

**CITY OF BYRON  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2022, 6:30 PM  
BYRON CITY HALL**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Rickard called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Led by Mayor Rickard
3. **ROLL CALL – Aldermen present:** Todd Isaacs, Emily Gerdes, Mittzi Fulrath, Zeke Hobbie, Jessica Nehring, Michael Gyorkos, Christy Hanlin. Seven members present.

**Aldermen Absent:** None

<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Mayor</b>	John Rickard
	<b>City Clerk</b>	Caryn Huber
	<b>City Attorney</b>	Aaron Szeto
	<b>Dir. of Public Works</b>	Aaron Vincer
	<b>Dir. of Econ. Dev.</b>	Larry Hewitt
	<b>Police Chief</b>	Todd Murray
	<b>Citizens</b>	Bill Pirnat, Pam Kultgen, Brian Brooks

4. **REVERENCE PERIOD** – Mayor Rickard led the Council in prayer.
5. **APPROVAL/AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA** – Motion by Alderman Fulrath to approve, as presented, the December 7, 2022, agenda. Seconded by Alderman Isaacs. Roll call vote: Gerdes, AYE; Fulrath, AYE; Hobbie, AYE; Nehring, AYE; Gyorkos, AYE; Hanlin, AYE; Isaacs, AYE. Motion passed: AYE, 7; NAY, 0; ABS 0.
6. **MINUTES** –
  - a. **November 16, 2022 - City Council Regular Meeting Minutes** - Motion by Alderman Gyorkos to approve, as presented, the November 16, 2022, City Council Regular Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Alderman Nehring. Roll call vote: Fulrath, AYE; Hobbie, AYE; Nehring, AYE; Gyorkos, AYE; Hanlin, AYE; Isaacs, AYE; Gerdes, AYE. Motion passed: AYE, 7; NAY, 0; ABS 0.
7. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – None
8. **TREASURER'S REPORT** – Treasurer Huber stated that the November Treasurer's Report is in Dropbox. She added that the eight accounts that were changed to Public Fund Money Manager accounts in September are yielding good interest: \$6,701.81 in October and \$7,327.17 in November.
9. **LIST OF BILLS** – Alderman Hobbie asked about charges from Entre. Chief Murray explained that this is for IT support hours and should last through the end of the year. Alderman Isaacs motioned to approve the list of bills dated 12/07/22 in the amount of \$105,575.71. Motion seconded by Alderman Hobbie. Roll call vote: Hobbie, AYE; Nehring, AYE; Gyorkos, AYE; Hanlin, AYE; Isaacs, AYE; Gerdes, AYE; Fulrath, AYE. Motion passed: AYE, 7; NAY, 0; ABS, 0.

