

**CITY OF BYRON**  
**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2021, 5:30 PM**  
**MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM DUE TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS**

Alderman Fulrath called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.

**1. ROLL CALL:**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Alderman Mittzi Fulrath, Alderman Emily Gerdes, Alderman Zeke Hobbie, Alderman Mike Gyorkos (All Aldermen participated electronically)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

**Participating in person at City Hall:** Mayor John Rickard, City Clerk Caryn Huber (arrived at 5:43 pm from Administrative Committee meeting),

**Participating electronically:** Engineer Jason Stoll, Director Aaron Vincer, Attorney Aaron Szeto (arrived at 5:35 pm from Administrative Committee meeting), Alderman Todd Isaacs (arrived at 5:43 pm from Administrative Committee meeting), Director Larry Hewitt (arrived at 5:49 pm from Administrative Committee meeting)

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – FEBRUARY 3, 2021 – Alderman Gerdes motioned to approve, as presented, the February 3, 2021, Community Services Committee meeting minutes. Seconded by Alderman Hobbie. Motion passed.**

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT - None**

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JANUARY 6, 2021 – Alderman Hobbie noted the date on the minutes needs to be changed to 2021. Alderman Hobbie motioned to approve, as amended, the January 6, 2021, Community Services Committee meeting minutes. Seconded by Alderman Gerdes. Motion passed.**

**5. BOUTIQUE LIQUOR LICENSE –** Mayor Rickard explained that this item refers to a gambling parlor considering locating in Byron. They initially looked at a space downtown. Other towns have created a special category of liquor license specific to these businesses. Alderman Fulrath said it is her experience that aldermen are not in favor of issuing more liquor licenses. Alderman Hobbie added that his previous opinion still stands. He feels that the additional machines would take revenue away from our existing bars and restaurants, and feels that we have plenty of opportunities in town to use gaming machines. Mayor Rickard agreed that the business should not be located downtown, but would be located away from that area. Alderman Fulrath questioned if a license could be granted for one location and not the other. The mayor reported that the TAS Committee discussed the appearance of parlors in general, and agreed they do not like the look for the city. There is one person looking at purchasing Intermezzo that would like to put the parlor there. Other local business owners have indicated they would also like the opportunity to open a gaming parlor if the city decides in favor of them. Alderman Gerdes feels the number of machines available in town are enough. Alderman Fulrath said that if an ordinance is written allowing the boutique liquor license we would have to entertain all of the requests. Alderman Hobbie and Alderman Gerdes agreed we should not add the additional category.

6. **ORDINANCE TO AMEND BMC 13.28.055 WATER RATES** – Director Vincer reported that in the course of recently raising the water rates, there is a rate category that is not listed and was overlooked because no users fall into this category. In order to have a consistent rate change in all categories, this ordinance updates 13.28.055, which applies to services outside of corporate limits for water and sewer. The rates will bring the category in line with the other increases. **Alderman Gyorkos motioned to recommend to council that we increase the rates for services outside of corporate limits in accordance with the proposed ordinance. Alderman Hobbie seconded. Alderman Gerdes said her original vote stands, and she is not in agreement with the rate increase. Alderman Fulrath asked if the committee is in favor of bypassing the first read. The consensus of the committee was yes.**
7. **WASTEWATER/SEWER PLANT FACILITY PLAN** – Director Vincer reported that discussion on items 7 and 8 (ENGIE Contract Proposal) intertwine. Any significant improvements to the wastewater treatment plant will require an IEPA loan in lieu of bonds. At this point, IEPA is unwilling to work with ENGIE'S process, and he feels it is unlikely that would change in the near future. The facility plan was always the next step in the process, however, it was undecided as to who would take the lead on the project (ENGIE contracting Fehr Graham, or Fehr Graham contracting ENGIE). At this point, Director Vincer feels that Fehr Graham should do the facility plan, contracting ENGIE when needed. If IEPA approves the facility plan, we should be in line for funding, and can use ENGIE during the construction phase if we choose. Engineer Stoll said the Fehr Graham proposal is in Dropbox, and the money has been budgeted. The fee covers a complete analysis at the level that would be approved by the IEPA. Because of concerns raised regarding not having a specific project in mind before we begin the study, thirty percent of the fee will cover project, scope and timeline to be approved before they continue with the remainder of the plan. Alderman Gerdes asked how long the project will take. Engineer Stoll anticipated that a presentation should be ready to make to council in May at the latest. The facility plan is a required document by the EPA before any permits are obtained for work at the plan. At this time next year, the facility plan will be complete. Alderman Gerdes asked if the money has been budgeted, and Director Vincer replied that it was budgeted for this year. Alderman Gyorkos asked if we would be audited by the EPA for adhering to the plan. Engineer Stoll replied that they do inspect all work done as part of the permitting process, as well as the other inspections they conduct throughout the year. Alderman Gyorkos asked if we are allowed to go beyond the scope of the project if necessary. Engineer Stoll said yes, there are amendments allowed to the scope, and EPA has been agreeable if they make sense. He reminded the committee that the plan, once completed, is good for five years, and may need to be updated at some point. Alderman Fulrath said the topic is under new business and asked the committee how they wished to proceed. **Alderman Gyorkos motioned to recommend to council that we move forward with Fehr Graham creating the facility plan at a cost not to exceed \$39,500. Alderman Hobbie seconded. Alderman Gerdes and Alderman Fulrath agreed. Motion passed. Alderman Gyorkos motioned to recommend to council to bypass first read and take action on the facility plan tonight. Alderman Gerdes seconded. Alderman Hobbie and Alderman Fulrath agreed. Motion passed.**
8. **ENGIE CONTRACT PROPOSAL** – No information to add to discussion on Item #7.
9. **PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE** – Director Vincer reported that snow has taken up most of the department's time in the last several weeks. During the last snowstorm, there were trucks

out all night. This prevents the snow from packing down and keeps streets open in town. • After the snow fell, they have been hauling snow out of downtown and intersections. The larger part time staff has helped keep shifts to 8 hours. • The EPA visited the sewer plant last week and they received a good report, in large part thanks to TEST. • Rockvale Township has a backhoe (similar to ours, but newer) for sale for \$50,000. Director Vincer will be having an appraisal done on our backhoe, and hopes to trade it in. He will add the purchase to next year's budget.

**10. ADJOURN - Alderman Gyorkos motioned to adjourn the Community Services Committee meeting. Seconded by Alderman Gerdes. Aldermen Hobbie and Alderman Fulrath agreed. Motion passed.**

Alderman Fulrath adjourned the meeting at 6:24 pm. The next regular Community Services meeting is March 3, 2021.

Respectfully submitted, *Caryn A. Huber*, City Clerk of Byron, Illinois