



# City of **SANDWICH, ILLINOIS**

City Hall Annex · 128 East Railroad Street

**Special Council Meeting**  
December 17, 2018 @ 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, Aldermen Chmielewski, Dell, Kelleher, Killey, McMahon, Redden, Robinson & Surratt

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

**Absent:** City Treasurer Webber

(1) Approval of Minutes from the Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting of November 19, 2018; Special Meeting of December 6, 2018 and the Regular Council Meeting of December 10, 2018.

**So moved by Alderwoman Killey, and seconded by Alderwoman Chmielewski. Aye: Aldermen Chmielewski, Dell, Kelleher, Killey, McMahon, Redden, Robinson & Surratt Nay:0 Motion carried 8:0**

(2) Approval of December semi-monthly bills totaling \$94,966.96.

**Motion made by Alderwoman Killey to approve bills as presented. Alderman McMahon seconded. Aye: Aldermen Chmielewski, Dell, Kelleher, Killey, McMahon, Redden, Robinson & Surratt Nay:0 Motion carried 8:0**

(3) Ordinance 2018-20 entitled "Annual Tax Levy" presented for passage. Wes Levy, representing Lauterbach & Amen, was present to answer questions.

**Alderman Redden moved to pass the annual Tax Levy Ordinance 2018-20. Seconded by Alderman McMahon. Aye: Aldermen Chmielewski, Dell, Kelleher, Killey, McMahon, Redden, Robinson & Surratt Nay:0 Motion carried 8:0**

(4) Ordinance 2018-22 entitled "An Ordinance Amending the Municipal Code of Sandwich, Illinois Amending the Class G Liquor License" is presented for first reading and possible passage. The ordinance will amend Section 6-47(11) of the Municipal Code by eliminating the requirement that the retail sale of bottled wine is the primary business of the licensee

**Motion made by Alderman Robinson, and seconded by Alderman Kelleher, to waive first reading of Ordinance 2018-22. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Alderman Robinson made a motion to a pass Ordinance 2018-22 as presented. Motion was seconded by Alderman Surratt. Aye: Aldermen Chmielewski, Dell, Kelleher, Killey, McMahon, Redden, Robinson & Surratt Nay:0 Motion carried 8:0**

(5) Motion approving application for the DeKalb County Community Foundation grant:

**So moved by Alderman Kelleher; Alderman Redden seconded. Aye: Aldermen Chmielewski, Dell, Kelleher, Killey, McMahon, Redden, Robinson & Surratt Nay:0 Motion carried 8:0**

(6) Ordinance 2018-23 entitled “An Ordinance Granting a Special Use in the R-1, One-Family Residence District Permitting a Family Child Care Home for the Property Located at 300 E. Sunset Avenue” presented for first reading. Mayor Olson advised the Council has three options before them for a decision: (1) choose to accept the recommendation of the Plan Commission; (2) choose not to accept the recommendation of the Plan Commission; or (3) revert the topic back to the Plan Commission for further review. At the Plan Commission meeting of Tuesday, December 11, 2018, the motion to recommend a Special Use Permit failed by a vote of 1 (yes) 4 (no) 2 (absent). This matter will be placed on the January 14, 2019 regular council meeting agenda for a vote.

Alderman McMahon, who initiated the investigation questioning if the daycare required a special use permit, read a letter defending his actions. He explained that complaints often start with an alderman being contacted, as it was in this incident. He stressed he was not ‘the bad guy’, but felt he was doing his job as an alderman.

(7) Audience Comments relating to the Lil’ Monkeys Learning Tree: The majority of the speakers, oftentimes emotional, spoke in favor of the facility noting it’s family-like atmosphere, educational learning curriculum, and affordable daycare services. Some spoke asking the Council to consider the community and felt that the daycare was a valuable asset to the neighborhood. Many were not from Sandwich, but their children attend the facility that is DCFS approved for 16 children, and presently 24 are enrolled. Some voiced their opinion that a daycare facility in the neighborhood would actually increase property values, not decrease as feared.

WSPY correspondent, Jim Wyman, asked of the City Attorney, Kevin Buick, if the City will be investigating other daycare centers to become compliant. Response was a firm ‘yes’.

In conclusion, Alderman Pete Dell reiterated that the denial for a special use permit was not questioning the quality of service nor the intent of closing the business but rather the problem was the location of the facility. Lil’ Monkeys owner, Janis Gerali, said she cannot afford to rent a commercial building to house the daycare.

Audience Comment relating to Sandwich Police Commission: Former Police Commissioner, Bob Perkins, read an apology letter for his behavior at previous Council meetings. He expressed disappointment that the City Council has not individually reached out to him to discuss inappropriate texts and why the current Police Commissioners have not been removed from office. Mayor and Council did not redress his comments.

(8) Engineer Horak announced that the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) regular meeting of Tuesday, December 18, 2018 has been cancelled.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Council, **motion made by Alderman Robinson and seconded by Alderman Redden to adjourn the Special Council meeting at 8:05 PM. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

/s/ Denise Li – City Clerk