#1....THE REGULAR MEETING of the City Council of the City of Danville was called to order at 6:08 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 video stream 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 Videoconference were Vice Mayor Bob Iverson, Aldermen Brenda Brown, R.J. Davis, Dan Duncheon, Steve Foster, Sharon McMahon, Michael O’Kane, Sherry Pickering, James Poshard, Michael Puhr, Tom Stone, Rick Strebing, Aaron Trogla, and Robert Williams. A quorum was present.

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


Various members of the public and media joined the electronic meeting via YouTube live video 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, October 20, 2020, having been published and distributed, were presented. Alderman Stone moved for approval as presented, seconded by Alderman McMahon. On the voice vote, all ayes, no nays; the motion so ordered.

#5....THE AGENDA for the evening was presented. Alderman Pickering moved for approval as amended, seconded by Alderman Duncheon. 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
  • Mayor Williams announced Pastor Thomas Miller is still hospitalized with COVID-19, but has had a breakthrough and is doing better.
  • Mayor Williams reminded everyone to follow the social distancing guidelines and to take safety precautions.
Tonight is an election that has importance to the United States, but also to the world. It is not just because it is a presidential election, but elections at every level effect the United States and the world so he prays for peace and he thanks the citizens of Danville for always demonstrating peacefully.

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

In-person
Mark Janesky of Danville spoke concern of the proposed sewer fee increase especially at a time when businesses and families are struggling and at a rate of as much as 200%. He also feels there has been too little input from the public.

[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.]

The following individuals voiced opposition of the proposed storm and sanitary sewer fee increase:

- Jim King of Danville suggested the Council propose a $1.00 to $5.00 flat increase as a big increase now is bad for the city economy.
- Jodi Marken of Danville suggested a smaller increase over several years and feels people are struggling more than normal due to COVID-19.
- Gardner Peck of Danville and Executive Vice President of Danville Metal Stamping stated Danville Metal's sewer rate will increase 213% with the proposed sewer fee increase. The sewer fees will increase from $45 per day to $141 per day before any testing or treatment cost and feels the increase of this size, and at this time, are unreasonable.
- Ryan Schull of Danville questioned exactly what the fees are going to and voiced concern of the property owner's responsibility up to the sewer tap.
- Nikita Dixon of Danville stated she is concerned with the increase taking place during a pandemic as people are struggling and other bills are increasing as well.

#7-A...Presentation of Police and Fire Tax Levy Valuations and Recommendations by Lauterbach & Amen LLP

Mayor Williams introduced Bob Reitz, with Lauterbach & Amen, LLP. Mr. Reitz gave a PowerPoint presentation titled “City of Danville, Illinois Pension Fund Reporting” and highlighted the following information and results of the actuary for the Danville Police and Fire Pension Funds for fiscal year ended April 30, 2020:

- Current Year Contribution Recommendation-Fire $4,813,485; Police $4,510,059
- Prior Year Contribution Recommendation-Fire $4,522,453; Police $3,985,912
- Current Year Funded Percentage-Fire 17.61%; Police 27.79%
- Unfunded Actuarial Liability-Fire $60,741,579; Police $55,178,540 for a total of $115,920,119
- Active Member Count-Fire 45; Police 64
- Inactive Member Count-Fire 79; Police 85
- Current Benefit Payments-Fire $3,773,000; Police $3,940,000 for a total of $7,713,000
- Expected Benefit Payments in 5 Years-Fire $4,761,000; Police $4,781,000 for a total of $9,542,000
- Expected Benefit Payments in 10 Years-Fire $5,767,000; Police $5,515,000 for a total of $11,282,000
- Statutory Minimum Contribution-Fire $4,499,714; Police $3,970,967
- Statutory Minimum Funded Percentage Based on Actuarial Value of Assets-Fire 18.12%; Police 28.60%
- Unfunded Actuarial Liability-Fire $58,649,788; Police 53,006,209
Mayor Williams thanked Mr. Reitz for his presentation. There were no questions from the Aldermen.

#8....ZONING PETITIONS – None

#9....PAYROLL

Mayor Williams presented the Payrolls, having been published, posted, and distributed, for run of October 23, 2020, of $559,007.27, and for run of October 30, 2020, of $75,999.96. Alderman Brown moved to dispense with the readings and asked for approval as presented, seconded by Alderman Strebing. There being no questions or discussion, the roll call vote being:

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

Nays: None

Motion carried 14 to 0.

