

Collinsville City Council
Regular Meeting of 8/13/2012

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Miller called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. at Collinsville City Hall.

ROLL CALL

All Council members were present as well as Interim City Manager Williams, Corporate Counsel Giacoletto, and City Clerk Brombolich. Mayor Miller asked everyone to turn off their cell phones so as not to interrupt the meeting.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Pastor Chris Funkhauser of Pathway Church.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

1. [Presentation of Yard of the Month Award for August 2012 to Dorothy and Ricky Dill](#)

Mayor Miller presented the August 2012 Yard of the Month award and a gift certificate from sponsor Creekside Gardens to Dorothy and Ricky Dill of 108A King Arthur Ct.

BUSINESS PRIOR TO PUBLIC INPUT

INPUT FROM RESIDENTS

Mayor Miller referred to Ordinance 4472. Joe Ashmann, 212 Emelie Ct., stated that after attending three TIF presentations, he is convinced that Unit 10 and property owners in Collinsville are coming up on the short end of the stick. He feels future meetings need to be recorded in the Council Chambers so all citizens can see them. He talked about editorials run by the Belleville News Democrat stating that school districts are hurt by TIF. He doesn't feel there is a need for the new TIF district being proposed. He feels if there is money to be made, businesses will come to town without TIF. He stated that the businesses downtown are receiving crumbs while those out of town companies who run them out of business are receiving millions. He feels in these troubled times, private enterprise should not be funded with public money. He thinks public input needs to be at the end of a meeting not at the beginning. He feels a town hall meeting is in order. He loves this town and thinks it can draw a lot of people without having to bribe them.

Jim Sparks, 4913 Sparks Lane, thanked the Council for allowing him to address the Council. He agrees with Mr. Ashmann regarding the input section of the agenda. He understands that all of the Council has not been here forever and it's a given that what happened in the past happened. His comments are not directed to anyone individually. He stated that Director Mann is wanting a new TIF district and he believes 3 or 2 of his previous districts never came to be, one being the soccer stadium which is next to his property. He's sure that Collinsville had considerable monies invested in the planning that went into these TIF districts. He talked about CARD having \$40 million in long-term debt. He stated that Unit 10 can accommodate school children from Glen Carbon to the Mississippi River. He feels the City should stop the insanity of spending more money than hardworking property owning taxpayers are willing to provide.

John Neimann, 14 Burdick Creek Road, talked about debt numbers that were mentioned earlier as far as the State Treasurer are from 2010 and asked why 2011 numbers are not provided. He asked how come the City keeps extending TIFs and how much infrastructure do we need. He stated that the new TIF is going to pull in Rural King, the Race Track and the revenue will go to them and not the schools and the residents. He talked about sales tax at WalMart.

Phil Astrauskas, 105 Lexington, said he can't agree more with Bob DesPain and others that all meetings should be televised and taped. He stated that what is put down in the minutes is hearsay and the opinion of the person doing the minutes. The people who attended the public meeting who spoke were against the TIF. He stated that the presentation tonight by Gateway Center was overwhelming and pointed out that the economic impacts on the convention center. He asked if any one considers what the economic impacts have done to the residents. He talked about the higher taxes at WalMart and Home Depot. He stated that if a business cannot succeed, they need to cut their costs and that only in government can the Gateway Center come back and ask for more money. He thinks the center is good for the community but they need to be able to succeed on their own. He talked about Main Street deteriorating and how the businesses are asking for money from the City. He thinks they should go out of business if they can't succeed. He talked about the Southwestern Illinois Business Journal who talks about being pro-TIF, pro-gambling, pro-sales tax, etc. He talked about the hotels and other businesses in the Eastport area noting that their contribution to the schools in tax money is under \$2,000.

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS - MAYOR

Mayor Miller stated that he had a news release he forgot to bring down but noted that the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) awarded to Finance Director Ammann their annual award for outstanding budget preparation. This is the fourth year in a row. He stated that our budget presentation is put together to make it readable and understandable and most importantly, it is correct. He congratulated her on a job well done.

He thanked his wife for taking care of him after his recent surgery. She's a good nurse mate and partner and he appreciates what she did for him.

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS - COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilman Moss talked about the First Day event which was a big success. She thanked Gary Clark, City staff and everyone involved in the event. She thanked the businesses and

organizations that were there and gave away school supplies. She stated that as she was walking in, there was a family leaving and she heard the little boy say to his parents that this was awesome and she feels that was the general feeling of the attendees. The vendors were very satisfied with the exposure they got.

