**Harrisburg City Council**

**Harris-Pruett Building**

**107 E. Church Street**

**Harrisburg, Il 62946**

**December 07, 2023**

**6:00 p.m.**

The Harrisburg City Council met on December 07 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Harris-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 Cynthia Potter answering roll call.

Pastor Lynette Barnett of the First United Methodist Church led the group in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Raymond Gunning made the motion to approve the consent agenda omitting Ray O’Herron.

Regular Meeting Minutes – November 16, 2023

Check Register and Warrant Reports – November 2023

Barcom Security - $516.48 - #20594 – Business District

Sentinel Emergency - $3144.58 - #25571 – Council Contingency

Ray O’Herron - $4163.40 - #3168145 – Council Contingency (Removed)

Brown & Roberts, Inc. - $16843.17 - #112723 – MFT

Sargent Electric - $9160.00 - #112923 – Business District

Brown & Roberts, Inc. - $26183.88 - #112123 – MFT

Cargill - $18969.20 - #2908870897 – MFT

Cargill - $16320.05 - #2908877544 - MFT

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

Citizen Wes Sherrod spoke to council regarding the ambulance situation. There was an open discussion regarding the current situation with the ambulance provider. The current provider will no longer be servicing Harrisburg or Saline County as of February 01, 2024. Wes Sherrod would like the county and city to work together and unite to make this work. There have been several meetings to discuss options and he believes they were good meetings.

The county is looking for options to make sure everyone has coverage. He feels the county is best to take on the role for looking for a provider. He thinks the city is stopping the county on moving forward with the new proposal they are sending out tonight. He needs enough time to work this out.

Mayor John McPeek stated he has not been given an amount for an ambulance service at this time. Commissioner Raymond Gunning stated Deaconess proposed a subsidy of $600,000 to stay and that is why the city put out a RFP. Mayor John McPeek stated the reason no one responded to the last RFP was because of the wording. The new RFP will be changed. A new ambulance provider will service the entire county.

Mayor John McPeek asked Wes Sherrod how much the city will be asked to pay for the county for the ambulance service. Wes Sherrod has been taking to a provider (United) and has included transports for Harrisburg Medical Center. Wes Sherrod asked if he could go back to the county board and ask if the county covers the expense that city hold off on their RFP. Commissioner Roger Angelly said we are all on the same page in getting a good provider, but we need to look at all options.

Wes Sherrod asked if two ambulances was enough? He does know the fire department can handle some of the calls. Commissioner Roger Angelly asked if Eldorado can house an ambulance. The Harrisburg ambulance service will take care of the county. We are trying to take care of the county, and we have to work together. Commissioner Cynthia Potter said we all have family who lives in the county, and we do not want to be without service.

Mayor John McPeek said when Saline County Ambulance left Harrisburg and Harrisburg signed a contract with Deaconess Hospital, was there ever a problem, no because Harrisburg signed a contract and there was ambulance service. We are now working on getting an ambulance service. He did not know the county was negotiating with an ambulance provider until this week when they met with Wes Sherrod.

Commissioner Roger Angelly stated the city ambulance is a back up service. The city is not trying to cut anyone out and is not trying to cut any deals. Mayor John McPeek said he is trying to protect the citizens of Harrisburg. Commissioner Roger Angelly and Commissioner Raymond Gunning agreed they should not have let Saline County Ambulance leave to bring in Deaconess.

Commissioner Roger Angelly said between Harrisburg, Eldorado, Carrier Mills, and Galatia there has to be a facility to put an ambulance provider. Wes Sherrod said there is a lot positive energy and he is giving them everything they are asking for. Commissioner Raymond Gunning said the city has an interest in having an ambulance coming to Harrisburg.

Citizen Roy Oldham asked if the ambulance service was going to include county, and if the amount was going to be lower than the proposed $600,000. Mayor John McPeek stated yes it will cover the county and he is hoping it will be lower than what the county is proposing of $600,000. Citizen Roy Oldham asked if the city could have an answer by next week. Mayor John McPeek stated yes.

Wes Sherrod said we have to have an affordable deal. We are all working together to solve the problem. He will wait to hear from Mayor McPeek.

Citizen Brendan Jennings announced to council that he is running for county board. He said believes Wes Sherrod is playing politics and passed the buck to the City of Harrisburg regarding the ambulance situation. There should be a separate meeting to discuss how to resolve the ambulance issue.

He would like to see a positive change. He would like to address the crisis of the ambulance, animal control, and prioritize the wellbeing of the citizens. We cannot ignore the untapped tourism resources and embrace them. We deserve leaders who are dedicated to finding solutions and putting the people first. We need to unite and build a brighter future for our county.

Mayor John McPeek opened the only sealed bid for the demolition for 22 Vine Street from Earth Services. It was determined the property was in too bad of shape and would cost too much to repair, so this is why council made the decision to have the property tore down. This will be paid out of business district funds. The bid was for $58,500.00. Commissioner Rupert Johnson made the motion to accept the sealed bid from Earth Services in the amount of $58,500.00 for the demolition of 22 S. Vine Street. Seconded by Commissioner Roger Angelly. A roll call vote was taken with all present voting yes, except Commissioner Raymond Gunning abstained. Motion carried.

