



City of SANDWICH, ILLINOIS

City Hall Annex · 128 East Railroad Street

Committee-of-the-Whole Council Meeting

September 20th, 2021 @ 7:00 PM

MINUTES

Mayor Latham called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Roll call was taken:

Present: Mayor Latham, City Clerk Ii; Aldermen Fritsch, Holcomb, Killey, Johnson, Littlebrant, Robinson & Whitecotton

Quorum established.

Also Present: Attorney Harrill, Chief Bianchi, EMA Director Ciciora & City Treasurer Dell

Absent: Alderman Kreinbrink & Building Official Steffens

Mayor Latham:

1. Starr Design Construction: Representing Starr Design Construction were Steve Jakupi and Heidi Atols. They have shown interest in purchasing the old waterpark property and found it cost prohibitive due to delinquent taxes and cost to remove cement foundations. They are now interested in the 24 acres of City-owned property located on the northside of Center Street and east of Gletty Road. The proposed project would consist of aged 50+ housing as well as affordable housing for veterans. Other properties within the Community were suggested to investigate. Mayor Latham said he will obtain infrastructure information to assist in their quest and speak with Kendall County regarding the delinquent taxes in hopes of a settlement to reduce costs.
2. Outdoor Dining Discussion: A final draft, dated September 15th, was distributed for review prior to the meeting. Consensus was a permit should be required but noted that many of the businesses cannot meet ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requirements by having outdoor dining in front of their business. The City's Building Official will make inspections to assure ADA compliancy. This matter will be placed on next week's agenda for passage.
3. Taste of Sandwich Discussion: A 2019 event budget accompanied a community request for financial assistance of \$1,200.00 toward the September 29th event. Historically, the City budgets \$300 for the purchase of hotdogs and condiments for the Taste; the event was hosted by the Sandwich merchants. Alderman Robinson said he would not feel comfortable donating \$1,200 toward tents but would prefer that the City donate up to \$200 to Fox Valley Community Center to offset costs. The donation of \$200 will be voted upon at next week's regular meeting. Mayor Latham indicated that next year he would like to make the Taste a weekend event by adding an Oktoberfest and music fest.

4. American Rescue Plan Act: The City has received the first of two payments in the amount of \$504,217.07. Both (former) Engineer Horak and Wes Levy (Lauterbach and Amen) worked on project proposals to be eligible for the funding. Noting that fund usage is restricted, the Mayor asked that suggestions be turned into him as to how funds should be spent.
5. Solar Power / Fields: Council was in agreement not to continue the relationship with Keystone and to reach out to other solar entities for a show of interest for bids and services. The rate of return appears to extend into decades that could leave the City in an unmanageable situation in the future. After reviewing the Keystone contract, it was felt there were more questions to be pursued, such as security measures and if excess energy is sold back to the grid and vice versa. It was noted that ComEd is available to conduct an energy audit for the City. The Mayor suggested that a request for proposal (RSP) be drawn up for solar energy for the City.
6. Technology Audit: The Mayor made a suggestion to have a third party conduct a technology audit seeking comments and recommendations of the City's technology including replacement equipment and enhancing the Police Department's technology. Funding would come from the American Rescue Plan Act Relief.
7. Water Infrastructure: A sewer rate study was recently conducted, and EEI (Engineering Enterprises Inc) is currently mapping to develop a sewer infrastructure plan. The Mayor is going to request EEI to conduct a water rate study including necessary mapping reflecting the water infrastructure. There is a new law prohibiting lead services; EEI will be asked to locate lead services to be addressed by the City. The Mayor is hopeful there are programs available to offset funding.
8. Safe Routes to School Grant Program: Two years ago, the City was not selected as a recipient for the grant. HLR (Hampton, Lenzini & Hampton) had prepared the initial study and necessary documentation suggesting now that only updating will be required for this year's application. Awarded recipients would receive 80% federal funding, and the City would be responsible for the remaining 20%. Council will vote on this matter next week.

Foster, Buick, Conklin & Lundgren Law Group: Attorney Harrill said she will be attending the IML Conference on Thursday, September 23rd. The conference will be held in Chicago September 23rd – 25th.

City Clerk li reported, on behalf of Street Superintendent Sean Horan, that October will be the last month for brush pickup for the season. Ward 1 brush pickup will be on Monday, October 4th.

City Treasurer Dell reported he needs vehicle information for the IMIC insurance renewal. Clerk li said she is working with Sean Horan and Chief Bianchi to obtain that information.

City Department Reports:

EMA Director Ciciora: No report

Chief Bianchi: No report

Engineering: Mayor Latham reported that EEI will attend Council meetings twice a month, being a COW (Committee-of-the-Whole) meeting and a Regular meeting. "Banked meetings" will be afforded should the Council not require their attendance.

Aldermen Reports: Alderman Holcomb questioned the status of a new stop sign on Joles and 2nd Streets that was approved by the Council at the July 26th meeting. Status to be investigated.

Alderwoman Johnson explained that she has become a victim of tripping on a sidewalk in disrepair causing her to fall and injure herself. She asked that the City consider sidewalk repair as a priority with grant monies being received. She is looking forward to attending the IML conference to learn of financial resources available for the City.

Alderwoman Killey reported that because of ice buildup in past years, there is damage to the Opera House roof. She and Alderman Kreinbrink are investigating roofing quotes for repairs or replacement.

Alderman Littlebrant reported that he has addressed the grass clippings complaint in Ward 1.

Announcements: The Finance Committee Meeting will meet immediately following the Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting on September 20th, 2021.

Audience Comments: None

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Council, **motion made by Alderman Robinson and seconded by Alderman Holcomb to adjourn the Committee-of-the-Whole council meeting at 8:00 PM. Motion carried unanimously on voice vote.**

/s/ Denise Li – City Clerk