Councilman Dalton also congratulated Director Ammann on the outstanding job that she does. She stated that it was kind of ironic that today she was reading the headlines regarding a controversy in another City having a Treasurer and a Finance Director and how they don't see how they consolidate those two into one position. When reading it, she thought ours does all of this and she gets awarded for it.

Mayor Miller stated that the First Day event was spectacular and while it was going on, at the Doubletree Hotel, there was a realtors reception where School Superintendent Dr. Green spoke to local realtors explaining the changes that are being done at Unit 10 to include their new scholastic programs. He also explained why and how Collinsville should not get the bad end of the publicity from the realtors to prospective residents. He explained well that Unit 10 is far beyond any school district in the area as far as academics with college rated courses available to the students, as well as their partnership with Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC) enabling a student to graduate high school with an associate's degree. He stated that good things are happening at Unit 10 and he commends them for it. He noted that the City can't prosper without a good school system and the school system can't survive without cooperation from the City. We are working together.

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS - CITY STAFF

CONSENT AGENDA

City Clerk Brombolich read the consent agenda items as follows:

1. Motion to Approve Payment of Bills for the Period Ending August 8, 2012 in the Amount of \$710,845.39
2. Motion to Approve Payroll for the Periods Ending 07/26/12, 07/31/12, and 08/09/12 in the Amount of \$939,357.94
3. Motion to Approve Minutes of the July 23, 2012 Regular Meeting
4. Resolution 5020 Requesting Permission from the Illinois Department of Transportation to Close Streets for Collinsville High School Homecoming Parade on September 27, 2012
5. Resolution 5021 Requesting Permission from Illinois Department of Transportation to Close Main Street for Italian Fest Parade on September 22, 2012
6. Resolution 5022 Requesting Permission from Illinois Department of Transportation to Close Main Street for Italian Fest
7. Ordinance 4536 to Accept a Gift of Real Estate and Improvements Located at 441 S. Chestnut in the City of Collinsville

Mayor Miller asked if the Council wished to pull any items from the consent agenda. No items were pulled. Motion by Councilman Tognarelli, seconded by Councilman Moss. Answer on roll call: Ayes - Tognarelli, Moss, Kypta, Dalton, Miller; Nays - None; Absent - None.

The Mayor announced that item L1 is being moved to be the last item under new business.

NEW BUSINESS

1. This agenda item was moved to the last item under new business.
2. [Ordinance 4537 Authorizing Expenditure of TIF Funds \(Friday's South, 106 East Main\)](#)

Motion by Councilman Dalton, seconded by Councilman Kypta. Economic Development/TIF Director Mann stated this request for TIF funds is for 106 East Main, Friday's South. This application is for funding through the City's Fire Safety Code Assistance Program to provide safer ingress and egress into the building, more specifically, it is a change in the front doors to swing out and be equipped with panic hardware to meet the Fire Code. These changes are being requested by the Fire Marshall to provide for a reasonable degree of safety as required by the City's Fire and Life Safety Codes. The current situation is not code compliant and if not corrected, will reduce their occupancy load from 75 to 49. The lowest bid received for the work was \$9,898 and the applicant is requesting reimbursement of 90% of their investment, or \$8,908.20. The Uptown Development Commission voted on August 8th to recommend approval and staff recommends approval as well.

Councilman Moss stated that at the recent Strategic Session the Mayor was absent from, TIF expenditures were discussed. She asked at that time for the Council to get together and go over our TIF program and how the awards are made. She thinks there are too many ways some of these things can be interpreted and she thinks in all fairness, that discussion should be put on the agenda as soon as possible.

Councilman Tognarelli stated that he wants to see things in writing and he likes to see consistency. He agrees that we need to schedule that discussion as soon as possible.

Councilman Moss stated that she will be abstaining because she is not comfortable with the way the system is working but doesn't want to vote no.

Answer on roll call: Ayes - Tognarelli, Kypta, Dalton, Miller; Nays - None; Absent - None; Abstain - Moss.

3. [Ordinance 4538 Vacating an Alley Located in Peers JS Subdivision and Situated in the City of Collinsville, County of Madison and State of Illinois](#)

Motion by Councilman Kypta, seconded by Councilman Dalton. Street Director Cheatham stated this ordinance vacates an alley located behind Manning Hall of SS Peter & Paul Church that begins 200' south of the intersection of Johnson and Center and ends at a platted alley 450' southeast between Center and Morrison. He stated that this is not an improved alley and has always been maintained by the adjacent property owners. Staff recommends vacating the alley

and giving it to them equally divided. Answer on roll call: Ayes - Tognarelli, Moss, Kypta, Dalton, Miller; Nays - None; Absent - None.

