

DANVILLE CITY COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

#1...THE REGULAR MEETING of the City Council of the City of Danville was called to order at 6:12 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.]

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, Michael Puhr, Tom Stone, Rick Strebing, Aaron Troglia, and Robert Williams. Aldermen R.J. Davis and James Poshard were absent. A quorum was present.

Staff Members Physically Present: City Clerk Lisa Monson and Information Technology Administrator Agnel DSilva.

Staff Members Present via Teleconference: 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...MINUTES – None

#5...THE AGENDA for the evening was presented. Alderman Puhr moved for approval as presented, seconded by Alderman Stone. 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

#6-B-1) Mayor Williams announced the appointment of O.J. Harrison to the David S. Palmer Arena Board, to replace Greg Green, term to expire 11/2021 and asked for concurrence. Alderman Puhr moved to concur, seconded by Alderman Brown. On the voice vote, all ayes, no nays; the motion so ordered.

#6-B-2) Mayor Williams announced the reappointment of Lisa Monson to the Police Pension Board, with term to expire May, 2022 and asked for concurrence. Alderman Stone moved to concur, seconded by Alderman Pickering. On the voice vote, all ayes, no nays; the motion so ordered.

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

#6-D... Items of Information

- Mayor Williams voiced appreciation to Public Works employees Eric Kinser and Damon Bellik as they volunteered, on their own time, to replace light bulbs at the American Legion.
- Mayor Williams announced there is a group of folks interested in starting Study Circles, which will provide a time for citizens to get to know one another and learn about cultures. The City will be supporting it through the “Community Events” funds.

#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 comment per Council rules and time limits.]

Doug Toole with Vermilion County Health Department and representing Keep Vermilion County Beautiful (KVCB) Board President shared information on an upcoming event. There will be a Free Electronics Collection Event on Saturday, October 17, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the front parking lot at Danville Area Community College. There will be a limit of seven items per vehicle and proof of residency will need to be provided. Mr. Toole also requested the City’s continued support of the KVCB 2021 membership.

#8....ZONING PETITIONS – None

#9....PAYROLL

Mayor Williams presented the Payrolls, having been published, posted, and distributed, for run of August 21, 2020, of \$84,042.88, and for run of August 28, 2020, of \$577,294.29. Alderman Pickering moved to dispense with the readings and asked for approval as presented, seconded by Alderman Brown. Alderman Troglia questioned the Fire Division overtime recall and Chief McMasters explained there are payroll codes identified as recall other and it is a code that we utilize when it does not apply to anything specific for instance, manning, a fire, an investigation, etc. The individual that got paid recall other from the last payroll was one of the command officers that was with him all week long at a required NIMS training class. It has been determined that all city elected officials are supposed to be taking some of the NIMS training classes as well, which he will discuss at a later time. The overtime being so drastic right now is due to the COVID situation. At one point he had two different individuals off for fourteen days, one individual off for ten days, one individual is off for an on-duty injury and will be a long term injury. In addition, there has been two other individuals on short-term worker’s compensation. He has three individuals now that are new hires with two not affecting his manning that are new hires that do not count toward the contractual manning issue as they have not had training yet. The new hires leave Monday, September 14th to start their training. Also, the Fire Division typically averages about six to seven fires per month, but there were five fires during the month of July and during the month of August the Fire Division responded to thirteen working fires. Every time there is a working fire, and personnel have to be called back for a second alarm response, each fire costs \$1,000.00 worth of overtime. There being no further questions or discussion, the roll call vote being:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Aldermen Davis, Poshard

Motion carried 12 to 0 with 2 absent.

#10...SCHEDULE OF VOUCHERS PAYABLE

Mayor Williams presented the Schedule of Vouchers Payable, having been published, posted, and distributed, for run of July 28, 2020, of \$2,673,591.16, for special run of July 28, 2020, of \$41,213.75, and for run of August 4, 2020, of \$900,004.68. Alderman Strebing moved to dispense with the readings and asked for approval as presented, seconded by Alderman Pickering. Alderman Troglia

questioned the payment to Sentry Roofing, Inc. to re-roof the Vermilion County War Museum asking if the City is in charge of all maintenance for the war museum. Mayor Williams stated the City owns that building. Alderman Troglia also questioned a \$10,150.91 payment for animal collection to Vermilion County Department of Animal Regulation. Mayor Williams responded the City contracts with Vermilion County Animal Control to pick up stray animals as well as any animals deemed vicious, etc. Alderman Troglia voiced concern of the amount and asked if it was a monthly payment. Mayor Williams stated it is a monthly billing and it is based on the number of animals picked up so the billing fluctuates each month. Alderman Foster stated he recalled the City purchasing the County a vehicle and does not recall a billing for their services. Mayor Williams stated the City Council approved a contract with Vermilion County Department of Animal Regulation for animal control. There being no further questions or discussion, the roll call vote being:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Aldermen Davis, Poshard

Motion carried 12 to 0 with 2 absent.

