

DANVILLE CITY COUNCIL

APRIL 7, 2020

#1....THE REGULAR MEETING of the City Council of the City of Danville was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by Mayor Rickey Williams, Jr. at the Robert E. Jones Municipal Building, 17 W. Main Street, Danville, Illinois.

*[Due to Coronavirus, COVID-19 the meeting was conducted in a combination of in person and virtual attendance via Zoom audio to maintain social distancing as required per the Governor's Executive Order 2020-10. After roll call Mayor Williams read rules about the structure of the meeting for everyone attending via Zoom audio.]*

THE ROLL CALL was answered by Mayor Rickey Williams, Jr. *[physically present]*. Elected Officials Present via Teleconference were Vice Mayor Bob Iverson, Aldermen Brenda Brown, Dan Duncheon, Steve Foster, Sharon McMahon, Michael O'Kane, Sherry Pickering, James Poshard, Michael Puhr, Tom Stone, Rick Strebing, Aaron Troglia, and Robert Williams. Alderman R.J. Davis was absent. A quorum was present.

Staff Members Physically Present: City Clerk Lisa Monson, Information Technology Administrator Agnel DSilva, and Information Technology Assistant Administrator Aaron Weaver

Staff Members Present via Teleconference: City Treasurer Stephanie Wilson, City Comptroller Ashlyn Massey, City Engineer Sam Cole, Corporation Counsel Charles Mockbee IV, Grants & Planning Manager Logan Cronk, Human Relations Administrator Sandra Finch, Fire Chief Don McMasters, Police Chief Chris Yates, Public Transportation Director Lisa Beith, and Public Works Director Carl Carpenter.

Various members of the public and media joined the electronic meeting via YouTube live audio streaming.

#2....INVOCATION was given by Alderman Brenda Brown, followed by

#3....THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Mayor Williams.

#4....THE MINUTES of the regular meeting held, March 17, 2020, having been published and distributed, were presented. Alderman Duncheon moved for approval as presented, seconded by Alderman Williams. On the voice vote, all ayes, no nays; the motion so ordered.

#5....THE AGENDA for the evening was presented. Alderman Stone moved for approval, seconded by Alderman Pickering. On the voice vote, all ayes, no nays; the motion so ordered.

#6....MAYOR'S REPORT

#6-A...Proclamations – None

#6-B...Board/Committee Appointments – None

#6-C...Reports of Boards, Agencies, Commissions – None

#6-D...Items of Information

- The Danville Housing Committee meetings are suspended due to the Coronavirus restrictions mandated by Governor Pritzker until the Stay At Home (SAH) Order is over.
- Also, due to Coronavirus restrictions mandated by the Governor, the City will forego Public Works Committee and Public Services Committee meetings until the SAH order ends.
- Mayor Williams announced he will run the Committee Reports portion of this meeting.

- Mayor Williams reported City operations are running smoothly through COVID-19. The staff has done a wonderful job through the COVID-19. Department Heads and staff at every level have done a fantastic job to make sure things run seamlessly throughout the City. He is very proud to share he has not had one complaint about people missing services or the way citizens are being treated.
- Mayor Williams shared good information regarding the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act just passed by Congress. DMT (Danville Mass Transit) will receive an amount of funding just shy of \$3 million dollars and CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) will receive just shy of \$600,000.00 million dollars.

#### #7...PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AUDIENCE COMMENTS

*[Public input was received by e-mail and submitted to the City Clerk's office prior to the meeting. Mayor Williams read the public comments per Council rules and time limits.]*

