

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, DECEMBER 19, 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 Monday, December 19, 2016.

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

ABSENT: Alderman Phillip Peterson.

APPROVAL OF THE 12/05/16 MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING:

Alderman Troy Boothe made a motion to approve the December 5, 2016 minutes of the regular city council meeting, seconded by Alderperson Cheryl Galor. Ayes 5, nays 0. The motion carried by voice vote.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE NOVEMBER 2016 TREASURER REPORT TO FILE FOR AUDIT:

Alderman Randy Schoon made a motion to accept the November 2016 Treasurers report to file for audit as presented, seconded by Alderperson Cheryl Galor. 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 Jim Busser added a bill from Compass Minerals in the amount of \$2,924.84 for the MFT department, Alderman Troy Boothe added a bills to M. Thomas Suits, PC in the amount of \$6,902.04 for the administration & sewer departments and Motorola Solutions in the amount of \$864.00 for the PD and Alderman Randy Schoon added two bills to Constellation for a total of \$335.02 for the water/sewer departments.

Alderman Troy Boothe 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 Justin Grobe yes, Alderman Troy Boothe yes, Alderperson Cheryl Galor yes, Alderman Randy Schoon yes, Alderman Jim Busser yes, Alderman Phillip Peterson absent. The motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Streets and Sidewalks:

None.

Finance & Ordinances:

Alderman Troy Boothe reported on 12/5/16 the City transferred \$10,000.00 from the Enterprise Fund Account into the Water Tower Bond Account. A check was issued to UMB Bank out of the Water Tower Bond Account in the amount of \$55,167.50 to pay the principle and interest on the water tower bonds.

On 12/14/16 the city cashed in General Fund CD # 9082 in the amount of \$42,103.03 and deposited in the General Checking Account for cash flow.

Also on 12/14/16 a check from the Enterprise Fund was written for \$115,000.00 and invested in a new 12 month CD at First State Bank Shannon Polo Lake Carroll. This CD is # 18789 titled IEPA Reserve.

Alderman Boothe reported as of tomorrow after the bills are approved we will be expending \$1,723.96 as part of Bowman Electric bill for electrical work at the bathhouse that is on this evenings list of bills that will be paid out of the Pool Renovation Account, which will close this checking account, which was used for all the bathhouse renovations.

Buildings and Grounds:

None.

Police:

None.

Sanitation:

None.

Parks & Pool:

None.

Water & Sewer:

Alderman Randy Schoon reported the IEPA requires every water supplier to develop and implement a comprehensive cross control program for the elimination of existing cross connections and prevention or protection from all future cross connections.

A survey has currently been sent to all water customers in Polo and they will need to return it to Aqua Backflow.

City Clerk's Report:

City Clerk Susie Corbitt reported Alderman Justin Grobe and Alderman Jim Busser have completed their OMA training through the Illinois Attorney General office.

The citizen's who have the electrical aggregation with the city will all receive their annual disclosure letter in the mail this week that is required by the Public Utilities Administrative Code and the Illinois Commerce Commission rules. Nothing has to be done with this letter.

The furnace went out again on Sunday when City Treasurer Kristine Clothier was in city hall. Clerk Corbitt called Greg Saunders and he came to fix it. She stated this is the third time in ten

months they have had to do this, with the furnace being 26 years old and that we may have to look at a new furnace for the upcoming fiscal year.

Police Chief's Report:

Chief Kurt Cavanaugh informed the council of ten new vehicle complaints his department has looked into, with five complaints, two will be taken care of, one owner is trying to get in touch of the owner of the vehicle and two were issued abatements. All four officers went to Narcon training so now they can all administer Narcon after an overdose, but the department has not received the medication yet. Last Saturday the Chief was at Dan Massey for a Meet & Greet with Santa Clause, he had the new PD truck there, and they will be assisting the Boy Scouts with giving presents out this week.

SAFETY AND ACCIDENT REPORTS:

None.

COMMENTS & QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Presentation by Mr. Don McFarland of Green Vision International, LLC on a Possible Alternative to Handling Removal of Waste Sludge.

