

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, OCTOBER 20, 2014.

INVOCATION:

Mayor 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 Monday, October 20, 2014.

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

ABSENT: None.

APPROVAL OF THE 10/06/14 MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING:

Alderman Randy Schoon made a motion to accept the minutes of the 10/06/14 regular city council meeting as presented, seconded by Alderperson Cheryl Galor. Ayes 6, nays 0. The motion carried by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF THE 10/06/14 CLOSED SESSION MINUTES:

Alderman Dave Ackeberg made a motion to accept the minutes of the 10/06/14 closed session meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Alderperson Louise Hall. Ayes 6, nays 0. The motion carried by voice vote.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE SEPTEMBER 2014 TREASURER'S REPORT TO FILE FOR AUDIT:

Alderperson Louise Hall made a motion to accept the September 2014 treasurer's report to file for audit as presented, seconded by Alderman Dave Ackeberg. Ayes 6, 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 bills to Airgas in the amount of \$68.77 and one to HD Supply in the amount of \$68.19 both for the water department and Alderperson Cheryl Galor added a bill to Bill's Excavating in the amount of \$297.50 for hauling of chips for the bath house project for the bathhouse renovation funds.

Alderman Dave Ackeberg made a motion to approve the list of bills as amended, seconded by Alderman Troy Boothe. 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 Jim Busser yes. The motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Streets and Sidewalks:

None.

Finance & Ordinances:

None.

Police:

None.

Sanitation:

None.

Buildings and Grounds:

Alderman Jim Busser reported building permits issued for a house remodel and a shed.

Parks & Pool:

Alderman Cheryl Galor reported Vern Shetler's last day for the season will be October 31, 2014 and that Judy Shipman is done for the season. She stated the parks looked beautiful this year.

Water & Sewer:

Alderman Randy Schoon gave a reminder for Mike Gauthier's retirement party this Wednesday from 6-8pm in the street department. Mr. Gauthier is retiring after over 36 years of employment with the city of Polo.

City Clerk's Report:

City Clerk Corbitt reported she took several hours to renew what was once call the CCR report, but is now the SAM registration. Then today she received a letter stating effective November 1, 2014 a new Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Subpart 4.18-Commercial Entity Code (CAGE) requires the city to answer questions about our entity ownership in order to maintain an active registration in SAM. These are annual mandates in order for the city to receive grants or keep grant money already received.

Police Chief's Report:

None.

SAFETY AND ACCIDENT REPORTS:

None.

COMMENTS & QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

None.

At this time Mayor Knapp stated we will place item A on the agenda under new business before we discuss the bee paraphernalia.

A. Consideration & Possible Action on a USDA Rural Development Grant/Loan Application for the South Congress Ave. Lift Station Replacement, Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Work and Digester Covers for the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Engineer Matt Hansen of Willett, Hofmann & Associates was present to discuss the possibility of the City receiving a partial grant and a forty year loan from the USDA Rural Development for the South Congress Avenue lift station, sanitary sewer rehabilitation work and digester covers for the waste water treatment plant.

Mr. Hansen reported that a majority of the sewer gravity feeds into the South Congress lift station, which was constructed in 1949, with that part of town having the oldest infrastructure. This would assist in less wet basements when we have heavier rains. The city looked at possible funding sources with DCEO, but did not qualify with the median income requirements. We are now looking at the

USDA Rural Development for this possible project. USDA requires the sewer bill to be at a certain threshold, which the rate is around \$40 - \$45 a month. Mr. Hansen has contacted the USDA Rural Development and they feel it appears we may qualify for a grant and loan. Mr. Hansen feels the grant money we would qualify for would be up to 45% of the funds, not the 75%. Mr. Hansen said it does not look like the digester covers will qualify for this grant application, but the sludge beds that Water and Sewer Superintendent Gauthier has requested consideration to include probably would qualify and he felt we can include this in the proposal. This would be for some rehabilitation to the sludge beds to see if we can also cover some of this cost. He went on to say we are hoping to do this without any increase in the current water and sewer rates.

