

**CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 18, 2025**

**COMMITTEE MEETING**

**1. Legal & Legislative: 6:10-6:20**

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

Mayor Parkinson was absent.

Alderson Smith called the meeting to order.

Motion by Alderson Smith, seconded by Alderson Davis to approve an Ordinance to appoint Appellate Counsel in Cause 5-25-0058, before the Fifth District Appellate Court of Illinois. All voted yes, motion carried.

Motion by Alderson Smith, seconded by Alderson LeMaster to move the March City Council Meetings to March 11th and 25th giving the Finance Department approval to pay bills to ensure no late fees. All voted yes, motion carried.

Motion by Alderson Smith, seconded by Alderson LeMaster to adjourn the meeting. All voted yes, motion carried.

Attest

Jenna DeYong, City Clerk

**2. Economic Development: 6:20-6:25**

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

Mayor Parkinson was absent.

Alderson Eavenson called the meeting to order.

Alderson Eavenson stated the City owns the property at 2400 Edwards. He said it is a vacant lot and has been for years. He indicated there is an interested party who would like to buy the property. He stated the property needs to be declared surplus and then listed for bids.

Motion by Alderson Eavenson, seconded by Alderson Davis to approve an Ordinance to declare the property commonly known as 2400 Edwards St. as surplus and to authorize its sale. All voted yes, motion carried.

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

Attest

Jenna DeYong, City Clerk

### **3. Public Works: 6:25-6:30**

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

Mayor Parkinson was absent.

Alderperson Pickerell called the meeting to order.

Motion by Alderperson Pickerell, seconded by Alderperson Eavenson to establish a handicap parking space at 2410 Winters Drive. All voted yes, motion carried.

Motion by Alderperson Pickerell, seconded by Alderperson Eavenson to adjourn the meeting. All voted yes, motion carried.

Attest

Jenna DeYong, City Clerk

### **4. Finance: 6:30-6:50**

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

Mayor Parkinson was absent.

Alderperson Hawkins called the meeting to order.

Motion by Alderperson Hawkins, seconded by Alderperson Eavenson to approve a Resolution for Motor Fuel Tax Allocation for Supplemental Preliminary Engineering Agreement for Grigsby Safe Routes to School Improvement Project. All voted yes, motion carried.

Motion by Alderperson Hawkins, seconded by Alderperson Eavenson to approve a resolution for MFT Funds Allocation for Land Acquisition Services Agreement for Grigsby Safe Routes to School Improvements. All voted yes, motion carried.

Alderperson Hawkins stated the BIDS for DCEO Terminal Avenue Culvert Replacement were included in the packet. Hanks Excavating submitted the low bid of \$753,380.80. The bid will be awarded at the next council meeting.

Aldersperson Hawkins recommended the appointment of Jessie Curran to Finance Director and Kathy Wojtowicz to Deputy Director of Finance. Hawkins stated he had worked with both employees and had confidence in their ability to run the department.

Motion by Aldersperson Hawkins, seconded by Aldersperson LeMaster to approve the appointment of Finance Director and Deputy Finance Director to Jessie Curran and Kathy Wojtowicz. All voted yes, motion carried.

Motion by Aldersperson Pierson, seconded by Aldersperson Eavenson to approve an Ordinance to declare ten vehicles as surplus and to authorize sale or transfer. All voted yes, motion carried.

Aldersperson Hawkins opened the floor for discussion regarding a contract with Tenurgy. He indicated Tenurgy is a Utility Bill Auditing Firm. Hawkins encouraged the council to read the proposal in detail, indicating he had concerns about a 3-year contract and a 50/50 split of recovered funds.

Aldersperson Smith questioned if the service is only available to the City, adding there are residents complaining on social media every day about the cost of utilities.

Aldersperson Hawkins agreed it is a valid concern.

Aldersperson McDowell stated he understood it to be a City Contract not available to citizens with a 6-8 week turn around on their reports.

Aldersperson LeMaster questioned if a presentation would be given to the Council.

Aldersperson Hawkins stated he was unsure. He encouraged the council to ask questions, voice concerns and reach out to their constituents.

Aldersperson Hawkins stated the Bill List that was voted for approval on February 4, 2025, had a typo on the cover page indicating incorrect dates. He said the report was correct in all other respects.

Motion by Aldersperson Hawkins, seconded by Aldersperson Pierson to amend the dates and place on file the correct cover page for the January Bill List. All voted yes, motion carried.

Motion by Aldersperson LeMaster, seconded by Aldersperson Pierson to adjourn the meeting. All voted yes, motion carried.

Attest

Jenna DeYong, City Clerk

## **TOWNSHIP MEETING**

Invocation was led by Daniel Klueskins.

In the absence of Mayor Parkinson, Alderperson McDowell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **2. Roll Call**

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

Mayor Parkinson was absent.

### **3. Township Board Minutes - Approval of the Township Board Meeting minutes from February 4, 2025**

Motion by Alderperson Hawkins, seconded by Alderperson Davis to approve the Township Board Meeting minutes from February 4, 2025. All voted yes, motion carried.

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

None

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

#### **A. Bill List - February 18, 2025**

Motion by Alderperson Hawkins, seconded by Alderperson Eavenson to approve bills payable from the Town Fund in the amount of \$46,641.84.

