

**CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
JULY 2, 2024**

**COMMITTEE MEETING**

**1. Finance: 5:35-5:45**

Sign-In: Jim Hawkins (Chairperson), Jason Smith, Mary Davis, Dan McDowell, Brad Eavenson, Randy LeMaster, Greg Garcia, Jerry Harrington, Bob Pickerell, Kim Pierson, City Clerk Jenna DeYong, Mayor Parkinson and Attorney Brian Konzen were present.

Aldersperson Hawkins called the meeting to order.

Aldersperson Hawkins invited citizen Julia Green to speak regarding a lien on 2429 Washington. Green advised she had entered into a program with the city in 1996, and had upheld her obligation and asked that the city remove the lien as promised.

Aldersperson Hawkins stated the lien should have been removed years ago once the obligation was met. Motion by Aldersperson McDowell, seconded by Aldersperson Pierson to approve the request to forgive the lien on 2429 Washington Ave. All voted yes, motion carried.

Motion by Aldersperson Eavenson, seconded by Aldersperson McDowell to approve a Resolution to authorize the purchase of software from ESO Solutions for the Fire Department using funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. All voted yes, motion carried.

Mayor Parkinson commended Assistant Chief Richey for working diligently to get the best price for the taxpayers of the city.

Motion by Aldersperson McDowell, seconded by Aldersperson Eavenson to adjourn the meeting. All voted yes, motion carried.

Attest

Jenna DeYong, City Clerk

**2. The District: 5:45-6:00**

Sign-In: Mary Davis (Chairperson), Jason Smith, Dan McDowell, Brad Eavenson, Randy LeMaster, Greg Garcia, Jerry Harrington, Jim Hawkins, Bob Pickerell, Kim Pierson, City Clerk Jenna DeYong, Mayor Parkinson and Attorney Brian Konzen were present.

Aldersperson Davis called the meeting to order.

Aldersperson Davis deferred to Sara DeCourcy, owner of Level1Up Arcade, to address the council about her

updated business plan. DeCourcy stated the council had been given the business plan and requested their support. Alderperson Davis tabled the discussion, referring it to legal for further research.

Motion by Alderperson Davis, seconded by Alderperson Harrington to adjourn the meeting. All voted yes, motion carried.

Attest

Jenna DeYong, City Clerk

### **3. Fire Committee: 6:00-6:10**

Sign-In: Randy LeMaster (Chairperson), Jason Smith, Mary Davis, Dan McDowell, Brad Eavenson, Greg Garcia, Jerry Harrington, Jason Smith, Bob Pickerell, Kim Pierson, City Clerk Jenna DeYong, Mayor Parkinson and Attorney Brian Konzen were present.

Alderperson LeMaster called the meeting to order.

Motion by Alderperson LeMaster, seconded by Alderperson Harrington to approve the Station 1 Roof Repair Bid. All voted yes, motion carried.

Assistant Chief Richey advised ICON would be moving the HVAC units that are located on the roof and remounting them after repairs.

Motion by Alderperson LeMaster, seconded by Alderperson Harrington to adjourn the meeting. All voted yes, motion carried.

Attest

Jenna DeYong, City Clerk

### **4. Negotiations: 6:10-6:20**

Sign-In: Greg Garcia (Chairperson), Jason Smith, Mary Davis, Dan McDowell, Brad Eavenson, Randy LeMaster, Jerry Harrington, Jim Hawkins, Bob Pickerell, Kim Pierson, City Clerk Jenna DeYong, Mayor Parkinson and Attorney Brian Konzen were present.

Alderperson Garcia called the meeting to order.

Mayor Parkinson advised the city had received many applications for the Venue Manager position. The committee chose the top 5 applicants for interviews. Mr. Ray Warren was the chosen applicant with a salary of \$36,000 and health insurance. Mayor Parkinson advised a Resolution and a contract would be brought forth at the next council meeting if approved.

Motion by Alderperson Garcia, seconded by Alderperson Smith to approve the hiring of Ray Warren for the Venue manager position with a salary of \$36,000 and health insurance. All voted yes, motion carried.

Motion by Alderperson Garcia, seconded by Alderperson Smith to adjourn the meeting. All voted yes, motion carried.

Attest

Jenna DeYong, City Clerk

**5. Risk Management: 6:20-6:50**

Kim Pierson (Chairperson), Jason Smith, Mary Davis, Dan McDowell, Brad Eavenson, Randy LeMaster, Greg Garcia, Jerry Harrington, Jim Hawkins, Bob Pickerell, City Clerk Jenna DeYong, Mayor Parkinson and Attorney Brian Konzen were present.