- Michael Gregory of Danville and owner of the Big Four tavern's email stated his concern of the significant hardships to the bar industry and its employees since the close of business March 16<sup>th</sup> to at least April 30<sup>th</sup> due to the Governor Pritzker's Executive Orders. He stated the Illinois Liquor Control Commission (ILCC) has provided guidance related to the shutdown to alleviate some of the hardship. The first guidance from the ILCC is to temporarily allow "on-premise licensees" the sale/delivery of alcoholic liquor on the condition approval be granted by the local liquor commissioner. The second guidance from the ILCC is authorizing the return of Beer sold and delivered to a retailer on or before March 23, 2020 only on the condition approval be granted by the local liquor commissioner; however, distributors are not accepting returns. Mr. Gregory is requesting the City allow the local bars to sell their inventory before it becomes unsaleable by delivery and by drive-thru pick up. He is also requesting from the City if local bars are unable to sell their product to allow proration of liquor license fees and dram shop insurance for the time they are closed and extend deadlines on the payment of City sales taxes.
- Amy McQuown of Danville submitted an e-mail requesting a moratorium on deployment of wireless during the quarantine. Mayor Williams stated to his knowledge, there have been no attempts to deploy 5G in the City of Danville.
- Lloyd S. Randle of Danville submitted an e-mail sharing his views on the proposed allocation of Community Development Block Grant Funds. He recommended three items: 1) any downtown improvement projects should be done within the framework of the Public Works budget or grant funding; 2) it would appear that due to a death at a railroad crossing the railroad would bear the lion's share of any upgrades or grant funding should be applicable. The close proximity to the Boys and Girls Club should also be another rationale for possible grant funding; 3) it makes sense to him that local agencies such as East Central Community Action Agency would be a natural partner in identifying individuals and families who could benefit from available CDBG funds. The City has pushed low to moderate income people back long enough and must re-prioritize their needs. He also feels with the treatment of COVID-19 agencies such as the Danville Rescue Mission as well as other local direct person to person service providers for low to moderate income individuals and their families must take precedent over curbs, sidewalks and lighting for what is seemly a project for the Fischer Theatre. He recommends the postponement of the approval of these projects for further review.

After public input, Mayor Williams allowed the Aldermen to provide feedback. Alderman Brown agrees with Mr. Randle on a majority of his concerns and stated for too long there are areas in this community, especially in Wards 1 and 3 that are low to moderate income that have been neglected. It had been brought to Public Works attention in previous administration during meetings with

neighborhood associations and individuals attending City Council meetings and nothing had been done about it as far as infrastructure and home rehabs. Some of the things she mentioned may have been included in the Plan, but she is not satisfied and in the future, the Aldermen that serve in the poorest wards, need to be included in talks with the planners before we come up with this assessment. It shows there are very few citizens in attendance at the public meetings and it was given to Commercial-News and on the city website, but there are several citizens who do not subscribe to the newspaper nor have a home computer. Mayor Williams responded by stating there have been five public hearings and aldermen have had multiple times to give concerns. A lot of work was done last year in terms of blight and rehabilitation were in wards one and three so we have listened to concerns. He would say about 70% of demolitions occurred on the east end of town and if you look at the plan for the future we have completely eliminated economic development funds and have greatly reduced the amount dedicated to infrastructure by 50% so we can allocate more funding to home rehabs and demolitions. Alderman Brown stated there has been a lot of work done in wards 1 and 3, but it has been neglected for so long and could be a whole lot better. She would like to see a breakdown of the allocation by neighborhood so the aldermen could have given help on that. There should have been made an attempt made to talk to the aldermen in those neighborhood.

Alderman Puhr feels there should be temporary package liquor sales/delivery for the bars as they stocked up for St. Patrick's Day, which never happened before the shutdown and a lot of the bars will be left with outdated stock. This would help them get more income. He has read the guidance from the Illinois Liquor Control Commission and if the State is allowing it to happen, the City should allow it as well.

Alderman Foster would like to see the bars have the option to sell their packaged stock and since we do not know how long the shutdown is going to go on, possibly give the bars credit or refunds.

Alderman Troglia feels we should reimburse the bars or give them a credit for the days they are closed for their liquor license and video gaming tax. They should also be allowed to operate as a package liquor store or sell curbside.

#### #8.....ZONING PETITIONS – None

#### #9....PAYROLL

Mayor Williams presented the Payrolls, having been published, posted, and distributed, for run of March 20, 2020, of \$67,150.14, for run of March 27, 2020, of \$533,317.42, and for run of April 3, 2020, of \$74,197.39. Alderman Duncheon moved to dispense with the readings and asked for approval as presented, seconded by Alderman Puhr. There being no questions or discussion, the roll call vote being:

Ayes: Aldermen Iverson, Strebing, Puhr, Foster, McMahon, Brown, Duncheon, Poshard, Stone, Williams, Troglia, Pickering, O'Kane

Nays: None

Absent: Alderman Davis

Motion carried 13 to 0 with 1 absent.

