



City of
SANDWICH, ILLINOIS

City Hall Annex • 128 East Railroad Street

Committee-of-the-Whole Council Meeting
February 7, 2022 @ 7:03pm

Minutes

Call to order by Mayor Latham at 7:03pm

**Roll Call: Alderman Fritsch, Holcomb, Alderwoman Johnson, Killey,
Alderman Kreinbrink, Littlebrant, Robinson, Whitecotton**

**Others in Attendance: Mayor Latham, Deputy City Clerk Teckenbrock, Chief
Bianchi, EMA Tom Ciciora, Treasurer Dell, Attorney Gottschalk**

Mayor Latham invited representatives from the DeKalb County Bureau of Tourism to come forward for their presentation to the Council. Brad Hoey and Katherine McLaughlin came forward to give slide show presentation.

Mr. Hoey is the Special Projects Manager for the DeKalb County Convention and Visitors Bureau. Ms. McLaughlin is the Marketing Director for the DCCVB. Mr. Hoey pointed out that the DeKalb County CVB is a Certified organization within the State of Illinois and being Certified allows them to receive grants and they are a 501c6 Not for Profit. They are a destination marketing organization.

Many slides of information were shown and information was given to all in attendance. Both Mr. Hoey and Ms. McLaughlin pointed out not only Sandwich businesses but area wide businesses. They pointed out that the Visitor's Guides are all over Illinois and surrounding state in locations where travelers are-like Union Station and the Olgilvie Center train stations. Rest area's in Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin and Iowa also have kiosks that have the guides available for travelers. As well at Ohare and Midway Airports.

Mr. Hoey pointed out that one of the biggest events in the County is the Sandwich Fair. After their thorough and complete presentation Mayor Latham asked for questions from the Council for the DCCVB. After a few questions Mr. Hoey talked about the IHSA Football games played at NIU this year. Wilmington stayed at the Moncler Hotel during the tournament.

Alderwoman Johnson asked if their information goes outside Illinois. Mr. Hoey said it certainly does and he pointed out some examples like Milwaukee and the St. Louis area. Ms. McLaughlin pointed out Paducah, Kentucky and a few other spots.

Alderman Kreinbrink pointed out that the marketing looks very impressive by the numbers that their information and publications reach. Mayor Latham thanked both representatives for all the information they shared with Council.

Mayor Latham asked Randy Newkirk of Hampton, Lenzini and Renwick, INC. to come forward. Mr. Newkirk told the Council that IDOT had opened the bids for the Latham Street Project. The engineers' estimated cost was \$3,165,000 and the low bid that came in was \$3,227,000. Understandable he pointed out with the cost of goods now. He noted that he was pretty happy that the cost was not higher with the 2% overage.

Berger was low bidder out of Wauconda Mr. Newkirk pointed out that they were a bit out of the area, but that they were a very reliable company. Several different documents for Latham Street Project were provided for review. Ryan Livingston Project Manager, would be resident engineer, Martin Dopke, Resident Technician, would work with resident engineer who brings 30 years experience and will work well with residents. Third part of four parts estimated \$256,000 engineering costs for project. Estimated 26 weeks for engineering. Rubino Engineering would keep an eye on materials and costs and quality of materials used. Fourth item authorization for funding.

Alderwoman Johnson asked about how long materials would last and hold up. Mr. Newkirk said mix they were going to use about 20 to 40 years life with Portland cement. He went on to talk about MFT funds that could be used. Wants to get \$650,000 authorization now, \$490,000 MFT and \$160,000 rebuild Illinois. Could come back later and make some changes if need be.

Mr. Newkirk talked about forms and funds needed for more projects as well, Main Street, U.S. 34 traffic signals. Looking for possible grants for some projects and funding. There is estimate of 10% of MFT funds for traffic signals or about \$130,000. He pointed out other projects as well down the road and other information.

Mayor Latham asked for any questions and thanked Mr. Newkirk for spread sheet that helped with information for the Council. Mayor will put items on Agenda for next weeks meeting.

Mayor Latham asked Arnie Schramel from Progressive Energy to come up to speak to the Council. Mr. Schramel came forward to talk about the Solar Energy and the possible Solar Energy panels that could be put up at the Water Treatment Plant here in Sandwich.

