



City of Collinsville

125 S. Center Street
Collinsville, IL 62234

Minutes - Draft

City Council

Councilman Donna Green

Councilman Tony Hausmann

Councilman Tony Fuhrmann

Councilman David Seaton

Mayor Jeff Stehman

City Manager Derek Jackson
Corporate Counsel Steve Giacoletto
City Clerk Kim Wasser

Tuesday, June 10, 2025

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Stehman called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

B. ROLL CALL

Also present: City Manager Derek Jackson, Corporate Counsel Steve Giacoletto, and Deputy City Clerk Payton Childerson.

Present: 5 - Councilman Tony Hausmann, Councilman Tony Fuhrmann,
Councilman Donna Green, Councilman David Seaton, and Mayor Jeff Stehman

Absent: 0

C. INVOCATION

Delivered by Pastor Dale Barnhurst of Seventh Day Adventist Church.

D. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited.

E. PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

1. Recognition of Awards Received by Firefighter/Paramedic Colin Fuhrmann

Attachments: [Agenda Item Report](#)

Chief Bailot recognized Firefighter Colin Fuhrmann for receiving FTO Officer of the Year and EMS F.O.R.C.E (Fearless, Outstanding, Resilient, Compassionate, and Exceptional) awards by the St. Elizabeth's EMS System.

F. BUSINESS PRIOR TO PUBLIC INPUT

1. Ordinance Authorizing the City Council to Affirm or Reverse the Decision of the Zoning Hearing Officer to Deny a Variance Request by William and Cathy Schuermann in Relation to Above Ground Pool Setback Requirements at 221 Lee Avenue.

Attachments: [Agenda Item Report](#)
 [Ordinance Affirming ZHO Decision](#)
 [ZHO Decision April 17, 2025](#)
 [Staff Report April 16, 2025](#)

Community Development Director Travis Taylor advised the Zoning Hearing Officer (ZHO) Mr. Van-Lear Eckert denied a variance request of 6'3" side yard setback for an above-ground swimming pool at 221 Lee Avenue. Per Section 17.060.090 - requires 10' setbacks from rear and side property lines. Section 17.130.060 indicates Council has the power to review ZHO decisions in which Council can:

Affirm ZHO's decision

Reverse ZHO's decision

Modify ZHO's decision

Refer back to ZHO for additional consideration(s)

Director Taylor gave a brief background surrounding the pool at 221 Ave:

1/24/25 - Property owner applied for a Building Permit to construct a deck around the pool. It was determined at that time that the pool was installed in 2024 without a Building Permit from the City.

2/3/25 - Property owner submitted revised plans to include the pool. Upon staff's review, it was found that the pool setback of 6'3" from property line did not meet City Code of a minimum of 10' setbacks.

3/11/25 - Property owner submitted a variance asking to allow for the 6'3" setback.

4/16/25 - Public hearing was held before the ZHO

4/17/25 - ZHO issued his decision to deny the variance

5/27/25 - Council approved Ordinance 25-77 to allow for a review of the ZHO's decision regarding the denial of the variance

He displayed aerial pictures of 221 Ave. as well as renderings showing the pools location with proposed retaining wall and deck. This also showed setback of 6'3" from pool to side yard property line with fence.

Next, he outlined variance criteria as described in 17.130.040 of the City's Municipal Code. It was determined that only 1 or 4 criteria was met - "the variance desired will not adversely affect the public health, safety, moral, order, convenience, prosperity, or general welfare."

He mentioned ZHO's findings:

1. Petitioner does not satisfy all conditions required for granting variance. Specifically sighting the

variance would adversely affect the rights of adjacent property owners.

2. Reasons for unnecessary hardship as given by the Petitioner does not constitute unnecessary hardship.

3. Although granting the variance would not adversely affect public health or safety but would oppose the general spirit and intent of the City's Zoning Regulations.

Director Taylor reminded Council that they may:

Affirm ZHO's decision

Reverse ZHO's decision

Modify ZHO's decision

Refer back to ZHO for additional consideration(s)

He clarified that the Ordinance being presented to Council for consideration is "Ordinance Confirming the Decision of the Zoning Hearing Officer and Denying Variance" regarding setbacks at 221 Lee. It was understood that a YES vote would mean the denial of the variance request and a NO vote would approve the variance request.

Councilman Fuhrmann inquired if there were any complaints brought about by the neighbors to which Director Taylor advised there were not. He elaborated saying the applicant submitted a letter of support by the neighbor on the east.

