



City of SANDWICH, ILLINOIS

City Hall Annex • 128 East Railroad Street

Committee-of-the-Whole Council Meeting

May 16, 2016 @ 7:00 PM

MINUTES

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

Roll call was taken:

Present: Mayor Olson, City Clerk Ii, Alderman Dell, Fraser, Killey, McMahon, Moran, Redden, Robinson & Scheidecker

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

Absent: City Treasurer Webber

Mayor Olson

Police Benevolent Presentation: Presenters representing the Sandwich Police Benevolent were Sergeant Sal Paletta, Records Clerk Pennie Van Pelt and Community Officer Mike Nelson. A check in the amount of \$16,950.00 was presented to Mayor Olson to help offset costs for the new K-9 unit. Alderman Scheidecker noted that this week is National Police Week and encouraged residents to turn on a blue porch light showing appreciation to local police enforcements.

Eric Fletcher / Petition to Allow Raising of Chickens: Resident Eric Fletcher addressed the Council in a bid to have the current ordinance forbidding the raising of chickens revoked. Supported by an audience of nearly thirty (30) people, Mr. Fletcher said the goal was to have chickens recognized as a household pet. He distributed a packet outlining a proposed ordinance change, copies of ordinances from municipalities that have approved backyard chickens, and a petition with approximately 200 local and non-local signatures supporting backyard chickens. Westmont, Batavia, Naperville and Downers Grove are the only cities that allow hens. Mr. Fletcher expressed the benefits of backyard chickens that included a more nutritious egg, educational value for children, great fertilizer, insect control, reduction of food waste (chickens will eat kitchen scraps) and self-sustainability. The group proposed an ordinance change allowing a maximum of eight (8) hens (no roosters), free range with approved fencing, and coop restrictions as mandated by the City. They also suggested a required permit fee for the coop.

Alderman Fraser voiced concerned that chickens would attract predators that are already a concern for the City. Audience member George Van Dee addressed the Council cautioning of rabies and asked the Council to contact animal control when making their final decision if backyard chickens

were to be allowed. Pro-chicken commentaries were provided by Benny Burkett, Sue Puehler, and Stephanie Beery.

Council thanked Mr. Fletcher for a well-informed presentation and organized packet that was distributed. This discussion will be continued to June 20th offering the Council an opportunity to research those communities in Kane and DuPage Counties that allow backyard chickens.

Randolph Street Drainage Issues: Wayne & Margaret Valley, owners of 421 E. Church Street, addressed the Council regarding ongoing drainage issues that is causing pooling in their parking lot. At the time of purchase in 1997, the single family residence was re-designed into a business site. Their architecturally designed parking lot was approved to encompass private and city property. Approximately eight (8) years ago, Aurora Blacktop resurfaced Randolph Street that apparently affected the road elevation causing water runoff to pool in their parking lot. Swanson Realty has since relocated across the street from the Valley property and recently paved their new parking lot that also encompasses private and city property. With the recent heavy rains, the ponding of runoff water onto the Valley property has escalated, and the Valley's are asking for a resolution to the continued problem. Alderman Redden firmly reminded the Council that he had predicted this problem when the Council approved the installation of paved parking on the City's green area for Swanson Realty. Mr. Valley offered to share costs to have the problem resolved. Mayor Olson suggested that an appointment be made with Engineer Horak to discuss a resolution.

Sportsman's Club "Kids Fishing Derby": Representing the Sportman's Club, George Van Dee was present to promote the upcoming 8th Annual "Kids Fishing Derby" on June 4th. He emphasized it is a community event for the family, and would welcome members of the Council to assist with the activities.

Resolution 16-03 entitled "A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Approve a Contract with the Lowest Cost Electricity Provider for a Period Up to 36 Months" was presented for review. The new contract will affect electricity costs to City owned buildings, and is not to be confused with the citywide electrical aggregation program. The resolution will be place on next week's agenda for adoption.

Resolution 16-04 entitled "A Resolution of Support to the DeKalb County Emergency Telephone System Board (ETSB) to Request a Waiver form the State of Illinois to Allow Four (4) Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP's) in DeKalb County". Chief Bianchi explained that several months ago, the Governor proposed closing or consolidating 911 call centers. By doing so, the 911 call centers for NIU (Northern Illinois University), DeKalb County, City of DeKalb and City of Sandwich would be affected because each maintains their own 911 dispatching. Resolution 16-04 requests that there is a consolidation exemption for these four (4) entities under the Governor's proposal. The waiver request must be submitted by July 1st.

Motion made by Alderman Scheidecker, and seconded by Alderman Robinson, to adopt Resolution 16-04 as presented. Aye: Aldermen Dell, Fraser, Killey, McMahon, Moran, Redden, Robinson & Scheidecker Nay:0 Motion carried 8:0

International Yoga Day: The unveiling of the International Yoga Day logo will be held in Chicago on Tuesday, May 17th. Mayor Olson will be attending the event, and encouraged Council members to attend, if available. He added transportation will be provided

Foster & Buick Law Group: No report

City Clerk: No report

City Treasurer: Absent

Director of Public Works / City Engineer Horak:

Brush Pickup: Brush pickup is complete for Ward 3. The next scheduled brush pickup will be the week of June 20th.

BNSF ROW (Right of Way) / Main Street – Pipeline License 16-55042 and BNSF ROW / Lafayette Street – Pipeline License 16-55043: The agreement for installation of the replacement water main will need to be approved next week and mailed to BNSF (Burlington Northern Santa Fe) with a check for \$3,600 per location. It will be several weeks before the City can proceed putting the utilities back into the ground.

Hall Street Lofts – Plan Review: City Engineer Horak has met with Rick Menth of the Sandwich Fire Protection District and Tim Karpus, Director of Building, Planning & Zoning in Plano, to review plans for the new Hall Street Lofts project. Engineer

Electronic Recycling was held this past Saturday without incident. DeKalb County will be hosting another tube TV collection on Thursday, May 26th through Saturday, May 28th. Unlike the previous County collection held last month, the 3-day collection will be by reservation only at DC Trash in Cortland. There will be a two (2) TV limit, but arrangements can be made for additional TV sets for an additional cost. Collection is limited to approximately 1300 television sets.

Chief Bianchi: No report

EMA reported that a call had been received advising of a siren malfunction near the school campus on the south side of town. Upon investigation, no one had reported the siren except for the caller. Director Ciciora has placed a service call as a preventive measure.

Alderman Dell: No report

Alderman Fraser: No report

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

Alderman McMahon: No report

Alderman Moran: No report

Alderman Redden: No report

Alderman Robinson advised that Officer Todd Russell has requested a payout of 120 unused sick hours. No motioned was required.

Alderman Scheidecker - No report

New Business: None

Audience Comments: None

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 8:15 PM. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

/s/ Denise Li – City Clerk