

The minutes of the Fairmont City Council meeting held on Monday, February 27, 2023, at the City Hall Council Chambers.

Mayor Lee Baarts called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Council Members Deb Foster, Wayne Hasek, Britney Kawecki and Jay Maynard were present. Council Member Michele Miller was absent. Also in attendance: City Administrator Cathy Reynolds, Finance Director Paul Hoyer, Chief of Police Mike Hunter, City Clerk Patricia Monsen, Civil Engineer Tyler Cowing, City Engineer Wes Brown and City Attorney Cara Brown, via telephone.

Council Member Hasek made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Council Member Foster seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Chief Hunter presented the 2022 Fairmont Police Annual Report.

During Public Comment, the following people from the Fairmont Hockey Association encouraged the Council to support the Hockey Association: Ernie Nuss, Abigail Anderson, James Draper, Lisa Kuhl, Benjamin Scholl, Ian Bents, Tom Chapman, Garrett Scholl and Dayton Draper.

Council Member Maynard made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion and the motion carried. Items on the consent agenda were: Minutes from the February 13, 2023 City Council meeting; Payment of the February 2023 Accounts Payable; Event Permit for the Fairmont Soccer Association to hold the Shakeout Soccer Tournament on May 6, 2023; Event Permit for Borderline Cruisers to hold the Downtown Car Show on June 10, 2023; Event Permit for the Martin County Library to hold a family event on August 9, 2023; Reappointment of Ron Kopischke to the HRA and reappointment of Jerry Brooks to the Airport Board; and authorization to purchase a new woodchipper for the Street and Electric Line Departments.

Mayor Baarts opened the public hearing on the 2023 Improvement Program. City Engineer Wes Brown and Civil Engineer Tyler Cowing reviewed the 2023 Improvement Program. Residents Ken Reiman and Pat Bulfer expressed their concerns with proposed assessments on bare farm land. Council Member Maynard made a motion to close the public hearing. Council Member Foster seconded the motion and the motion carried. Council Member Maynard made a motion to approve **Resolution 2023-11**, ordering improvement, preparation of plans and advertising of bids. Council Member Foster seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members Foster, Hasek, Kawecki and Maynard voted aye. No one voted nay. Mayor Baarts declared said motion passed.

Discussion was held regarding the Community Center Architect Contract Amendment with JLG. Council Member Foster made a motion to reallocate a portion of the 14 million Local Option Sales Tax to be allocated to the ice mechanics and an ice arena through the design and development stage. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Member Hasek voted aye. Council Members Kawecki, Maynard and Foster voted nay. Mayor Baarts declared said motion failed. Council Member Maynard made a motion for \$850,000 to be redirected from Gomsurd Park to the Ice Arena mechanicals and design, and that the remainder of funds for that purpose be taken from the 14 million Local Options Sales Tax fund. Council Member Foster seconded the motion and the motion carried by a majority vote of the council. Council Member Maynard made a motion to amend the contract with JLG

for architect and engineering services as proposed in JLG's amended compensation proposal, dated February 20, 2023. Council Member Foster seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Council Member Maynard made a motion to approve the task order with Bolton & Menk for the Gomsrud Park project. Council Member Foster seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Maynard made a motion to approve the proposal from Wold for architect and engineering services for the Sylvania Park Bandshell renovations. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion and the motion carried. Reynolds shared that the city band has raised \$4,468 and have received a grant from the Schmeckle Foundation in the amount of \$50,000 to be used for the project.

Council Member Foster made a motion to approve the proposal from Wold for architect and engineering services for the city hall security and accessibility updates. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Chief Hunter presented the Biennial Body Camera Audit. Council Member Hasek made a motion to approve the Fairmont Police Department Biennial Body Camera Audit from August 1, 2020 through August 31, 2022. Council Member Maynard seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Foster made a motion to approve the separation of the City Engineer position from the Public Works/Utility Director position. Council Member Maynard seconded the motion and the motion carried with a majority vote of the council.

Council Member Maynard made a motion to approve and authorize the release of the Notice of Filing for Vacant Ward 3 City Council seat. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Maynard made a motion to approve the amended task order with KLJ for the Airport ILS system. Council Member Foster seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Reynolds advised that the City Band has been conducting fundraising and has been busy writing grants to assist with the Sylvania Band Shell renovations. The City wants to thank them for all of their efforts.

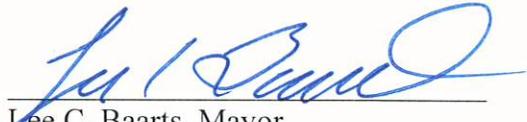
Reynolds thanked the Streets and Parks Department for their continued great work with snow removal this Winter and especially with this last snow fall.

Reynolds stated that information has come from our Senators at the Federal level regarding congressional direct funding. The City is looking at a couple projects that would qualify for this direct funding. The projects that may qualify are the wastewater project, water ground storage tank project and the Community Center project. There is a March deadline to submit these requests.

Councilor Hasek stated that the PUC held elections and approved Miles Hiede as the new Superintendent of the Line Department.

Councilor Maynard stated that the Airport Board talked about the ILS system and that there are trees on the northwest end of the runway that need trimming.

A motion was made by Council Member Foster, seconded by Council Member Hasek and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

  
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Lee C. Baarts, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Patricia J. Monsen, City Clerk