Councilman Green spoke of her time on Council and the importance of Code Enforcement. She mentioned her appreciate for setting a standard. She indicated she drove by the applicant's property and noticed they not only have taken good care of their property but also have improved it as well. She believes it was an oversight by the pool company for not obtaining a Building Permit and not intentional by the property owner.

Councilman Hausmann asked how the City's setback requirements compare to surrounding communities. Director Taylor advised staff has started looking into this and noticed that some have a 5' setback. He advised staff would consider asking Council to consider an amendment to the regulations should additional variances warrant such. He (Hausmann) also inquired about the setbacks regarding the proposed deck. Director Taylor advised the applicant would like to have the deck inline with the pool so setbacks would include the deck.

Mayor Stehman concurred with Council's comments. He mentioned the need for standards. He spoke of the difference between an above-ground vs. that of an in-ground pool with regards to setbacks. He indicated the pool company should be cited for not obtaining a Building Permit.

A motion was made by Councilman Fuhrmann, seconded by Councilman Green to deny. The motion failed by the following vote:

Aye: 0

Nay: 5 - Hausmann, Fuhrmann, Green, Seaton, and Stehman

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

G. COUNCIL DISCUSSION

1. Water Treatment Plant PFAS Overview

Attachments: [Agenda Item Report](#)

Public Works Director Troy Turner introduced Superintendent Billy Jones and Chief Operator (Water Plant) Michael Crawford. Superintendent Jones gave a brief overview of what PFAS (Polyfluoroalkyl Substances). He described it as being manufactured and used in cookware, food packaging, personal hygiene items, clothing, furniture, fire fighting foams, etc. He explained this substance can spread easily but breaks down slowly.

Chief Operator Crawford spoke of the different symptoms to remove PFAS which include Activated Carbon Filter, Reverse Osmosis, and Ion Exchange Treatment. He mentioned the EPA testing requirements. The City's wells were tested in which 5 of the 6 wells did not detect PFAS. Well #15 showed detectable substances and was taken off-line from regular services. He spoke of finished water sample testing's over the past 4 years. He advised that a system must be in place to resolve the substances by April 2029.

He (Crawford) advised the City is consulting with an engineering firm to determine the best treatment option with the goal of having PFAS removal equipment in place by 2029.

A discussion was had regarding finished tap water. Chief Operator Crawford explained that the City's tap water is safe for consumption and that most tests conducted did not show PFAS.

Brief discussion was had regarding other communities testing positive.

Mayor Stehman inquired of current treatment process to remove PFAS. Mr. Crawford explained this chemical is unreactive and requires a special mechanism to grab these compounds. The current filtration process is not designed to handle these particles. He advised the EPA is constantly performing studies and tracking various compounds to determine their effects. Regulations are put into place based on these studies.

Councilman Fuhrmann inquired of a penalty if above the level based on EPA standards come 2029. Mr. Crawford advised he is not aware of what the penalty would be but spoke of other financial penalties invoked by EPA. He (Crawford) mentioned companies with mobile specialized treatment that could be utilized. He mentioned the mobile specialized treatment as being expensive but less expensive than EPA fines.

Director Turner indicated the City is meeting the limits as long as well #15 is not used. Superintendent Jones agreed but indicated the levels could change at any given time. Mr. Crawford explained they do

not know where or how PFAS got into the water system, if it is a one-time contamination or if there is more to come. He mentioned the need of replacing wells and advised 2 of the wells have been in operation for 70 years.

Councilman Seaton inquired of the granular carbon system as a treatment option as it seems to be less efficient than reverse osmosis. Mr. Crawford spoke of the start up cost for reverse osmosis as well as side effects to the water treatment. He explained reverse osmosis and advised it could make the water unstable and potential corrosive. He indicated other treatment processes and mechanisms would need to be in place to offset potential side effects when using reverse osmosis. He mentioned addition operating costs associated with reverse osmosis. He mentioned an ion exchange system as an option to the granular carbon system but mentioned a disinfectant chemical issue that would increase operating expenses for additional chemicals. The granular carbon system would be a better option and would work with our current disinfectant process. He advised they have consulted engineers and distributors/manufacturers of granular carbon systems, who assured we would get to a non-detected level.

Councilman Hausmann asked about the average depth of wells to which Mr. Crawford advised 98-102 feet. He indicated they are tapping into the same aquaphor. They spoke of rain water reaching an aquaphor.