#11... PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

#11-A... Items of Information

- Chairman Puhr questioned when the 2020 Sealcoat project will begin and Director Carpenter responded the project was pushed back and will start next Tuesday [09/08/20] for sure.
- Alderman Pickering voiced appreciation to Public Works and everyone involved for the amazing work done on the Edwards Street reconstruction project. Mayor Williams stated many residents have voiced appreciation to him for the completed project.
- Alderman Williams questioned the poor condition in the inter-city alleys as they are access to thoroughfares. Director Carpenter responded that the City is working on alleys and has been all summer by grating and putting new rock down and advised Alderman Williams to leave a list of alleyways he speaking of for him or Dave Ruwe and the issues will be addressed as received. Alderman Williams asked if the maintenance included growth of trees and brush in the alleyways and Director Carpenter stated “no” as the City does not have the personnel to go through and cut every tree down in the alleys and a lot of those trees are on private properties next to the alleys.
- Alderman Duncheon asked for an update on the “Report It” app and Director Carpenter responded the app works for them as Public Works is notified when an issue comes up that involves streets, sewers and alleys. Issues regarding alleys and street sweeping are added to a list which is addressed when several areas are reported on the app. He feels the app has worked very well. Mayor Williams reminded the public the “Report It” app is on the homepage of the City website at cityofdanville.org.

[As previously announced the next Public Works Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. is cancelled.]

#12... PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

#12-A... Mayor Williams presented RESOLUTION NO. 2020-69 Accepting Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG), Grant EMW-2019-FG-02796, to purchase 45 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for use while handling firefighting emergencies in the amount of \$363,375.00, with the Federal share being 100% and Authorizing Amending FY 2020–2021 Fire Division Budget by creating line item: Expense 001-022-00-54185 - Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) \$363,375.00 and increasing line item: Revenue 001-022-00-46244 – Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) \$363,375.00. Alderman

Strebing moved to dispense with the reading and asked for approval as presented, seconded by Alderman McMahon. There being no questions or discussion, the roll call vote being:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Aldermen Davis, Poshard

Motion carried 12 to 0 with 2 absent.

#12-B...Mayor Williams presented ORDINANCE NO. 9280 approving Local Coronavirus Urgent Remediation Emergency (CURE) Support Program, 20 ILCS 605/605-1045 funded from financial assistance the State of Illinois received through the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Coronavirus Relief Fund (CFDA No. 21.019) authorized under section 601(a) of the Social Security Act, as added by section 5001 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, P.L. 116-136 (“CARES Act”); and.the Comptroller authorized to create any line items necessary for the recording of revenues and expenditures related to facilitating the Local CURE Program. Alderman Brown moved to dispense with the reading and asked for approval as presented, seconded by Alderman Stone. Vice Mayor Iverson questioned if the City is asking for a specific amount at this point or just asking for the entire \$1.3 million dollars. Mayor Williams responded the ordinance will allow the City to access the entire amount should it be needed. There are some items we know for sure we will be asking for reimbursement, for example, any employee over the last five months who has spent 50 percent of any given pay period on Coronavirus related issues, the City will be able to be reimbursed for that. Also, the technology needed for remote meetings and items needed for social distancing for in-person meetings, we will be looking for reimbursement on those items as well. The entire amount is not known at this time. Alderman Pickering questioned if this would cover the two firefighters off for two weeks being quarantined. Mayor Williams stated “no”, there is another funding source that takes care of those as this funding is more for employees addressing issues that have arisen due to Coronavirus such as the amount of time Risk Manager Courson has had to spend addressing the issue. There being no further questions or discussion, the roll call vote being:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Aldermen Davis, Poshard

Motion carried 12 to 0 with 2 absent.

