

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, APRIL 7, 2014.

INVOCATION:

Mayor Doug Knapp gave invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Doug 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, April 7, 2014.

PRESENT: Alderman David Ackeberg, 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: None.

APPROVAL OF THE 3/17/14 MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING:

Alderman Randy Schoon made a motion to accept the minutes of the 3/17/14 regular city council meeting as presented, seconded by Alderman Matt MeKeel. Ayes 6, nays 0. The motion carried by voice vote.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Streets and Sidewalks:

None.

Finance & Ordinances:

Alderperson Louise Hall reported on April 2, 2014 the City received a check from the State of Illinois for the IEPA Loan Disbursement #22 in the amount of \$270,763.50 which was deposited in the special IEPA Loan account at the First State Bank Shannon-Polo-Lake Carroll. On April 3, 2014 a check was issued out of the IEPA Loan account to Williams Brothers Construction in the amount of \$270,763.50 for contract # 1 for the final payment for the WWTP Construction. There will be a Joint Review Board Meeting to review the status of the 2013 TIF redevelopment overview held at 1:30pm tomorrow, April 8th in city hall.

Police:

None.

Sanitation:

None.

Buildings and Grounds:

Alderman Troy Boothe reported building permits issued for a swimming pool, electrical work and a car port for a business.

He also reported the Code Review Committee will meet on April 8th at 5pm in City Hall.

Parks & Pool:

No Report.

Water & Sewer:

Alderman Randy Schoon reported the frozen pipes advisory will be lifted on April 11th for the citizen's to stop running their cold water.

City Clerk's Report:

City Clerk Corbitt received notice that electrical suppliers are soliciting homes, and then taking the account numbers off their ComEd bills and changing over the supplier service without any permission from the resident. Some of the companies they are changed over to are much more costly than ComEd or First Energy, which is the City's current electrical aggregation supplier. Chief Christen places this in a Nixle message sent to our citizens last week.

The first Polo Comprehensive Plan Update Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, April 17th at 7pm before the Polo Economic Development Corporation meeting here in city hall.

Police Chief's Report:

None.

SAFETY AND ACCIDENT REPORTS:

None.

COMMENTS & QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. 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 and Paying for Costs Related Thereto.

Mr. John Vezzetti was present from Bernardi Securities Municipal Bond Specialists reporting this is the second and final ordinance and they will get into the market tomorrow for the sale of the bonds, so he is hoping to earn the savings they projected.

Alderman Randy Schoon made a motion to accept Ordinance 14-03, as presented, 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 and Paying for Costs Related Thereto, seconded by Alderman Dave Ackeberg. 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 Ackeberg yes, Alderperson Louise Hall yes. The motion carried.

B. Consideration & Possible Action on a Request from Mr. Mike Scholl for a Possible Amendment to Ordinance 13-08, Keeping of Honey Bee Nucs, to Allow Honey Bee Nucs Year Round at His Residence.

Mr. Mike Scholl was present reporting he still has nucs at his property, but there are no bees there in that the nucs did not survive the winter. He is requesting honey bee nucs year round to be allowed on his property. He stated if a problem arises he would remove them. He spoke of the devastating chemicals that are killing off our honey bees. Mr. Jim Adams representing the Polo Public Library reported they received a letter that the library does not have any concerns with this request. Laurie Church, a neighbor of Mr. Scholl stated he is already not following the ordinance and the nucs are still there, even though he says they are empty. Mr. Scholl stated maybe some bees will come when it gets warmer because there is some honey in the nucs, but stated the concentration of the bees will not change. He doubts that he will have more than four nucs and they will be right at his corner of his house. He would probably not put the nucs in until June because he will need to get some Queen nucs.

Mayor Knapp reported he received several phone calls, with neighbors concerned with three people who live nearby and one who lives out of town who had a bad experience with honey bees. Alderperson Hall also received the call from the same individual who had a bad experience and happened to have been a bee keeper at the time. Mayor Knapp went on to say other people who have lived around bees all their lives and never had a problem feel strongly that these concerns are not an issue. Laurie Church stated she wants to sit outside in nice weather, but they are in her bird feeders and she reported her son is very sensitive to bees. Alderperson Hall stated we need to look out for the person who have allergies, and feels the center of town is not a good spot to raise bees.

