

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY OF POLO HELD IN THE CITY HALL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 115 S. FRANKLIN AVE., POLO, ILLINOIS, FEBRUARY 16, 2016.

INVOCATION:

Mayor Doug Knapp gave invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Knapp led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Knapp called the regular meeting of the Polo City Council to order at 7:00p.m. on Tuesday, February 16, 2016.

PRESENT: Alderman Phillip Peterson, Alderman Jim Busser, Alderman Troy Boothe, Alderperson Cheryl Galor and 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 2/1/16 MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING:

Alderman Randy Schoon made a motion to accept the minutes of the 2/1/16 regular city council meeting as presented, seconded by Alderperson Cheryl Galor. Ayes 5, nays 0. The motion carried by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF THE 2/1/16 CLOSED SESSION MINUTES:

Alderman Randy Schoon made a motion to accept the minutes of the 2/1/16 regular city council meeting as presented, seconded by Alderperson Cheryl Galor. Ayes 5, nays 0. The motion carried by voice vote.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE JANUARY 2016 TREASURER'S REPORT TO FILE FOR AUDIT:

Alderman Troy Boothe made a motion to accept the January 2016 treasurer's report to file for audit as presented, seconded by Alderman Randy Schoon. Ayes 5, nays 0. The motion carried by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF THE LIST OF BILLS:

Mayor Knapp asked if there were any bills to add to the list of bills; Alderman Boothe added a bill to Dixon Ottawa Communications in the amount of \$2,958.00 for the police department in which \$2,000 is paying most of this bill, which was a donation to the city, Alderman Schoon added two bills to Aramark for \$54.12 for the street department and \$18.04 for the water/sewer departments and a bill to ComEd in the amount of \$17.38 for the street department. Alderperson Cheryl Galor made a motion to accept the list of bills as amended, seconded by Alderman Troy Boothe.

Mayor Kanpp requested the City Clerk call roll on the motion; Alderman Phillip Peterson yes, Alderman Jim Busser yes, Alderman Troy Boothe yes, Alderperson Cheryl Galor yes, Alderman Randy Schoon yes, Alderman David Ackeborg absent. The motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Streets and Sidewalks:

None.

Finance & Ordinances:

None.

Buildings and Grounds:

None.

Police:

None.

Sanitation:

None.

Parks & Pool:

Alderperson Cheryl Galor reported the first park board meeting for the season will be held on Wednesday, 2/24/16 at 7pm in city hall

Water & Sewer:

Alderman Randy Schoon reported employees Mike Mumford and Cale Fry have received a certificate of achievement for a one day training on General Chemical Safety. This training was put on by the Illinois Rural Water Association.

City Clerk's Report:

City Clerk Corbitt reported there will be a Chamber After Hours on Monday, February 29th from 5:00-7:00pm at The Polo Room; the City Council is invited to attend. The Polo fire department will also be holding an informational meeting that same evening at 7:00pm in the fire station. This is an informational meeting for the referendum that they are placing on the March 15, 2016 election ballot. City Clerk Corbitt reminded everyone that we need to start setting up budget meetings and everyone has their budget worksheet in their mailbox.

Police Chief's Report:

None.

SAFETY AND ACCIDENT REPORTS:

None.

COMMENTS & QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Consideration & Possible Action on a Request for the Possible Permission of Out of Town UVT's, CUV's, Golf Cart, etc. Traveling the Polo Bike Trail to Use City Streets without the City of Polo required Permit.

Alderman Schoon reported since the last meeting at least a dozen people have contacted him asking why we are not allowing the UTV/ATV's to come into our town. One group is the snow rangers who have asked for more consideration of this request. They cannot understand that 14 years olds can travel on our snow mobile trails, but the council will not allow anyone under 21 years of age on these vehicles. Alderman Schoon reported that PCHS Principle Andy Faivre is in favor of this and said the schools can restrict golf carts, UTV's and ATV's from coming onto school property. Alderman Boothe stated we did not tell Mr. Imfeld no. Joe Wilson was present stating there is already a ruling at the high school that you cannot bring snowmobiles and or UTV's to the schools, which he said has been in effect for the last three years. Alderman Schoon suggested a map be drawn with the permitted streets and place the approved off bike trail areas and if they are found elsewhere then the police can site them for this. Discussion was held that this area would include our restaurants and gas stations which could be an extreme economic impact to them.

