

# City of Fulton

## City Council Meeting Minutes

### May 23, 2022

#### **Regular Council Meeting**

Mayor Ottens called the meeting to order and directed the City Clerk to call the roll. On roll call, Aldermen King, Mask, Hunt, Brondyke, and VanZuiden were present. Aldermen Banker, VanKampen and Nederhoff were absent.

Staff included, City Administrator Clark, Chief Neblung, PW Director Sikkema, and Sgt. Hamilton. Visitors were also present.

#### **Communication from Visitors**

Vicky Grewal asked the council about liquor licenses. She was wanting to know if a business closes, who currently has a liquor license, will that license be available to the next person who is on a “waiting list” for that class of licenses? Ms. Grewal is wanting to sell package liquor in her awaiting business. She is currently sitting on a license that only allows for the sale of beer and wine. Council said they would have to convene about that at a future meeting when and if the license was surrendered.

#### **Consent Agenda**

Approve Consent Agenda; Approve City Council Minutes, Treasurer’s Report and Bill List. Alderman VanZuiden motioned, seconded by Alderman Brondyke. No Discussion to follow. Roll call vote, 5 yes, 0 no. Consent Agenda approved.

#### **Business**

Approve to go out for bids for the City Hall/Police Department HVAC system. Alderman Mask motioned, seconded by Alderman Brondyke. Short discussion to follow. Administrator Clark said that he would like to advertise the bidding process in the newspaper and on City website. Council agrees. Roll call vote, 5 yes, 0 no. Motion approved.

Approve the FOP contract with the City and Police Department. Alderman King motioned, seconded by Alderman VanZuiden. Short discussion to follow. Administrator Clark said the negotiating team and the Union representatives came to an agreement during the mediation

process. There were three main changes. The term of the contract will be for three years. Salary increases will be at the rate of 3.25% year one, and 3.5% year two and year three. There will be an additional 12 hours of personal time given per year due to the fact of 12-hour shifts that are worked. Alderman Mask asked questions about the detailed uniform allowance. Chief Neblung explained the initial costs to outfit a new hire. No further questions. Roll call vote 4 yes, 1 no. Contract approved.

Approve sale of properties to Corie Council and Kenny Mueller in the Industrial Center. City Attorney Shirk states that both approvals will have to be tabled to the next meeting due to not enough (quorum) votes per the 2/3 quorum to sell property, which includes the mayor voting also. Will be added to the June 13, 2022, meeting for approval.

Approve the ordinances for the Whiteside Carroll Enterprise Zone Intergovernmental Agreement. Alderman Mask motioned, seconded by Alderman Brondyke. Discussion to follow. Mayor Ottens stated that there would be a new fee schedule. The applicant would be responsible for the fees. It is a small increase, which enables the program to continue financially. The increase would be a mere ½%. Roll call vote, 5 yes, 0 no. Motion approved.

Approve ordinance amending Video Gaming Terminal Fees. Alderman Mask motioned, seconded by Alderman Brondyke. Discussion to follow. Administrator Clark gave several different options in proceeding. Ordinance states that the annual fee will be \$250 per year for each machine commencing on January 1, 2023. For the calendar year of 2022, the annual fee shall be increased from \$25 to \$125 commencing on July 1, 2022. This will result in each organization owing an additional \$100 per machine since the initial \$25 has already been paid. No further discussion. Roll call vote, 5 yes, 0 no. Ordinance approved.

Approval from the City for the Historical Society to make repairs at the Martin House Museum to water seal all the brick at the Society's expense. Alderman VanZuiden motioned, seconded by Alderman King. Alderman Mask stated that the Society always likes to keep the city informed on major expenditures that are made. Alderman Banker did look at the bid received by the committee and said he felt comfortable with the cost that was quoted. No further discussion. Roll call vote, 5 yes, 0 no. Motion approved.

Approve motion to create an Emergency Plan. This will include a committee and timeline that will be guided by the city and presented by Mayor Ottens. Alderman VanZuiden motioned, seconded by Alderman Brondyke. Discussion to follow. Alderman King stated that there is already an Emergency Plan in place, that we are just updating it. Alderman King directed Chief Neblung to present what has taken place. Chief Neblung stated that the plan has been in affect since 2014 and he has attended several meetings, along with Sgt. Hamilton with the Whiteside County All Hazard Planning Committee. There has been a plan submitted by the Committee and once it is finalized it will come back to each of the Cities to adopt a resolution of acceptance. Chief states the process is very time consuming, but we are at the hands of the federal and state agencies. No further action will commence. There will be no committee or timeline moving forward, which was suggested by the mayor.