#12-C...Mayor Williams presented ORDINANCE NO. 9281 amending Chapter 115 of the City Code Pertaining to Transient Merchants, Itinerant Vendors, Ice Cream Trucks, Mobile Food Trucks, and Solicitors to amend Chapter 115 should be amended to update the definition of ice cream truck, update the license applications language, and specifically set forth food truck insurance requirements. Alderman Pickering moved to dispense with the reading and asked for approval as presented, seconded by Vice Mayor Iverson. Alderman Stone questioned if Section 115.08 still exists as it is referenced in the amended ordinance, but not listed. Counsel Mockbee stated this particular ordinance only addresses the sections of the ordinance that are being changed so Section 115.08 still exists, but does not have any changes. Alderman Brown questioned Section 115.10, which mentions obstruction of vehicular traffic if there is a camper parked in the street obstructing traffic should it be parked in the driveway or parked in the street in front of the property. Counsel Mockbee responded we may need to clarify, but his initial thoughts are in reference to food trucks, if it is blocking traffic and it is not a situation where the street is blocked off, then the vehicle would be prohibited to park in that location due to Section 115.10(12). Alderman O’Kane stated he believes there is a different ordinance addressing business vehicles not being allowed on city streets at night. Chairman Puhr questioned 115.07(B) we do verify everyone has named City of Danville as additional insured on the

liability insurance and Mayor Williams responded this is the new section and we will be verifying the vendor have insurance. There being no further questions or discussion, the roll call vote being:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Aldermen Davis, Poshard

Motion carried 12 to 0 with 2 absent.

#12-D...Items of Information

#12-D-1) SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) Grant

Chief McMasters explained the SAFER Grant was approved almost two years ago, which allowed the hiring of six firefighters and subsequently due to other people leaving have hired more people to keep that number intact. The SAFER Grant is coming open again sometime within the next few months, but significant changes have been made to reduce financial burdens on applicants due to COVID-19. The changes will allow Fire Departments to retain or rehire firefighters facing layoffs with 100 percent of the funding needed to hire firefighters over the next six years. They have reduced several requirements for applying for the SAFER Grant so what it means for us is we will be able to apply to retain our six firefighters we hired a year ago due to the COVID-19 situation and if we receive the grant they will continue to fund those firefighters for three more years. We can apply to retain the six firefighters and also receive funding to retain the additional firefighters hired since those six to maintain shift numbers. He also would like the Council to consider the hiring of one more personnel so it evens up the third shift that is still short one personnel. When we originally asked for six personnel in the SAFER grant, that was what we needed at the time, but before the grant was approved, we had another individual leave so due to the way the writing is in the grant we could not hire that seven person at the time, so our department manning is at 44 on shift instead of 45. We have a shift that is uneven with only fourteen personnel on it so that still costs the division a significant amount of overtime because of the manning requirements and the shift is short a body. If we do not receive the grant, the City will not be required to hire that person. The grant application period is not open yet, but he wanted to get the ball rolling with this so when they open the grant up, there will be a shortened amount of time period that his grant writer can write and submit the grant. This is a significant thing to us and if the city would not get awarded the grant, it costs the city nothing. Alderman Foster stated it sounds good and at the end of the three years what is our obligation. Chief McMasters stated at the end of the three years we can continue to do with them what you want; we are only obligated for the three years. Alderman Foster, at this time, is not opposed to the hiring of one more personnel. Alderman Pickering thinks the City should go forward with it. Alderman Strebing stated he agrees with Aldermen Foster and Pickering regarding the addition of one more personnel. Alderman Brown stated when we voted for the SAFER grant two years ago, some of us had questions about it and did not trust it, but it has proven itself to be beneficial to the City's Fire Department. She supports it wholeheartedly. Mayor Williams stated we have been helped financially and if we were able to have ten or eleven firefighters with all of their salaries for another three years, folks that we already have, that would save us possibly up to \$1 million dollars a year and in the days of Coronavirus it would be worth throwing our hat in the ring for. Vice Mayor Iverson stated he enthusiastically supports Chief McMasters moving forward with this. Alderman Williams stated we should be supportive of our firefighters and questioned why the fire trucks respond to emergency calls in addition to ambulances. Mayor Williams responded many times the firefighters are able to get to an emergency situation more quickly than the ambulances. It is not always the case, but it often is and when you have life or death situations when someone need CPR, then it has been beneficial to the citizens. Alderman Williams possibly Communications could determine who could arrive to the call first. Alderman McMahon stated when the dispatchers call out, they call out both because you never know what is going on in the City and due to the fire stations are