Alderman Peterson stated he was upset over the age change at the time, but nothing else when Mr. Imfeld made the request. He does not see a problem with this request and feels we need to consider changing the age to 18 years old rather than 21 years old. He likes the idea of people coming in and spending money at our businesses with how that will impact them financially. Mayor Knapp stated we went into a process to put the golf cart in and thought 21 years old was the answer. Alderman Schoon stated that Steve Sheaffer is highly in favor of this and his family owns a lot of farm land along the Dixon Park District bike path so he has a vested interest. Mr. Sheaffer informed Alderman Schoon that he really supports the use of the path with these vehicles and hopes the city does the same. The DNR is behind this and will be policing this and once someone does anything wrong the violator will be ordered off the path and not allowed on it ever again.

Discussion was held on our citizens paying \$25 but these people want to come to town and spend money at our businesses, not use the city streets like the golf cart ordinance is written for.

Mr. TJ Graden was present stating he has spoken with Ogle County and they are going to route it and feels we need to do so also.

Alderman Schoon stated we need to contact Mr. Imfeld and let him know we support this and will consider changing the age to 18 years old. Alderman Boothe stated he did not want anyone here after dark. Alderman Peterson replied that they will be gone before dark. Discussion held that the golf carts ordinance does not affect these individual's at all if the fees are waived. Alderman Boothe stated let's just post the group's name and that they have to abide by certain rules with a map.

Discussion on changing the ordinance to read 18 years old and make a clear map with red areas of only where they can go. City Clerk Corbitt will contact Mr. Imfeld and let him know and ask Attorney Suits to draft an amendment to the golf cart ordinance to change the age limit to 18 years old, rather than 21.

NEW BUSINESS:

B. Consideration & Possible Action on the Natural Gas Renewal Contract.

The City of Polo currently has eleven accounts that are under contract with Constellation Energy. There is a fixed or index type of energy product presented this evening to make a decision on. The City has always been on an index with our renewal options coming down to continuing the current program with Constellation Energy Services at the NGI + \$.04 or going on a VanGuard Utility index program. Rock River Energy Services, the City's broker recommends staying where we are. The NGI +\$.04 program and the VUI are similar, but NGI has had a slight higher savings. The NGI program is where the city would currently save over Nicor. Nicor changes their rates monthly, but Constellation is a fixed rate when on an index plan. The City Council consensus is to stay on the current plan with Constellation Energy.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Alderman Schoon reported the street department needs their storage areas and sooner than later. \$40,000.00 is set aside for this year's budget and he feels we need to put this building out at the sewer plant. There are five available lots up at Gary Bocker's property where the Olsen Grain buildings used to be that they want to sell. We could store our street equipment, parks and any other city equipment there. Where the grain bins were located there is four times the amount of cement in order to take it all out. Alderman Schoon reported that Mike Mumford feels we need to put a pole building out at the sewer plant which would mean more land would not have to be purchased so as to save the city. The one thing Mayor Knapp stated he wanted was something for the future in that we will need to build a new city hall at some point. Discussion was held at length that a new city hall building is going to need to be either purchased or built due to the disrepair and need for more space in the current building. Mayor Knapp understands the total price is \$60,000.00 for the Bocker property and all the improvements and or demolition except putting a new door in can be done in house by the street department employees. Alderman Busser stated that if we brought this property maybe Mr. Bocker could take care of taking down the cement /bins and that maybe we could purchase this and think of the future for a new city hall years down the road. He went on to say if we could get them to tear that concrete out it would be beneficial to the city and save money. Discussion was held on a question by Alderperson Galor on soil testing and if that would need to be done. Alderman Busser stated the location at the Bocker property would be a much better location than others we have looked at, but that the buildings are not in very good condition. Mayor Knapp asked that Alderman Schoon and Busser along with a few city employees meet with Mr. Bocker and get back to us. This will be placed back on the 3/7/16 city council agenda.

Alderman Randy Schoon made a motion to adjourn out of regular session at 7:40pm, seconded by Alderman Jim Busser. Ayes 5, nays 0. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Susie Corbitt, MMC
City Clerk