#10...SCHEDULE OF VOUCHERS PAYABLE

Mayor Williams presented the Schedule of Vouchers Payable, having been published, posted, and distributed for run of October 27, 2020, of $655,181.06, and for run of November 3, 2020, of $1,461,659.19. Alderman Pickering moved to dispense with the readings and asked for approval as presented, seconded by Alderman Stone. There being no questions or discussion, the roll call vote being:

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

Nays: None

Motion carried 14 to 0.

#11...PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

#11-A...Chairman Puhr presented ORDINANCE NO. 9290 amending Chapter 51 of City Code of Ordinances Pertaining to Storm and Sanitary Sewers as Chapter 51 contains provisions that are out of date, do not reflect current practices, do not adequately fund sewer infrastructure investment, and do not comply with the City's Financial Policy; and should be updated and revised to reflect the necessary revenue and current practices and standards in the operation and maintenance of the sewer systems, moved to dispense with the reading and asked for approval, seconded by Alderman Strebing. Chairman Puhr stated the ordinance did not go to the Public Works Committee, but there was a presentation and discussion at the Public Services Committee on October 27, 2020 and there were two public meetings on October 27, 2020 and October 28, 2020 with one in attendance at one of the meetings and ten in attendance at the other meeting. Engineer Cole updated the Council on the changes made to the ordinance from discussion at the Public Services Committee. The fees are proposed as follows: Monthly Sewer User Charges: Minimum Monthly Base User Charge as follows: Residential – Single Family - $29.75; Residential – Multi-Unit (per unit) - $17.00; Commercial - $42.50; Institutional/Governmental - $42.50; Industrial - $42.50 In addition to the base user charge, any non-residential user shall pay a monthly surcharge on any usage over 10 CCF (7,480 gallons). This surcharge shall be based on metered water consumption rounded up to the nearest CCF (748 gallons). Calculation of the surcharge rate shall be based upon the Single Family Residential Base Fee / 7 CCF (5,236 gallons) of usage. As of April 1, 2021 [proposed] October 1, 2021 [approved]: Surcharge rate = $29.75 / 7 CCF Surcharge rate = $4.25 / CCF; Surcharge rate = $5.68 / 1,000 gallons. User Charge Annual Adjustment: All user charges shall be subject to automatic annual increases for a 4-year period. The Single Family Residential Minimum Monthly Base User Charge shall be subject to an automatic $1.00 per month annual increase for the period beginning on April 1, 2022. All annual adjustments for all users shall be calculated as follows: Single Family Residential User Base Charge = Prior Year Base Charge + $1.00; April 1, 2022 = $29.75 + $1.00 = $30.75. Multi-
Unit Residential (per unit) Base Charge = 4 CCF / 7 CCF x Single Family Residential User Base Charge; April 1, 2022 = 4 + 7 x $30.75 = $17.57. All non-residential User Classes Base Charge = 10 CCF + 7 CCF x Single Family Residential User Base Charge; April 1, 2022 = 10 + 7 x $30.75 = $43.93. Surcharge Rate = Single Family Residential User Base Charge / 7 CCF; April 1, 2022 = $30.75 / 7 CCF = $4.39 / CCF = $5.87 / 1,000 gallons and remove .25% of home rule tax per Ordinance No. 8412- deposited in the storm and sanitary sewer account of the storm and sanitary sewer fund. Engineer Cole stated the rate is $5.60 per 1,000 gallons for every entity. The difference in how much volume is included in the base charge so for a single family home. We are including 5,236 gallons which is seven hundred cubic feet. The reason why we picked that number is often how water usage data is reported and it makes the billing process a little easier. We did a minor adjustment to the business rate as it was originally going to be 10,000 gallons we reduced that to 700 cubic feet or almost 7,500 gallons so they are still paying the same rate for that 7,500 gallons assumption. The residential rate will be flat regardless of how much water is used. Mayor Williams stated right now the bills are based on what happened in 2006 where everyone pays a different rate based on water usage so what we have done is taken an average then that way every residential customer, in terms of individual households, pay the same rate, so there is no variation. Alderman Puhr stated so there will be significant increase to some people and a decrease in others base on what their water usage was in 2006. Alderman Puhr questioned if there was time to postpone voting on the ordinance for another month and Mayor Williams responded we have the preliminary budget when we submit the tax levy so we should submit a budget that we reasonably expect to pass. Also, we do have money coming from the other budgets to help offset property taxes to keep those from going up so if we are not going to approve this budget with these increases we would need to reassess the possibility of a property tax increase and he does not feel that is a good move. Aldermen Duncheon, McMahon, O’Kane, and Troglia voiced concern that there has not being enough time for public input. Mayor Williams stated there has been a chance for public comments. There was a chance for comments at the Public Services Committee meeting, two public meetings, and tonight’s City Council meeting which is four meetings when usually we have at best two meetings to discuss any one issue. Alderman Stone asked if we provide .25% out of the sales tax for the storm sewers and Mayor Williams stated the proposed budget removed that and that will be going to the general fund this year. The council would determine where it could go in future years, but he recommends possibly 107 Infrastructure Development Fund. He also stated that money going into there should have never happened legally or statutorily as enterprise funds in state law are supposed to be self-sustaining. Alderman Stone questioned how much is that and Mayor Williams responded it is $370,000. Alderman Stone asked if we could we reinstate this to the sewer fund for a year or two to soften this and Mayor Williams responded we could, but then you would have a deficit budget as it was used this year to make up for lost revenue such as hotel/motel tax, liquor and other things due to COVID so we would have to find that $370,000 somewhere else or it would just have to go to deficit. Alderman