**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.

Mayor Parkinson was absent.

Motion by Alderperson Hawkins, seconded by Alderperson Eavenson to approve the bills payable from the General Assistance Fund in the amount of \$17,730.59.

**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.

Mayor Parkinson was absent.

### **6. Unfinished Business**

None

### **7. New Business**

None

### **8. Adjournment**

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Attest

Jenna DeYong, City Clerk

## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

In the absence of Mayor Parkinson, Alderperson McDowell called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

### **1. Roll Call**

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

Mayor Parkinson was absent.

### **2. City Council Minutes - Approval of the City Council Meeting minutes from February 4, 2025**

Motion by Alderperson Hawkins, seconded by Alderperson Smith to approve the City Council Meeting minutes from February 4, 2025. All voted yes, motion carried.

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

#### **A. Annual Kids & Cops 5K Doughnut Run**

Motion by Alderperson Pickerell, seconded by Alderperson Hawkins to approve road closures for the Annual Kids & Cops 5K Doughnut Run. All voted yes, motion carried.

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

Alderperson McDowell thanked the Street Department for their continued handwork during the storms.

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

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

No report

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

No report

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

##### **i. A Resolution providing for the demolition or repair of a dangerous and unsafe building at 2240 Jefferson Ave**

Motion by Alderperson Davis, seconded by Alderperson Smith to approve a Resolution providing for the demolition or repair of a dangerous and unsafe building at 2240 Jefferson Ave. All voted yes, motion carried.

##### **ii. A Resolution providing for the demolition or repair of a dangerous and unsafe building at 2602 Cayuga St**

Motion by Alderperson Davis, seconded by Alderperson Smith to approve a Resolution providing for the demolition or repair of a dangerous and unsafe building at 2602 Cayuga St. All voted yes, motion carried.

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

##### **i. An Ordinance to appoint Appellate Counsel in cause 5-25-0058, before the Fifth District Appellate Court of Illinois**

Motion to Alderperson Smith, seconded by Alderperson Davis to approve an Ordinance to appoint Appellate Counsel in cause 5-25-0058, before the Fifth District Appellate Court of 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. Reschedule the March City Council Meetings to March 11th and 25th**

Motion by Alderperson Smith, seconded by Alderperson LeMaster to move the March City Council Meetings to March 11th and 25th giving the Finance Department approval to pay bills to ensure no late fees. All voted yes, motion carried.

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

**i. Approval of the Public Works Committee Meeting from February 4, 2025**

Motion by Alderperson Pickerell, seconded by Alderperson Hawkins to approve the Public Works Committee Meeting minutes from February 2, 2025. All voted yes, motion carried.

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

No report

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

No report

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

No report

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

**i. An Ordinance to declare the property commonly known as 2400 Edwards St as surplus and to authorize its sale**

Motion by Alderperson Eavenson, seconded by Alderperson Davis to approve an Ordinance to declare the property commonly known as 2400 Edwards St as surplus and to authorize its sale.

**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.

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

**i. Approval of the Finance Committee Meeting from February 4, 2025**

Motion by Alderperson Hawkins, seconded by Alderperson Garcia to approve the Finance Committee Meeting minutes from February 4, 2025. All voted yes, motion carried.

**ii. A Resolution to authorize an Agreement for preliminary environmental site assessment for improvements to the sidewalk along Cargill Road**

Motion by Alderperson Hawkins, seconded by Alderperson Garcia to approve a Resolution to authorize an Agreement for preliminary environmental site assessment for improvements to the sidewalk along Cargill Road. All voted yes, motion carried.

**iii. A Resolution to authorize a Land Acquisition Services Agreement for improvements to sidewalks along Cargill Road**

Motion by Alderperson Hawkins, seconded by Alderperson LeMaster to approve a Resolution to authorize a Land Acquisition Service Agreement for improvements to sidewalks along Cargill Road.

**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.

**iv. An Ordinance to declare ten vehicles as surplus and to authorize sale or transfer**

Motion by Alderperson Hawkins, seconded by Alderperson LeMaster to approve an Ordinance to declare ten vehicles as surplus and to authorize sale or transfer.

**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.

**v. Appointment of Finance Director and Deputy Director**

Motion by Alderperson Hawkins, seconded by Alderperson Garcia to appoint Jessie Curran to Finance Director and Kathy Wojtowicz to Deputy Finance Director. All voted yes, motion carried.

**vi. Payroll**

Motion by Alderperson Hawkins, seconded by Alderperson Smith to approve payroll for the period of 2/1/2025-2/15/2025 in the amount of \$683,689.44.

**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.

**vii. Supplemental Bill List**

Motion by Alderperson Hawkins, seconded by Alderperson Garcia to approve the Supplemental Bill List in the amount of \$7,604.14. All voted yes, motion carried.

**viii. Treasurer's Report**

Motion by Alderperson Hawkins, seconded by Alderperson LeMaster to approve and place on file the Treasurer's Report for January 2025. All voted yes, motion carried.

**6. Report of Officers**

None

**7. Public Correspondence**

None

**8. Unfinished Business**

None

**9. New Business**

None

**10. Adjournment**

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Attest

Jenna DeYong, City Clerk