Councilman Green spoke of the professionalism of our water department and the overall improvements that have been made through the years. She asked about a letter that was sent to the residents regarding the PFAS notification. Mr. Crawford said the letter came from the EPA and agreed it was confusing. The letter made it sound like the issue was a drinking water issue rather than an environmental notice regarding ground water. He mentioned the EPA's Right to Know Act and indicated it was triggered when the ground water standards were updated in April. Once updated, the City's ground water was above the standards. He indicated the EPA was required to send the letter based on the Act. He spoke of the immediate time frame to send such notices. Due to the Act, the City was not permitted to edit the letter nor add a leaflet to explain the meaning of the letter; thereby cause confusion. He also spoke of the mailing expenses that outweighed their annual budget which prohibited them from sending out a separate explanation letter. Mr. Crawford explained they attempted to inform the public with an explanation of the letter via the City's website and social media platforms.

Mayor Stehman thanked them for the clarification and explanations. He inquired of other communities who also receive their water from "the bottoms." Mr. Crawford advised the city of Troy has not tested their wells. He believes they tested their finished water product and detected 1 of the 6 PFAS chemicals.

H. SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

Angie Reed of the Cherry Hills Subdivision. She spoke of storm water issues and erosion on her property. She mentioned possible solutions. She asked the City to find a way to mitigate the problem.

Britney Valenesia spoke as an advocate for stray and feral cat population. She mentioned the City's Code with regards to stray and/or feral animals. She inquired as to why the Warren Billhartz Facebook Page advises they will not post lost or found animals. She spoke of her credentials as a Vet Tech and offered to volunteer.

Alyson McCaushman described herself as a "dog person." She spoke of the Animal Shelter. She mentioned her credentials involving dogs and various aspects of employment within animal shelter type establishments. She spoke of animal adoption programs. She spoke of her willingness to assist and volunteer.

I. COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS - MAYOR

Mayor Stehman spoke of the Horseradish Festival. He mentioned the turnout was good, despite the rain.

J. COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS - COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilman Seaton thanked staff from the Water Department for taking the time to explain PFAS. He spoke of them as being knowledgeable and the presentation being informative. Next, he spoke of the Animal Shelter and recent updates that are underway.

K. COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS - CITY STAFF

City Manager Jackson thanked the public for their comments. He advised staff will review the situation and respond at a later date. He advised the City does post found animals (found by Animal Control) on its social media page. He also thanked those wishing to volunteer at the shelter.

He spoke of some upcoming events:

Low Cost Vaccines and Microchip Clinic at the Animal Shelter on June 28 from 11am-1:30pm
Juneteenth Parade and Festival - Thursday, June 19 (parade 11am on Main St. and festival at Old Herald from 12-7pm)

Parks and Recreation Director Kimberly Caughran listed programs/events:

Fundraiser with the Gateway Grizzlies - June 18 (funds to support the all-inclusive playground)
First Movie Night - June 13 at Woodland Park

Executive Director Jamie Lane spoke of events at the Gateway Convention Center:

Dinosaur Adventure - June 14 and 15
Villain Arts Festival and St. Louis Tattoo Arts Festival - June 20 thru 22
Faith in Action Gala - July 11
Artistic Rubber Stamp Show - July 11 and 12
Illinois Elvis Festival - July 17 thru 19
St. Louis Railroad Prototype Modelers Meet - July 24 thru 26
Gateway Harvest and Handmade Craft Market - August 2

Community Development Director Travis Taylor spoke of the new Uptown Wayfinding Signs being

installed. Next, he spoke of an Uptown Scavenger Hunt featuring the catsup bottle cartoon named Brooke.

Public Works Director Troy Turner gave an update on some upcoming roadway improvements. IDOT will be working on Rt. 159 at Beltline for pothole repairs. He advised some traffic congestion is expected but the project is slate for one day (June 11). Next, he addressed IDOT's lane closure on Beltline Road. They are working on a solution to stabilize the bank that is eroding. At this time; it is unknown when the lane will reopen but update to follow.

L. CONSENT AGENDA

Deputy City Clerk Childerson read the Consent Agenda.

