

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY OF POLO HELD IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 115 S. FRANKLIN AVE., POLO, ILLINOIS, FEBRUARY 4, 2015.

INVOCATION:

Mayor Knapp gave invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Knapp led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Knapp called the rescheduled meeting of the February 2, 2015 Polo City Council to order at 7:00p.m. on Wednesday, February 4, 2015.

PRESENT: Alderperson Louise Hall, Alderman Jim Busser, Alderman Troy Boothe, Alderperson Cheryl Galor, Alderman Randy Schoon. Also present was Mayor Doug Knapp and City Clerk Susie Corbitt.

ABSENT: Alderman David Ackeberg and City Attorney Tom Suits.

APPROVAL OF THE 1/19/15 MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING:

Alderperson Cheryl Galor made a motion to accept the minutes of the 1/19/15 regular city council meeting as presented, seconded by Alderman Randy Schoon. Ayes 5, nays 0. The motion carried by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF THE 1/19/15 CLOSED SESSION MEEETING MINUTES:

Alderman Randy Schoon made a motion to accept the minutes of the 1/19/15 closed session meeting as presented, seconded by Alderperson Louise Hall. Ayes 5, nays 0. The motion carried by voice vote.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Streets and Sidewalks:

None.

Finance & Ordinances:

Alderperson Louise Hall reported on January 22, 2015 the city issued a check out of the water/sewer Enterprise funds in the amount of \$100,000.00, which was invested in a new 12 month CD for sewer equipment replacement at the First State Bank Shannon Polo.

Buildings and Grounds:

None.

Police:

None.

Sanitation:

None.

Parks & Pool:

Alderperson Cheryl Galor reported Ben Katner has passed his certification through the Illinois States Attorney's office for the Open Meetings Act, and that February 25th is the first park board meeting for this

year. Alderperson Galor spoke with Judy Shipman concerning working more with the park department and she is excited about the upcoming year in assisting Mr. Shetler in the parks.

Water & Sewer:

None.

City Clerk's Report:

City Clerk Corbitt reported she attended a Municipal Clerks of Illinois seminar in Park Lawn last week. Presentations were given on: DEA in Local Drug Enforcement, Illinois Department of Revenue, New Law and Legislation Updates and the Illinois State Archives on record disposals and retention.

The city also received notice from the Illinois Department of Commerce concerning the close out package for the wet pit/filter room \$38,000.00 grant money. As of January 22, 2015 DCEO has determined that the City of Polo is in compliance with the closing requirements of our grant agreement. We do have to continue to be in compliance to retain all records documenting the expenditures of grant funds for a period of four years and cooperate with any audit conducted by the Department.

City Clerk Corbitt met with auditors from Wifpi concerning the quote for the city audit and has been working on getting quotes for the old hotel demolition. Concerns are aseptic and lead paint which will require certified inspectors for each to be contracted. She questioned how does the city want to proceed? Alderman Schoon reported there is a possibility they will have to take the first two floors down by hand due to the east wall may crumble if end loaders are used per a Civil Contractor employee. Discussion held to ask in the demolition quotes to include the cost for aseptic and lead paint removal. Budget dates need to be set up for the 2015/16 city working budget with consideration of salaries so the clerk can place salaries, social security and pension amounts in the respective budget areas.

Police Chief's Report:

None.

SAFETY AND ACCIDENT REPORTS:

Alderman Randy Schoon reported Street Superintendent Kendall Kyker injured his left knee when he tripped on a set of steps on January 20, 2015. All required reports have been submitted to the Illinois Municipal League Risk Management Association.

COMMENTS & QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Consideration & Possible Action on a Request from Mr. Joe Wilson of Chesty P's Pub for a Special Event to Benefit The Dark Horse Lodge (A Retreat for Combat Veterans) on June 27, 2015 to Honor Chesty Puller's 117th Birthday.

