

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, MARCH 17, 2014.

INVOCATION:

Reverend Greg Downs 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 Monday, March 17, 2014.

PRESENT: Alderperson Louise Hall, Alderman Matt MeKeel, Alderman Troy Boothe, Alderperson Cheryl Galor and Alderman Randy Schoon. Also present was Mayor Doug Knapp, City Attorney Tom Suits and City Clerk Susie Corbitt.

ABSENT: Alderman David Aceberg.

APPROVAL OF THE 3/03/14 MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING:

Alderman Matt MeKeel made a motion to accept the minutes of the 3/03/14 regular city council meeting as presented, seconded by Alderperson Cheryl Galor. Ayes 5, nays 0. The motion carried by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 2014 TREASURER'S REPORT TO FILE FOR AUDIT:

Alderperson Cheryl Galor made a motion to accept the February 2014 treasurer's report as presented to file for audit, seconded by Alderperson Louise Hall. 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 Randy Schoon added a bill in the amount of \$308.96 to Detroit Industrial Tools for the street department. Alderman Matt MeKeel made a motion to accept the list of bills as amended, seconded by Alderman Randy Schoon. Mayor Knapp requested the City Clerk call roll on the motion; Alderman Matt MeKeel yes, Alderman Troy Boothe yes, Alderperson Cheryl Galor yes, Alderman Randy Schoon yes, Alderman David Aceberg absent, Alderperson Louise Hall yes. The motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Streets and Sidewalks:

None.

Finance & Ordinances:

None.

Police:

None.

Sanitation:

None.

Buildings and Grounds:

None.

Parks & Pool:

Aldersperson Cheryl Galor reported the Polo Park Board will be meeting on 3/19/14 at 7pm in city hall.

Water & Sewer:

Alderman Randy Schoon reported Mr. Matt Hansen of Willett, Hofmann & Associates was out to address the list of items needing attention at the new waste water treatment plant. He also reported the city passed all the radium test levels.

City Clerk's Report:

City Clerk Corbitt reported she met with three representatives from the Blackhawk Hills Regional Council concerning start up for the Comprehensive Plan updates. Blackhawk Hills R C & D is starting to compile the city information and maps through Ogle County GIS Mapping, with our first official meeting set for April 17th at 7pm which will coincide with the Polo Economic Development Corporations meetings. Also reported was in a conversation with the Polo Vet Clinic it was discovered that when a dog is picked up in Polo a picture is placed on the Polo Animal Hospitals new Facebook page for a week, along with the picture run once in the Tri-County Press newspaper.

The city audit for the 2013/14 fiscal year is set for June 23 to June 28, 2014. There will be a Chamber After Hours held at The Polo Room on March 31st from 5-7pm. The host will be the newest Chamber member Celebrations Catering, which is owned by Mindy Ditzler and Toby Aquilar, and they will be serving the food that evening.

At this time Mayor Knapp mentioned signing up for NIXLE and how informative that is for our citizens to get notifications from Chief Christen. All you have to do is go on a computer and sign up with nixle.com, then you will receive all notices Chief Christen sends out on a smart phone.

Police Chief's Report:

None.

SAFETY AND ACCIDENT REPORTS:

None.

COMMENTS & QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Consideration & Possible Action on the Changes to the Yard Waste Pick Up Services Provided by Moring Disposal.

Mayor Knapp reported Moring Disposal biggest concern at our committee meetings was they were traveling every street there were so few yard waste pick up areas in town. This is very time consuming for them along with the wear and tear on all our streets. Moring Disposal has agreed to make certain changes to their yard waste pick and, but will continue to not charge for this service. The only change would be that anyone who wishes their yard waste picked up during April through November will have to call Moring Disposal to set this up, but just a onetime call per season, you will not have to call for every pick up. Moring Disposal will be sending out letters to explain the change to all households in Polo. The phone number to call is 815-938-3602. City Clerk Corbitt reported she provided Moring Disposal with the mailing labels today for this mailing.

Aldersperson Cheryl Galor made a motion to accept the procedure change in yard waste pick up for citizen's to call in once a year in order to be on this program provided by Moring Disposal as explained above, seconded by Alderman Troy Boothe. Ayes 5, nays 0. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Consideration & Possible Action on a Request from the Polo Town & Country Days Festival Committee for the Use of City Property and Street Closures for the 2014 Festival on June 12-15, 2014.