Alderperson Pierson called the meeting to order.

Motion by Alderperson Pierson, seconded by Alderperson Smith to go into closed session to discuss pending litigation and personnel. All voted yes, motion carried.

BEGIN CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Alderperson Pierson, seconded by Alderperson Hawkins to come out of closed session. All voted yes, motion carried.

END OF CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Alderperson Hawkins, seconded by Alderperson Smith to authorize Attorney Brad Young to start settlement talks in the amount of \$7,500 and \$30,000. All voted yes, motion carried.

Motion by Alderperson Pierson, seconded by Alderperson Hawkins to adjourn the meeting. All voted yes, motion carried.

Attest

Jenna DeYong, City Clerk

## **TOWNSHIP MEETING**

Invocation was led by Dan McDowell.

Mayor Parkinson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### **1. Pledge of Allegiance**

All stood for the Pledge of the Allegiance.

### **2. Roll Call**

**ROLL CALL:** Mayor Parkinson, Alderperson McDowell, Alderperson Pickerell, Alderperson Davis, Alderperson Eavenson, Alderperson Smith, Alderperson Harrington, Alderperson LeMaster, Alderperson Hawkins, Alderperson Pierson, Alderperson Garcia and City Clerk Jenna DeYong were present.

### **3. Township Board Minutes - Approval of the Township Board Meeting Minutes from June 18, 2024**

Motion by Alderperson Davis, seconded by Alderperson Eavenson to approve the Township Board Meeting minutes from June 18, 2024. All voted yes, motion carried.

### **4. Presentation of Communications**

None

### **5. Finance Committee: Jim Hawkins, Chairperson**

#### **A. Bill List - July 2, 2024**

Motion by Alderperson Hawkins, seconded by Alderperson Garcia to approve the bills payable from the Town Fund in the amount of \$29,426.89.

**ROLL CALL:** Mayor Parkinson, Alderperson McDowell, Alderperson Pickerell, Alderperson Davis, Alderperson Eavenson, Alderperson Smith, Alderperson Harrington, Alderperson LeMaster, Alderperson Hawkins, Alderperson Pierson and Alderperson Garcia. All voted yes, motion carried.

Motion by Alderperson Hawkins, seconded by Alderperson LeMaster to approve the bills payable from the General Assistance Fund in the amount of \$13,107.12.

**ROLL CALL:** Mayor Parkinson, Alderperson McDowell, Alderperson Pickerell, Alderperson Davis, Alderperson Eavenson, Alderperson Smith, Alderperson Harrington, Alderperson LeMaster, Alderperson Hawkins, Alderperson Pierson and Alderperson Garcia. All voted yes, motion carried.

### **6. Unfinished Business**

None

### **7. New Business**

None

### **8. Adjournment**

Motion by Alderperson McDowell, seconded by Alderperson Smith to adjourn the meeting. All voted yes, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Attest

Jenna DeYong, City Clerk

## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Mayor Parkinson called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

### **1. Roll Call**

**ROLL CALL:** Mayor Parkinson, Alderperson McDowell, Alderperson Pickerell, Alderperson Davis, Alderperson Eavenson, Alderperson Smith, Alderperson Harrington, Alderperson LeMaster, Alderperson Hawkins, Alderperson Pierson, Alderperson Garcia and City Clerk Jenna DeYong were present.

### **2. City Council Minutes - Approval of the City Council Meeting Minutes from June 18, 2024**

Motion by Alderperson Harrington, seconded by Alderperson Pierson to approve the City Council Meeting minutes from June 18, 2024. All voted yes, motion carried.

### **3. Presentation of Communications**

#### **A. Request by Higher Level Ministries Christian Church for road closure on Saturday, July 13, 2024**

Motion by Alderperson Eavenson, seconded by Alderperson McDowell to approve the road closure on Saturday, July 13, 2024, contingent upon the Comprehensive General Liability Insurance Coverage being in place naming the City of Granite City as additional insured for the Higher Level Ministries Christian Church's "Summer Sizzle". All voted yes, motion carried.

#### **B. Request by the Mexican Honorary Commission for road closures on Saturday, September 7, 2024**

Motion by Alderperson Hawkins, seconded by Alderperson Garcia to approve the road closure on Friday, September 6th through Sunday, September 8th, 2024, for the Mexican Honorary Commissions 98th Annual Street Festival. The Liability Insurance Policy is on file with Risk Management. All voted yes, motion carried.