Mr. Don McFarland of Green Vision International, LLC was present. Over the last decade they have been working with the U of I with bio mass being produced into several different things. This is called Hydrant Liquid Thermo mass. Waste water in the bio mass separates and disassembles into a compound change that reaches a mass called sub critical and tears apart everything within 42 minutes instead of 10,000 years by Mother Nature. The process was perfected at a swine research facility using swine waste. There are great similarity in digestive swine waste and human waste. They have advanced a program to put in a hydro thermo liquid form and gasification unit and tied that to an integration unit with the U of I. They have developed this by taking animal, organic and municipal waste and putting it through this process creating Bio crude that comes out along with brown water. The majority of nutrients are encapsulated inside with these types of organic waste, the nutrients becomes water soluble and flow out with the water. The suspended hydra carbons in the water that exist in this system is then gas applied which creates Syngas or synthesis gas, which is a fuel gas mixture consisting primarily of hydrogen, carbon monoxide, and very often some carbon dioxide, that creates energy that is used in the process. The result is an energy balance of 11 to 1, so you have a surplus of energy, or 1 unit of energy means they create 11 out of the 1. Bio Crude has properties of crude, but what is left is Nutigeant water or sterile water, which can create algae that double in less time so you can grow 24/7. Algae has a significant benefit for various fuels, pharmacies, organic, pigments, and cosmetic use. One of their downstream companies is General Mills which uses this for an organic blue to replace the synthetic blue color in their cereals. This product contains 14 amino acids and mega 3's which are very healthy and much better than the blue coloring currently used.

If you can understand this somewhat it will be held according to Mr. McFarland and he reported he spoke with Water & Sewer Superintendent Mike Mumford and Alderman Randy Schoon about sourcing municipal waste from Polo. They would like to get the bio silage from Polo, Freeport, Rock Falls and possibly Oregon. So far the cost is 3 million dollars, but the savings that our community would have from hauling of the waste is significant. Mr. McFarland stated he has quickly explained the key issues and other considerations, but there is no negative from Polo's waste products. So far what that means with just the people they have spoken with will save them over millions of dollars, but they are not really into the program yet. Polo pays to have their sludge removed but they will not charge this, which will be a significant savings.

Green Vision International had received an eight million dollar grant from DECO, they support this project, but the State of Illinois does not have the ability or financial money to assist them. Mayor Bill Westcott of Rock Falls is trying to assist in getting them some funds through other avenues. They hope to initiate this in the United States along with in the State of Illinois through their partnership with the U of I. He went on to report in the Pacific Northwest in Vancouver they just released the same type of program this week, but it has not been put together. Do have to have a patent for CO2 and they harvest everything they can from the bio products. Sterile water nutrient and some ash will result, which is called bio char which is the only thing that comes out of the back end. They really want to do this in Illinois and the employment benefits would initially require 108 new jobs, which are pretty high paid in the beginning and then additional jobs would be created. Selmi's in Rock Falls is looking at this to be able to grow produce and generate their products year round 24/7. Five acres is set aside at the waste water treatment plant in Rock Falls, their discharge will go right to their plant. Typically municipalities pay \$40,000 to \$70,000 annually in northwestern Illinois to haul sludge and they possibly would not charge for this and save the municipalities this cost. They need to achieve a certain level of solids. First level of success is to identify how they can create a list of how the communities will have to meet IEPA regulations and eventually this may be allowed by the IEPA. Mr. McFarland went on to say at some point you will not be able to put solid waste on the ground and will have to find an alternative process.

Alderman Schoon reported he and Mr. Mumford have met and this could possibly mean we do not need the sludge drying beds that we are applying for with the USDA Rural Development grant, then the staff would not need to do the additional work the drying beds would require, which could possibly mean we would not use the digesters much as we have currently, and this is endless to the benefits. He went on to say it could possibly mean our sludge could bring in money for the city. Mr. McFarland responded the cost is 10 million to start up, but the payback is roughly 28 months after start up. This was officially launched at the U of I in late October 2016 along with several engineers, USDA Rural Development, Mayor Bill Westcott and various business groups. He went on to say this is not something new to engage in this aspect of technology. The U of I has a long time term working relations with the Urbana, Illinois sanitary waste departments and has done a lot of work over a certain period to time.

