

**CITY OF BYRON
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2023, 6:30 PM
BYRON CITY HALL**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Rickard called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Led by Mayor Rickard
3. **ROLL CALL – Aldermen present:** Todd Isaacs, Emily Gerdes, Mittzi Fulrath, Ron Boyer, Jessica Nehring, Michael Gyorkos, Christy Hanlin. Seven members present.

Aldermen Absent: None

PRESENT:	Mayor	John Rickard
	City Administrator	Brian Brooks
	City Clerk	Caryn Huber
	City Attorney	Aaron Szeto
	Public Works Dir.	Aaron Vincer
	Police Chief	Todd Murray
	Citizens	Pam Kultgen, Herb Santiago

4. **REVERENCE PERIOD** – Mayor Rickard led the Council in prayer.
5. **APPROVAL/AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA** – Motion by Alderman Boyer to approve, as presented, the December 6, 2023, agenda. Seconded by Alderman Gerdes. Roll call vote: Gerdes, AYE; Fulrath, AYE; Boyer, AYE; Nehring, AYE; Gyorkos, AYE; Hanlin, AYE; Isaacs, AYE. Motion passed: AYE, 7; NAY, 0; ABS, 0.
6. **MINUTES** –
 - a. **November 15, 2023 – City Council Regular Meeting Minutes** – Motion by Alderman Isaacs to approve, as presented, the November 15, 2023, City Council Regular Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Alderman Hanlin. Roll call vote: Fulrath, AYE; Boyer, 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 financial report is in Dropbox. Two CDs matured this week. Because the Public Fund interest is higher than CD interest, they were both moved into their appropriate Public Fund account (General 2 and Tort).
9. **LIST OF BILLS** – Alderman Isaacs asked about the charge from Concrete Polyfix. Director Vincer stated that this for concrete leveling along the highway. Alderman Isaacs also asked about the \$8,000 charge from Cahoyump Service. Director Vincer stated that the charge was for pulling the Well 3 pump to determine what needs to be repaired. Alderman Fulrath asked about the Verizon Wireless charges. Chief Murray replied these are for city cell phones as well as police data terminals. **Alderman Hanlin motioned to approve the list**

of Bills dated 12/06/23 in the amount of \$113,354.83. Motion seconded by Alderman Gyorkos. Roll call vote: Boyer, AYE; Nehring, AYE; Gyorkos, AYE; Hanlin, AYE; Isaacs, AYE; Gerdes, AYE; Fulrath, AYE. Motion passed: AYE, 7; NAY, 0; ABS, 0. A second List of Bills was included in Dropbox for Martin & Co. for the manhole work on Merchant St. **The Community Services Committee recommends Council approval to bypass first read and make payment to Martin & Co. for \$66,000.** Roll call vote: Nehring, AYE; Gyorkos, AYE; Hanlin, AYE; Isaacs, AYE; Gerdes, AYE; Fulrath, AYE; Boyer, AYE. Motion passed: AYE, 7; NAY, 0; ABS, 0.

10. **MAYOR'S REPORT** – Mayor Rickard reported that the Canadian Pacific Holiday Train visited Byron on November 26. He estimated 600-700 people in attendance, half of which were from out of town. The state championship Byron football team was recognized on the front page of the Chicago Tribune.
11. **CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT** – Byron Schools Activities Director, Jeff Milburn, contacted Administrator Brooks for assistance in posting a sign on the highway in recognition of the football team. Administrator Brooks contacted IDOT to request the signs. A ribbon cutting was held on the Friday following the last Council meeting for the mural on Union St. Feedback has been very good.
12. **CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT** – No report. All items are on the agenda.
13. **CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT** – No report.
14. **DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT** –
 - a. Public Works Building Update – Update later in the agenda.
 - b. Wastewater Treatment Plant – No update.
 - c. Other – Unusual sounds were coming from the pump at Well #3. It was discovered that the pump was putting out 600 gallons/minute. This is down from the 800 gallons/minute that the pump put out at installation. The motor that drives the pump and all of the hardware and piping can be reused, but the pump will need to be replaced and installed at a cost of \$20,305. We are currently running on two wells.
15. **POLICE CHIEF REPORT** – The Verizon robbery investigation is progressing. A meeting was held today with the Sheriff's Office and the FBI. They are still waiting to receive phone and financial records. Kiwanis will be organizing the Operation Santa gifts on Saturday. A recent police officer candidate did not make it through the background check, therefore, no one will be in the January training class. Chief Murray has two spots reserved in the May training class.
16. **COMMITTEE REPORTS** –
 - a. **Community Services** – No report. All items are on the agenda.
 - b. **Public Safety** – No report.
 - c. **Administrative** – No report.
17. **CONTINUING BUSINESS**
 - a. **221 N. Walnut St. Sidewalk Replacement** – Fehr Graham has designed the sidewalk and the ramp. A meeting will be held with Mr. Miller. It is hoped the same contractor will do both projects. Mr. Miller is hoping to complete the demo on the ramp and brick façade now and begin the construction work in spring.
 - b. **Ordinance Updating Building Codes** – No update.
 - c. **Tax Levy Ordinance** – Administrator Brooks stated we are requesting that \$690,000 be raised through our levy. **The Administrative Committee recommends**