Treasurer Alex Jackson stated the tax levy sat out for thirty days and nothing has changed since she presented it. Commissioner Raymond Gunning made the motion to pass Ordinance 1871 for the 23/24 Tax Levy. Seconded by Commissioner Cynthia Potter. A roll call vote was taken with all present voting yes, except Commissioner Rupert Johnson abstained. Motion carried.

Commissioner Roger Angelly made the motion to pass Ordinance 1872 amending Ordinance 1816 establishing the Harrisburg Business District approving a business district plan, authorizing the imposition and collection of a sales tax within such business district and approving certain actions in connection with the establishment of such business district. Seconded by Commissioner Raymond Gunning. A roll call vote was taken with all present voting yes. Motion carried.

Mike Roberts with Brown and Robert, Inc. presented the construction engineering service agreement for the overlay project on Dorris Heights Road, St. Mary’s Drive to Il Route 34, South Main Street and Poplar Street to Church Street. Commissioner Cynthia Potter made the motion to approve the construction engineering service agreement. Seconded by Commissioner Raymond Gunning. A roll call vote was taken with all present voting yes. Motion carried.

Mike Roberts with Brown and Roberts, Inc. gave an update on the TARP grant. There are certain guidelines with the TARP funds. He spoke with IDOT on whether safety money and the TARP grant can be used together and yes it can. However, the TARP grant must be project ready. He suggested waiting to apply for TARP funds when a project is ready. Council stated is doesn’t hurt to apply. Commissioner Cynthia Potter asked if the city can apply multiple times. Mike Roberts stated the city can apply as many times as the grant is available. Commissioner Raymond Gunning made the motion to approve Brown and Roberts, Inc. to apply for the TARP Grant. Seconded by Commissioner Rupert Johnson. A roll call vote was taken with all present voting yes. Motion carried.

Attorney Kolby Smithpeters presented the revised request for proposals for an ambulance service. Council held an open discussion and made some changes to the proposal. The proposal will be returned by December 20, 2023 and bids will be opened during the December 21, 2023 council meeting. The terms of the agreement will be for five years. Commissioner Raymond Gunning made the motion to authorize attorney Kolby Smithpeters to advertise the revised request for proposal. Seconded by Commissioner Cynthia Potter. A roll call vote was taken with all present voting yes. Motion carried.

Attorney Kolby Smithpeters presented council with a purchase contract for a property that need to be torn down. The property is 1 Marshall Street. The City can purchase each property from the Saline County Tax Agent for $820.00 and then tear the property down. Commissioner Rupert Johnson made the motion to purchase the properties from the Saline County Tax Agent for $820.00. Seconded by Commissioner Cynthia Potter. A roll call vote was taken with all present voting yes. Motion carried.

Steve Williams from FSB Insurance stated he met with Mayor John McPeek, Treasurer Alex Jackson, Jack Abbott from IPMG to discuss the 2024 insurance plan and rates. He is pleased with the 2024 rates. The rates will remain the same. Commissioner Raymond Gunning made the motion to authorize Mayor John McPeek to sign the 2024 health insurance renewal. Seconded by Commissioner Rupert Johnson. A roll call vote was taken with all present voting yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Raymond Gunning stated the police department has a car that is no longer in service. Police Chief Nathan Moore stated the car had been put up for sealed bid, and the city did not receive any bids. It is basically a scrapped car. There is an organization that will repair the squad car and a local Harrisburg church will donate it to a family in need. Commissioner Raymond Gunning made the motion to donate the squad car to Corner Stone Church for repairs to donate to a local Harrisburg family in need. Seconded by Commissioner Rupert Johnson. A roll call vote was taken with all present voting yes. Motion carried.

Fire Chief John Gunning presented council with his new standard operating guidelines for the fire department. He has updated his guidelines and included the ambulance services. Commissioner Raymond Gunning made the motion approving the revised standard operating guidelines authorizing Mayor John McPeek to sign it. Seconded by Commissioner Rupert Johnson. A roll call vote was taken with all present voting yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Rupert Johnson made the motion to authorize the city clerk to advertise for sealed bids on following properties for sale with a minimum bid of $1000.00 each: 521 W. Barnett Street, 518 W. Lincoln Street, 119 Park Street, and 130 State Street. Seconded by Commissioner Raymond Gunning. A roll call vote was taken with all present voting yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Rupert Johnson stated he will be tabling the discussion of tuck-pointing City Hall at this time.

Commissioner Rupert Johnson made the motion to install a street light near 414 W. Lincoln Street. Seconded by Commissioner Raymond Gunning. A roll call vote was taken with all present voting yes. Motion carried.

Mayor John McPeek stated the decision has been made rather than having the public property employees paint inside city hall, it would be better to hire someone to complete the job. It would take too long for our employees to paint city hall. Mayor John McPeek made the motion to authorize the city clerk to advertise for sealed bids to paint inside City Hall. Seconded by Commissioner Raymond Gunning. A roll call vote was taken with all present voting yes. Motion carried.

Mayor John McPeek please reminded the citizens to stop littering.

Commissioner Raymond Gunning made the motion to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Rupert Johnson. A roll call vote was taken with all present voting yes. Motion carried.

Adjourn: 7:09 p.m.