

Administration Committee Meeting

City Of Virden

City Council Chambers

Thursday, August 3, 2023

Meeting called to order by Alderman Mottershaw at 7:00 pm

Aldermen in attendance: Bertolino, Boster, Calloway, Cunningham, Ibberson, Mitchell, Mottershaw, and Neighbors

Also in attendance: Mayor Murphy

Visitors: Gary Marsaglia, Mike and Debbie Marsaglia, JoAnn Marsaglia, Bill and Marcia Woodruff, Mark Woodruff, Bill and Judy Berry, Suzanne Gray, Gary Cotterman, Lyndell Payne. Visitors left at 7:38 pm.

Comments from audience: Suzanne Gray: I would like to speak in support of adding liquor license for gaming house. I think it would be a great asset to the city for the revenue and eliminate vacant buildings. Mike Marsaglia: I would like the council to consider opening up the liquor license for gaming. If you look at the numbers from the Illinois Gaming Site for Auburn, Girard, and Carlinville; adding a gaming house does not affect the numbers for the taverns as stated from the taverns in the past. Adding a gaming house would bring revenue, jobs, and rental. It could also bring in additional revenue from other places such as gas, restaurants, etc. Bill Woodruff: My son owns a gaming house in Auburn. He was unable to make it tonight. As far as the police chief in Auburn, they have zero problems from the gaming houses. It brings in local jobs and it brings in revenue to the city. I know it has been voted down before because it may hurt the taverns but if McDonald's is going to come to town it wouldn't be voted down because it was going to hurt Hardees or Dairy Queen. I don't see where this situation is any different to any other business wanting to open in town. We have wonderful people working for this town Gary Etter and Chief Snodgrass. The city could use the extra money to give them the extra equipment that they need and the salaries to keep the great crews they have here for the city. Lady Comment: We need to leave personalities at the door and think about the city you were elected to represent. We need the income for this city.

Topics:

1. Approval of meeting minutes 07/06/2023

Motion made by Mottershaw second by Calloway to approve meeting minutes 07/06/2023. Motion passed with all in favor.

2. Discuss participation in drainage projects

Passed out a draft. The council can review and discuss at the next Public Works meeting.

3. Discuss hiring of new City Office Manager

It was recommended to promote from within. Alderman Mottershaw states that personnel code states that it has to be advised. Mayor Murphy points out that in the

code if the council wants to bypass the practice of advertising a motion can be made to bypass, and it has to have a 2/3 vote. There was not a consensus of 2/3 to waive the advertising process. The previous council vote and passed was for \$15.00/hr. for training period and increase to \$18.00/hr. when full time then all non-union employees get a \$.50 raise after 6 months when off of probation. It was recommended for it to be \$18.00/hr. full-time position to be posted. It is a concern that you will get a quality person willing to quit their full-time position to train for the extended training period without benefits. Advertising August 7-21st. Review applications on August 24th Finance committee with interviews on August 31st. We need to find in the budget at the Finance meeting to find money for full-time in the budget. The starting date would be determined based on money found in budget. Madonna is retiring early February.

4. Sanitary District contract

Lisa sent a copy of an edited contract and Gary had given suggestions. Mayor Murphy added the changes. This new contract needs to be reviewed. It cost \$151,844.00 to run the water office. This is an additional \$60,000 from the original numbers that had previously been discussed over the last four meetings. It was suggested to move forward with the numbers already discussed and it can be adjusted with the next contract. On the contract we deleted out "by customer and in the aggregate". Also, under D "providing district at the city's option in either paper or electronic format" that is instead of having it at the end of number 5. Add under B "Any partial payments the monies collected from the customer shall be credited first to the city and then to the district". Under 4 strike "for prior billing cycles". On 3D, the deposit is a water deposit. The sanitary district doesn't have a deposit. They have a tap fee and that is under new construction. Add customer applications including the summer rate applications and allowance for pool filling. Comptroller is no fee it is taken out of the tax refund if they have one coming, and the collection agency is based on % collected. #8 verbiage "at least six months prior to the end of the contract city shall inform district of new rates". Stay with the clean even numbers initial term \$3,000, renewal year one \$3,300, and \$3,630 for monthly service charge. We will make changes to the contract and discuss the final at the Public Works meeting.

5. Discuss creating a new class liquor license

The Mayor placed this on the agenda because at the last committee meeting it was discussed to raise the number of Class A liquor licenses and package liquor licenses but those both were voted down. I added discussing a new class to still be able to do gaming. These were not voted down. Four Aldermen present at last meeting wanted to move forward; three Aldermen present at last meeting did not. It was stated that the one alderman not present would not agree to move forward. It should have been the mayor to break the tie. The mayor at that time would have sided with not moving forward so a consensus would not have been obtained. Alderman Ibberson and Alderman Bertolino would like to do more research on a new type of liquor license and discuss at the next Admin meeting. We can ask the attorney questions at the next council meeting regarding rules around creating a new class of liquor license.

6. Advertising for a custodian

It was discussed to see if Jessica is still interested. It would be overtime for her, the consensus was to readvertise to see if anyone applies.

7. Discuss 2-hour parking enforcement

It was brought to an Alderman regarding the 2-hour parking was not being enforced. This will be placed on the Police meeting agenda.

8. Discuss Animal control ordinance

Mayor Murphy would like us to vote to adopt the new ordinance for animal control for the county. It looks like they are going to charge a \$25.00 public safety fee to the dog owner. The city used to be billed and this wasn't noted in the new ordinance. It was recommended by Mottershaw and seconded by Murphy to approve adopting the new ordinance from Macoupin County at Council meeting.

Additional Items:

1. Add Employee direct deposit and interview process changes to next admin agenda
2. An invoice was sent in January of 2020 but was not paid for \$2,600 for Benton & Associates. This will be on Council meeting.

Motion made by Calloway to adjourn. Seconded by Ibberson. Majority in favor to adjourn at 9:20 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.



Shelly Boster
City Clerk

Date Minutes Approved: 8/31/2023