Mr. Schramel talked about pricing now and what it could be in future. He brought Eric Peterman from GNRE Solar Energy with him to speak to Council. Mr. Schramel talked about other Solar Energy projects they have done in area like Fox Metro, Plano and Kendall County. Solar Field in Sandwich would be put up in Flood Plain. Mr. Peterman talked about his company and projects done around Northern Illinois. They have done over 1000 projects in the Midwest. Solar Panels are durable products. Elements don't create problems and the rain and snow and stuff help clean products naturally. Alderwoman Johnson asked a couple questions about that.

Mayor Latham asked if the Kendall County field was put up by GNRE and he responded that it was. Along with others in the area that were previously mentioned. Mayor Latham asked about end-of-life plan. A lease is 25 years and then it can be removed, extended or purchased by City of Sandwich. Mr. Schramel noted that after 25 years operating at 85% efficiency. Mr. Peterman again mentioned that units clean themselves. If needed GNRE would come out and take care of issues.

Mayor Latham asked if GNRE still owned all the fields they had put it locally or had they sold any. Mr. Peterman said they still own all the Solar Fields they have put in. Mr. Schramel told the Council about current costs and how some things would change after 2022 and 2023. Alderman Whitecotton asked about some of the end costs to the city after the 25 years and Mr. Schramel explained that and also told the Council that there was quite a bit of scrap value in the materials as well.

Mayor Latham asked that a contract be forwarded to the City and he would show it to legal counsel and the Council would decide if it was good to be approved.

Next item on agenda is the fund balance policy. Mr. Dell and the Mayor worked on policy and forwarded it to Wes Levy. He asked the Council to take a look at it and they would act on it later if approved.

Next up was gaming license fee changes by the State of Illinois. Municipalities can raise fees up to \$250.00 per unit. Sandwich currently charges \$25.00 per machine. Mayor opened up the floor to the Council for discussion. Alderman Fritsch gave the Mayor a copy of a suit being brought against the fees. They gave the article to the City Attorney and she will look into it. Alderman Robinson said he felt we should not raise fee to maximum of \$250.00. It raised at all should be less than half of the \$250.00 at the most. Several Alderman spoke and the general feeling was that they would raise the fee but not the full amount of \$250.00 per machine.

Mayor Latham began a discussion about liquor licenses and mentioned that Vinez Was looking for a license to sell spirits and not just beer and wine. Mayor Latham said he felt the City needed to look at all the licenses and if the number in some categories need to be amended. Further discussion would be needed and no action was to be taken right now. Alderman Robinson then made some more comments. Mayor Latham recommended that all the Alderman look at the licenses out there right now.

Chief Bianchi then commented on liquor licenses as well. More discussion and studying of this issue would come in the future. Mayor said they would look at things in a couple of weeks.

Mayor Latham said now would be a time to look at all fees like building permit's etc. More discussions would be coming. Mayor Latham talked about some fees and he told Mr. Steffens to put an application for outdoor dining ordinance.

Attorney's report was for everyone to look at OMA information and for everyone to take the required training. Mayor Latham said Attorney Gottschalk would be City Auditor and he would send out notification to those who need to know that.

Deputy City Clerk Teckenbrock talked about an open house would be held on April 30th out at the new development by Lonnie Avery at the old Gjovik Ford property. Businesses out there going well and more being developed. He also talked about Correct Digital Displays and Pure Fishing out at the former Plano Molding facilities. Also, some possible activity at the Fritsch Property.

Treasurer Dell No report

EMA Tom Ciciora No report

Chief Bianchi No report

Engineering Mayor Latham reported Scooters Coffee had a few items and their process is done. Letter from EPA about loan. Mayor contact EEI to have them in as well as giving info to the City Attorney.

Alderman Fritsch No report

Alderman Holcomb No report

Alderwoman Johnson witnessed some acts of kindness recently by citizens and perhaps a citizen recognition. also wanted to make sure sidewalk improvements put in budget 50/50 program. Salem Lutheran wanted some repair done near their building.

Alderwoman Killey No report

Alderman Kreinbrink talked about things going on with budget meetings.

Alderman Littlebrant No report

Alderman Robinson No report

Alderman Whitecotton No report

Mr. Teckenbrock reported that Maddie Robinson ranked 2nd in the nation in the indoor Shot and that the Sandwich Indians wrestling team won a regional title over this past weekend.

Audience comments: Mr. Kurt Becker came forward to ask the City to remember the impact to his and other businesses by the Pandemic as they look to increase fees. He asked that the City look at a small increase if any at this time.

Mayor Latham asked for motion to adjourn meeting. Motion made by Alderman Robinson and seconded by Alderwoman Johnson motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:53pm.