1. Motion to Approve Payment of Bills for the Period Ending May 30, 2025 in the Amount of \$1,595,921.00

Attachments: [Agenda Item Report](#)
 [05.22.2025 BOARD LIST.pdf](#)
 [05.27.2025 BOARD LIST.pdf](#)
 [05.28.2025 BOARD LIST.pdf](#)
 [05-30-25 INTERNAL PAYMENTS.pdf](#)

2. Motion to Approve Payroll for the Period Ending May 23, 2025 in the Amount of \$877,630.88

Attachments: [Agenda Item Report](#)
 [BOARD LIST PE 05-23-25](#)

3. Motion to Approve Minutes of the May 27, 2025 Council Meeting

Attachments: [Agenda Item Report](#)
 [Draft Minutes](#)

4. Resolution Reappointing Members to the Board of Fire and Police Commission (Steve Hoelscher and Jesse Hoskin)

Attachments: [Agenda Item Report](#)
 [Resolution](#)

Mayor Stehman asked if the Council wished to pull any items prior to a Motion. No items were pulled. A motion was made by Councilman Fuhrmann, seconded by Councilman Green, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Hausmann, Fuhrmann, Green, Seaton, and Stehman

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

M. NEW BUSINESS

1. Ordinance Authorizing an Agreement Between the City of Collinsville and Great Rivers & Routes Tourism Bureau

Attachments: [Agenda Item Report](#)
 [Ordinance](#)
 [Agreement](#)
 [Attachment A](#)
 [2024-2025 Annual Report](#)

City Manager Jackson advised this Ordinance would authorize an agreement for continued tourism services with Great Rivers and Routes Tourism Bureau from May 1 through April 30, 2026 in the amount of \$75,000. He advised the City has been a member since 2018 and has seen great benefits to its tourism efforts. He outlined the scope of the agreement to include, but not limited to, public relations, paid media and social media advertisement of events and featured locations, as well as additional aspects to encourage tourism to Collinsville.

A motion was made by Councilman Hausmann, seconded by Councilman Seaton to approve. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Hausmann, Fuhrmann, Green, Seaton, and Stehman

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

N. OLD BUSINESS

O. CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Stehman asked for a motion to proceed into closed session in accordance with 5 ILCS 120/2(c):

11. Pending or Threatened or Imminent Litigation

A motion was made by Councilman Fuhrmann, seconded by Councilman Hausmann. to approve. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Hausmann, Fuhrmann, Green, Seaton, and Stehman

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

P. ANNOUNCEMENTS**Q. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Councilman Green, seconded by Councilman Fuhrmann to adjourn at 7:45 pm. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Hausmann, Fuhrmann, Green, Seaton, and Stehman

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

ADDRESSING THE COUNCIL DURING SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

Below are the rules for input during City Council meetings as set out in Ordinance No. 4765 entitled “Ordinance Governing Speakers From the Floor During Meetings of the City Council and the Commission, Boards, and Sub-Bodies of Collinsville, Illinois”. Speakers may address the Council during the time designated as Speakers From the Floor on the agenda.

RULE 1: Speakers shall be allowed only during “Speakers from the Floor,” or at any other time if requested by a member of the City Council.

RULE 2: Input must relate to a matter under the authority of the City of Collinsville.

RULE 3: Upon request by the meeting Chairman for speakers from the floor, a prospective speaker shall express the desire to speak, be recognized by the meeting Chairman, approach the designated podium, and state their name and general subject matter to which they will address the City Council.

RULE 4: After establishing their identity, prospective speakers shall immediately address only the City Council.

RULE 5: Each speaker is limited to four (4) minutes to address the City Council. No extensions will be granted and no time shall be compensated to the speaker resulting from interruptions by or discussion with the City Council, City Manager, or any other City officer or employee.

RULE 6: Speakers shall address only the City Council collectively or its members individually. Speakers shall speak to issues and shall refrain from personal attacks on City appointed officials and employees. Speakers may not address issues related to pending litigation in which the City or its subsidiary bodies, officers, agents, employees, boards or commissions is a party.

RULE 7: Speakers shall not be permitted to advertise, solicit, request, urge, summon, or cajole the City Council or the general public, except as otherwise provided for herein, with regard to any products, goods, services, information, gains, losses, advantages, consequences, or any other similar matter, notwithstanding that there may or may not be any pecuniary, monetary, financial or property gain, loss, or benefit to the speaker or any other person or entity.

RULE 8: Speakers shall act and speak with decorum and conform to conventional social manners in speech, writing, dress, and behavior. The audience shall refrain from conduct that disrupts the meeting in any way such as clapping, booing, loud talking or outbursts. A speaker may be immediately terminated at the meeting Chairman’s discretion.

RULE 9: Determination of breaches of this Ordinance shall be made by the meeting Chairman. The meeting Chairman customarily will warn the speaker or members of the audience of inappropriate behavior through one warning use of the gavel. Subsequent inappropriate behavior shall result in the immediate removal of the responsible parties at the discretion of the meeting Chairman.