



City of SANDWICH, ILLINOIS

City Hall Annex • 128 East Railroad Street

Committee-of-the-Whole Council Meeting

June 6, 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 li, Aldermen Dell, Fraser, Killey, McMahon, Redden, Robinson & Scheidecker

Alderman Moran arrived at 7:23 PM

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

Absent: City Treasurer Webber & EMA Director Ciciora

Mayor Olson

Discussion on proposed chicken ordinance: Although the Council had advised those interested in allowing backyard chickens that the Council would make a decision by June 20th, the Mayor felt the Council needed to discuss the matter in depth prior to that deadline. Council members shared conversations with their constituents who raised concerns of predators, devaluation of property and inability to enforce regulations. Many expressed that chickens belonged in a rural environment and not within city limits. Pro-chicken activist Eric Fletcher addressed the Council saying it is the irresponsible chicken owner that creates the problem. There is a high expense to raising chickens, and Mr. Fletcher felt that a coop permit would bring in additional revenue for the City to offset costs to enforce the ordinance. Mr. Fletcher added a privacy fence would eliminate neighbors' complaints as well as any predator issues. Alderman Dell inquired how long hens lay eggs. Mr. Fletcher said the hens lay 2-3 years, and then are usually slaughtered by owner's choice. Sarah Elbert also addressed the Council noting that as a Millennial (Generation Y), many in this age group find the idea of self-sustaining very positive that is a progressive moment right now. She felt by allowing backyard chickens, a younger age group would move to Sandwich and that property values would actually increase.

Mayor Olson commended the Council for speaking with their constituents, and encouraged them to keep the line of communication open. He defined the aldermen's role as representing the people who elected them, to adhere to their constituents' desires, and to decide what is best in the residents' interest. This matter will continue to June 20th.

Discussion on proposed body art text amendment: This matter will go before the Plan Commission on Tuesday, June 14th at 7:30 PM. The Plan Commission will bring a recommendation before the Council the following week.

Zoning Board of Appeals appointments: Mayor Olson explained that by ordinance, the same appointees can serve on both the Plan Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals. Future plans are to create a hearing officer position to oversee the meetings. By State statute, a municipality is required to have a ZBA (Zoning Board of Appeals).

Discussion on proposed 1% sales tax increase: The City's current sales tax rate of 6.5% is one of the lowest in this area. It was noted that Waterman was successful this past spring in increasing their sales tax. Alderman Fraser was concerned if the proposed 1% sales tax increase by DeKalb County to be applied toward the schools would directly affect Sandwich. Both queries are to be on the November ballot, and if both taxing bodies are successful in their bid for a 1% sales tax increase, the sales tax rate for Sandwich could be 8.25%. Alderman Redden noted that an 8.25% sales tax rate was still less than a lot of communities. An ordinance will be prepared for next week's meeting.

Announcement: July 2nd is the annual Freedom Days parade. This year will mark the 50th anniversary for the parade, and Mayor Olson thought it might be nice to have the Council involved.

Foster & Buick Law Group: No report

City Clerk distributed the Prevailing Wage Ordinance 2016-05 for a first read. Because of the State's budget impasse, the IDOL (IL Department of Labor) had not increased the wage rate for 2016. Using the numbers from 2015, Clerk li said there will be change in language within the contents of the ordinance noting that the wage schedule attached to the ordinance are the most current available.

City Treasurer - Absent

Director of Public Works / City Engineer Horak:

Electronics recycling program: The electronic recycling events with New Life Electronics Recycling , Inc. has been cancelled and suspended. The City will not be accepting any electronics this Saturday, June 11th. DC Trash of Cortland is accepting electronic recyclables but at a cost to the consumer.

Ward 1 brush pickup is complete. The next scheduled brush pickup for Ward 1 will be Tuesday, July 5th.

Clark Street water plant emergency generator bid results: Bids were received and opened on June 1st. The Engineer's estimate of cost was \$267,740.00. Bids were received from Ficek Electric & Communication in the amount of \$276,280.00 and from Helm Electrical Contracting Inc. for \$248,500.00. The bid packets will be reviewed and a recommendation will be brought before the Council next week for approval.

NPDES permit application update: The City should be receiving the permit application within the next few days to be signed by the Mayor. The application will then be submitted to the IEPA (Illinois Environmental Protection Agency) that is due by July 4th.

Significant industrial users monitoring update: Five (5) businesses have been inspected, and the process will continue over the next couple of weeks. Findings will be compiled into a report for future distribution.

750,000 gallon spheroid painting and repairs: Notice to Bidders will be published for the 750,000 gallon spheroid, exterior overcoat, wet interior repaint, dry interest partial repaint and miscellaneous repairs under the 2016 water tower painting. The bid opening date is scheduled for June 28th.

Proposed ordinance establishing standards for construction of facilities on the rights-of-way: Engineer Horak has met with City Attorney Kevin Buick regarding the "Ordinance Amending the Municipal Code of the City of Sandwich by Establishing Standards for the Construction Facilities on the Rights-of-Way". The Ordinance will be brought before the Council in the upcoming months for approval.

Center Street – Green to Main reconstruction project: Pay Request #3 has been received in the amount of \$173,642.89. After a review of the documents, five per cent (5%) will be remaining in the amount of \$42,380.41. Engineer Horak will bring this matter before the Council next week for payment approval.

Chief Bianchi: Alderman Fraser questioned the Chief regarding the responsibility of enforcing the backyard chicken ordinance should the Council pass it. Superintendent of Public Works Horak chimed in with the same question. Chief Bianchi said any violations would fall under the adjudication process that is being reviewed for the City.

EMA: Absent

Alderman Dell requested the Council to review bills that will be presented tonight at the finance committee meeting. Noting that the Council will approve payment of these bills at next week's regular meeting, he asked if the Council would want these bills e-mailed for further review. Council was in agreement.

Alderman Fraser: No report

Alderwoman Killey advised that the finance committee would meet immediately following this evening's meeting to review May bills.

Alderman McMahon: No report

Alderman Moran: No report

Alderman Redden: No report

Alderman Robinson requested a payout of 80 unused vacation hours to Yvonne Marsh and a carryover of 68.25 vacation hours for Brian Voelkel. No further action was taken and no motion made.

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 8:14 PM. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

/s/ Denise Li – City Clerk