

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY OF POLO HELD IN THE CITY CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 115 S. FRANKLIN AVE., POLO, ILLINOIS, MAY 17, 2010.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Mark Scholl led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION:

Reverend Anthony DiMarco gave invocation.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Mark Scholl called the regular meeting of the Polo City Council to order at 7:00p.m. on Monday, May 17, 2010.

PRESENT: Alderman Norm Carroll, Alderperson Louise Hall, Alderman Matt MeKeel, Alderman Doug Knapp, Alderman Brenden Velez. Also present was Mayor Mark Scholl, City Attorney Tom Suits and City Clerk Susie Corbitt.

ABSENT: Alderperson Cheryl Galor.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 5/3/10 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING:

A correction to the minutes was given to read May 5, 2010 instead of March 5th under the building and grounds committee report. Alderperson Hall made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2010 City Council meeting as corrected, seconded by Alderman Matt MeKeel. Ayes 5, nays 0. The motion carried by voice vote.

Alderperson Cheryl Galor arrived at 7:04pm.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE 4/10 TREASURER'S REPORT TO FILE FOR AUDIT:

Alderman Doug Knapp made a motion to accept the April 2010 treasurer's report to file for audit as presented, seconded by Alderperson Cheryl Galor. Ayes 6, nays 0. The motion carried by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF THE LIST OF BILLS:

Mayor Scholl asked if there were any bills to add to the list of bills, with none given Alderman Brenden Velez made a motion to accept the list of bills as presented, seconded by Alderman Norm Carroll. Mayor Scholl requested the City Clerk call roll on the motion; Alderperson Cheryl Galor yes, Alderman Brenden Velez yes, Alderman Norm Carroll yes, Alderperson Louise Hall yes, Alderman Matt MeKeel yes, Alderman Doug Knapp yes. The motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

A letter was received from the Ogle County Board reporting they have approved a mutual aid agreement allowing public agencies within Ogle County to contract work with one another. The agreement promotes and authorizes public agencies to contract work in response to emergencies, natural disasters, and man-made catastrophes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Streets & Sidewalks:

None.

Finance & Ordinance:

Aldersperson Louise Hall reported all the CD's rolled over for the month. She went on to report that she will be attending the Ogle County HEW meeting on Wednesday, in which they are looking at the senior centers funding in Ogle County.

Police:

None.

Sanitation:

None.

Building & Grounds:

Alderman Doug Knapp reported building permits issued for two pitch roof's, three fences, two decks, a swimming pool and one commercial open bay storage building. Alderman Knapp reported the dedication of the two new scoreboards will be held at noon at Millard Deuth Park on Saturday May 22, 2010.

Parks & Pool:

Aldersperson Cheryl Galor reported the Park Board met last week. The swimming pool should open June 1st and if not it will be on June 5th. The Park Board is looking at the option of placing cameras in the parks.

Water & Sewer:

Alderman Brenden Velez reported the IEPA rejected the City Compliance Commitment Agreement in response to the IEPA Violation notice dated March 3, 2010. The IEPA has requested a broader scope of study to address the storm water issues associated with the sanitary sewer overflows on East Oregon Street. When during a significant rain the water gets too high, flowing into the lift station located at South Prairie Avenue and East Oregon Street, causing backups to the sanitary sewer system. The city engineers have stated in order to satisfy the IEPA, the city will have to spend some money to take care of this issue. Our first step is the Water and Sewer Department is currently doing a house to house inspection of sump pumps and roof drains for possible illegal connections, with 63 houses to check.

City Clerks Report:

City Clerk Corbitt reported she attended a Prevailing Wage and FOIA meeting put on by Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan and the Department of Labor. She explained the new laws concerning prevailing wages that regulate the expenditures of public funds. A Chamber After Hours will be held next Monday, May 24th at the Polo Room from 5 to 7p.m. A reminder for the Memorial Day Parade line up at 9:15am on Monday, May 31, 2010 was given to the City Council. City Clerk Corbitt informed the Council that the agenda was put on the website last Thursday. She has been trained to make changes and add items to the website, but is still having some issues so please be patient. The minutes after approval will be placed on the website after each council meeting. The Polo Town & Country Days Committee would like to have the city council participate in the dunk tank on Thursday, June 17, 2010 from 5pm to 8pm during the Town & Country Days Festival.

Police Chief's Report:

Chief Christen reported Mr. Bradley Everett was arrested in Rockford on Sunday night.