Joe Wilson was present making a request for a special event he will be holding at Chesty P's Pub to honor U.S. Marine Chesty Puller's 117th birthday. Mr. Puller according to Mr. Wilson is the most famous Marine. This event will start at 2pm on June 27th, with a 50/50 raffle, silent auction, food and entertainment. Proceeds will benefit the Dark Horse Lodge, which is a retreat for Combat Veterans. He would like East Mason Street from Franklin Avenue to DAD's closed off. He has 250 commitments at this time, but stated there could be 1,000 attendees. He made a request to allow open seal, with walking around on the sidewalks and within this one block area. Mayor Knapp stated he as the local Liquor Commissioner does not have a problem with the open seal request, but will need to discuss this with Attorney Suits and will get back to Mr. Wilson. Discussion on how the insurance needs to be handled

was held. When events are held on city property liability insurance needs to be taken out naming the City of Polo as additionally insured, with a minimal of \$1,000,000.00 liability taken out and submitted to the Illinois Municipal League Risk Management Company thirty days before the event is held. Mr. Wilson stated he will contact a local insurance agent for this coverage.

Consensus of the City Council is to allow this request, contingent that the liability insurance is provided with the City of Polo as additionally insured along with the Liquor Commissioners approval of open seals.

B. Consideration & Possible Action on a Possible Financial Request of the City of Polo from Mr. Ahmad Farraj to Open a Grocery Store.

Mr. Jerry Abbed was present with Mr. Ahmad Farraj asking the City Council what they are going to do to assist in getting this grocery store open. Mr. Abbed has numerous grocery stores in Illinois that he owns or has sold. He went on to say this building needs so much work and Mr. Farraj cannot afford to take this on alone. Mr. Abbed was questioning the TIF District and what they can get through this. It was explained that our TIF District currently has a minimal amount of approximately \$37,000.00 and \$10,000.00 has to be paid back to the General Fund before the next fiscal year starts. Mr. Abbed stated he received all kinds of money from the municipality of Lexington along with State TIF money. City Clerk Corbitt informed Mr. Abbed that there is no longer any State TIF Funds available, in which he disagreed. The city clerk has been in contact with people in Springfield concerning this but informed Mr. Abbed that she will contact our local Representatives concerning State TIF assistance. Mr. Abbed suggested we contact Lexington Illinois, and Mayor John Mohr to discuss what they did for him. He also suggested contacting Liz Skinner, Mayor of Delevan Il. Mr. Abbed informed the council that he opened a store and then sold it. Discussion was held on will the commitment by our citizens be given to the store, with no guarantees there.

Discussion was held that there is not TIF money that is available at this time on the city's behalf. Mr. Abbed stated he will be running the store, but if we do not assist he can move on. Alderman Boothe asked if he would have the opportunity to flip the store would he with Mr. Abbed stating yes he would.

City Clerk Corbitt gave Mr. Farraj information from the America's Small Business Center Development in Rockford through Rock Valley College. They will work with businesses struggling to open, which has to be a small business. They will work on the owner's behalf with other organizations with low interest loans or possible small grants that may be out there. They have contacts with State, Federal and local governments. Contact is with SBDC through Director Brian McIntyre at Rock Valley College.

Alderman Troy Boothe would like to form a special committee to look at this, with Mayor Knapp replying he could appoint a committee. Mayor Knapp stated he would like to get with Mr. Farraj to meet privately.

C. Consideration & Possible Action on the Possible Hiring of a Full Time Police Officer.

Alderman Boothe reported he and Alderman Busser interviewed Mr. Troy Randall and highly recommends him being hired by the city. Mr. Randall was a Marine, has been a law enforcement officer for the past seventeen years and was the Chief of Police in Shannon.

Alderman Troy Boothe made a motion to hire Mr. Troy Randall as a full time police officer at \$18 an hour, wage to be reviewed in May, 2015, seconded by Alderman Jim Busser. Alderperson Hall asked why the review of his wages in May. Alderman Boothe replied that he would like to do a police salary study to see if our department is where it should be, then take that into consideration with the new budget. City Clerk Corbitt stated she has a survey that was just recently done and will send it to Alderman Boothe. Mayor Knapp requested the City Clerk call roll on the motion; Alderperson Cheryl Galor yes, Alderman Randy Schoon yes, Alderman David Ackeborg absent, Alderperson Louise Hall yes, Alderman Jim Busser yes, Alderman Troy Boothe yes. The motion carried.

Mayor Knapp stated on behalf of the City of Polo it was nice to meet you Mr. Randall and that Alderman Busser and Boothe had nothing but nice things to say about you. He welcomed Mr. Randall and his family who were present this evening to our Polo Community.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Alderman Randy Schoon made a motion to adjourn out of the regular City Council meeting at 7:40p.m. seconded by Alderman Troy Boothe. Ayes 5, nays 0. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Susie Corbitt, MMC
City Clerk