#### #10...SCHEDULE OF VOUCHERS PAYABLE

Mayor Williams presented the Schedule of Vouchers Payable, having been published, posted, and distributed, for run of March 19, 2020, of \$142,013.45, for run of March 26, 2020, of \$65,112.29, and for run of April 2, 2020, of \$653,929.38. Alderman Strebing moved to dispense with the readings and asked for approval as presented, seconded by Vice Mayor Iverson. There being no questions or discussion, the roll call vote being:

Ayes: Aldermen Strebing, Puhr, Foster, McMahon, Brown, Duncheon, Poshard, Stone, Williams, Troglia, Pickering, O'Kane, Iverson

Nays: None

Absent: Alderman Davis

Motion carried 13 to 0 with 1 absent.

#11... PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

#11-A... Items of Information

*[As previously announced the next Public Works Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 14, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. will be cancelled.]*

#12... PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

#12-A... Accept and Place on File the Treasurer's Report for January 2020

Mayor Williams presented the City Treasurer's Report for January 2020. Alderman Brown moved to dispense with the reading and asked for approval, seconded by Vice Mayor Iverson. The report as follows: Statement of Receipts and Disbursements for January 2020 stating a Beginning Balance on January 1, 2020, of \$21,947,366.42, Receipts of \$4,259,603.19, Disbursements of \$4,376,278.17, an Ending Balance on January 31, 2020, of \$21,830,691.44 and a Cash Balance of \$10,074,334.27. There being no questions, on the voice vote, all ayes, no nays; the motion so ordered.

Mayor Williams presented Items B and C for a single vote. There being no objections, Alderman Puhr moved to dispense with the readings and asked for approval, seconded by Alderman Strebing.

#12-B... RESOLUTION NO. 2020-18 adopting a Citizen Participation Plan for Community Development Programs Funded by Department of Housing and Urban Development HUD for development of civic involvement and participation; and

#12-C... RESOLUTION NO. 2020-19 approving a Five-Year Consolidated Plan from May 1, 2020 through April 30, 2024 which also serves as the City's application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

Manager Cronk stated a few key points regarding the current 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan and the proposed 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan. In the current plan, public infrastructure dollars were heavily allocated. For example, in grant year 2019, \$405,000.00 were allocated to public infrastructure and as much as we wanted to amend the previous plan to housing, time restraints from HUD did not allow that. In the proposed 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and the 2020 Annual Action Plan, public infrastructure dollars have been reduced by 50% and more than \$500,000.00 each year is being allocated to home rehabs, demolitions, and accessibility modifications. Throughout the five-year proposed plan, we have identified the need for low to moderate income home loan assistance and blight reduction. Mayor Williams stated in the past our program for home rehabs were allocated specifically to neighborhoods and that is why a lot of money went unspent and we were facing tight deadlines to get the money spent or lose the money. We have decided moving forward to make the funds available city-wide so neighborhoods in specific wards are not being lost. We opened that up intentionally so that everyone everywhere who is low to moderate income individual who needs help with their house, they are able to receive it. We have done three years in Center City neighborhood and it has made a tremendous difference, but what that meant is homes in other areas were not able to receive that money. There being no further discussion, the roll call vote being:

Ayes: Aldermen Puhr, Foster, McMahan, Duncheon, Poshard, Stone, Troglia, Pickering, O'Kane, Iverson, Strebing

Nays: Aldermen Brown, Williams

Absent: Alderman Davis

Motion carried 11 to 2 with 1 absent.

Mayor Williams presented Items D thru F for a single vote and stated all three resolutions are to appropriate the correct year for the allocations. There being no objections, Alderman Strebing moved to dispense with the readings and asked for approval, seconded by Alderman Duncheon.

#12-D...RESOLUTION NO. 2020-20 amending Resolution 2019-105 Awarding the Contract for Proposed Griffin Street & CSX Railroad Crossing Improvements, providing that funds would be receipted into the Community Development Block Grant line item for grant year 2018 and realizing there is not enough funding in budget line item 106-106-18-54090 to pay for the project the remainder of the project in the amount of \$89,672.75 shall be paid from budget line item 106-106-19-54090;

#12-E...RESOLUTION NO. 2020-21 amending Resolution 2019-124 Approving Professional Services Agreement for Harrison Street Improvements, providing that funds would be receipted into the Community Development Block Grant line item for grant year 2018 and realizing there is not enough funding in budget line item 106-106-18-54090 to pay for the project the remaining work for the project in the amount of \$55,690.50 shall be paid from budget line item 106-106-19-54090; and

#12-F...RESOLUTION NO. 2020-22 amending Resolution 2019-125 Approving Professional Services Agreement for Harrison Street Parking Lot & Lighting Improvements, providing that funds would be receipted into the Community Development Block Grant line item for grant year 2018 and realizing that there is not enough funding in budget line item 106-106-18-54090 to pay for the remainder of the project the remainder of the project be paid from budget line items 106-106-18-54090 in the amount of \$6,574.85 and \$31,061.36 be paid from 106-106-19-54090.