1. Pre-Application Package:
 - a. Submit Preliminary Engineering Report
 - b. DUNS Registration Printout from Website (www.sam.gov)
 - c. Water & Waste Eligibility Certification
 - d. Copy of Applicant's Most Recent Audit
 - e. Copy of Bond Ordinance or Notes of Any Existing Debt (IEPA Loan Amendment)
 - f. Water and/or Sewer Rate Schedule
 - g. Report on Type of Users and Record of Water Usage
 - h. Copy of Most Recent IEPA Evaluation Report For Sewer System
2. Project Schedule:

Event	Date
Submit PER and Pre-Application Forms	December 19, 2014
Rural Development Invites Full Application Package	January 23, 2015
Complete Design For Lift Station and Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation	February 1, 2015
Submit Environmental Report, Bond Ordinance, etc. For Full Application	March 23, 2015
Obtain IEPA Construction Permit	April 15, 2015
Advertise For Bids	April 23, 2015
Bid Opening	May 14, 2015
Bid Award	May 18, 2015
Rural Development/City Closing and Pre-Con Meeting	June 18, 2015
Start Construction	July 1, 2015
Complete Construction	January 1, 2016
Complete Restoration at Lift Station	May 15, 2016

3. Project Financing:
 - a. The project can be funded with the following sources:
 - USDA Rural Development Grant (Maximum Grant Amount 45% of Project Cost)
 - USDA Rural Development Loan (3.5% – 4.0% Over 40 Years)
 - City's Excess Equipment Replacement Funds (Goal was to have \$1,139,000 in fund when plant was completed)
 - b. Current Debt Revenue and Expenses
 - Current Annual Debt Rate Revenue: \$444,000
 - Annual Payment For IEPA Loan For WWTP: \$390,684.40
 - Debt Revenue Surplus: \$53,315.60
 - c. Estimate Rural Development Loan With Available Debt Revenue Surplus
 - Project Cost: \$1,090,000
 - Annual Debt Payment (40 Years @ 3.75%): \$53,040/Year

The grant would be for 45% of the cost and the remainder would be a forty year loan through the USDA Rural Development, which can only be done with bonds, so the city would need to go through the bonding steps that they recently did for the refinancing of bonds for the water tower bonds, which will be paid off in the next nine years. The cost for Willett and Hoffman would be \$12,000 to prepare the application, in which Mr. Hansen stated he will not go over.

Alderman Randy Schoon made a motion to proceed with the grant and loan application through USDA Rural Development for the South Congress Avenue lift station, sanitary sewer rehabilitation work and possible sludge beds through Willett, Hofmann & Associates, seconded by Alderman Dave Ackeberg. 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 Jim Busser yes, Alderman Troy Boothe yes. The motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Consideration & Possible Action on a Recommendation from the Polo Code of Ordinance Committee for a Possible Amendment to Prohibit Bee Paraphernalia within the Polo Corporate Limits.

Mayor Knapp stated this topic has become quite an ordeal in that we have been talking about this for three years. He will give everyone a chance to speak, but expects everyone to be respectful or he reserves the right to stop anyone if he feels they are inappropriate. He feels this is not about the topic, but has become personal. He went on to say we will discuss this tonight and that will be the end of it.

Alderperson Galor stated we have current ordinances on the books but feels we are trying to make this ordinance enforceable due to the current one is not. Alderperson Hall stated the ordinance committee decided on the recommendation to bring back to the city council that no bee paraphernalia is permitted within the city limits. She has changed her mind and wants to add to not allow bee hives, bee keeping equipment or debris (Honeycombs, bees wax or waste products) within the Polo corporate limits. Mayor Knapp stated he feels a person should be able to store the equipment within their private building during the winter and this recommendation would not allow for that. Alderman Schoon feels we have an ordinance and some way we need to agree that this stops.

Linda Colcord, who does not live in town, stated the newspaper reported an alderman stated that Mr. Scholl could go out in the country to raise his bees, but she went on to say the pesticide in the county is killing the bees off, everything is mowed down for bees and butterflies so there is no pollen. She reported about a doctor in the Sterling area that stated the bees are dying due to the farmers and chemicals used. She feels it is the city's responsibility to save the bees and if the bees are gone we will not have anything to eat. She stated the bees are not going to attack you if you leave them alone.

Laura Church stated she is not against bees, but she is against living right next door and cannot even sit outside due to Mr. Scholl's bees next door, she had a garage sale and there were swarms of bees. She had an article that stated you have to be aware of lawnmower, motorcycles or anything that would arouse them and she did not buy her house to live next to bees, saying she is sick of all of this. Mike Scholl replied there is no one here sicker of this than he is, bee keeping is a colony with a Queen bee in it, he does not have any Queen Bees in town. He does extract honey at that location and sometimes bees will even follow him in and then they die, they can smell for miles. He finds it strange that there are two neighbors who are offended with bees, but all the other neighbors are ok. He reported one neighbor tore a deck off and had a swarm of bees for a while. The rest of the neighbors stated they never see the bees. He was putting out wax on the cement so the bees take the honey and he can reuse the wax, stating the bees are not going to Laurie Church or Connie Simonnet yard. When he extracts honey he puts the containers in his driveway and there are more bees there than anywhere else.