Attorney Suits asked if they have any written agreements with other municipalities. Attorney Suits stated he would assume at some point you would have to have a written agreement. Mr. McFarland replied no, they just announced this going commercial in late October and that they are now in the fact finding period, Polo does not provide enough alone, but the impact that Polo could see is significant. Attorney Suits questioned what if this does not go through and we do not install the drying beds then we have regulations put upon us for the disposal of waste. Mr. McFarland stated this was evaluated by the EPA in Region V; the EPA

from Washington DC was also there. Patented lighting systems, sterile water, controlling the PH are something that is significant. Alderman Schoon reported he and Mr. Mumford spoke about this a lot with worst case scenario that the city would have to haul sludge but we have the engineer plans done already for the sludge drying beds that we could always fall back on. Mr. McFarland reported Engineer Tim Baum, who was a WWTP operator, has been in the business for 30 years and is now with Mann Engineering who supports this project and he could get the contact information to the city for Mr. Baum to discuss this.

In March the Miss Rock Association will hold a meeting discussing this in much greater detail. Mr. Mumford reported he did question Mr. McFarland about the hauling and if they could possibly truck the sludge out for the city to save costs. Mr. McFarland stated Polo's volume is not that great so the trucking might be covered by his company. They want at least 20% solid to make the numbers work. Mike Mumford reported our waste would be mixed with Rock Falls to produce the required volume. They would like to be up in production by the end of next year. The EPA may require us to have the storage in our facility in case this falls through. Alderman Schoon stated we have proven to the EPA that we have the ability to store enough sludge with keeping the old buildings at the waste water treatment plant along with an additional half a third ring that is not used at the new WWTP for the sludge.

B. Consideration and Possible Action on an Estimate from Mr. Mark Ebert for Repairs at the Police Department Building.

Mr. Mark Ebert of Ebert Engineering has submitted a quote in the amount of \$19,130.00 for various repairs to the current police department building including a new solid core wood door for the evidence room, removal of the wood cabinets in the old ESDA room, which will be the new evidence room with drywall, closing a window and new carpet, minor changes to break the room, front office and bathroom and the Chief's office with removal of the paneling, new steel front door, glass ticket window with a counter pass through, existing bathroom will be made ADA accessible and completely remodeled, existing suspended ceiling adjusted to accommodate the new configuration. This quote includes the removal of debris, labor and material. Alderman Boothe reported he is very pleased with the costs and what they will accomplish in the PD and that this is Mr. Ebert's winter project.

Alderman Jim Busser made a motion to accept the quote from Ebert Engineers for the remodel of the Polo Police Department in the amount of \$19,300.00, 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 Jim Busser yes, Alderman Phillip Peterson absent, Alderman Justin Grobe yes. The motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Alderman Jim Busser thanked the water and sewer employees and city workers for doing a good job with the sewer problems and for plowing snow. He also complimented the PD for the great work they are doing.

City Clerk Corbitt reported on various houses in disrepair in town-Mr. Tim Kyker called today to inform us they went back to court on 12/15/16 concerning 604 N. Adams Ave. A phone conference is scheduled for 1/19/17 to discuss the settlement offer he gave on December 9, 2016. After that no matter what the outcome of the phone conference there is another court date set for 2/3/17. Everyone has a letter from Attorney Dave Smith in their mailboxes dated 12/19/16.

Gray Excavating was in to pick up a demolition permit for the Clayton property located at 409 E. Mason Street, but they feel they will need to wait for warmer weather now because they do not want to leave an open foundation there due to the liability.

Clerk Corbitt was able to get in contact with the grandson who is Executor of Mrs. Hilda Reeder who owns 211 S. Congress Avenue concerning the condition of that house. He will be in this week to pick up the letter that was sent as a registered mail, but never picked up and returned to city hall.

Attorney Suits reported he was in court last Thursday for the Hess property on West Fulton Street and that a local attorney is representing the lender. A foreclosure has been filed, everyone has to be served and then wait no less than 30 days for any possible responses, then go through publications papers and the sheriff sale. Because the property was abandoned there is no right of redemption so it will take a little longer to settle.

Alderman Randy Schoon made a motion to adjourn 7:51pm, seconded by Alderperson Cheryl Galor. Ayes 5, nays 0. The motion carried by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Susie Corbitt, MMC