Mr. and Mrs. Jon Miller were present on behalf of the Polo Town and Country Day's Festival Committee requesting street closures (same as in previous years), hydrant dressings and the use of the municipal parking lot east of the Pinecricker Café at the corner of North Green Avenue and East Mason Street. The festival will be held June 12-15, 2014. Mr. Miller thanked the council for assisting them each year and Mayor Knapp thanked their committee for what they provide to our community. Consensus of the Polo City Council is to allow these requests.

B. Consideration & Possible Action on Rock River Energy Consultants Proposals for the City of Polo Electrical Aggregation Renewal Contract.

Ms. Marni Henert, representing Rock River Energy was present with quotes to present for consideration with the City of Polo electrical aggregation. Our current program will be up for renewal in July, but now is the time to look this over. A handout was provided to the City Council. This year ComEd did drop their cost, but theirs will go to 9 cents or a 70 % increase this year. The timelines were looked at; bids are larger than the last time with the 3 year price as the best. She reported there is no termination fees with all the bids presented. Last summer originally they offered a price match guarantee with ComEd, and then ComEd pulled that out. First Energy is the only one to offer the rate guarantee. If ComEd price is below contract rate then the city can decide to end the program. Constellation quotes the first year at 7.151, second at 7.034 and third at 6.791. Mr. Mudge, owner of Rock River Energy reported that Constellation is very reliable; City of Polo currently has this company for our larger city services such as the water plant and sewer plant. The one thing with the offering

of a no rate guarantee are our citizens having the right to change at no penalty. Ms. Henert stated maybe Rock River Energy can ask Constellation to notify our residents that ComEd would be lowering their cost when and if that were to occur. The Council appeared to like that possibility, but it is not a guarantee.

Mayor Knapp asked if Mike Mudge had any recommendations. He likes a supplier that has generation assets so if weather gets rough they keep it together through the storms. He reported that Constellation is actually owned by Exelon and they also own the power companies around this area. He stated he does not like to influence the council, and that there are four good providers. Discussion that the \$2.00 savings really helps. Constellation means a \$7 to \$7.50 increase versus a \$9 increase with First Energy. These rates are good today and do change every day. The bidders know they will hold the rates a day or until a contract is reviewed. Everyone who is on the list currently will get an opt out letter, with the opt out period being approximately a 2 week period of time. If the customers want to stay with the city's new selection they do nothing. Only those wishing to not stay with the new energy provider will send the letter back to opt out.

Mr. Mudge stated we are almost offering a safety program with these people having a community program provided by the Polo City Council. Rates are going up due to the capacity for the generator to make sure there is going to be plenty of supply years out currently to 2017.

Mayor Knapp asked what are we to do tonight. Mr. Mudge responded to picks your supplier and ask for a contract so Attorney Suits can look the contract over before the Mayor signs it.

Aldersperson Cheryl Galor made a motion to accept Constellation, an Exelon Company with a 3 year contract for the citizen of Polo energy supplier for electric aggregation and to authorize Mayor Doug Knapp to sign the contract after Attorney Suits reviews the Constellations contract, seconded by Alderman Randy Schoon. Mayor Knapp requested the City Clerk call roll on the motion; Alderman Troy Boothe yes, Aldersperson Cheryl Galor yes, Alderman Randy Schoon yes, Alderman David Aceberg absent, Aldersperson Louise Hall yes, Alderman Matt MeKeel yes. The motion carried.

Mr. Mudge stated the community should commend this Council along with the past mayor and the past city council for making this decision to allow Municipal Aggregation within the City of Polo.

C. Consideration & Possible Action on a Request from Mr. Mike Scholl for an Extension on Ordinance 13-08, Keeping of Honey Bee Nucs, to Section Five: Permit Shall Expire on March 15, 2014 and a Request to House Honey Bee Nucs Year Round.

Mr. Mike Scholl was present requesting an extension on ordinance 13-08, which states he needs to remove his honey bee nucs from his residence by March 15, 2014. Mr. Scholl stated he is looking for an extension of March 15, 2014. He reported the empty nucs are currently still there, but none of the honey bees are alive due to the prolonged cold period along with he did not get the nucs in there soon enough in the fall.

