



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SULLIVAN,
ILLINOIS, MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2017**

1. The City Council of the City of Sullivan, Illinois, met in regular session on Monday, June 12, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. at the Elizabeth Titus Memorial Library, 2 West Water Street, Sullivan. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Short. A roll call was taken.

Commissioner Mike Mossman	- present
Commissioner Mike Kirk	- present
Commissioner Grant Wade	- present
Commissioner Jerry Risley	- present
Mayor Ann Short	- present

2. The minutes of the regular meeting held on May 22, 2017, and the special meeting held Thursday, May 25, were submitted by the City Clerk. A motion was made by Commissioner Kirk and seconded by Commissioner Wade that the foregoing minutes be approved as printed. Upon a roll call being taken, the results were as follows:

Commissioner Mike Mossman	- yea
Commissioner Mike Kirk	- yea
Commissioner Grant Wade	- yea
Commissioner Jerry Risley	- yea
Mayor Ann Short	- yea

and the motion was declared carried.

3. The Treasurer's Report by City Treasurer Sarah Golden for the period of May 2017 was read by the Clerk. A motion was made by Commissioner Mossman and seconded by Commissioner Risley that the foregoing report be approved as read and placed on file in the records of the Council. Upon a roll call being taken, the results were as follows:

Commissioner Mike Mossman	- yea
Commissioner Mike Kirk	- yea
Commissioner Grant Wade	- yea
Commissioner Jerry Risley	- yea
Mayor Ann Short	- yea

and the motion was declared carried.

4. The claims were read by Mayor Short. A motion was made by Commissioner Kirk and seconded by Commissioner Wade to approve the claims report as submitted. Upon a roll call being taken, the results were as follows:

Commissioner Mike Mossman	- yea
Commissioner Mike Kirk	- yea
Commissioner Grant Wade	- yea
Commissioner Jerry Risley	- yea
Mayor Ann Short	- yea

and the motion was declared carried.

5. Commissioner Mossman thanked Mayor Short for her participation in the dedication of the Joe Phillips field. He reported that the Our Town Sullivan cameras and crews were present, and there was a good turnout for the official dedication.

6. Commissioner Kirk explained that Big D Electrical has been hired to perform a list of electrical maintenance projects. The original plan was to divide the projects into two fiscal years, but many of the projects have already been completed and are under budget. It would be more cost effective to have them complete all of the projects now while they are in town. The material for all of the projects has already been purchased. The main switch near Bethany also needs replaced, as it is stuck in the closed position and is nearly 40 years old. It is estimated that replacing the switch would cost about \$19,000 plus \$5,000 for the pole.

The switch is also fiber compatible, and Metro Communications could perform the fiber work. The six reclosers located at each circuit will also be hooked up through fiber as opposed to a radio signal. The City's electric crew will hang the fiber on the poles and a splicer will come do the finish work. A motion was made by Commissioner Kirk and seconded by Commissioner Mossman to waive the bidding requirements and extend the electrical projects with Big D Electrical, and to purchase a switch and pole to update the main electrical switch near Bethany. Upon a roll call being taken, the results were as follows:

Commissioner Mike Mossman	- yea
Commissioner Mike Kirk	- yea
Commissioner Grant Wade	- yea
Commissioner Jerry Risley	- yea
Mayor Ann Short	- yea

and the motion was declared carried.

7. A motion was made by Commissioner Wade and seconded by Commissioner Risley to approve Pay Estimate 3 to Followell Construction in the amount of \$261,954.65 for the Sanitary Sewer Replacement Project. Upon a roll call being taken, the results were as follows:

Commissioner Mike Mossman	- yea
Commissioner Mike Kirk	- yea
Commissioner Grant Wade	- yea
Commissioner Jerry Risley	- yea
Mayor Ann Short	- yea

and the motion was declared carried.

8. Lee Beckman of Milano & Grunloh Engineering was present to discuss ongoing issues. The sewer project is going relatively smoothly for a project of this scale, and there are only about 15 working days left for the project.

The Eastlawn drainage issue was discussed. It was explained that grading work on the ditch south of Route 121 should help with some flooding issues. This would involve two easements. The Council decided to table the issue so that they could look into cost estimates and budgeting.

Drainage problems on the northwest side of town have been researched, and an existing tile is estimated to be 95% plugged. A new 12" tile could be installed from Market Street to the railroad tracks on Hagerman Street. The project comes with an estimated cost of \$151,000. The Council will also table this issue so that cost estimates and budgeting concerns can be considered.

9. City Administrator Dan Flannell explained the plan for demolition of the old water tower. He suggests waiving the bidding requirements, as only one company has submitted a bid for the work. Iseler is the leading tower demolition company in the country, and they do nothing but water tower demolitions. The company claims that they can start tarping the buildings at 6:00 am, sprinkle the tarps to help handle the sparks and debris, and have the entire tower down and gone in one day.