### **4. Mayor's Remarks**

#### **A. Retirement of Robert "Bob" Burgess**

Mayor Parkinson acknowledged the retirement of city employee Robert "Bob" Burgess effective July 1, 2024.

### **5. Public Correspondence**

Resident Mike Henderson addressed the council regarding the opening of a second Oxford house in his neighborhood. Henderson questioned the council if there is anything that the city could do to keep these houses out of neighborhoods.

Mayor Parkinson stated Oxford Houses are protected by the Federal Government and are considered ADA houses. Mayor Parkinson gave literature to residents supporting the legal rights of the non-for-profit organization.

#### **A. Request to address the council by Dennis McBride**

Resident Dennis McBride addressed the council regarding the Oxford house and the foot traffic it brings into the neighborhood. McBride acknowledged that everyone deserved a second chance but questioned if the "landlord" had to follow the same rules with the Crime Free Housing regulations and occupancy permits. McBride stated the residents have asked for a police presence in their neighborhood and have not seen one.

Mayor Parkinson reiterated that Oxford House is protected by Federal Law and encouraged the residents to set up a meeting with his office to further discuss the situation.

#### **B. Request to address the council by Holly Taft**

Business owner and local resident Holly Taft addressed the council regarding unanswered emails from June 24, 2024, with questions about the Director of Tourism (Director of Arts, Entertainment & Tourism

Brenda Whitaker) that were sent to the Director as well as the City Council with no response. Taft claims that hours later, herself and her business were attacked on a Podcast highlighting Brenda Whitaker by Alderperson Pierson.

Taft stated she questioned the position when the city entered into an agreement with Great Rivers & Routes with no oversight on the content that was being published. Taft noted that of the eleven businesses that were highlighted in a recent publication by Great Rivers & Routes, four of them were no longer in business.

Taft asked that the Council reevaluate the position and have the Director of Tourism return her email with answers to the questions.

Mayor Parkinson announced that 3 minutes had passed.

Motion by Alderperson Smith, seconded by Alderperson Eavenson to extend Ms. Taft an additional 2 minutes.

**ROLL CALL:** Alderperson McDowell, Alderperson Pickerell, Alderperson Davis, Alderperson Eavenson, Alderperson Smith, Alderperson Harrington, Alderperson LeMaster, Alderperson Hawkins, Alderperson Pierson and Alderperson Garcia. All voted yes, motion carried.

Taft stated this has been a learning experience for herself, adding she has a lot of passion for the town and hopes the council can recognize that.

Mayor Parkinson stated that when he was made aware of the Podcast, Director Whitaker was given a directive that she was not to speak on behalf of the City, making it impossible for her to answer the questions. He added that Ms. Pierson does not answer to him as an elected official but was advised that she was not authorized to speak on behalf of the City or City Council at the podcast as it was not a City-Sponsored or a City-Sanctioned event.

Mayor Parkinson stated that he believes in full transparency for all citizens, adding there is a FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) system that has to be followed.

Mayor Parkinson thanked Ms. Taft and asked her to stay for the remainder of the meeting for upcoming items that referred to her and other small businesses.

### **C. Request to address the council by Victoria Goss**

Resident Victoria Goss addressed the Council regarding the ongoing conflict within the city.

Goss stated that social media and one voice do not speak for the majority, adding that personal differences have caused too much negativity.

Goss stated the city needs helpers, volunteers, and people who do good for more than their agenda.

Mayor Parkinson stated the 3-minute time limit had been met.

Motion by Alderperson Smith, seconded by Alderperson LeMaster to extend Ms. Goss 2 extra minutes.

**ROLL CALL:** Alderperson McDowell, Alderperson Pickerell, Alderperson Davis, Alderperson Eavenson, Alderperson Smith, Alderperson Harrington, Alderperson LeMaster, Alderperson Hawkins, Alderperson Pierson and Alderperson Garcia. All voted yes, motion carried.

Ms. Goss vocalized her support for the Council and the current Administration. She encouraged citizens to come together to work for the betterment of our community.

Mayor Parkinson thanked all the speakers and encouraged everyone to stick around for the remainder of the meeting.

## **6. Report of Standing Committees:**

### **A. Negotiations Committee: Greg Garcia, Chairperson**

#### **i. Approval of the hiring of a Venue Manager for The Mill Event Center with a salary of \$36,000 + Health Care**

Mayor Parkinson stated a Resolution and contract would be brought forth at the next Council Meeting.