He also reported that the high school and middle school were broken into Sunday night, and that the Polo PD would appreciate assistance with any information anyone might have on these break- ins.

SAFETY & ACCIDENT REPORTS:

None.

COMMENTS & QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Mr. Richard Jacks reported the Ogle County HEW meeting will be held from 9am to 2pm on Wednesday, May 19th at the Ogle County Farm Bureau building in Oregon.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Consideration & Possible Action on Ordinance 10-03, Lease Agreement with the City of Polo and Exchange State Bank of Lanark for the 2010 Chevy Impala.

Alderman Matt Mekeel made a motion to approve Ordinance 10-03, the lease agreement between the City of Polo and Exchange State Bank of Lanark for the 2010 Chevy Impala in the amount of \$6,851.91 per year for three years as presented, seconded by Alderperson Cheryl Galor. Mayor Scholl requested the City Clerk call roll on the motion; Alderman Brenden Velez yes, Alderman Norm Carroll yes, Alderperson Louise Hall yes, Alderman Matt MeKeel yes, Alderman Doug Knapp yes, Alderperson Cheryl Galor yes. The motion carried.

B. Consideration & Possible Action on Ordinance 10-04, Sale of the City of Polo 2006 Chevrolet Impala to the Village of Mt. Morris.

Alderman Norm Carroll made a motion to approve Ordinance 10-04, sale of the City of Polo 2006 Chevy Impala in the amount of \$5,000 to the Village of Mt. Morris as presented, seconded by Alderperson Louise Hall. Mayor Scholl requested the City Clerk call roll on the motion; Alderman Norm Carroll yes, Alderperson Louise Hall yes, Alderman Matt MeKeel yes, Alderman Doug Knapp yes, Alderperson Cheryl Galor yes, Alderman Brenden Velez yes. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Consideration & Possible Action on Ordinance 10-05, Posting of Weight Limits on Streets Within the Corporate Limits.

No discussion held.

B. Consideration & Possible Action on Ordinance 10-06, Change in Zoning from Residential 1 (R-1) to Business 3 (B-3) at 701 S. Division Avenue.

Mayor Scholl read a letter from Betty Obendorf stating this is an excellent location for a Subway with the current business corridor on Route 26. Mrs. Obendorf has spoken with the owners of the Sub Shop on Mason Street, who fully support this new business coming to Polo. Mayor Scholl quoted a section of a letter stating this is beneficial to the town and the community from a letter signed by the three owners of the Sub Shop located on West Mason Street. The Polo Economic Development Corporation (PEDC) sent a letter with their major objectives to support business in Polo. The PEDC fully supports the new Subway restaurant at this location. The Polo Chamber of Commerce letter stated the citizens, local business owners and the city will benefit from this type of business coming to town.

Mr. Jeff Bardell wrote a letter stating his opinion for the construction of the Subway, he counted 25 businesses on Division Avenue alone, many in residential areas. Mr. Bardell addressed the statement someone made that Mr. Sigwards put the cart before

the horse with purchasing this property before the zoning was approved, stating many business adventures occur this way. He went on to state Mr. Norm Carroll bought his property before he had the hearing for re-zoning, but no one is complaining about that. The Sub Shop is the only real ice cream shop currently in town, in which they have ways to bring customers to town. Mr. Bardell went on to state the Red Apple Restaurant chooses to be open for only 36 hours a week, and questions how many restaurants can thrive on that limited amount of business hours. He believes the Council should consider the citizens best interest, and to vote yes.

Mr. Don Engelbarts reported only three people were at the Polo Family Restaurant this evening, and that if the Subway comes to town it will make them close. Mayor Scholl replied, once we start protecting our businesses from outside influences, we've just ruined the economic structure of our city so others will not come. He went on to say we will never have businesses come into our town, and that is a bad economic policy. Alderman Knapp replied if those businesses right now have to close down then the Subway has no element on that right now. Kent Anders reported his sister lives next door, she has been told her property is going to drop extremely low in value. Mr. Anders stated this is a free market and Mr. Sigwards can go elsewhere. Mayor Scholl replied this man has looked at other areas, and this is a free market where he has chosen to build. Mayor Scholl reported and named all the businesses in the immediate three block area, stating this home is already in a business area. Alan Fennell, President of the Polo Economic Development Corporation stated a Comprehensive Plan was adopted for the city, that this area was designated as the best district for bringing in new business. He went on to state we would be foolish not to consider this Subway regardless of the few residential homes.