Mr. Flannell has talked to all property owners that might be affected, and nobody is objecting to the work. The Sullivan Auto Center would be required to move all of their vehicles for the day, and they would be without power. All other businesses should be able to operate during the demolition. An original estimate for the work was between \$28,000 and \$32,000, but an increase in steel prices has lowered the cost to \$26,600. A motion was made by Commissioner Risley and seconded by Commissioner Kirk to waive the bidding requirements and approve Iseler Demolition to complete the water tower demolition at a cost of \$26,600. Upon a roll call being taken, the results were as follows:

Commissioner Mike Mossman	- yea
Commissioner Mike Kirk	- yea
Commissioner Grant Wade	- yea
Commissioner Jerry Risley	- yea
Mayor Ann Short	- yea

and the motion was declared carried.

10. Commissioner Risley explained that anybody wanting more information regarding the Wyman Park Urban Multi-Use path project should see City Clerk Monte Johnson. He also reported that the new truck for the Street Department has arrived and is in operation.

11. Mayor Short reported that a review from the engineers shows that the Gas Department is in solid position, and no adjustment is necessary to the gas rates. A motion was made by Mayor Short and seconded by Commissioner Risley to leave gas rates the same for the upcoming fiscal year, and apply a 0% increase to those rates. Upon a roll call being taken, the results were as follows:

Commissioner Mike Mossman	- yea
Commissioner Mike Kirk	- yea
Commissioner Grant Wade	- yea
Commissioner Jerry Risley	- yea

and the motion was declared carried.

12. Mayor Short read a letter that was received from Ellen Ferrera regarding a Readers Digest contest and having Sullivan being nominated as one of the nicest places in America.

13. Mayor Short explained that the Police Department has implemented a new service that allows citizens to receive emergency notifications. Chief Waggoner will be educating citizens about the service, and information on registering for the service will be placed on the City's website.

14. City Administrator Dan Flannell reported the following:

- He met with a local fiber consultant last week regarding the City's fiber plans. Metro now plans to run fiber south of town, and the City could piggyback on their lines cheaper than installing their own fiber lines. More work to the fiber bid will be done before bringing it to the Council for consideration.
- The City is still waiting on information from Fields Wright medical center.
- Basement work has been completed at the City Building
- The Fleener property purchase has been completed. Demolition will be delayed until at least July 15th. A bid from Greg Yoder has been received for the demolition, and will be approved at the next meeting.
- Property on Roane Street has been authorized for demolition through a court order. A bid from Greg Yoder has been received for the demolition, and will be on the agenda for approval at the next meeting.
- The tennis court resurfacing has been completed. Ideas for increased security on those courts are being considered.
- The City prevailed on an appeal for a former library employee's unemployment compensation.
- He attended a hearing for litigation for the Civic Center roof. He is still hopeful that a settlement conference can be achieved.
- Residents need to be aware of an ordinance that requires trash receptacles be removed from the street right of way following pickup on collection day. Complaints have been received regarding these hazardous situations.

15. The following ordinance was presented:

ORDINANCE 17-16

Ascertaining the Prevailing Rate of Wages as Defined in Said Act for Laborers, Mechanics, and Other Workers in the Locality of Said City of Sullivan.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kirk and seconded by Commissioner Mossman to waive the reading and accept the ordinance as submitted. Upon a roll call being taken, the results were as follows:

Commissioner Mike Kirk	- yea
Commissioner Grant Wade	- yea
Commissioner Jerry Risley	- yea
Mayor Ann Short	- yea

and the motion was declared carried.

16. A motion was made by Commissioner Wade and seconded by Commissioner Risley to approve the travel expense reimbursement for Mayor Short for mileage to the IMIEA/IPEA conference in Springfield in the amount of \$74.90. Upon a roll call being taken, the results were as follows:

Commissioner Mike Mossman	- yea
Commissioner Mike Kirk	- yea
Commissioner Grant Wade	- yea
Commissioner Jerry Risley	- yea
Mayor Ann Short	- abstain

and the motion was declared carried.

17. Mike Keown was present to discuss fundraising efforts by the American Legion Post 68 for the 4th of July celebration. It was also noted that a new carnival company will be used this year. A motion was made by Commissioner Kirk and seconded by Commissioner Risley to donate \$7500 plus whatever proceeds can be received from the scrap materials from the Electric Department to the American Legion Post 68 for the 4th of July celebration. Upon a roll call being taken, the results were as follows:

Commissioner Mike Mossman	- yea
Commissioner Mike Kirk	- yea
Commissioner Grant Wade	- yea
Commissioner Jerry Risley	- yea
Mayor Ann Short	- yea

and the motion was declared carried.