Manager Cronk stated the resolutions are to simply allow a change in the grant year to pay for the remaining amounts for the projects and there have been no changes to any of the projects in regards to cost. After all questions were addressed, the roll call vote being:

Ayes: Aldermen Foster, McMahan, Brown, Duncheon, Poshard, Stone, Williams, Troglia, Pickering, O'Kane, Iverson, Strebing, Puhr

Nays: None

Absent: Alderman Davis

Motion carried 13 to 0 with 1 absent.

#12-G...Items of Information

*[As previously announced the next Public Services Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. will be cancelled.]*

#13...ITEMS OF INFORMATION

#13-A...Update to Declaration of Local State of Emergency COVID-19

Mayor Williams explained there is a need to extend the Local State of Emergency and per the authority issued to from the Council to the Mayor, he will be extending the Declaration of Local State of Emergency to the end of the Governor's State at Home order.

Other Items of Information

- Alderman Brown recognized Mayor Williams, staff and all involved in encouraging our citizens to follow the stay at home emergency order and is proud to be a part of a great community. Mayor Williams voiced appreciation to Alderman Brown and stated the City team has worked hard and especially the Information Technology team of Agnel DSilva, Aaron Weaver, and Adam Aull for the tremendous work they have accomplished during this period.
- Alderman Puhr stated several of the Aldermen along with the Mayor and himself saw a unique thing last Friday night with some of the City's local talent on Facebook for a comedy night. Mayor Williams stated it is called Fantastic Friday's which gives individuals something fun to

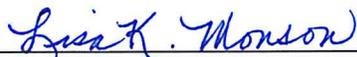
look forward to and announced Chris Hightower provided a comedy show on the his Facebook page. We will be having inspirational music on Good Friday to help get everyone through this time. On April 17<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m. there will be a dance party and on the last Sunday of the month we will have the lead singer of the Feudin' Hillbilly's will play some music.

- Alderman Foster stated if you must keep your speaker on during the meeting, to mute your phone.
- Alderman Iverson stated using headphones during the meeting were helpful to him. He also voiced appreciation to City staff for what they have been doing during this time and to Mayor Williams for what he has done on Facebook to help the citizens get through this time.
- Alderman Williams commended Mayor Williams and staff for how they are handling the Coronavirus, but he also want to point out the virus has epidemic proportions to the minority population and we need to alert the public in our area they need to adhere to the directives. Mayor Williams stated he has been talking to people to stay at home, but basketball backboards and rims have been removed in the parks as well as taping off the pavilions and playground equipment as some individuals were still congregating there. We have also had to issue cease and desist orders to a beauty store and will be issuing one to the mattress store tomorrow.
- Alderman Puhr requested an update on cases in Vermilion County. Mayor Williams stated he is going to send each e-mail update he receives from the Vermilion County Health Department to the Aldermen, but currently Vermilion County has five diagnosed cases. He also reminded everyone to check the Coronavirus, COVID-19 hub on the City of Danville website which was created by Adam Aull, GIS Coordinator, which gives regular updates from the county level, state level, and local level as well as information from local businesses.
- Mayor Williams reminded the Aldermen if there is something you need, please call someone from the City team.
- Alderman Puhr voiced appreciation to the people who have made masks for individuals preparing food.
- Mayor Williams stated how proud he was of the City team when 33 individuals delivered over 5,000 meals to over 300 senior citizens in Vermilion County through CRIS Senior Services recently. He also gave a shout out to Sandra Finch for reaching out to some people to make sure individuals who had a need for food and were provided the food they needed.

#14...CLOSED SESSION was not needed.

#15...ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 7:16 p.m. following a motion by Alderman Foster and a second by Alderman Duncheon.



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Lisa K. Monson, City Clerk

Approved: 04/21/20

Posted Publicly: 04/22/20