribune), and Stu Bloom (Earlville Post).

**ADDITIONAL AGENDA**

Mayor Hall commended Officer Alfonso Valdez for actions above and beyond the call of duty in his service to the community. Officer Valdez entered the Indian Creek in freezing weather to rescue a victim of an auto accident.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Alderman Austin made a motion, seconded by Alderman Jenkins, to approve the January 6, 2016, Regular Session minutes. All in favor by voice vote. MOTION CARRIED.

**PUBLIC VOICE**

Wilma Stillwell thanked Alderman Bonine for hauling brush from her yard to the curb.

**FINANCE** – Alderman Austin reported:

- Alderman Austin made a motion, seconded by Alderman Jenkins, that payment of the bills be placed on the February council agenda.
- Alderman Austin recommended that a letter, in regard to a Resolution pledging support for three years in the amount of \$2,211.00 (\$1.30/1,701 residents) to support economic growth and new job creation through membership in the Economic Development Corporation of North Central Illinois, be placed on the February council agenda.

**PUBLIC WORKS** – Alderman Harp reported:

Mr. Torman stated:

- There is an MFT project switch due to learning that the county will do engineering for the city. Tim, from McMahon Engineering, said that made sense. Roger

hopes bids are put out in March. Alderman Bonine discussed wear and tear on Ottawa Street and redirecting truck traffic to Northwestern Road, restricting Ottawa Street for use by empty trucks only.

- Mr. Torman reported residents will receive a cross connection survey along with their water bill to be completed due to fact that the EPA now requires a survey every two years.

**POLICE** – Alderman Jenkins reported:

- Chief Plumlee stated there were no issues.

**PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY** – Alderman Bonine reported:

- A possible ordinance to deal with vacant properties and priority lien procedures is considered. Mayor Hall stated he has been in contact with the City Building Inspector and will plan a meeting with him related to inspecting vacant properties.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- Alderman Konsoer reported on the Illinois lighting grant the city received. He recommended the lighting work be done in house with him as the supervisor. He expects the net cost to be -0- to the city. Alderman Austin talked to the state and was warned the city should proceed at their own risk as the state is without a budget. Alderman Jenkins recommended the project continue so that the city might begin energy savings.
- Alderman Austin reported that Mrs. Dankenbring and Mrs. Novak surveyed residents who came to pay water bills on their preference of going to bi-monthly billing. She reported responses as follows: 2 - yes, 88 - no, 9 - don't care. Alderman Jenkins stated he talked to 25 citizens and none of them wanted bi-monthly billing. Alderman Konsoer stated most of the people he spoke with were not in favor of switching to bi-monthly billing. Alderman Harp said it was a good to discuss it, but the citizens do not want it.
- Alderman Austin reported that the office spent 45 minutes placing stamps on the monthly water bills, which equaled \$12 in labor. The use of a postage meter machine would cost \$35 - \$216 a month for rental and there would still be a charge for the cost of stamps. Therefore, it would not be a good investment for the city to get a postage meter. Alderman Harp said it was a good to explore it, but it did not work out.
- Alderman Austin reported that she researched the internet and it appeared that mygallons.com is a risk where the city would be buying unsecured fuel futures. Alderman Jenkins said he also researched mygallons.com. With low gas prices at this time, the mygallons.com will not be pursued.
- Alderman Bonine stated bids for the proposed two-sided LED lighted city hall sign ranged from \$15,796 to \$11,560. Alderman Konsoer recommended that a representative of Turnroth Sign Co., Rock Falls, low bidder, attend the March

committee of whole meeting to answer questions. Alderman Bonine said he would work within the city to find someone to build a base for the sign.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Alderman Konsoer volunteered to investigate the Safe Path to School Grant Program which may help the city provide sidewalks.
- Alderman Konsoer recommend the city amend the zoning ordinance to include a 30-day posting period on property where a zoning variance is being sought. He stated 30-day posting period is common in area cities. It will be placed on the March committee meeting.

#### **ADJOURN**

At 8:00 p.m. Alderman Bonine made a motion, seconded by Alderman Jenkins, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor by voice vote. MOTION CARRIED.

*Jane M. Bauer*

Jane M. Bauer  
City Clerk

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