### **B. The District Committee: Mary Davis, Chairperson**

Aldersperson Davis announced there would be no music in the park due to the Fourth of July holiday this week, adding that E.T. would be played at the cinema for the Tuesday Classic Movie Series on July 9, 2024, and Honky Tonk Heroes would play at The Mill Event Center on Saturday, July 27, 2024.

### **C. Planning & Zoning Committee: Dan McDowell, Chairperson**

#### **i. Approval of the combined Planning & Zoning/Public works Committee Meeting Minutes from June 18, 2024**

Motion by Aldersperson McDowell, seconded by Aldersperson Davis to approve the combined Planning & Zoning/Public Works Committee Meeting minutes from June 18, 2024. All voted yes, motion carried.

#### **ii. A Resolution providing for the demolition or repair of a dangerous and unsafe building at 2144-2146 Adams St**

Motion by Aldersperson McDowell, seconded by Aldersperson Eavenson to invoke the Omnibus Rule for items ii through iv. All voted yes, motion carried.

Motion by Aldersperson McDowell, seconded by Aldersperson Eavenson to approve a Resolution providing for the demolition or repair of a dangerous and unsafe building at 2144-2146 Adams St, 2226-2228 Lee Ave and 2712 Edwards St. All voted yes, motion carried.

#### **iii. A Resolution providing for the demolition or repair of a dangerous and unsafe building at 2226-2228 Lee Ave**

#### **iv. A Resolution providing for the demolition or repair of a dangerous and unsafe building at 2712 Edwards St**

#### **v. A Resolution to transfer the property commonly known as 2009 Missouri Avenue to a neighbor under the Mow to Own Program**

Motion by Aldersperson McDowell, seconded by Aldersperson Eavenson to transfer the property commonly known as 2009 Missouri Avenue to a neighbor under the Mow to Own Program. All voted yes, motion carried.

### **D. Legal & Legislative Committee: Jason Smith, Chairperson**

#### **i. A Resolution in Response to Speech of June 24, 2024**

Aldersperson Smith read the Resolution in response to Speech of June 24, 2024.

Motion by Aldersperson Smith, seconded by Aldersperson Davis to approve and place on file a Resolution in Response to Speech of June 24, 2024.

Aldersperson McDowell stated this is a personal dispute dating back to 2021 and has lingered on for three years, adding he did not believe it was appropriate for City Council to be brought into it, voting no.

**ROLL CALL:** Aldersperson McDowell-no, Aldersperson Pickerell-no, Aldersperson Davis-aye, Aldersperson

Eavenson-aye, Alderperson Smith-aye, Alderperson Harrington-aye, Alderperson LeMaster-aye, Alderperson Hawkins-aye, Alderperson Pierson-no and Alderperson Garcia-aye. Ayes have it, motion carried.

Alderperson Smith deferred to Alderperson Pierson who chose to read a statement of apology.

Alderperson LeMaster wants to go on record as a Alderperson and friend to Ms. Taft that he did not feel an apology was given.

Mayor Parkinson stated he understood the Alderpersons comment, adding that the Council nor the Administration could force an apology from Ms. Pierson.

#### **ii. Information regarding the Mayors Small Business Grant Program**

Mayor Parkinson awarded Jon Roderick from Jerry's Cafeteria a check in the amount of \$15,000 through the Small Business Grant Program. Mayor Parkinson added he planned on awarding Holly Taft (Taft left the meeting earlier) from Sissy's Space a check for \$5,000 and wanted to extend an olive branch asking her to accompany him and his team to award other small businesses with checks from the Small Business Grant Program.

Economic Development Director Cathy Hamilton gave a brief presentation on how the COVID Small Business Grant Program was funded and how a business qualified for grant funding.

#### **E. Public Works Committee: Bob Pickerell, Chairperson**

##### **i. An Ordinance extending Ordinance No 10000 and renewing one handicapped parking space for two years at 2232 A Grand Ave within the city of Granite City, Illinois**

Motion by Alderperson Pickerell, seconded by Alderperson Harrington to approve an Ordinance extending Ordinance No 10000 and renewing one handicapped parking space for two years at 2232 A Grand Ave within the city of Granite City, Illinois.

**ROLL CALL:** Alderperson McDowell, Alderperson Pickerell, Alderperson Davis, Alderperson Eavenson, Alderperson Smith, Alderperson Harrington, Alderperson LeMaster, Alderperson Hawkins, Alderperson Pierson and Alderperson Garcia. All voted yes, motion carried.