McMahon spoke concern of the number of people struggling from COVID-19 and also feels individuals have not had the chance to give public input. Alderman Brown voiced concern with various problems individuals are having from COVID-19. She has spoken to many people who are unemployed and need assistance for rent. She does not see where it is going to hurt to wait one more year to approve a sewer fee increase. Alderman Troglia stated the fee increase is too high and voiced concern of the increase being hundreds of thousands of dollars for the larger businesses. The general public is against it as it is an 85% increase. The bars and restaurants got shut down yesterday and their bills are tripling. He feels it should have gone to the Public Works Committee and stated it is the worst time possible for such a gigantic increase. He has had 20 calls and 19 are against it. Alderman McMahon stated she knows we need to do something, but it is going to be a long time for the businesses to get back to normal and this is not a good time to be doing this. She cannot support it at this time. Alderman Brown stated with COVID and having to go back and close
restaurants for inside dining, and the businesses are going to be hurting. She also stated there is a lot of unemployment as well as many people here that are hungry. She feels if we go another year and look at this hopefully COVID will be better. She cannot see where one more year is going to make that much of a difference. The billing was discussed as to why the Public Safety Pension fee is on the sanitary bill. Mayor Williams stated it is listed on the bill as we are saving on not sending a separate bill. Alderman Puhr stated it is more convenient to have one bill for four different items than to have separate bills as was done in the past. Mayor Williams stated the one reason why we are doing this is everyday we get calls from people for back-ups in their homes, it will be a week or a month later where there is still pools in people yards and homes are flooded months after it rains. The easy thing to do is say "it’s a hard time, let’s just do it later." He understands everyone’s concern. Mayor Williams stated how many decades has this been said year to year before he arrived. There has never been a good time. He also stated every five to ten years there is something that comes up that is terrible and the problem is we have ten pump stations that will fail in the next five years. It will cost $50 to line something to get us by and cost five times that for us to replace. In addition, it will cost us 20 times more if it’s an emergency fail. The time is never right and asked when will we have fourteen courageous aldermen to do what is right no matter how hard it seems or how upset people are about it. Alderman Pickering stated she has had raw sewage in her basement and knows of other homes with sewer problems in her ward. She stated the public understands the need and thinks the sewers needs to be fixed. She also asked how long businesses had to come to the public meetings to give comment. Engineer Cole responded letters were sent to businesses three weeks ago to the largest business users to give the dates of the public meetings. He does want to hear back from them and respects what they have to say, but it does not change what he puts on paper to present to the Council. Vice Mayor Iverson asked if the fee could be increased by a reasonable amount of money such as $1 million dollars and feels like $4 million dollars is too much all at once. He knows we need to we are going to have to do it sometime, but feels we need to a chance to look at it some more. Mayor Williams stated we have a certain number of pump stations that will go bad in five years and $1 million dollars might do two pump stations. Our ordinance requires a five-year plan and legally we are required to put our budget and tax levy on display for the public for a certain amount of time before we vote on it. If we wait until December to vote on this we will not meet the levy deadline which would put us in violation of our own ordinance, but the state statute as well. Alderman Foster stated half of the calls he received were in support of the fee and half were in opposition and many do not like the fee increase in the middle of a pandemic. He also stated we can vote it up, vote it down or start collecting the fee in November, 2021 instead of April, 2021. Alderman Duncheon stated the public is saying their questions have not been answered. Alderman Foster suggested changing the effective date of the ordinance to October 1, 2021 for the fee to be collected in November, 2021. Mayor Williams stated Vermilion Advantage put out a survey to the businesses of the sewer increase. Thirty responses were received with the vast majority stating they were not in favor of the increase. They stated there is a need to address the issue, but many of the concerns were the timing, so that is why he likes voting on it tonight and putting a date on it as Alderman Foster has suggested. Alderman Foster moved to amend the ordinance to change related to user charges to be effective on October 1, 2021 instead of April 1, 2021, seconded by Alderman Puhr. Vice Mayor Iverson stated he can support the amendment, but only if there is the understanding that it will go to Public Works Committee through the year with discussions. Mayor Williams stated he agrees with Vice Mayor Iverson and feels this is a tough decision, but it is for the health and greater good of the City that we serve. He has done asset mapping to see where we are with our system and address things our ordinances states so we can know where we are and where we are going and so people do not give up hope. He gave Vice Mayor Iverson his word that it will be discussed further. Alderman Poshard stated he has had mixed feelings about the increase, but he can support the amendment. After all questions were
addressed on the amendment to change the effective date from April 1, 2021 to October 1, 2021, the roll call vote being:
Ayes: Aldermen Foster, Brown, Davis, Poshard, Stone, Williams, Pickering, O’Kane, Iverson, Puhr
Nays: Aldermen McMahon, Duncheon, Troglia, Strebing
Motion carried 10 to 4.
There being no questions or discussion, the roll call vote on the ordinance as amended being:
Ayes: Aldermen Brown, Davis, Poshard, Stone, Williams, Pickering, O’Kane, Iverson, Puhr, Foster
Nays: Aldermen McMahon, Duncheon, Troglia, Strebing
Motion carried 10 to 4.