Mr. Scholl would like an extension for a different location on his property for two hives and four nucs year round, one of which is a queen castle. Aldersperson Hall stated that raises the same concerns she previously had before. She is not against the six months but doing it year round and questioned why he could not do it out of town. Mr. Scholl spoke of pesticides and other chemicals being near the farmer's field, which kills the bees. Alderman Schoon asked if we are going to have to go through the Zoning Board of Appeals again. Discussion on nuc's which are five stories versus hives which are ten stories was held. Mr. Scholl stated he would be happy with just the nucs and not the hives, but allowing this year round.

Attorney Suits reported according to the current ordinance which is expired, it allows the nucs anywhere on the property. If the council were to approve an extension then they would have to amend this ordinance. He stated that since the Zoning Board of Appeals already approved honey bee nucs within the corporate limits all year round, then the council could adopt a new ordinance or extend this ordinance. Due to this a new Zoning Board of Appeals Hearing would not be required. Discussion was held to somehow notify the neighbors that the City Council may consider this amendment. City Clerk Corbitt stated she can send a letter out to the neighbors and then this will be placed on the April 7th City Council agenda for future discussion.

D. Consideration & Possible Action on a Request from Chief Dennis Christen to Purchase a 2014 Dodge Ram 4x4 Pickup for the Police Department through the State Joint Purchasing Program to Expend in the 2014/15 Fiscal Year.

Mayor Knapp stated this is a state bid and only exceeds an automobile squad cost by \$2,000 to \$3,000 and that he has been on board for this purchase for some time. Chief Christen will leave it unmarked and possibly order it in black or some dark color.

The intention is to trade the 2008 Chevy Impala that has approximately 50,000 miles on it, with a trade in value of \$5,000.00. Alderperson Cheryl Galor asked why a truck. Chief Christen stated due to the four wheel drive, especially with the kind of winter we have had this year. He also reported barricades and cones can be kept in the back; it is a little roomier inside and a better trade in value when that time comes. Alderman Schoon reported that the Ogle County Sheriff's Department has four trucks, Mt. Morris and Bryon PD each has one. Chief Christen reported the light bar and monitor bracket for the computer will all have to be purchased for the truck.

Alderman Randy Schoon made a motion to allow Police Chief Dennis Christen to order a 2014 Dodge Ram 4 x 4 crew special service pickup for the police department in the amount of \$24,682.00 with a trade in of \$5,000.00 on the 2008 Chevy Impala for a cost of \$19,682.00 for delivery after May 1, 2014, seconded by Alderman Troy Boothe. Mayor Knapp requested the City Clerk call roll on the motion; Alderperson Cheryl Galor no, Alderman Randy Schoon yes, Alderman David Ackeberg absent, Alderperson Louise Hall yes, Alderman Matt McKeel yes, Alderman Troy Boothe yes. The motion carried.

E. Consideration & Possible Action on Complaints in Residential Areas of Cats Running at Large.

Mayor Knapp would like to have a chance to speak with the Ogle County Animal Control Department, stating one way or another we will resolve this issue after recent complaints again on cats running at large. Alderman Schoon stated he feels the Ogle County Animal Control person will be allowed to issue his own citations at some point soon; he has the ability to do that now, but currently does not have the ability to place a fine with the citation.

Mayor Knapp stated he is unhappy that he took the heat off with non-compliance in that as soon as he did so the issues came back. He went on to state he is not going to have a city where people cannot grill out or sit on their decks due to cat feces. Alderman Schoon brought a page out of the Ogle County Code to discuss that addressed the issue of cats with the accumulation of feces. Discussion on if a person files a complaint then they would have to testify for any leverage in the courts to hold up.

F. Consideration & Possible Action on Ordinance 14-03, an Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Refunding Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2014, of the City of Polo, Ogle County, Illinois, in an Aggregate Principal Amount Not to Exceed \$500,000 for the Purpose of Refunding the City's Outstanding Debt Certificates& Paying for Costs Related Thereto .

Attorney Suits has reviewed this ordinance and had discussions with the bonding company with his concerns.

The first reading of Ordinance 14-13, an Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Refunding Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2014, of the City of Polo, Ogle County, Illinois, in an Aggregate Principal Amount Not to Exceed \$500,000 for the Purpose of Refunding the City's Outstanding Debt Certificates& Paying for Costs Related Thereto was accepted.