Connie Simonnet stated it is very disruptive to her because she is the closest to this lot. He puts the debris and equipment out which attracts the bees. She went on to say it is not normal to have the swarms of bees that are there now and that has not happened before he purchased this property.

Aldersperson Galor asked if what he is doing is considered bee keeping. Attorney Suits replied there is no Queen there, so it is not bee keeping. She asked who is going to decide there is not a queen there? Discussion was held by Aldersperson Galor and Hall that we need to add more to this ordinance to prohibit the large number of bees.

Charles Schwengel was at the garage sales for fifteen minutes or so and never saw a single bee there. He questions why no one had been stung since this is such a big problem. His son in Arlington Heights had two bee's hives in his back yard, which was allowed there. He is supportive of Mr. Scholl and would love to see the bees in the neighborhood.

Aldersperson Galor stated no one had a problem with the bees, but it was the swarms of bees. Aldersperson Hall said he does extract honey at this property, so only Connie Simonnet and Laurie Church are bothered with this. Mr. Scholl said the reason he put it behind the garage was he thought it would be less offensive to both neighbors.

Mr. Scholl stated he has a solution, he will do everything he can to minimize bee activity. The hives when he extract honey can be done on the east side of his house, not at this location between Church and Simonnet, or in the back of his truck or even in the county. The neighbors over on the east side of Mr. Scholl's house are not offended with him doing this as he has been doing for years. He is going to minimize this by keeping this as much as possible from the garage location. There are hives in the garage, but he suggest to make a motion to dispense of all of this and he will do all he can to take care of this problem for these two women. Laurie Church does not agree with Mr. Scholl's recommendation, stating he has gone over the limit and has still attracted the bees. She went on to say she has pictures and she is tired of it.

Aldersperson Hall again suggests to add to the current ordinance to not allow any bee hives, bee keeping equipment or debris (honeycomb, beeswax or waste products) within the corporate limits. Karen Scholl stated that would prohibit Mr. Scholl from transporting his equipment out of town when he needed to. Tammy Merdian commented that this would prohibit people from purchasing wax for candle making. She feels adding more words to the ordinance just messes this up. She questioned what we are going to do with the hornets that are an issue. She reached out to a doctor friend in Wisconsin, who keeps bees and he informed her that people have a much higher chance in getting stung if you smack at bees. Honey bees are much more interested by gathering their food unless you bother them. Connie Simonnet asked with the existing ordinance how do you uphold it? Mayor Knapp reported there was a swarm of bees at the old hotel this summer that became a bee issue concern with neighbors there and Mr. Scholl brought his truck and equipment to draw those bees away and took them out of town. That is the reason Mayor Knapp did not want Mr. Scholl cited this time due to he assisted the city in a previous bee situation. Attorney Suits reminded everyone that Mr. Scholl could not be cited due to the current ordinance which requires a Queen Bee to be present.

Aldersperson Hall said most of the women she has spoken with in town do not want this to happen within their neighborhoods and she feels we need to do something. She did report the men she discussed this with generally do not have a problem with the bees. Mr. Dick Butler asked what constitutes a swarm of

bees, is it ten or thousands of bees. He questioned we have been hearing about swarms of bees and he would like to have an answer.

Alderman Boothe stated he feels this is a civil matter; Mr. Scholl has good intentions to save the bees. He went on to say a description of a homeowner is to have the right to quiet enjoyment. He respects Mr. Scholl in trying to correct this and does not feel this is malicious in manner by any of these people. He asked Mr. Scholl to simply not put any of these devices at this location and feels we have enough rules. Mayor Knapp feels if Mr. Scholl does what he is saying then there should not be a problem and the current ordinance has to have a Queen Bee in it to constitute bee keeping.

Alderson Galor asked Mr. Scholl to be a good neighbor and not place any of these items out around this property. Alderman Busser asked Mr. Scholl to move his bee keeping items to his property and to respect the neighbors. Alderman Busser stated he wants to see Mr. Scholl step up to the plate and move it to his home residence.

Alderson Louise Hall made a motion to have Attorney Tom Suits draft an ordinance to prohibit bee hives, bee keeping equipment, bee debris (honeycomb, beeswax, and any waste products) within the corporate limits of Polo, seconded by Alderson Cheryl Galor. Mayor Knapp requested the City Clerk call roll on the motion; Alderman Randy Schoon no, Alderman David Ackeberg no, Alderson Louise Hall yes, Alderman Jim Busser no, Alderman Troy Boothe no, Alderson Cheryl Galor yes. The motion died.