#11-B…Items of Information
[The next Public Works Committee meeting will take place by videoconference on Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.]

#12…PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT
Chairman Foster presented Items A thru G for a single vote. There being no objections, Chairman Foster moved to dispense with the readings and asked for approval as recommended by Committee, seconded by Alderman Pickering. Those items being:

#12-A…RESOLUTION NO. 2020-104 authorizing a one-year agreement for the period of January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 with Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Illinois through Epic Insurance Midwest for the City’s PPO plan and a High Deductible PPO plan with a HSA (health savings account) with a 7.5% reduction in 2021 premiums for Health Insurance; and

#12-B…RESOLUTION NO. 2020-105 authorizing a Spousal Incentive to lower monthly Health Insurance Premiums, an incentive program to qualified employees, which provide the appropriate incentive payment of $2000 or $2,500 minus all applicable taxes to employees on January 15, 2021, in exchange for the monthly premium savings and utilization to the City of Danville’s health insurance from January 2021 through December 2021; and

#12-C…RESOLUTION NO. 2020-106 authorizing a one-year agreement for Health Insurance for Medicare Part B eligible retirees with Health Alliance through Epic Insurance Midwest for the period of January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021; and

#12-D…RESOLUTION NO. 2020-107 authorizing a one-year agreement with Principal through Epic Insurance Midwest for Voluntary Dental Insurance for the period of January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021; and

#12-E…RESOLUTION NO. 2020-108 authorizing a one-year agreement with Principal through Epic Insurance Midwest to provide $10,000.00 Group Term and AD&D Life Insurance for current employees, and the option for employees to purchase Voluntary Life Insurance coverage for themselves, their spouses, and their dependents under the age of 25 for the period of January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021; and

#12-F…RESOLUTION NO. 2020-109 authorizing a one-year agreement extension with Benefit Planning Consultants, Inc. for Flexible Spending Program and COBRA Requirements to allow qualified employees who participate to pay certain unreimbursed medical, dental, optical, dependent and health insurance premiums with pre-tax dollars with a maximum election of $2,000.00 for period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021; and

