

THE CITY OF FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, February 15, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers
Fairview Heights City Hall
Fairview Heights, Illinois

Committee Members in attendance – Aldermen Josh Frawley – video/teleconference, Anthony LeFlore, Brenda Wagner, Pat Peck, Bill Poletti, Mayor Mark Kupsky, Ex-officio

Committee Members absent – None

Other Aldermen and Elected Officials in attendance – City Clerk Karen Kaufhold – video/teleconference, Aldermen Frank Menn, Ryan Vickers – 7:10 p.m. - video/teleconference, Barb Brumfield, Harry Zimmerman, Denise Williams

Staff in attendance – City Attorney Andrew Hoerner, Finance Director Gina Rader, Land Use and Development Director Dallas Alley – video/teleconference, Police Chief Steven Johnson, Public Works Director John Harty, City Engineer Tom Quirk – video/teleconference

Recorder – Jill Huffman

Public Participation

Resident stated she has contacted the City's departments regarding the situation with the ATS handicap bus and her neighbor's vehicle being parked in a way that limits the bus from accessing her driveway. The resident has attempted to discuss the matter with her neighbor to no avail. Previously she was denied approval of utilizing the ATS bus as it scraped her driveway necessitating the revision of the driveway, which has to meet ATS's measurement requirements, and she does not want to lose her privilege for the bus. Resident is requesting that the City contact the neighbor to discuss the vehicle be relocated or parked in their driveway. The Police Chief stated they will discuss the situation with the neighbor. The Mayor added that Alderman LeFlore is the alderman for her ward and will follow up with the situation.

Resident stated that veterans can have their income taxes done, free of charge, in St. Louis.

Approval of Minutes, January 17, 2023

Motion and second to approve minutes were made by Aldermen Wagner/Peck. Voice vote: five yeas. Motion carried.

Law Enforcement Committee

Alderman Josh Frawley, Chairman

PURCHASE OF A 2023 POLICE CHEVROLET TAHOE RESOLUTION

Chief Johnson presented information for a resolution to purchase a 2023 Chevrolet Tahoe from Miles Chevrolet. The funding was previously approved for this purchase.

Motion and second to forward to City Council with recommendation of approval for the Mayor to enter into an Agreement with Miles Chevrolet, 150 West Pershing Road, Decatur, Illinois for the purchase of one 2023 Chevrolet Tahoe Police Pursuit Vehicle in the amount not to exceed \$46,283 by Aldermen Wagner/LeFlore. Roll call vote showed Aldermen Frawley – yes, LeFlore – yes, Wagner – yes, Peck – yes, Poletti – yes. Motion carried.

STATEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT

The Chief of Police presented his written report to the elected officials for their review.

Chief Johnson discussed the Police Department - Monthly Report for January noting that crimes the police respond to are low. Arrests have increased – possession of controlled substances and illegal firearms – the reason being that the officers are being proactive. The Chief stated that these numbers will increase for a while and then plateau. He stated that the officers are doing a great job.

The Chief stated that the department has 12 people out, officers and administrative, due to medical issues and injuries.

Alderman Wagner, referring to the report, noticed that cannabis increased 267 percent and DUIs at 300 percent and questioned if there is a correlation between the two. The Chief responded that DUIs can also be from cannabis, but believes that the increase noted is from officers aggressively patrolling.

The Mayor stated that the Chief has instituted additional training programs for the officers and brings a different style of leadership from his 30 plus years of experience. The Mayor asked the Chief to pass onto the officers that the Council appreciates all they do.

Alderman Wagner suggested attending the Citizens Police Academy.

Alderman Peck requested an update on the body-worn cameras. Chief Johnson stated they have the cameras, but until the system is installed, they cannot be used. He believes it will be a month or so before using. Lieutenant Dave Kitley is the lead on this project.

Public Works Committee
Alderman Bill Poletti, Chairman

MOTOR FUEL TAX MAINTENANCE RESOLUTION

Director Harty presented the annual Resolution for Maintenance utilizing Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) funds. He stated that the Director's Report lists some of the maintenance items utilizing MFT funds. MFT funds will be utilized for the payment of approximately \$325,000 in Public Work salaries. The Resolution basically requests permission from the State for the City to use MFT funds. The City will be requesting \$865,013, increased from last year mainly due to labor wage increases.

Motion and second to forward to City Council with recommendation of approval the Resolution for Maintenance Under the Illinois Highway Code for maintenance in the amount of \$865,013 by Aldermen Peck/Wagner. Roll call vote showed Aldermen Frawley – yes, LeFlore – yes, Wagner – yes, Peck – yes, Poletti – yes. Motion carried.

INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT – STONEWOLF COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Director stated that after review by the City Attorney, the Agreement was forwarded to the Stonewolf Community Association with some recommendations. The Agreement has not been returned to the City. It is hopeful the Agreement can be presented at the Community Committee meeting next week.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT/PROJECT UPDATES

The Director of Public Works presented his written report to the elected officials for their review.

The Mayor relayed several of the Directors, along with the Finance Director, met with him last week regarding the Capital Improvements Plan to prepare for the final budget which will presented next month to City Council for review in April, and for approval before May 1. He stated there are a number of projects, along with street projects, that need to be accomplished. The Mayor stated the street sweeper will need to be replaced for approximately a half million dollars and staff is reviewing the options of leasing or purchasing. The air conditioning/heating system needs to be replaced at a municipal building. The heat pumps in City Hall, 30 years old, are failing and will need to be replaced. A number of the pavilions and infrastructure at Pleasant Ridge Park will need to be replaced. He stated that the Finance Director and he are reviewing options and the City's revenue. The Mayor thanked the Directors for meeting and prioritizing projects for establishing the budget. The Mayor thanked Public Works and the street crew in maintaining the City's streets and infrastructure.

The Mayor discussed the Fairview Hills subdivision. The streets in the subdivision are not city streets, as they were not built to the City's standards, and are now rubble. He is, and has been, in discussion with the owner/developer to acquire the existing streets and utilizing TIF funds replace the streets in the subdivision. The guard shack, at the entrance to the subdivision, has been condemned. The Mayor will inform the Council on the progress of these discussions.

Alderman Peck questioned if the Mt. Vernon Drive repair is on the CIP list to which the Director replied that this is a maintenance repair. She also questioned the drainage issue at the western portion of Stonewolf to which the Director responded that this is also under maintenance repair.

The Director stated that the Longacre Drive reconstruction project is 75 percent funded by a Surface Transportation Program and 25 percent from the City's Motor Fuel Tax fund.

Referring to the Mark and Carrie Drive project listed on the CIP, the project is in shop drawing review and will commence when the weather breaks.

Adjournment 7:27 p.m.

Submitted By:


Recorder