18. Mayor Short began discussions regarding a 3 year insurance cost savings plan, including employee and retiree contributions to health insurance, changes and contributions to dental and vision insurance, and other general changes to employee benefits packages. She explained that many discussions have taken place regarding health insurance and how it has become an expensive burden on the City. The City's health insurance was set to increase by over 18% before moving from a POS to an HMO.

Other options for saving money have been discussed. Active employees have been forced to pay an increased amount for dependent coverage each of the last few years. Another option would be for retirees to start contributing a portion for their dependent coverage. She cited the resolution that has been in place allowing employees hired by July of 1988 to have employee and dependent coverage paid entirely by the City. She also noted that the policy states that the City reserves the right to change the policy at any time.

She explained the difference between retirees under 65, and those over 65 that have a Medicare supplement. She noted that the Medicare supplement insurance does not renew until the end of the calendar year, so changes that are being discussed would not have to be included with the Medicare supplement group. Mr. Flannell recommended that the Council do a formal vote to table any action regarding those retirees over 65. Mayor Short noted that she would not be able to vote on those issues because she is a member of that group. Mr. Flannell suggested that the Council engage with an attorney before taking any steps with the 65 and over group to make sure any steps taken would be legal. A motion was made by Commissioner Risley and seconded by Commissioner Kirk to table any action regarding the Medicare supplement retiree group. Upon a roll call being taken, the results were as follows:

Commissioner Mike Mossman	- yea
Commissioner Mike Kirk	- yea
Commissioner Grant Wade	- yea
Commissioner Jerry Risley	- yea
Mayor Ann Short	- abstain

and the motion was declared carried.

19. Mayor Short explained that action needs to be taken regarding the dependent contributions for active employees and retirees under 65. The recommendation of the insurance committee was to increase the amount of dependent contributions to 30% for this year, 40% for the following year, and 50% for the year thereafter.

Several retirees from the City were in attendance and some voiced their opinions about forcing retirees to contribute for dependent insurance. Arguments made included promises made by a former mayor, citing of the Pension Protection Act, the Illinois Constitution, and the opinion that employees could have left for higher paying jobs but stayed for the benefits.

Mayor Short stated that a decision needs to be made at the current meeting regarding active employees. Treasurer Golden must hold informational meetings for employees and let them know what their costs will be. She needs to know the percentage that they must pay, if vision and dental will be included in the contributions, and what will be required of those retirees under 65. The Council decided to make no motion or take no action for the retirees under 65. That action will be taken at the next meeting after a legal opinion has been obtained. A motion was made by Commissioner Mossman and seconded by Commissioner Kirk to set the active employee contribution rate to 30% for dependent cost of health insurance for the upcoming insurance year, and to not include dental and vision in the contribution rate. Upon a roll call being taken, the results were as follows:

Commissioner Mike Mossman	- yea
Commissioner Mike Kirk	- yea
Commissioner Grant Wade	- yea
Commissioner Jerry Risley	- yea
Mayor Ann Short	- yea

and the motion was declared carried.

20. Mayor Short asked if there were any comments from the public in attendance, and Jerry Wood spoke. He apologized that the two new Eagle Scouts were not able to be present, as they are preparing for summer camp. Mayor Short wished that he would pass on to them that the City is proud of their accomplishments.

21. A motion was made by Commissioner Kirk and seconded by Commissioner Risley to adjourn to closed session at 8:31 p.m. to review closed session minutes (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21).); to discuss the employment of specific employees (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)); and to discuss probable or imminent litigation (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)). Upon a roll call being taken, the results were as follows:

Commissioner Mike Mossman	- yea
Commissioner Mike Kirk	- yea
Commissioner Grant Wade	- yea
Commissioner Jerry Risley	- yea
Mayor Ann Short	- yea

and the motion was declared carried.

22. Mayor Short reconvened the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

23. A motion was made by Commissioner Mossman and seconded by Commissioner Kirk that the minutes of the meeting be engrossed by the Clerk. Upon roll call being taken, the results were as follows:

Commissioner Mike Mossman	- yea
Commissioner Mike Kirk	- yea
Commissioner Grant Wade	- yea
Commissioner Jerry Risley	- yea
Mayor Ann Short	- yea

and the motion was declared carried.

24. A motion was made by Commissioner Kirk and seconded by Commissioner Wade that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was reduced to writing and read to the Council. Upon roll call being taken, the results were as follows:

Commissioner Mike Mossman	- yea
Commissioner Mike Kirk	- yea
Commissioner Grant Wade	- yea
Commissioner Jerry Risley	- yea
Mayor Ann Short	- yea

and the motion was declared carried and the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.


Mayor Ann Short

Attest Monte A. Johnson
Monte Johnson, City Clerk

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