strategically placed throughout the City, they can get there a little bit faster. Remember there are only two people on an ambulance and so the firefighters become invaluable in getting things started for them and helping with equipment and loading. She stated minutes count when you are trying to save someone's life. Alderman Brown agrees with Alderman McMahon and feels it is much needed. Alderman Puhr stated most of our firefighters are paramedics as they have the knowledge and know how to get things done. He stated the minutes matter. It is important to have as many people that can save a person's life show up during an emergency situation. Alderman Pickering stated the firefighters help with lifting and carrying patients up stairs. Alderman Foster stated Chief McMasters has done a great job explaining why the overtime has been extraordinarily different. He thanked him for tracking the overtime and staying on top of it. Alderman Williams stated he lives a couple of blocks off of Seminary Street and Seminary Street seems to be a thoroughfare for emergency vehicles and there is a lot of traffic going north and south. The emergency vehicles travel night and day through this area and with the sirens going he is concerned about people going about their way and having accidents as a result of this. He would like to know if Seminary Street is an emergency thoroughfare. Mayor Williams stated to his knowledge, there is not a special designation for that, but he can look into it. Alderman Williams feels the area should be identified. Mayor Williams stated this is something that can be looked into. Alderman Duncheon asked Chief McMasters when the SAFER grants are over, what is the contractual manning. Chief McMasters stated contractually he does not believe we have a number as we have a shift manning number. The fifteen per shift for a total of 45 comes into play is we have a minimum staffing number of 12 personnel that work at a bare bones minimum. The contract allows up to three people at a time to take personal leave so up to three people having time off at the same time and still maintain the minimum manning. Alderman Duncheon asked Mayor Williams what the total number of firefighters has to be. Mayor Williams he believes the budget includes a certain amount of firefighters that year, which is why six would put us at 44. Mayor Williams stated he will have Chief McMasters and Counsel Mockbee take a look at the contract to verify if the contract requires an actual minimum number of firefighters in the department versus a minimum number of minimum manning per shift.

#12-D...Other Items of Information

Mayor Williams stated Chief Yates asked him to remind everyone the Probationary Police Officer applications will be accepted through the end of September. He encouraged young folks to apply. He stated he would like to reiterate to the public, especially minorities, in order to be considered, you must apply and if we really hope to diversify our public safety department, we have to encourage our young folks of various backgrounds to apply so we are committed to that as we are trying to recruit folks.

[As previously announced the next Public Services Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 25, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. is cancelled.]

#13...FUTURE CITY COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Mayor Williams announced four Aldermen have said they would not come to City Council in-person meetings until the COVID-19 emergency situation dies down, which would leave ten people present and three individuals have said they will not come to in-person Committee meetings, which would only leave four Aldermen present at Committee meetings. His concern is quorum issues and whether enough Aldermen will be attendance during a vote requiring so many votes. Mayor Williams asked each Aldermen to give their opinion and thoughts on meeting in person. Mayor Williams then asked for straw pole votes on the following:

1. Electronic City Council meetings

Majority of the Aldermen voted to continue with virtual meetings. The Council will review again in November.

2. Committee Meetings in Person or Not

Majority of the Aldermen voted to hold Committee meetings electronically.

3. Committee meetings begin in October or September

Majority of the Aldermen would like to see October Committee meetings resume electronically.

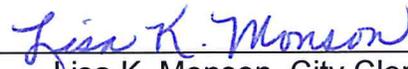
#14...ITEMS OF INFORMATION

- Alderman Puhr stated all of the Aldermen are required to submit a 5.3 (j) casino communication disclosure form, which is submitted to the Illinois Gaming Board. The disclosure must consist of the date of the communication, the identity and job title of the person with whom the communication was made and a brief summary of the communication. Counsel Mockbee stated he has already submitted the August 18th City Council meeting and the August 17th pre-meetings. He feels each Aldermen should individually submit a form as well. He asked the forms be forwarded to him and he will forward to the IGB.
- Alderman Puhr asked about the enforcement of masks in the City. Mayor Williams stated unfortunately, unless the City creates a local mask ordinance, we do not have the authority to make people wear masks.

#15...CLOSED SESSION was not needed.

#16...ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 8:27 p.m. following a motion by Alderman Duncheon and a second by Alderman Pickering.



Lisa K. Monson, City Clerk

I, Lisa K. Monson, City Clerk of the City of Danville, Illinois, do hereby certify that the foregoing Minutes are a true and correct copy of the regular meeting held September 1, 2020, as the same appears on the records of the City now in my custody and keeping.

Lisa K. Monson, City Clerk

Approved: 09/15/20
Posted Publicly: 09/16/20