

**CITY OF EARLVILLE  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
REGULAR SESSION OCTOBER 7, 2015  
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 Walter Grimm, Alderman Brock Harp, Alderman Chuck Jenkins, and Alderman Michael Konsoer.

Visitors at the meeting were Martha Dankenbring, George Durbin, Mike Hall, Mike Heiston, Shelia Jenkins, Roger Torman, Tamara Abbey (News-Tribune) and Stu Bloom (Earlville Post). Also present was Energy Consultant Marni Henert of Rock River Energy who was placed on the agenda.

**ADDITIONAL AGENDA**

Energy Consultant Marni Henert of Rock River Energy was placed on the agenda to report on City of Earlville Electrical Aggregation and bids. The City's current three-year agreement expires in February, 2016.

Energy Consultant Marni Henert of Rock River Energy provided an energy report and bid proposal. She explained the savings residents have received, recommended the City go out to bid, and presented bids from companies currently bidding energy as of October 7, 2015. She stated the presented prices vary by day. Henert pointed out the need to make a decision soon as the current city plan expires the first of February. Alderman Konsoer requested that the city interview other energy consultants. Henert responded that the energy companies do not bid for multiple consultants. Henert stated that Rock River Energy receives payment from the selected provider each month at the rate of \$.0005/Kwh and that this amount is built into the pricing. She also explained that some consultants are paid up front. In the up front form of payment, everyone in the group or city pays, not just those benefiting from the plan, because the upfront payment is made by the city. Konsoer said he would like to see a report from Rock River Energy's competition. Mayor Hall recommended that phone calls be made to the two other consultants for this area who are Progressive Energy of Aurora and Nimek - Dave Hoover owner, of the suburbs. Hall recommended that the Electrical Aggregation bids be placed on the regular City agenda for discussion and possible action. Henert stated she would present refreshed bids for the October 14, meeting.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Alderman Bonine made a motion, seconded by Alderman Austin, to approve the September 2, 2015, Regular Session minutes. All in favor by voice vote. MOTION CARRIED.

**PUBLIC VOICE**

Mike Heiston recommended the Earlville City Office sell city stickers during Halloween trick-or-treating hours.

**FINANCE** – Alderman Austin reported:

Alderman Austin recommended payment of bills be placed on the agenda of the regular October meeting. Alderman Austin made a motion, seconded by Alderman Jenkins, that payment of the bills be placed on the council agenda. Discussion followed related to employee training and the approval of training process. Upon request, Alderman Harp called for a Roll Call vote. On Roll Call: Alderman Austin - aye, Alderman Bonine - nay, Alderman Grimm - aye, Alderman Harp - aye, Alderman Jenkins - aye, and Alderman Konsoer - aye. MOTION CARRIED.

Alderman Austin presented bids for replacing light fixtures at city hall as follows: REI Electric - \$5,018.15, Piller Electric, Inc. - \$6,156, Sloan Electric - \$10,380. Alderman Konsoer stated there was outside funding available for electrical upgrades. He also stated that the fixtures could not be retrofitted to LED and that LED lights would leave dark spots in the room. He stated LED fixtures are delisted and the lighting would not be satisfactory. There was no action on the bids. There will be further research. Action on bids was placed on hold pending specifications for bidding.

Alderman Austin stated the Annual Tax Increment Funding (TIF) Reports are being completed. She reported that the Annual Joint Review Board meeting will be held Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

Alderman Austin presented a bid from Global of \$4,272.63 for hardware/software for e-mail archiving and Acrobat software. Martha Dankenbring explained that the City's technology consultant, Chris Bland, sent bids for the hardware/software to three vendors but only Global bid. Alderman Grimm expressed that the City could get the hardware/software for less. Alderman Konsoer stated he wanted to use more technology consultants. Chris Bland is directed to search for more bids for consideration.

**PUBLIC WORKS** – Alderman Harp reported:

Roger Torman reported on street work and reported that it was necessary to cut into a new street to repair a water main break. He answered a question about the water joints stating that the water mains are cast iron and not sealed with lead. Mr. Torman reported that he was able to purchase salt for half of last year's price, there is salt left from last year, and he projected the City would use 60-70 tons of salt.

**POLICE** – Alderman Jenkins reported:

Chief Plumlee was on vacation.

An online review of the park cameras was completed, the DVR is replaced, and there are clear pictures from the park.

Alderman Grimm stated that the police radar gun was not working; Alderman Jenkins corrected stating the radar gun was working to which Grimm responded that it only worked at 10 feet, that the cords were a mess, the radar gun was over 10 years old, and he questioned whether the gun was being recertified every month. This will be checked.

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

Discussion of possible ordinance to deal with vacant properties and priority lien procedures. The City is studying Cortland and Streator ordinances for vacant properties and is working to set up something to force action. City Attorney Mark Anderson had reported that those cities have had good luck with the ordinance. Mrs. Dankenbring stated that the State has to look

out for all of the people involved in any action related to property vacancies including the owners.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Alderman Konsoer proposed revisions to Resolution No. 08-12-2015 related to staff training. Discussion followed with agreement on changes to Number One and Number two of the Resolution and further discussion to follow on Number Three and Number Four of the Resolution. Alderman Konsoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Jenkins, that revisions to Resolution No. 08-12-2015 move to the regular October Council meeting. Voice vote, five aye and one nay. MOTION CARRIED.

Alderman Konsoer questioned staffing schedules asking for more coverage of the City office, cross training of all staff, and clarity of alternate schedules.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Trick-or-Treat hours are October 31, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. There should be no leaf burning on Halloween as it poses a safety hazard for children who are out in their costumes.

At 9:59 p.m. Alderman Konsoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Jenkins, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor by voice vote. MOTION CARRIED.

*Jane M. Bauer*

Jane Bauer  
City Clerk

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