**FINAL PASSAGE:** Alderperson McDowell, Alderperson Pickerell, Alderperson Davis, Alderperson Eavenson, Alderperson Smith, Alderperson Harrington, Alderperson LeMaster, Alderperson Hawkins, Alderperson Pierson and Alderperson Garcia. All voted yes, motion carried.

##### **ii. A Resolution to authorize an Agreement with Metro East Sanitary District concerning training of drivers seeking Commercial Drivers Licenses**

Motion by Alderperson Pickerell, seconded by Alderperson Pierson to approve a Resolution to authorize an Agreement with Metro East Sanitary District concerning training of drivers seeking Commercial Drivers Licenses. All voted yes, motion carried.

#### **F. Police Committee: Jerry Harrington, Chairperson**

##### **i. A Resolution to support Police Officers**

Motion by Alderperson Harrington, seconded by Alderperson Pierson to approve a Resolution to support Police Officers.

**ROLL CALL:** Alderperson McDowell, Alderperson Pickerell, Alderperson Davis, Alderperson Eavenson, Alderperson Smith, Alderperson Harrington, Alderperson LeMaster, Alderperson Hawkins, Alderperson Pierson and Alderperson Garcia. All voted yes, motion carried.



Aldersperson Eavenson asked that the Resolution be read aloud, reiterating the need for support of the Police and all first responders.

Aldersperson McDowell expressed his ongoing support for the Police and first responders as well.

Mayor Parkinson invited the Police Officers in attendance to stand and be present for the reading of the Resolution, expressing his support for the officers.

Aldersperson Harrington read the Resolution.

**G. Fire Committee: Randy LeMaster, Chairperson**

**i. Station 1 Roof Repair Bid Award**

Motion by Aldersperson LeMaster, seconded by Aldersperson Davis to approve the bids for Roof Repairs to Station 1.

**ROLL CALL:** Aldersperson McDowell, Aldersperson Pickerell, Aldersperson Davis, Aldersperson Eavenson, Aldersperson Smith, Aldersperson Harrington, Aldersperson LeMaster, Aldersperson Hawkins, Aldersperson Pierson and Aldersperson Garcia. All voted yes, motion carried.

**H. Risk Management Committee: Kim Pierson, Chairperson**

No Report

**I. Economic Development Committee: Brad Eavenson, Chairperson**

No Report

**J. Finance Committee: Jim Hawkins, Chairperson**

**i. Approval of the Finance Committee Meeting Minutes from June 18, 2024**

Motion by Aldersperson Hawkins, seconded by Aldersperson Garcia to approve the Finance Committee Meeting minutes from June 18, 2024. All voted yes, motion carried.

**ii. A Resolution to authorize the purchase of software from ESO Solutions for the Fire Department, using funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021**

Motion by Aldersperson Hawkins, seconded by Aldersperson Harrington to approve a Resolution to authorize the purchase of software from ESO Solutions for the Fire Department, using funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

**ROLL CALL:** Aldersperson McDowell, Aldersperson Pickerell, Aldersperson Davis, Aldersperson Eavenson, Aldersperson Smith, Aldersperson Harrington, Aldersperson LeMaster, Aldersperson Hawkins, Aldersperson Pierson and Aldersperson Garcia. All voted yes, motion carried.

**iii. Payroll**

Motion by Aldersperson Hawkins, seconded by Aldersperson Eavenson to approve the payroll for the period of June 1-15, 2024 in the amount of \$685,907.44.

**ROLL CALL:** Aldersperson McDowell, Aldersperson Pickerell, Aldersperson Davis, Aldersperson Eavenson, Aldersperson Smith, Aldersperson Harrington, Aldersperson LeMaster, Aldersperson Hawkins, Aldersperson Pierson and Aldersperson Garcia. All voted yes, motion carried.

**iv. Bill List**

Motion by Aldersperson Hawkins, seconded by Aldersperson Pierson to approve the bills payable for the month of June 2024 in the amount of \$31,765,401.69.

**ROLL CALL:** Aldersperson McDowell, Aldersperson Pickerell, Aldersperson Davis, Aldersperson Eavenson, Aldersperson Smith, Aldersperson Harrington, Aldersperson LeMaster, Aldersperson Hawkins, Aldersperson Pierson and Aldersperson Garcia. All voted yes, motion carried.

**7. Report of Officers**

No Report

**8. Unfinished Business**

None

**9. New Business**

None

**10. Adjournment**

Motion by Alderperson Hawkins, seconded by Alderperson Harrington to adjourn the meeting. All voted yes, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Attest

Jenna DeYong, City Clerk