Ms. Church asked why we have to keep addressing this. Alderman Ackeberg stated when we visited this the first time we were told in the winter and cold months the bees only leave for a very short period of time and that may be the only reason this ordinance was approved. He feels a lot of people are against it and feels we approved this in the cold weather and need to keep that in mind during this discussion. Mr. Scholl replied last fall there were a lot of flowers out in September getting the last of the pollinations and Yellow Jackets were more prevalent. He went on to say that everyone is allergic to bee stings, but some have a serious allergy and should have an EpiPen with them at all times. Alderperson Hall replied for some people the EpiPen is not the cure all and does not work for an extremely allergic person. Alderman Schoon asked Mr. Scholl if there are communities in the area that allow bees. Discussion was held that the City of Sterling does allow bees within the city limits. Mr. Scholl stated in June to July there would be approximately 20,000 to 30,000 in a nuc at a time.

Mr. Jim Adams reported he grew up in a smaller town than Polo, that there was a home that had hives at the end of their driveway and never had an issue. He appreciates the situation that Mr. Scholl has and in that he is just trying to keep the bees alive, Mr. Adams feels there is so much hysteria due to fear and feels that the probability of an issue is extremely low. He feels if there is some way for a trial period or putting some sort of fencing around the nucs so kids cannot get to them that this should be tried. Discussion on Queens leaving a hive was held, Mr. Scholl explained that when a Queen feels the hives are too full she will leave and take some worker bees with her to find a suitable place. Raising Queens in a nuc means only one Queen in

each nuc with 20,000 to 30,000 worker bees. He apologized for last year leaving his equipment on the empty lot across the street, that some of the bees were eating the honey that was left in the nuc. He stated he did not intentionally attract bees with the nucs, but plants and flowers also do so. Alderperson Hall questioned how we can trust him when he did not remove the nuc in time.

Alderperson Galor said she would be in support for a limited time like we passed before but not year round. She has discussed this issue with many citizens in her Ward, with the majority against bees in the city limits. Mr. Scholl reminded the Council that fifty years ago there were thirty bee hives around town and no one had a problem with them. Laurie Church asked if Mr. Scholl became disabled who would take care of the bees.

Alderman MeKeel stated he is not opposed to looking at a minimal amount of Nucs, but not year round, maybe two or three nucs would be his limited number allowed. Alderman Boothe stated he would consider year round. Alderperson Hall stated that we were told during the winter we would not have a problem and she is not willing to risk year around, but would consider a limited amount of months. Alderman Ackeberg asked if we can have Attorney Suits draft an ordinance or two and then at the next meeting we can decide. Mayor Knapp requested all Aldermen discuss this issue with the people in each of their Ward's before the next meeting.

After lengthy discussion consensus was to have Attorney Suits draft an ordinance for Nucs to be allowed from September 1 to March 31, which will be placed on the agenda for the first reading at the April 21st meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Consideration & Possible Action on the Zoning Board of Appeals Decision from the March 18, 2014 Hearing from a Request of Mrs. Patricia Hoover and Mrs. Holly Douglas for a Change in Zoning from Residential R 1-One Family Residence District (R-1) to Residential 2-General Residence District (R-2) at 507 N. Division Ave., Polo, Illinois.

Mayor Knapp did receive a call to see if the building at 507 N. Division Ave. is up to code with the electrical code and had Building Inspector Casper Manheim inspect this house. Mr. Manheim reported this house is in compliance with the electrical codes.

Alderman Dave Ackeberg made a motion to approve the Zoning Board of Appeals decision from the March 19, 2014 hearing to change the zoning from Residential 1 to Residential 2 at 507 N. Division Avenue, seconded by Alderman Randy Schoon. Mayor Knapp requested the City Clerk call roll on the motion; Alderman Troy Boothe yes, Alderperson Cheryl Galor yes, Alderman Randy Schoon yes, Alderman David Ackeberg yes, Alderperson Louise Hall yes, Alderman Matt MeKeel yes. The motion carried.

B. Consideration & Possible Action on a Request from Haldane Custom Paint & Body for Hosting of the 3rd Annual Chandler's Classic Car Cruise on June 6, 2014 and a Street Closure Request.

Consensus of the City Council is to approve this request from Haldane Custom Paint and Body to host the 3rd annual Chandler's Classic Car Cruise on June 6, 2014 from 5:00pm to 8:30pm and to allow East Oregon Street closed from South Division Avenue to South Franklin Avenue.

