

CITY OF FULTON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 14, 2023 5:30 P.M.

Regular Meeting

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Wendy Ottens at 5:30 p.m. On roll call, Alderpersons King, VanKampen, Boonstra, Burggraaf, Banker, and Wilkin, were present. Alderperson Brondyke was absent. Police Chief Neblung, Public Works Director Sikkema, City Attorney Huizenga and City Clerk Wade were also in attendance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

New Appointments by Mayor Wendy - Alderperson Wilkin was on three committees, Mayor Wendy appointed Alderperson Burggraaf to the Economic Development Committee and the Marina Committee. Alderperson Wilkin now being on only two committees.

Recognition of Volunteers – None

Communications from Visitors – None

Presentations – None

Mayor Wendy asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion to approve the City Council Meeting Minutes from July 24, 2023, the bill list and the Treasurer's Report all in one motion.

Motion to approve by Alderperson King, seconded by Alderperson Wilkin.

On Roll Call: All yes. Alderperson Brondyke was absent.

Motion passed.

Business

Mayor Wendy asked for a motion to approve an Illinois certified police officer for a sign-on bonus to be given out incrementally at: \$1,000.00 upon hire; \$1,000.00 at 6 months; \$1,000.00 after 1st year; then the final \$2,000.00 being paid out at the end of the 2nd year.

Alderperson Mask asked if this has an end to it or is this just first when you're hiring. Chief Neblung stated that this would be just for this application.

Motion made by Alderperson _____ Seconded by Alderperson _____

Aldersperson VanKampen made a motion to amend the amount for the sign-on bonus from \$5,000.00 to \$7,000.00. Her reasoning that Camance just raised their sign-on bonus to \$6,000.00. Police officers are hard to find and we need to stay competitive with surrounding towns.

Chief Neblung stated that if we offered \$7,000.00 it would break it out into \$1,500.00 upon hire; \$1,500.00 at 6 months; \$2,000.00 after the first year; then \$2,000.00 being paid out at the end of the 2nd year.

Aldersperson Boonstra asked if this is a 2- year contract? Chief Neblung stated that if they leave before the end of their second year of service, they would not be eligible for the final \$2,000.00 payment. This offer only applies to a certified officer.

Mayor Wendy wanted to clarify that we would want to give a certified police officer for a sign-on bonus of \$7,000.00 incrementally given out for \$1500.00 upon hire; \$1,500.00 at 6 months; \$2,000.00 after the first year; then \$2,000.00 paid at the end of their second year of service.

Mayor Wendy asked for an Amended Motion. First _____ Second King

Upon roll call: All in favor yes, Aldersperson Brondyke absent.

Mayor Wendy stated that we should address this sign-on bonus with each new hire for the Police Department.

Mayor Wendy asked for a motion to approve a trial bus route for Clinton's MTA bus service at a cost of \$10,000.00 beginning August 21, 2023 and ending December 1, 2023.

Motion made by Aldersperson Wilkin. Seconded by Aldersperson Burggraaf.

Upon Roll Call Alderspersons King, Burggraaf, Mask, VanKampen, Wilkin, Boonstra, Yes; Aldersperson Banker, No; Aldersperson Brondyke, absent.

Motion passed.

Discussion held:

Mayor Wendy stated that we are now sure of the dollar amount, now that being \$10,000.00. We have the MTA Director here representing this proposal so we can ask him any sort of question that we want to, but we need to make that decision now.

Aldersperson Banker asked that the Clinton MTA Director explain the times the drop off and pick up. The map was included in the council packet along with pick up and drop off times. Chief Neblung further explained the bus route details. As did the Clinton MTA Director on stopping, waiting for riders, etc. He explained that this is a new route, not just because Fulton was added.

The Clinton MTA will be monitoring this new route as to ridership numbers. Fulton will receive these reports, as well.

Questions were asked about the outcome of the trial period. We would have to discuss the continuation of the route, the cost, etc. at that time.

Aldersperson Mask asked about the need for residents she spoke with that they might not be able to drive or walk the, for example, the 6 or 7 blocks it would take to get to City Hall for bus pick up. Is there any alternative for those in need? Clinton MTA Director answered that with this agreement, we have a paratransit that goes along with this agreement for individuals that are not able to walk/drive to City Hall, their ADA regulations are that they have to provide paratransit services up to ¼ of a mile from the route they have given us. This would allow those with door - to - door service with our rate of \$2.00 per ride. Those individuals would have to go through the Clinton MTA's application process to determine whether they are eligible medically or not.

More discussion was held on the logistics of the route, pick up, drop off, etc. Use of Google apps for seeing bus routes and time. Discussion was held on students riding the bus.

Mayor Wendy asked if we have a motion to approve this or are there any other questions?

Council members _____? asked where this money going to come from? Mayor Wendy said we have several outlets, we have 25 percent of our dispensary money. That line item is now at \$103,000.00. That is exactly what that money was designated for. It is the Counsel's decision.

Chief Neblung asked that if the City was going to pursue this service, we would have to make a decision by the end of November, 2023. Correct?

Clinton MTA Director said that is correct and he will supply a monthly report to the City of Fulton as to the numbers of riders, etc.

Aldersperson Mask asked that going forward, will this always be a quarterly fee? No, it will be a yearly fee.

Motion made by Aldersperson Wilkin. Seconded by Aldersperson Burggraaf.

Upon Roll Call Alderspersons King, Burggraaf, Mask, VanKampen, Wilkin, Boonstra, Yes; Aldersperson Banker, No; Aldersperson Brondyke, absent.

Motion passed.

Committee Meetings:

Finance - Report is in packet. Alderperson will speak more about the Martin House Museum and its finances at the next meeting.

Personnel - Mayor Wendy said the open position for the City Administrator has been well advertised on Indeed, Linked-In, the City's website, and local papers. We are receiving responses.

Economic Development -No report. Loyals Pizzeria will be taking over the old Springer's Bar & Grill.

Parks & Rec - It was decided after asking for another bathroom at the Drives Park, it would be more efficient to add on to the existing bathrooms. Public Works Director Sikkema said the sewer and water is already in place and that would save a lot of money.

Mayor Wendy asked if the letters on the signs coming into town have been updated. Leslie Webster will be asked to do this.

Public Safety – No report.

Marina - No report.

Tourism - Report in packet.

Zoning - No report.

Mayor Report - Mayor Wendy had a wonderful trip to Washington, D.C. She met with Eric Sorensen, Tammy Duckworth and Dick Durbin. They all gave her a head nod on the 1.2 million she asked for the City of Fulton. Highway 30, 4-lane was also discussed.

Alderperson Report -No report

CA report - City Administrator Dan Clark said that the litigation with Bartels is in his court now. We haven't heard anything yet. He also stated that Kalyan's have paid for received a building permit for the construction of their new Restaurant and Brewery. They now have 2 years to build.

PD - No

PW - No report. Mayor Wendy asked how is it going with the sidewalks. He said slow, but the new Surf Internet is moving along quickly.

Historical Society - No report.

Adjourn Meeting – Mayor asks if all are in favor of adjourning regular meeting. Roll call vote, all in favor. Aye's have it – meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tori Wade
City Clerk