**Council Meeting**

**Harrisburg City Council**

**Pruett Building**

**Harrisburg, Illinois 62946**

**February 16, 2023**

**8:00 a.m.**

The Harrisburg City Council met on February 16, 2023 at 8:00 a.m. at the Pruett Building located at 107 E. Church Street, Harrisburg, IL.

Mayor John McPeek called the meeting to order. Mayor John McPeek presided over the meeting with Commissioners Raymond Gunning, Roger Angelly, Rupert Johnson and Ron Morse answering roll call.

Pastor Jerry Wells, Dorrisville Social Brethren Church led the group in prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Roger Angelly made the motion to approve the consent agenda.

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Moran Economic Development, LLC - $2,802.50 - #1942 - TIF

Seconded by Commissioner Rupert Johnson. A roll call vote was taken with all present voting yes. Motion carried.

Citizen Les Winkler spoke to council regarding the Shawnee National Forrest. There are 63 national parks. The benefit to turning the Shawnee National Forrest into a national park would breed new life into Harrisburg and Southern Illinois economically. It could have an impact of 3% in employment and a 4% increase in wages. He spoke how this could be a boost for restaurants, hotels and tourism. The Shawnee National Park would be promoted in annual travel guides.

Citizen Les Winkler stated this would help preserve, regulate and protect the area. This would allow hunting, fishing, bike riding and horse back riding. This would stop commercial logging and help maintain the forest. He is asking for a resolution of support from Harrisburg. Council have a resolution presented at the next council meeting.

Attorney Kolby Smithpeters presented the purchase agreement for 509 S. Granger Street for the price of $819.00 from the Saline County Trustee. Commissioner Raymond Gunning made the motion to purchase 509 S. Granger Street for $819.00. Seconded by Commissioner Roger Angelly. A roll call vote was taken with all present voting yes. Motion carried.

Treasurer Alex Jackson discussed the consideration of application for TIF assistance for Murphy Rental Center. Mr. Murphy is requesting $300,000 for his project. There was a call between the TIF administrator, Treasurer Alex Jackson, Commissioner Ron Morse and Mayor John McPeek. The TIF Administrator’s recommendation is $50,000 in $10,000 installments over five years which is 4% of the overall project. Mayor John McPeek suggested speaking to Dennis Murphy about this before making a decision. Council agreed to table this until the next meeting.

Mayor John McPeek reminded the citizens a public hearing will be held following this meeting to discuss the RAISE grant.

Mayor John McPeek stated Saline County Chamber of Commerce would like to renew their lease with the City of Harrisburg with the same conditions. The rate is $150.00 per month. Commissioner Roger Angelly made the motion to renew the lease with the Saline County Chamber of Commerce. Seconded by Commissioner Raymond Gunning. A roll call vote was taken with all present voting yes. Motion carried.

Mayor John McPeek stated council will go into Executive Session to discuss personnel.

Commissioner Roger Angelly discussed the need to add on to the existing building for the sewer jet which will be coming in a few months. The sealed bids will be opened during the April 06, 2023 council meeting. Commissioner Roger Angelly made the motion to authorize the city clerk to advertise for sealed bids for the construction addition to 120 Veterans Drive. Seconded by Commissioner Raymond Gunning. A roll call vote was taken with all present voting yes. Motion carried.

Council had an open discussion about wheelchair ramps. Before spending $91,200.00, they asked Attorney Kolby Smithpeters to get an answer regarding the current chairlifts at City Hall.

Mayor John McPeek announced a memorial service being held on February 28, 2023 for the tornado victims. It will be at the memorial site located at First-Mid Bank on Rollie Moore Drive at 8:00 a.m. The March 02, 2023 council meeting will be held at the Harrisburg Public Library at 6:00 p.m. Please stop littering.

Mayor John McPeek made the motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel. Seconded by Commissioner Roger Angelly. A roll call vote was taken with all present voting yes. Motion carried.

Adjourn: 8:25 a.m.

Reconvene: 8:45 a.m.

Mayor John McPeek made the motion to return to open session. Seconded by Commissioner Raymond Gunning. A roll call vote was taken with all present voting yes. Motion carried.

Mayor John McPeek called the meeting to order. Mayor John McPeek presided over the meeting with Commissioners Raymond Gunning, Roger Angelly, Rupert Johnson and Ron Morse answering roll call.

Mayor John McPeek stated no action will be taken regarding personnel.

Mayor John McPeek made the motion to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Roger Angelly. A roll call vote was taken with all present voting yes. Motion carried.

Adjourn: 8:46 a.m.