NEW BUSINESS:

B. Consideration & Possible Action on a Decision from the 10/14/15 Polo Zoning Board of Appeals Hearing for a Request from Mr. Dan Massey for a Special Use Permit for Residential Living Quarters on the First Floor in a Business District at 121 N. Division Avenue.

Alderman Jim Busser made a motion to accept the decision of the Zoning Board of Appeals and approve Mr. Dan Massey's Special Use Permit to allow residential living quarters on the first floor in a business district located at 121 N. Division Avenue in Polo, seconded by Alderson Cheryl Galor. Aye 6, nays 0. The motion carried by voice vote.

C. Consideration & Possible Action on the Possible Purchase of a Bonnell 12 Foot Push N Plow Loader Box Scrapper and Ratchet Binder Kit from Bonnell Industries, Inc

Alderman Dave Ackeberg reported this goes on the front of the big end loader the city purchased last year. It will be used for snow removal on the sidewalk and there will be an angle to get 12 feet of snow off at a time. He went on to say this is our last tool for our tool box this year and it did come in a little lower in cost than what we had anticipated.

Alderman Randy Schoon made a motion to purchase a Bonnell 12 foot Push N Plow loader box scrapper and ratchet binder kit in the amount of \$6,538.90, seconded by Alderman Dave Ackeberg. Mayor Knapp requested the City Clerk call roll on the motion; Alderman David Ackeberg yes, Alderson Louise Hall yes, Alderman Jim Busser yes, Alderman Troy Boothe yes, Alderson Cheryl Galor yes, Alderman Randy Schoon yes. The motion carried.

D. Consideration & Possible Action on the 2014 Tax Levy Amount.

City Clerk Corbitt presented the 2014 tax levy amount to the City Council in the amount of \$312,602.00, this is \$12,814.00 over last year's tax levy. The City Council did not raise the taxes at all in 2012 and only raised it by \$1,515.00 last year. She reported over the last four years there has been a deficit of \$20,375.00 in the Social Security and over \$30,000.00 for the IMRF pension amount levied versus expenditures. She contacted Tax Assessor Doug Farley and he calculated on a house with an \$80,000 EAV that the city portion of the property taxes would go up between \$5.00 and \$8.00 with this increase.

E. Consideration & Possible Action on a Written Job Description for the Water & Sewer Superintendent.

Mayor Knapp reported he is going to refer this back to committee, but anyone who has any suggestions please get them to Aldermen Ackeberg and Schoon.

F. Consideration & Possible Action on the Possible Hiring of a City Employee for the Street Department.

Mayor Knapp stated we are going into closed session to discuss this, but will return to the regular City Council meeting to take action.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Richard Jacks was present asking if the leaf vacuum would be picking up citizens leaves if they rake to the street. Street Department employee Tim Merrell was present reporting they are just cleaning natural accumulation of leaves in the street. Discussion was held that maybe next year they will be able to have the citizen's rake to the curb, but it will not happen this year.

Alderman Dave Ackeberg made a motion to adjourn out of the regular City Council meeting into closed session at 8:35p.m. to discuss Personnel Section 2 (c) (1) employee hiring, firing, compensation, discipline and performance, seconded by Alderperson Cheryl Galor. Mayor Knapp requested the City Clerk call roll on the motion; Alderperson Louise Hall yes, Alderman Jim Busser yes, Alderman Troy Boothe yes, Alderperson Cheryl Galor yes, Alderman Randy Schoon yes, Alderman David Ackeberg yes. The motion carried.

Mayor Knapp re-opened the regular city council at 8:56p.m. after returning from closed session requesting the City Clerk call for those present:

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

ABSENT: None.

Alderman Dave Ackeberg made a motion to hire Mr. Timothy Rockwood for the street department at \$15.50 an hour effective November 3, 2014, seconded by Alderperson Cheryl Galor. Mayor Knapp requested the City Clerk call roll on the motion: Alderman Jim Busser yes, Alderman Troy Boothe yes, Alderperson Cheryl Galor yes, Alderman Randy Schoon yes, Alderman David Ackeberg yes, Alderperson Louise Hall yes. The motion carried.

Alderman Randy Schoon made a motion to adjourn out of the regular city council meeting at 8:58 p.m., seconded by Alderman Troy Boothe. Ayes 6, nays 0. The motion carried by voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susie Corbitt, MMC
City Clerk