

**CITY OF BYRON
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2020
BYRON CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
6:30 PM**

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 (by phone), *Mittzi Fulrath, Dan Reilly, Zeke Hobbie, Jessica Nehring, Michael Gyorkos, Christy Hanlin. Eight members present by roll call vote. **Quorum established.**

* - denotes start of the roll call

Aldermen Absent: None

PRESENT:	Mayor	John Rickard
	City Clerk	Caryn Huber
	City Attorney	Kim Krahenbuhl (by phone)
	Police Chief	Todd Murray
	Dir. of Econ. Dev.	Larry Hewitt
	Dir. of Public Works	Aaron Vincer
	Citizens	Pam Kultgen, Bill Pirnat

4. **REVERENCE PERIOD** – Mayor Rickard led the Council in prayer.
5. **APPROVAL/AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA** – Motion by Alderman Hanlin to approve, as presented, the September 16, 2020, agenda. Seconded by Alderman Fulrath. Roll call vote: Reilly, AYE; Hobbie, AYE; Nehring, AYE; Gyorkos, AYE; Hanlin, AYE; Isaacs, AYE; Gerdes, AYE; Fulrath, AYE. Motion passed: AYE, 8; NAY, 0; ABS 0.
6. **MINUTES** -
 - a. **September 2, 2020, Regular City Council Meeting Minutes** – Motion made by Alderman Hanlin to approve, as presented, the September 2, 2020, Regular City Council Meeting Minutes, seconded by Alderman Reilly. Roll call vote: Hobbie, AYE; Nehring, AYE; Gyorkos, AYE; Hanlin, AYE; Isaacs, AYE; Gerdes, AYE; Fulrath, AYE; Reilly, AYE. Motion passed: AYE, 8; NAY, 0; ABS 0.
7. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – Bill Pirnat addressed the council regarding the possible water and sewer rate increases being discussed. The average user in the Creekside subdivision uses 6 units, and he is concerned for residents that will be hard hit by any rate increase. He asked that aldermen consider these residents when making their decision.
8. **TREASURER'S REPORT** – Treasurer Huber reported that her monthly report for August 2020 is in Dropbox. Income figures were discussed at the beginning of the month. She renewed a CD that had come due for a short term, in anticipation of our tort payment in December.
9. **LIST OF BILLS** – Alderman Isaacs asked Director Vincer about the \$7,000.00 charge from NW Concrete. He explained the charges are for repairs due to a water main break, repairs

to an ADA ramp, and a sidewalk that was redone. The homeowner will pay \$2,500 towards the cost of the sidewalk. **Alderman Isaacs motioned to approve the list of bills dated September 16, 2020, in the amount of \$102,692.59. Seconded by Alderman Reilly.** Roll call vote: **Nehring, AYE; Gyorkos, AYE; Hanlin, AYE; Isaacs, AYE; Gerdes, AYE; Fulrath, AYE; Reilly, AYE; Hobbie, AYE. Motion passed: AYE 8; NAY 0; ABS 0.**

10. **MAYOR'S REPORT** – Mayor Rickard reported that bar hours had been extended for September 19 for the Chili Cook Off. Since the event has been cancelled, the extended hours do not apply. • He attended an Ogle County Intergovernmental Agency board meeting to have initial conversations regarding Exelon. There is a local meeting on September 17th. • Mayor Rickard attended a ribbon cutting for Kinetic Grit Cross Training last Saturday.
11. **CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT** – Attorney Krahenbuhl reported that Attorney Floski filed an answer regarding the Baker house. The next hearing is Monday, September 21.
12. **CITY ENGINEER'S PROJECT STATUS** – No report.
13. **REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** –Director Hewitt reported that the Chamber's Duck Race was held September 12. They sold 1,600 ducks and the winning prize was \$4,100. They hope to expand on the event for next year. • Contry has taken out two permits for new construction in Brighton Ridge. He anticipates they will build on two lots in Rose Meadows as well. • Weezy's will be starting their façade renovation around October 1. • Caryn has been working on organizing the map and plan room. The goal is to eventually electronically scan the plans.
14. **DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT** – Director Vincer reported that he has been working on the rate study, and he thanked the council for helping to work through it. • He has received very positive feedback from residents on the Hamer Court project. • Director Vincer and Engineer Stoll will begin discussions on a proposal for 2021 street projects. • The fire hydrants are painted and Public Works and the Fire Department are using Diamond Maps to map the hydrants and water and sewer. • The department used the recent rainy days to catch up on equipment repair in preparation for the winter. • Crack sealing is being done in Brighton Ridge. Sealcoating will hopefully follow next year.
15. **POLICE CHIEF REPORT** – Chief Murray discussed the recent car burglaries and car thefts in Byron Hills and in town, and reiterated the need to securely lock vehicles and homes. • At the next meeting, he hopes to discuss the Police Union Contract and the hiring of an additional officer.
16. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
 - a. **Community Services** – No report.
 - b. **Public Safety** – Alderman Reilly reported that a committee meeting was held tonight prior to the council meeting. Besides the items that Chief Murray reported on, the committee discussed Halloween. There are no plans to cancel anything, but rather to give suggestions on how to stay as safe as possible. Suggestions may include going only to homes with lights on and having only one adult handing out candy at homes. Other suggestions should be coming from the state and the Ogle County Health Department and we will pass on to residents. • We will be looking at COVID-19 expenses and applying for reimbursement through the CARES Act. • It is important that we inform our wards about the need to lock up after the car thefts and burglaries Chief Murray reported on earlier. Social media has proven to be a good method for getting this information to the public.
 - c. **Administrative** – No report.

17. CONTINUING BUSINESS –

- a. **Water Rate Study** – The Committee of the Whole met tonight, with another meeting scheduled for 5:00 pm on October 7.
- b. **RFP Energy Savings** – Our Request for Proposal goes live on September 25. It will be available on government sites and on our web site. A public notice will be in the paper next week. Due date is in approximately one month.
- c. **Sale of General obligation Bonds to Finance Municipal Improvements** – Treasurer Huber reported that there is basic information in Dropbox regarding the bonds. Our non-referendum bonding capacity is \$369,900. First Midstate estimates the interest rate at 1.5% (last bond issue was at 2.4%). After a \$10,000 fixed cost to arrange the bond, our net would be \$359,900. A public hearing will be held at 6:15pm on Wednesday, October 21, and a representative from First Midstate will attend to answer questions. If council wishes to continue with the bond issue, a bond ordinance will be voted on in November.

18. NEW BUSINESS –

- a. **Police Union Contract** – Mayor Rickard reported that they are very close to an agreement, and they hope to present to council in the next few weeks.

19. COUNCIL TALK –None

20. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a. **Section 2(c)11 – Pending, probable or imminent litigation**
- b. **Section 2(c)1 – Personnel**
- c. **Section 2(c)(5)(6) – Purchase/Sale of City Owned Real Property**
- d. **Section 2(c)(21) – Review/Approval of Closed Meeting Minutes**
- e. **Section 2(c)(2) – Collective Bargaining Negotiations**

Mayor Rickard advised there was no need for an Executive Session.

21. COMMUNICATION –

- a. Next Regular City Council Meeting – Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at 6:30pm.

Mayor Rickard adjourned the City Council meeting at 6:51 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Caryn A. Huber

City Clerk of Byron, Illinois

MAYOR JOHN RICKARD	CITY CLERK CARYN A. HUBER
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