C. Consideration & Possible Action on Possible Raises for Park & Pool Employees in the 2014/15 Year.

Mayor Knapp stated we will go into closed session to discuss this matter.

OTHER BUSINESS:

None at this time.

Alderman Dave Ackeberg made a motion to go into closed session for Personnel-Section 2 (c) (1) employee hiring, firing, compensation, discipline and performance at 7:54pm, seconded by Alderman Matt McKeel. Mayor Knapp requested the City Clerk call roll on the motion; Alderperson Cheryl Galor yes, Alderman Randy Schoon yes, Alderman David Ackeberg yes, Alderperson Louise Hall yes, Alderman Matt McKeel yes, Alderman Troy Boothe yes. The motion carried.

Mayor Knapp re-opened the regular City Council meeting at 8:32pm, requesting the City Clerk call roll for those present:

PRESENT: Alderman Dave Ackeberg, Alderperson Louise Hall, Alderman Matt McKeel, Alderman Troy Boothe, Alderperson Cheryl Galor, Alderman Randy Schoon. Also present was Mayor Doug Knapp, Attorney Tom Suits, Park Board President Larry Loomis and City Clerk Susie Corbitt.

ABSENT: None.

At this time Mr. Larry Loomis reported for the last six years he has done the work for the softball teams, he would prepare the field for the school softball season. He uses the city tractor, with just today spending seven hours to get ready for the season to start games this week. Since the second year he has been employed by the Forreston School District, he used Polo girls softball paint, he keep track of the hours and submits his hours and charges to them. He tracks the hours worked in preparation for the Forreston-Polo softball and baseball games held in Millard Deuth Park. He submitted the bill in the amount of \$270 and submits the hours along with the scoreboard person stating; so the Forreston School District got out of shape by my charges and by the time he got done he got paid 67 cents an hour. Mayor Knapp stated we have a problem and Attorney Suits informed him we have a problem and we need clarification. Mr. Loomis stated maybe after this Wednesday he can quit preparing the fields reminding the City Council of his age and someday he will no longer be volunteering his time. Mr. Loomis requested direction from the City Council with this issue. Alderman Ackeberg feels we would be hard pressed to find someone who can do all that Mr. Loomis does. Alderman Ackeberg stated if the ball field is ready for a game then little kids cannot play on the fields and that has been a complaint due to this is a public park. Alderman Schoon stated we need to do whatever we can to keep you Mr. Loomis happy. Mayor Knapp stated the only reason he got involved is so Mr. Loomis can be compensated by the Forreston School District and have more high school games played here in Polo.

Attorney Suits recommended the City Council approve some sort of document stating that Mr. Loomis is allowed to use the city equipments due to being compensated by another entity for the various sports events held in the City parks.

Alderman Randy Schoon made a motion to give Mr. Vern Shetler a .50 cents an hour raise, seconded by Alderman Matt MeKeel. Mayor Knapp requested the City Clerk call roll on the motion; Alderman Randy Schoon yes, Alderman David Aceberg yes, Alderperson Louise Hall yes, Alderman Matt MeKeel yes, Alderman Troy Boothe yes, Alderperson Cheryl Galor yes. The motion carried.

Lengthy discussion was held for consideration of a \$1.00 an hour raise for Mr. Terry Jenkins, Swimming Pool Manager. Mr. Jenkins has worked for the city for twenty five years and makes less in hourly pay than Mr. Vern Shetler who has worked here four years. Discussion was held to possibly give Mr. Jenkins the \$1.00 an hour raise and then he and Mr. Shetler would be receiving the same hourly compensation.

Alderman Dave Aceberg made a motion to raise Terry Jenkins \$1.00 an hour, seconded by Alderperson Louise Hall. Mayor Knapp requested the City Clerk call roll on the motion; Alderman David Aceberg yes, Alderperson Louise Hall yes, Alderman Matt MeKeel no, Alderman Troy Boothe yes, Alderperson Cheryl Galor no, Alderperson Randy Schoon no. A tie vote was held. After lengthy discussion Mayor Knapp voted yes. The motion carried.

Alderman Dave Aceberg made a motion to adjourn out of the regular City Council meeting at 8:56p.m. on April 7, 2014, seconded by Alderperson Louise Hall. Ayes 6, nays 0. The motion carried.

**Respectfully submitted,
Susie Corbitt, MMC
City Clerk**