4. [Resolution 5023 Requesting Utility Permit from Illinois Department of Transportation for Rehabilitation and Repair of the Sewer Main on Vandalia Street from Clay Street to Madison Avenue](#)

Motion by Councilman Moss, seconded by Councilman Tognarelli. Water/Wastewater Director Kress reported this resolution authorizes the Mayor to sign a utility permit with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) for the repair/rehabilitation of the sewer main on Vandalia from Clay to Madison. He stated that the main has deteriorated to the point where rehabilitation is necessary. This work will include the replacement of an 8' section of the main at 210 Vandalia and the installation of 730' of a cured-in-place pipe lining. The work will be performed on IDOT right-of-way requiring the issuance of an IDOT utility permit. Staff recommends approval.

Mayor Miller stated that this is one of the things our citizens don't see but is as important as our Police, Fire and Street Departments - the things you can see. The infrastructure underground needs repaired as well and our crews do a wonderful job of that and don't get a lot of credit. These repairs are necessary and we're happy our crews are on top of these things.

Answer on roll call: Ayes - Tognarelli, Moss, Kypta, Dalton, Miller; Nays - None; Absent - None.

1. [Ordinance 4539 Authorizing the Mayor to Execute an Agreement with Scott Williams Regarding a City Manager's Employment Agreement](#)

Mayor Miller stated that prior to asking for a motion, he wanted to note that he postponed this item in order for Mr. William's wife who was trying to get here in time to be here for the vote.

Motion by Councilman Tognarelli, seconded by Councilman Dalton.

Mayor Miller stated that the Council has unanimously chosen Mr. Williams to lead our City as City Manager over the contract period of 3 years. His contract is open information and contains his salary, use of vehicle, as well as insurance and leave benefits as given to all other employees. He has done a fantastic job as the leader of our Police Department, came into the department 24 years ago, came through the ranks from patrolman to sergeant and on up to Chief. He has to hang up his badge and take over a computer and be in charge of all of the personnel in the City. It is a big responsibility but the Council feels he is up to the challenge and looks for great things from him.

Answer on roll call: Ayes - Tognarelli, Moss, Kypta, Dalton, Miller; Nays - None; Absent - None.

Councilman Tognarelli stated that he has had the privilege of working with Scott since he's been here. He stated that his stability, honesty, integrity and financial stewardship is going to be a real asset to the City. He is proud to work with him, congratulated him and noted that he is glad to

have him.

Councilman Moss stated that Mr. Williams has had a considerable period of time in this position and the knowledge he had of the City over the years has been a real asset. He has always done a fine job and she has complete faith and trust in his ability and his integrity. She feels he's the man to take us into the next phase of the City.

Councilman Dalton congratulated Scott and knows that his fiscal responsibility is a big asset to our City. He doesn't try to inflate anything, he is very straightforward, and a peacemaker who tries to keep everyone on an even keel which is sometimes very difficult. She knows he has the respect of the employees and the Council and will do a great job.

Councilman Kypta felt the other Council members have covered everything. He congratulated Scott and stated he has done a good job already and will continue to do so.

Mayor Miller offered congratulations and stated that he is looking forward to good things. He noted that the Mayor and City Manager work close together and that he and Scott have done that in the past as firefighter and police officer and can continue to do the same thing. He stated that the Council holds him to a high standard and he knows he's up to the challenge.

OLD BUSINESS

CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Miller announced a closed session pursuant 5 ILCS 120/2c1 and 5 ILCS 120/2c11. Motion by Councilman Moss, seconded by Councilman Dalton. Answer on roll call: Ayes - Tognarelli, Moss, Kypta, Dalton, Miller; Nays - None; Absent - None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

City Clerk Brombolich announced the second place Yard of the Month winner for August 2012 as Kenneth & Gretchen Bassett. She also announced that the Yard of the Month Program runs through October and nominations can be made on the City's website or by calling Susan Hellige at 344-3535.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilman Tognarelli, seconded by Councilman Kypta. Answer on roll call: Ayes - Tognarelli, Moss, Kypta, Dalton, Miller; Nays - None; Absent - None. Time: 8:10 p.m.