G. Consideration & Possible Action on Quotes from Central Pool Supply for Equipment Needed for the Wet Pit Improvement Project at the Polo Municipal Swimming Pool.

Mayor Knapp stated this equipment will be stored out at Burkhardt LP Gas until it is installed. Alderman Schoon made the statement he wants that place to be more accountable if we are going to spend this kind of money. Discussion was held as to the pool manager and Park Board's responsibilities.

Alderson Cheryl Galor made a motion to accept the quote from Central Pool Supply for a filter, pump, auto chemical controller and various other parts for the construction of the wet pit filter room in the amount of \$12,511.33 to be paid out of the 2013/14 pool budget, seconded by Alderson Louise Hall. Mayor Knapp requested the City Clerk call roll on the motion; Alderman Randy Schoon yes, Alderman David Ackeborg absent, Alderson Louise Hall yes, Alderman Matt MeKeel yes, Alderman Troy Boothe yes, Alderson Cheryl Galor yes. The motion carried.

H. Consideration & Possible Action on Quotes from Saunders Plumbing & Burkardt's LP Gas for the Purchase of a Heater for the Polo Swimming Pool.

Discussion held that there is a one year, plus 5 years limited warranty on the heater proposed this evening. Mr. Saunder's recommended the city go with option #1 as the more extensive systems were more costly than this basic one that meets all the needs at our swimming pool.

A quote was received from Mr. Greg Saunders of Saunders Plumbing for:

Option 1: Ray Pack 962,000 BTU pool heater in the amount of \$8,731.10.

Option 2: Ray Pack 1,125,000 BTU pool heater in the amount of \$9,029.28

Option 3: Lockinvar CPN652 pool heater in the amount of \$11,719.40.

Alderman Randy Schoon made a motion to accept the quote from Saunders Plumbing for Option #1 for a Ray Pack 962,000 BTU pool heater in the amount of \$8,731.10 to be paid out of the 2013/14 pool budget, seconded by Alderson Cheryl Galor. Mayor Knapp requested the City Clerk call roll on the motion; Alderman David Ackeborg absent, Alderson Louise Hall yes, Alderman Matt MeKeel yes, Alderman Troy Boothe yes, Alderson Cheryl Galor yes, Alderman Randy Schoon yes. The motion carried.

I. Consideration & Possible Action on Possible Raises for City Employees in the 2014/15 Fiscal Year.

Mayor Knapp stated before we discuss this percentage projection which includes how long each employees has worked for the city, that he is not on board with people getting the same percentage raise across the board due to the big difference a person receives with years of service longer, but would like to see the same dollar amount across the board. Discussion was

held at length. Consensus was to give 50 cents an hour to the ten employees except City Clerk Susie Corbitt to receive a 66 cents an hour raise. The reason for Clerk Corbitt's increase is that she cannot receive a raise for the clerk portion of her pay unless the Code of Ordinance is amended for the City Clerk's salary 180 days before the next Consolidated Election and then only that Clerk who runs and wins the election would receive that pay raise. Over the years Clerk Corbitt has only received the Collector portion of increase not on the total salary for the year when a percentage increase was given, so she has then received less than all the other employees over the last twenty one years when this occurred.

Aldersperson Louise Hall made a motion to give each employee 50 cents an hour across the board for: Mike Gauthier, Mike Mumford, Cale Fry, Sue Waszak, Dennis Christen, Chris Scott, Shawn Knight, Rob Jasper, Kendall Kyker and Tim Merrell and Susie Corbitt 66 cents an hour, seconded by Aldersperson Cheryl Galor. Mayor Knapp requested the City Clerk call roll on the motion; Aldersperson Louise Hall yes, Alderman Matt MeKeel yes, Alderman Troy Boothe yes, Aldersperson Cheryl Galor yes, Alderman Randy Schoon yes, Alderman David Aceberg absent. The motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

None.

Alderman Matt MeKeel made a motion to adjourn out of the regular City Council meeting at 9:33pm on March 17, 2014, seconded by Alderman Randy Schoon. Ayes 5, nays 0. The motion carried by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Susie Corbitt, MMC
City Clerk