

The minutes of the Fairmont City Council meeting held on Monday, May 22, 2023, at the City Hall Council Chambers.

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

Council Members Wayne Hasek, Britney Kawecki, Randy Lubenow, Jay Maynard and Michele Miller were present. Also in attendance: City Clerk Patricia Monsen, Police Chief Mike Hunter, Civil Engineer Tyler Cowing and City Attorney Cara Brown.

Council Member Maynard made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

During Public Comment Douglas Boomgaarden asked the council to consider changing city code to allow ATVs to be operated in the city. The following citizens of Fairmont read a letter sent to the City by Attorney Marshall Tanick from the law firm of Meyer, Njus, Tanick, P.A.: Ann Osborn, Darlene Lutz, Marge Johnston, Ken Wolter and Bruce Eastlund. Brian Meade had questions regarding the new AMI meters and would like additional information on them. Garth Carlson of Carlson Walters Group stated that they are not for or against the proposed community center and would support what the majority of the city wants. He also stated that they want the city to move forward with hiring a new city administrator who will promote a private development and one who is positive and progressive. Council Member Randy Lubenow read a note he prepared in support of the proposed community center. Richard Bradley questioned statistics presented by Project 1590 regarding the proposed community center.

Council Member Maynard made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Council Member Lubenow seconded the motion and the motion carried. Items on the consent agenda were: Minutes from the May 8, 2023 City Council meeting; Payment of the May 2023 Accounts Payable; 2023/2023 Alcoholic Beverage License Renewals; License applications for the sale of edible products infused with tetrahydrocannabinol and tobacco for Schwebke Rentals, LLC; Tobacco Licenses for United Fuels Midwest, LLC for 2197 N. State Street and 307 N. State Street; and 3.2 Off Sale Licenses for United Fuels Midwest, LLC for 2197 N. State Street and 307 N. State Street.

Civil Engineer Tyler Cowing advised the council that the city received a petition from Heritage Acres for a seal coat of their driveway. Council Member Hasek made a motion to approve the petition by Heritage Acres to seal coat the driveway from Lake Avenue leading up to Heritage Acres. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Maynard made a motion to approve the appointment of Diane Bradley to serve out the remainder of the term for the vacant commissioner seat. Council Member Miller seconded the motion. The majority of the council voted aye and Mayor Baarts declared said motion passed.

Council Member Maynard made a motion to approve the selection and contracting with GovHR for recruiting services for the city administrator vacancy. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Maynard made a motion to direct that council communications be routed through the Mayor until an interim city administrator can be appointed. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Maynard made a motion that all council agenda requests be held until an interim city administrator can be appointed. Council Member Miller seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members Hasek, Maynard and Miller voted aye. Council Members Kawecki and Lubenow voted nay. Mayor Baarts declared said motion passed.

City Attorney Cara Brown reviewed her Memo dated May 19, 2023 to the Fairmont City Council regarding Charter Commission reimbursement request. Brown questioned whether the Charter Commission had voted to resubmit these expenses? Mayor Baarts said that the Charter had not resubmitted the expenses. Council Member Lubenow made a motion to refer this matter back to the Charter Commission. Council Member Kawecki seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members Kawecki and Lubenow voted aye. Council Members Maynard, Miller and Hasek voted nay. Mayor Baarts declared said motion failed.

Mayor Baarts explained that in order to keep city operations moving more efficiently during this time without a city administrator or an interim city administrator, it is being recommended that the Finance Director Paul Hoye be given interim purchasing authority to \$25,000. Council Member Lubenow made a motion to increase Paul Hoye's purchase power to \$25,000. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Mayor Baarts reminded citizens of many fun events happening in Fairmont in the next couple of weeks. He also reported that the pending bonding was not approved at this legislation session. However, Fairmont's Local Option Sales Tax request was included in the final omnibus tax bill.

Council Member Kawecki reported that the roof work at the library has begun.

Council Member Lubenow stated that the Park Board received a presentation about recycling old windmill blades. The parks are now open.

Council Member Miller stated that summer activities through CER are beginning, and they are looking for volunteers to help coach.

A motion was made by Council Member Maynard, seconded by Council Member Hasek and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

  
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Lee C. Baarts, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Patricia J. Monsen, City Clerk