



City of SANDWICH, ILLINOIS

City Hall Annex • 128 East Railroad Street

Committee-of-the-Whole Council Meeting

March 6, 2017 @ 7:00 PM

MINUTES

Mayor Olson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Roll call was taken:

Present: Mayor Olson, City Clerk li, Aldermen Dell, Fraser, Killey, McMahon, Redden & Robinson

Also present: Attorney Tritt, Department of Public Works / City Engineer Horak, Chief Bianchi & EMA Director Ciciora

Absent: City Treasurer Webber

Mayor Olson

Jerry Lundeen Proclamation: Mayor Olson read a proclamation on the retirement of Jerry Lundeen from FNB of Omaha, Sandwich branch.

Ordinance 2017-02 entitled "An Ordinance Approving a Cable Franchise Agreement" was presented for first reading. The Ordinance will grant a franchise agreement with Comcast of Illinois.

Residential Survey Update: Preliminary results of the residential survey were available citing economic development, street / road repairs, and city government fiscal responsibility as the top three (3) concerns. Also mentioned was maintenance of residential buildings, sidewalk replacements & repairs, public safety, and public transportation. 1,260 questionnaires were mailed to random voting households, and the response rate was 37% (466 residents). The study was conducted by NIU's Center for Government Studies in DeKalb.

2016-2017 Budget Discussion: Shante' Humble, the recently hired budget consultant, was present to answer any questions. She will be meeting with Chief Bianchi and City Engineer as she continues to work on the proposed 2017-2018 budget.

Foster, Buick, Conklin, Lundgren & Tritt, LLC: No report

City Clerk: No report

City Treasurer: Absent

Director of Public Works / City Engineer Horak:

Electronic Recycling will be held on Saturday, March 11, 2017 between 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM at the Duvick Avenue water tower located at 750 N. Duvick Avenue.

Brush Pickup Program: City Engineer Horak requested the Council to give serious consideration on the operation of the City's annual brush pickup that will commence next month. Last year, the City picked up brush once a week in each Ward for 28 weeks, or 427 man hours. Because of staff shortage, Engineer Horak would like to see the brush pick up schedule shortened this year to perhaps once every other week, or even consider brush pick up twice a season. He reminded the Council that this year the City will be doing much of the street maintenance as opposed to outsourcing as in previous years.

Sidewalk Maintenance Program: Historically, under the 50/50 sidewalk program, the resident paid for labor and materials, and the City paid for the concrete providing it came from Tri-County Concrete. Additionally, in the past, the budget contained line items for safety sidewalk, sidewalk replacement, and 50/50 sidewalks. Engineer Horak cautioned the Council that the City may have liability issues citing an example if the slope of the sidewalk and curb ramp detectable warning areas do not meet regulations. He also added that it has been some time since the City has participated in the 50/50 sidewalk program, and that consideration will be made for funding in the next budget cycle.

2017 Lisbon Street – Green to Main Streets Reconstruction Project: Engineer Horak provided a packet to the Council with the repair cost breakdown on the Lisbon Street project. The overall estimated cost will be \$570,000.00. Included in the packet were photos showing the sewer condition revealing deformed and broken pipes, capital improvement plan for budget purposes, and drawings that illustrated tree removal, ComEd utility pole removal, location of new storm sewer lines, and change out of sanitary sewer service and watermain. Willow Crest will be donating land to the City for the walkway installation.

Dry Detention Basin Maintenance: In 2016, mowing of city property consisted of 548 man hours. Engineer Horak would like to hire a part time person to assist during the mowing season, and requested the Council consider native plantings for the dry detention basins that consist of approximately seventy (70) acres.

Fox River Study Group: The Fox River Study Group is an organization of local entities and communities that work together to provide data and input to the IEPA concerning the water quality of the Fox River and its watershed. The City's NPDES permit for the wastewater treatment plant provides the City the opportunity to join the Fox River Study Group and extend the timeframe needed to complete analysis and construction of any phosphorus treatment. The annual cost to join the Fox River Study Group is based on the City's population - \$0.25 per capita of 7,400. The City had requested that Tom Muth – Treasurer provide a presentation to the City Council regarding the activities of the Fox River Study Group. The tentative date for the presentation will be March 20th. The City has also requested that Strand Associates, Inc. attend and answer any questions concerning the City's NPDES permit renewal and their experience with the Fox River Study Group.

Chief Bianchi reported that the police department responded to the Ottawa and Naplate area by sending two (2) officers to tornado damaged areas.

EMA Director Ciciora reported that he will be attending an upcoming storm weather training session at Hanover Township.

Alderman Dell: No report

Alderman Fraser: No report

Alderwoman Killey advised that the finance committee will meet immediately following this evening's Committee-of-the-Whole meeting.

Alderman McMahon reported he is still investigating grants, and will enlist the help of Mike Nelson, the Community Officer for the City, who has been successful in grant writing. Alderman McMahon added that he has been unsuccessful in contacting Senator Durbin's office.

Alderman Redden: No report

Alderman Robinson requested Executive Session at the end of the meeting for personnel under Section 2(c)(1). No action will be taken after the Executive Session. He also shared that he and his daughter, Maddie, will be participating this weekend in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters bowling fundraiser.

New Business: None

Audience Comments: Ward 2 alderman candidate, Kevin Kelleher, addressed the Council. Upon hearing suggestions for brush pick up starting in April, he felt that the gap for collection every 2 months was too long.

Noting that there was a large attendance in the audience curious about the proposed chicken ordinance, Mr. Kelleher requested if that matter could be discussed. Alderman Robinson said last summer the Council approved raising of chickens inside the City limited subject to an ordinance being drawn. Notes and research findings have been provided to the Council but no draft of the ordinance has been created. Concern was raised by the audience that the Council will either rescind their previous vote or vote against an ordinance allowing the raising of chickens.

Executive Session

Motion made by Alderman Robinson and seconded by Alderman Redden to go into executive session at 7:47 PM, pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) "The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for or the public body to determine its validity". Aye: Aldermen Dell, Fraser, Killey, McMahon, Redden & Robinson Nay:0 Motion carried 6:0

Motion to return from Executive Session: Motion made by Alderman Redden and seconded by Alderman Dell to return to regular session at 8:06 PM. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Council, **motion made by Alderman Robinson and seconded by Alderman Redden to adjourn the Committee-of-the-Whole Council meeting at 8:09 PM. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

/s/ Denise Li – City Clerk