Mr. Bill Pilling stated all the values of the homes in this area will decrease. Alderman Doug Knapp reported on Jim Kavanaugh with the Shell gas station and Mr. Davis with Casey's in that he does not believe their property values have depreciated. Jeff Bardell stated Shell Express and Casey's General Store were both build due to residential houses that were torn down to put up their business. Michelle Cox stated she grew up in town and moved back in 2003. Mrs. Cox went on to state there is great potential in Polo, but if we continue to have narrow minds we will not grow. If we want to look at the positive; Subway will create jobs along with provide a place for student's to go for lunch. She went on to say we need growth and this is our opportunity to do so.

Louise Shaffer questioned that she heard the City was going to allow the alley to close for this business. Dan Sigwards replied no, but exits would be occurring off the alley. Mayor Scholl also replied the alley would not close.

Mr. Dan Sigwards stated he has been in this business for twenty-three years, owns 12 Subways and works hard to keep his businesses clean. Alderman Knapp thanked Mr. Sigwards for assisting the Polo Little League with their major fundraiser with selling their Subway cards, reporting they doubled their funds raised this year. Josh Gorzny stated there are so many kids that have to drive out of town to work, this is going to be an opportunity for Polo kids.

A petition was presented to the City Council to deny the zoning change request of Mr. Dan Sigwards to change the zoning from Residential 1 (R-1) to Business 3 (B-3) at 701 S. Division Avenue. Mayor Scholl reported he has had some citizens apologize that they signed the petition, and questioned if people understood what they were signing. The City Council accepted the petition with sixty-five signatures to place on file.

The City Council accepted the first reading of Ordinance 10-06, to change the zoning from Residential 1 (R-1) to Business 3 (B-3) at 701 S. Division Avenue as presented.

C. Consideration & Possible Action on Ordinance 10-07, Change the Zoning from Residential 1 (R-1) to Business 2 (B-2) at 208 W. Mason Street .

The City Council accepted the first reading of ordinance 10-07, to change the zoning from Residential 1 (R-1) to Business 2 (B-2) at 208 W. Mason Street as presented. Several people in attendance commended the Carroll's for bringing this business to town.

D. Consideration & Possible Action on Ordinance 10-08, the sale of the City of Polo Scoreboards.

Discussion on including the third scoreboard in the ordinance to state its use or possible purchase was held. Attorney Suits will work on this with Alderman Knapp and Mr. Larry Loomis assistance. The City Council accepted the first reading of Ordinance 10-08, the sale of the City of Polo Baseball Scoreboards with the changes Attorney Suits will be making.

E. Consideration & Possible Action the Polo Neighborhood Watch Program.

Mayor Scholl reported on the Polo Neighborhood Watch Program. A neighborhood watch brochure was presented to the Council. The Neighborhood Watch Committee is asking support along with that of the Polo Police Department and the community. The group believes the program will be another tool that our law enforcement personnel can use to make and keep Polo a safe place for our citizens and visitors.

F. Consideration & Possible Action on a Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearing Decision for Mr. Brian Person/Mrs. Joyce Person POA for a Zoning Change from Manufacturing 1 (M-1) to Residential 1 (R-1) at 301 East Oregon Street.

The Zoning Board of Appeals recommendation from the May 5, 2010 hearing is to accept the request of Mr. Brian Person/Mrs. Joyce Person P.O.A. to change the zoning from Manufacturing 1 (M-1) to Residential 1 (R-1) at 301 East Oregon Street. City Attorney Suits will draft an ordinance for presentation of a first reading at the next City Council meeting.

G. Consideration & Possible Action on Amended Sewer Rates.

Mayor Scholl reported that option #3 raises the projected increase for the minimum charge for 165 cubic foot per month by \$9.35 which reflects the sewer rate raising from \$15.70 to \$25.05 per month. Alderperson Hall expressed concerns with the \$17 debt service charge for the first 165 cubic foot per month as being too high and would like to see it decreased if possible. Discussion was held on this proposal, with Alderman Carroll reporting it was decided to go with the 50/50 user rate to assist our senior citizens more, which actually keeps their costs down. Consensus was to have Attorney Suits draft an ordinance with the Option #3 proposed rates for presentation of a first reading for the next City Council meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS:

None.

Alderman Brenden Velez made a motion to adjourn out of the regular city council meeting at 7:54pm, seconded by Alderperson Cheryl Galor. Ayes 6, nays 0. The motion carried by voice vote.

CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL DATE: JUNE 7, 2010

Susie Corbitt, MMC
City Clerk