council approval of the Tax Levy Ordinance as presented. Roll call vote: Gyorkos, AYE; Hanlin, AYE; Isaacs, AYE; Gerdes, AYE; Fulrath, AYE; Boyer, AYE; Nehring, AYE. Motion passed: AYE, 7; NAY, 0; ABS, 0.

d. **Ordinance Abating Tax Levy on G.O. Bonds Series 2014A – The Administrative Committee recommends Council Approval of the Ordinance Abating Tax Levy on G.O. Bonds Series 2014A.** Roll call vote: Hanlin, AYE; Isaacs, AYE; Gerdes, AYE; Fulrath, AYE; Boyer, AYE; Nehring, AYE; Gyorkos, AYE. Motion passed: AYE, 7; NAY, 0; ABS, 0.

e. **Ordinance Abating Tax Levy on G.O. Bonds Series 2014B – The Administrative Committee recommends Council Approval of the Ordinance Abating Tax Levy on G.O. Bonds Series 2014B.** Roll call vote: Isaacs, AYE; Gerdes, AYE; Fulrath, AYE; Boyer, AYE; Nehring, AYE; Gyorkos, AYE; Hanlin, AYE. Motion passed: AYE, 7; NAY, 0; ABS, 0.

f. **Chief of Police Search Authorization –** Administrator Brooks stated that the Public Safety Committee granted authorization for the Mayor and Administrator Brooks to proceed with the Police Chief search. It is hoped that the job description will be posted by the end of December, with applications being received through mid-January and interviews held at the end of January/beginning of February. **The Public Safety Committee recommends council approval to grant the Mayor and Administrator Brooks authorization to proceed with the search for a Police Chief.** Roll call vote: Gerdes, AYE; Fulrath, AYE; Boyer, AYE; Nehring, AYE; Gyorkos, AYE; Hanlin, AYE; Isaacs, AYE. Motion passed: AYE, 7; NAY, 0; ABS, 0.

g. **Congressional Grant for Watermain Improvements –** A \$2 million grant was given to us from Kinzinger's (now LaHood's) office for watermain improvements. It is a 20% matching grant and we will need to put \$400,000 towards the improvements. Since we are not including engineering costs in the grant funds, a portion of the 20% match may be able to come from construction engineering.

18. NEW BUSINESS –

a. **2024 Meeting Schedule –** Alderman Hanlin motioned to approve the 2024 meeting schedule as presented. Motion seconded by Alderman Fulrath. Roll call vote: Fulrath, AYE; Boyer, AYE; Nehring, AYE; Gyorkos, AYE; Hanlin, AYE; Isaacs, AYE; Gerdes, AYE. Motion passed: AYE, 7; NAY, 0; ABS 0.

b. **December 20 Regular City Council Meeting –** Mayor Rickard does not have any reason to meet on December 20. Alderman Isaacs motioned to cancel the December 20 City Council meetings. Motion seconded by Alderman Hanlin. Roll call vote: Boyer, AYE; Nehring, AYE; Gyorkos, AYE; Hanlin, AYE; Isaacs, AYE; Gerdes, AYE; Fulrath, AYE. Motion passed: AYE, 7; NAY, 0; ABS, 0.

c. **Martin Final Pay Estimate-Merchant Street Manholes –** Item covered under List of Bills.