10. **MAYOR'S REPORT** – Mayor Rickard reported that he attended the IDOT Zoom meeting regarding the Route 2 reconstruction. They presented the current design plan and invited public comment. They will be replacing and expanding railroad tresses and putting a bike path from Union St. to Lake Louise. The speed limit will likely be reduced to 45 mph. from Byron to Lake Louise. They are in Phase One of the project (design phase). They expect to complete this phase by the end of next year. Construction is not expected to begin for 3-4 years, and it is estimated it will take 2-4 years to complete due to the over 100 properties along the route and the need to stage the project in order to provide access to residents. A complete set of plans is available to view at the Byron Library.
11. **CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT** – All items are on the agenda.
12. **CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT** – No report.
13. **DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT** – No report.
14. **DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT** – Director Vincer reported that lead pipe inspections are almost complete. • Snowplows are ready. All drivers have returned from last year. • Director Vincer is hoping to add more Public Works staff in the next budget year.
15. **POLICE CHIEF REPORT** – Chief Murray reported that one of the officers is leaving to go to the Rockford Police force. His last day is tomorrow. A new candidate will start on January 3 and begin the training academy on January 8. • If there are no objections, Chief Murray will be donating old squad cars to the Fire Department to be used for training. • Chief Murray thanked the Kiwanis Club for their help with Operation Santa.
16. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
  - a. **Community Services** – All items are on the agenda.
  - b. **Public Safety** – No report.
  - c. **Administrative** – All items are on the agenda.
17. **CONTINUING BUSINESS**
  - a. **Sunshine Park Purchase** – Discussions are continuing.
  - b. **Wastewater Treatment Plant** – Nothing new to report.
  - c. **TARP Grant-Colfax St.** – Nothing new to report.
  - d. **Constellation Sewer Extension** – Alderman Fulrath stated that a report was done by Fehr Graham to identify three routes from Constellation to the sewer plant. Fehr Graham recommends the route that travels along the railroad tracks. The report will be presented to Constellation for their input.
  - e. **Water/Sewer Rate Review** – Nothing new to report.
  - f. **Comprehensive Plan** – An RFP is being written.
  - g. **Sale of Surplus Property – Detention Pond** – Attorney Szeto is preparing the paperwork.
  - h. **Purchasing Property for Public Works Building** – Alderman Fulrath reported that the Forest Preserve has agreed to donate land for the City's Public Works building. They are working out details of the agreement.
  - i. **RFP-Public Works Building** – Alderman Fulrath reported that we received two proposals, one from Morton Buildings, and one from Larson & Darby. **Director Vincer and Aldermen Todd Isaacs and Mike Gyorkos met with both firms and recommend ranking Larson & Darby as number 1 and Morton Buildings as number 2.** The committee agreed that Larson & Darby does full project management has the knowledge and experience needed to construct a building that will fit the department's needs. **Roll call vote: Nehring, AYE; Gyorkos, AYE; Hanlin, AYE; Isaacs, AYE; Gerdes, AYE; Fulrath, AYE; Hobbie, AYE. Motion passed: AYE, 7; NAY, 0; ABS, 0.**

j. **Tax Levy** – Alderman Isaacs reported that the tax levy needs to be submitted by the end of December. Our assessed value has increased by \$4.5 million. We are asking for a tax levy of \$658,600 for the coming year. The tax rate has decreased from .858 to .828, but with the 6% increase in our assessed value (excluding TIF), we will be collecting more money. Because we are staying under 5%, there is no need for a hearing. **The Administrative Committee recommends council approval of the 2022-2023 tax levy. Roll call vote: Gyorkos, AYE; Hanlin, AYE; Isaacs, AYE; Gerdes, AYE; Fulrath, AYE; Hobbie, AYE; Nehring, AYE. Motion passed: AYE, 7; NAY, 0; ABS, 0.**

k. **Bergagna Alley Vacation – 113 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. North Side Alley** – Fehr Graham will prepare the vacation plat and Attorney Szeto will prepare the necessary vacation ordinance.

**18. NEW BUSINESS - None**

**19. COUNCIL TALK** – Director Vincer thanked Barb Dowd and her committee for the beautiful Christmas decorating downtown.

**20. COMMUNICATION –**

a. Regular City Council Meeting – Wednesday, December 21, 6:30 pm. (Cancelled by Mayor Rickard). The next council meeting will be Wednesday, January 4, 2023. He reminded everyone that the Christmas party is Tuesday, December 13 from 6-9 pm at PrairieFire.

**21. ADJOURN** – Alderman Isaacs motioned to adjourn. Motion seconded by Alderman Fulrath. Roll call vote: Hanlin, AYE; Isaacs, AYE; Gerdes, AYE; Fulrath, AYE; Hobbie, AYE; Nehring, AYE; Gyorkos, AYE. Motion passed: AYE, 7; NAY, 0; ABS, 0.

Mayor Rickard adjourned the City Council meeting at 6:52 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Caryn A. Huber*

City Clerk of Byron, Illinois

<b>MAYOR JOHN RICKARD</b>	<b>CITY CLERK CARYN A. HUBER</b>
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