

Madison City Council
Minutes
August 2, 2021

The City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor John Hamm at 6:00 p.m., Follow by request for roll call. Present were: Alderpersons Browley, Cochrell, Dixon, Hampsey, Haynes, Jenkins, Johnson and Vrabec Absent: none

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was moved by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Hampsey, to approve the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on June 21, 2021. Voice vote as follows: Eight (8) ayes; no nays Absent: none Motion carried.

It was moved by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Browley, to approve the minutes of the regular Budget Public Hearing Meeting held on June 29, 2021. Voice vote as follows: Eight (8) ayes; no nays Absent: none Motion carried.

It was moved by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Dixon, to approve the minutes of the regular Special meeting held on June 26, 2021. Voice vote as follows: Eight (8) ayes; no nays Absent: none Motion carried.

It was moved by Alderman Vrabec, seconded by Alderman Hampsey, to approve the presentation of the Comptroller's Report as submitted and that bills be allowed as drawn on the treasury and presented to the Council, unless there are any questions of the Summary of Expenses for the period of June 19, 2021 through August 2, 2021 in the amount of \$251,655.02. The Comptroller's Report was accepted as presented, to be placed on file. Roll call as follows: Browley, Cochrell, Dixon, Hampsey, Haynes, Jenkins, Johnson and Vrabec. Motion carried.

Building Inspector Mr. Buckles advise that the city is looking for workers 16yrs old and above to work for the city of Madison Summer Job. They will be cutting grass, chopping weeds, etc. The Mayor also added that he would like to see at least 1 person from each Ward, which will be a total of 4.

Chief of Police Pinero just advise the Public that there is a new system that is making things run a little slower with retrieving reports. He has asked that the citizens be patient while they work through the new system.

Police Commissioner Mr. Turner talked about the police new hire. They had 4 laterals up for hire, 1 white female, 1 white male and two black males. We do not have any entry level hires at this time due to no one passing the promotional hire test.

It was moved by Alderman Hampsey, seconded by Alderman Crochrell to accept reports from department officer voice vote as follow Eight (8) ayes no nays. Absent none. Motion carried.

It was moved by Alderman Vrabc, seconded by Alderman Hampsey to approve the bid for the Public Works Equipment and Building. Roll call vote as follows: Browley, Cochrell, Dixon, Hampsey, Haynes, Jenkins Johnson and Vrabc. Motion carried.

It was moved by Alderman Vrabc, seconded by Alderwoman Johnson to approve to pay \$20,425.00 for the Sally Port Sewer Sinkhole Lining. Roll call vote as follows: Browley, Cochrell, Dixon, Hampsey, Haynes, Jenkins Johnson and Vrabc. Motion carried.

Mayor talked about the River Constructions Design proposal for the new recreation building.

Vrabc talked about setting up a Finance Meeting. It was set for August 16th at 5:30pm prior to the next council meeting.

Johnson talked about if anyone knows any girls between the ages of 13 and 17 to reach out to her or Glasper. They want to get a softball team together.

It was moved by Alderman Hampsey and seconded by Alderman Vrabc to approve "Resolution Deeming Certain Funds in the River's Edge TIF Payments as a "Surplus" Funds and Directing the Payment and Distribution Therefore(2021)" Roll call vote as follows: Browley, Cochrell, Dixon, Hampsey, Haynes, Jenkins Johnson and Vrabc. Motion carried.

It was moved by Alderman Hampsey and seconded by Alderman Vrabc to approve "Resolution on An Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Granite City, Illinois Concerning Resurfacing of 14th Street" Roll call vote as follows: Browley, Cochrell, Dixon, Hampsey, Haynes, Jenkins Johnson and Vrabc. Motion carried.

A lengthy discussion took place before the vote on the Judgment Resolution.

Alderman Cochrell asked the attorney has there ever been a conflict of Interest between the City of Madison and the Venice Township. The attorney responded she was not aware of any. However this taking action is not because there was a conflict, it is because of the Potential Conflict. Alderman Cochrell ask the Mayor since he has been in office for 24years had he had any conflicts. The Mayor stated he has not. The attorney re iterated it is not that it has to have been a passed conflict, it is the Potential Conflict.

Alderwoman Browley made a statement that the citizens had voted him in and why you want the council to vote him out. The attorney stated that they are asking them to take to court to make a judgment. Browley stated why wouldn't we let the citizens make that decision. Browley stated Cochrell only has a few months and the city doesn't have funds to pay attorney fees. Browley stated it has been pass Aldermen that has served as an Alderman and a Trustee and it has never been an issue in the pass. Why is it an issue now? The attorney responded that she was not the attorney at that time and she can only go by what she has before her now. Browley ask why is this pertaining to Mark Cochrell. The attorney said it is not pertaining to Cochrell. Browley stated yes it does because the paperwork reflects Mark Cochrell name throughout the entire document.

Alderman Haynes advise we need to take action to get the answer to see what the courts will say if it is a conflict or not.

Alderwoman Jenkins stated we need to get this question answer and resolve and moved forward.

Alderman Crochrell stated he believe this is a personal attack against him and he is being harassed by the Mayor. The attorney stated she does not know him personally she only provided an opinion when asked.

Alderman Vrabec stated that Alderman Crochrell has accused the council for being racist and he had came up with this another time. Vrabec takes offense to it and is upset about the implications. Alderman Crochrell responded that this is racial.

It was mention by Crochrell during the meeting that the past Aldermen that took the position was of a different race and it was never an issue but now it is an issue. Why does it has to go this far now?

There was a statement on the floor about if there was a conflict he should not have been able to run. The Attorney advise that it never became a conflict until Alderman Crochrell took the oath of office with the Township.

Alderwoman Johnson ask the attorney has it ever been a different ruling than the one that is her stance. The Attorney responded no. Johnson also stated during the meeting that ever since she took office there has been a conflict in the room and we need to work together instead of trying to kick someone off the council. She also ask during the meeting has there ever been a conflict of interest. Mayor stated at this time there has not been a conflict of interest.

One of the attorneys stated that Alderman Crochrell could not vote on this issue. They are stating that it is because it is about him. Crochrell said if the attorney is stating that I can't vote now why if there ever become a conflict I just don't vote. The attorney stated he could not do that. Crochrell responded well he will vote now. Crochrell stated he can't take his voting rights away. There was some back and forth between the attorney and Crochrell about if he can vote or not.

It was moved by Alderman Hampsey and seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve "Resolution on Filing a Declaratory Judgement Action In Circuit Court, Madison County, Illinois Regarding the Existene of Incompatibility between the Office of Alderman, City of Madison, Illnois and Venice Township Supervisor" Roll call vote as follows: Browley, Cochrell, Dixon and Johnson Nays. Hampsey, Haynes, Jenkins and Vrabec Ayes. 4 to 4 Tie. Mayor cast deciding vote and voted Aye. Motion carried.

The Mayor reiterates we need people for the Summer Job and they will need to pick up application at the City Hall. They have to pass the drug screening as well. The pay is \$11.90 per hour.

There being no other business to come before the council, it was moved by Alderwoman Browley and, seconded by Alderman Crochrell to adjourned meeting at 6:36pm. Voice vote as follow Eight (8) ayes; No nays Absent: none Motion Carried.

The next Council meeting will be held on Monday, August 16, 2021.

City Clerk:

Calma Dunaway

Mayor:

John H. [Signature]

Date:

8/16/2021