d. **Ordinance Regarding Paid Leave for All Workers –** This ordinance needs to be approved this evening to be in compliance with the state law that goes into effect on January 1. Administrator Brooks stated that this ordinance provides that part-time employees will receive one hour of paid leave (not PTO) for every 40 hours worked. In January, a revision to our personnel policy will be presented to committee. Attorney Szeto stated that additional rules are still being added to the State law. **Alderman Isaacs motioned to approve the Ordinance Regarding Paid Leave for All Workers.** Motion seconded by Alderman Nehring. Roll call vote: Nehring, AYE; Gyorkos, AYE; Hanlin, AYE; Isaacs, AYE; Gerdes, ABS; Fulrath, AYE; Boyer, NAY. Motion passed: AYE, 5; NAY, 1; ABS, 1.

e. **Ordinance Amending Water Shut Off Provisions of the Code –** This ordinance clarifies when water shut offs can occur. It will be voted on in January.

f. **Fehr Graham TARP Grant Proposal – Walnut St./Barker Rd. – Alderman Gerdes** stated that the **Community Services Committee recommends approval of the Fehr Graham proposal to write the TARP grant application for \$5,000.** The grant would cover Walnut St. and Barker Rd. from Route 2 to at least Mill Rd. The grant is a 50/50 match. Walnut St. is on our list of street improvement projects next summer. **Roll call vote: Gyorkos, AYE; Hanlin, AYE; Isaacs, AYE; Gerdes, AYE; Fulrath, AYE; Boyer, AYE; Nehring, AYE. Motion passed: AYE, 7; NAY, 0; ABS, 0.**

g. **Fehr Graham RAISE Grant Proposal – Tower Road – Administrator Brooks** stated that this grant was applied for last year to build a roundabout at Mill Rd. and Tower Rd. We did not receive the grant. After speaking to a grant scorer/reviewer, it became obvious that it is very unlikely we would meet the criteria necessary to receive the grant (i.e., serving impoverished areas, providing easier access to an Amtrak station, etc.). The TAS committee recommends not pursuing this grant. Council concurred.

h. **Agreement with Byron Schools for Regulation of Traffic – No update.**

19. **COUNCIL TALK – Alderman Fulrath** stated that she received her arborist certification. She is one of only 30,000 in the country.
20. **EXECUTIVE SESSION - Executive Session pursuant to 5 ILCS120/2(c)(5) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act to discuss the purchase or lease of real property and 5ILCS120/2(c)(21) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act to Review Closed Session Minutes.**
21. **RECONVENE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Roll call: Emily Gerdes, Mittzi Fulrath, Ron Boyer, Jessica Nehring, Mike Gyorkos, Christy Hanlin, Todd Isaacs. Also present: Mayor John Rickard, City Administrator Brian Brooks, Attorney Aaron Szeto, City Clerk Caryn Huber.**
22. **APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR LAND ACQUISITION – Alderman Hanlin** motioned to approve the Ordinance for Land Acquisition authorizing the City to acquire an approximately three acre parcel from the Byron Fire Protection District. Motion seconded by Alderman Gerdes. Roll call vote: Fulrath, AYE, Boyer, AYE; Nehring, AYE; Gyorkos, AYE; Hanlin, AYE; Isaacs, AYE; Gerdes, AYE. Motion passed: AYE, 7; NAY, 0; ABS, 0.
23. **APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES –**
 - a. **October 18, 2023-Executive Session Minutes – Alderman Hanlin** motioned to approve, but not release, the Executive Session Minutes from October 18, 2023. Motion seconded by Alderman Fulrath. Roll call vote: Boyer, AYE; Nehring, AYE; Gyorkos, AYE; Hanlin, AYE; Isaacs, AYE; Gerdes, AYE; Fulrath, AYE. Motion passed: AYE, 7; NAY, 0; ABS, 0.
24. **COMMUNICATION –**
 - a. **Regular City Council Meeting – Wednesday, January 3, 2024, at 6:30 pm.**
25. **ADJOURN – Alderman Isaacs** motioned to adjourn. Motion seconded by Alderman Hanlin. Roll call vote: Nehring, AYE; Gyorkos, AYE; Hanlin, AYE; Isaacs, AYE; Gerdes, AYE; Fulrath, AYE; Boyer, AYE. Motion passed: AYE, 7; NAY, 0; ABS, 0.

Mayor Rickard adjourned the City Council meeting at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Caryn A. Huber

City Clerk of Byron IL

MAYOR JOHN RICKARD	CITY CLERK CARYN A. HUBER
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