Approve a motion to assign a code officer, one day per week to deal with citizens that are not in compliance with the city ordinances. Alderman Brondyke motioned, seconded by Alderman Mask. Discussion to follow. Mayor Ottens stated that she is getting numerous reports from citizens that nothing is being addressed by the city - yards are not mowed, junk all over and Chief Neblung states they are too busy and have no time to do anything about it. Alderman Mask asks what are the protocols that we have in place. Alderman VanZuiden states he has no desire to manage city staff on how to implore their resources and nor does he want to micro-manage their time. That is why we have an Administrator, Chief and Department Heads. Administrator Clark states there are plans in place - usually one day per week (not a specific day) an officer does go out and issue violations. The problem is that instead of Alderman, Mayor or anyone taking complaints, we need to have a written record of the complaint. That is why we have work or complaint orders filled out when a citizen calls City Hall. This consists of the complaint itself, who is making the complaint, the address, and a telephone number, so we can reach out and get exact details of the complaint or work order that needs to be addressed. None of this, "he said, she said, but exact details". Attorney Shirk does state that possibly amending the current ordinance and raise the fines might help, and it does take time to prosecute these ordinances. (Months, sometimes a year or more). There is not an immediate result. No further discussion. Roll call vote, 0 yes, 5 no. No action taken.

Motion to come into compliance for past closed session minutes. Alderman VanZuiden motioned, seconded by Alderman Mask. Mayor Ottens states that we need to come into compliance with the closed session minutes, stating that this has not been done in years. She is asking the council for suggestions. The only direction given by the council was we need a procedure and to come into compliance. Roll call vote, 5 yes, 0 no. Motion approved.

### **Mayor's Standing Committees**

(Per the Mayor – committees will only meet quarterly or when deemed necessary)

Mayor – Temporary Chair – Jeff Brondyke

Finance – Chair Dan Nederhoff, Mike VanZuiden

Economic Development – Chair Barb Mask, Dan Nederhoff

Zoning – Tarek Farmer

Marina – Chair Sue VanKampen, Keith King

Parks and Recreation – Chair Sue VanKampen, Jeff Brondyke

Public Safety – Chair Paul Banker, Harley Hunt

Emergency Operations – Chair Keith King, Mayor, City Administrator, Public Works Director

Deputy Clerk/City Collector – Tammy Garibay

## **Special Committee**

Marketing Committee (Mayor will ask for volunteers or appoint) this will revolve around city events, social, and tourism. Will follow up with appointments at a later meeting.

## **DISCUSSION**

New Standing Committee for Personnel. Ordinance will be drawn up and added to create a new personnel committee. Will be on next agenda.

Air BNB's. Council will further discuss. Administrator Clark will reach out to other communities to see what their regulations are. Registration listed at City Hall and a possible Special Use Permit will be further discussed.

Insurance and Events held in the City. An event registration form, that includes fees, contact information, regulations and insurance information was discussed. Will include the past application that had been proposed previously in the next council packet for review.

## Reports

- A. Finance
- B. Economic Development – Report Included in packet – sidewalks to be discussed at next meeting.
- C. Parks & Recreation – N/A
- D. Public Safety – N/A
- E. Marina – N/A
- F. Zoning – N/A

Mayor's Report – Impact Funds Donation from City

Alderman Reports – N/A

City Administrator's Report – Included – Will continue to discuss cannabis monies at next meeting.

Chief Neblung Report – Included

Public Work's Director Report – Included

Tourism Report – Included

**Adjourn to close session to discuss personnel, Union negotiations, and sale of property.**

Alderman King motioned, seconded by Hunt. Roll call vote, 5yes 0 no. Council adjourned to closed session at 6:43 p.m.

Alderman King motioned, seconded by Alderman Mask. Roll call vote, 5 yes, 0 no, to return to regular meeting at 7:16 p.m.

**Regular Meeting**

Salaries for City Administrator, Public Works Director and Chief of Police will be in the amount of 3.25% increase for the fiscal year 2022-2023. Council in total agreement.

Chief of Police Appointment – Mayor Ottens reappoints Nicholas Neblung as Chief of Police for a one-year term. Salary will be increased at 3.25% from the previous year. Contract will be drawn up for signature at next meeting. Alderman King motioned, seconded by Alderman Mask. Roll call vote, 5 yes, 0 no. Council has agreed with the appointment.

**ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING**

Alderman Mask motioned, seconded by Alderman King. All in Favor, 5 yes, 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tammy L Garibay  
City Clerk