#12-G…RESOLUTION NO. 2020-110 authorizing agreement for Liability and Worker’s Compensation Insurance with Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust (ICRMT) through Loman-Ray Insurance Group LLC, beginning December 1, 2020 to December 1, 2021, with a premium renewal quote of $1,367,246.00, for an overall premium increase, mainly due to losses, of 14% with a COVID Renewal Credit of $29,922.00, which changes the premium
increase to a little under 12%. authorizing Agreement for Liability and Worker’s Compensation Insurance.

There being no questions or discussion, the roll call vote being:

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

Nays: None

Motion carried 14 to 0.

#12-H…Chairman Foster presented RESOLUTION NO. 2020-111 approving Memorandum of Understanding with Housing Authority of the City of Danville increasing the rate to $50.00 per hour for patrol hours, moved to dispense with the reading and asked for approval as recommended by Committee, seconded by Alderman Brown. There being no questions or discussion, the roll call vote being:

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

Nays: None

Motion carried 14 to 0.

#12-I…Chairman Foster presented ORDINANCE NO. 9291 enacting and Adopting Supplement S-56 to the Code of Ordinances, moved to dispense with the reading and asked for approval as recommended by Committee, seconded by Alderman Pickering. There being no questions or discussion, the roll call vote being:

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

Nays: None

Motion carried 14 to 0.

#12-J…Items of Information

Alderman Duncheon asked Chief McMasters if on-duty firefighters go to restaurants that are staying open during the Illinois Department of Public Health mitigation requirements of no indoor dining due to COVID-19 as he has had three different people call him with concerns of the possibility of this occurring. Chief McMasters responded the firefighters have the ability to go to a restaurant of their choosing, but they typically order out even prior to COVID, but especially during mitigations.

[The next Public Services Committee meeting will take place by videoconference on Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.]

#13. STUDY SESSION ON PROPOSED 2020 TAX LEVY AND FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 BUDGET

Mayor Williams stated Lauterbach & Amen LLP provided tax levy valuations and recommendations earlier this evening and we receive a state report from the Department of Insurance that also provides the City with another option. We have to choose which option we will take. The Illinois Department of Insurance number for the Police Pension Fund is a lot lower than the Lauterbach & Amen actuarial recommendation. It is $300,000.00 less than the recommendation from Lauterbach & Amen. We are still waiting for the state’s recommendation for the Fire Pension. We do not have a second draft of the budget this evening as we were waiting to see how the sanitary sewer fee vote turned out, but we will have that prepared prior to the next City Council meeting which will include the changes that were made to the sewer and sanitary storm sewer fee. We should also have the Fire Pension report by then so the numbers can be updated. We will not have a budget study session for Thursday,
November 5th; however, he is proposing to have a budget study session for Thursday, November 19th at 5:00 p.m., which will allow time to review the updated budget.

#14... ITEMS OF INFORMATION
- Alderman Pickering voiced appreciation to Engineer Cole for all of the work he did on the Storm and Sanitary Sewer presentation and feels he did a great job.
- Alderman Brown reminded everyone to remember all veterans on Veteran’s Day next Wednesday, November 11, 2020. Alderman Williams stated Vermillion County residents should be proud of the fact we have the Illiana Healthcare System and the VA National Cemetery and asked everyone to display a flag or thank a Veteran on Veteran’s Day. There is no amount of gratitude that we can display to a Veteran to make up for their sacrifices.
- Alderman McMahon announced there will be Fire Ops opportunities with the Fire Department during training burns. The first burn will be Thursday, November 5, 2020 at 207 Kimball St., the second burn at 845 Madison St. will be Friday, November 6, 2020, and the third burn will take place at 916 Hazel St. on Tuesday, November 10, 2020. She asked the Aldermen to contact Chief McMasters if they are interested in attending the training.

#15... CLOSED SESSION was not needed

#16... ADJOURNMENT
There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 8:10 p.m. following a motion by Alderman Duncheon and a second by Alderman McMahon.

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 November 3, 2020, as the same appears on the records of the City now in my custody and keeping.

Lisa K. Monson, City Clerk

Approved: 11/17/20
Posted Publicly: 11/18/20