

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DIXON, ILLINOIS  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – CITY HALL  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2015  
5:30 P.M.

ROLL CALL/INVOCATION

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Arellano. Councilmen Marx, Tucker, Venier, Bishop and Mayor Arellano answered Roll Call. The Pledge of Allegiance was cited. Reverend Robert Dunbar from St. James Evangelical Church gave the Invocation.

WORK SESSION – CITY'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM/PROPOSED  
CHANGES TO PLAN DOCUMENTS

Becky Fredericks from Human Resources introduced Brad and Mike from Benefit Staff. They showed a power point presentation on the suggested changes, the suggested deletions and the simplifications to the City's health insurance benefits. Becky advised a paper copy of this presentation would be available. She further stated that the City's plan year begins January 1 so approval would be required soon to implement the changes. Lastly, Councilman Marx asked if this would affect all employees, including the unions, and Becky advised yes it is the same for all employees.

WORK SESSION – CONSOLIDATION OF CITY OF DIXON AND  
DIXON PARK DISTRICT

Attorney LeSage gave a brief overview of the three legal issues. The first one being the power of a non-home rule municipality; the second being dissolution procedures; and the third being a non-binding referendum. Attorney LeSage informed all that due to statute, the City does not have the power to have a park system without a referendum but first a Resolution submitting the question to the electorate would have to be approved. He then advised that if a referendum were placed on the ballot to dissolve the Park District, this does not mean that the City of Dixon would step in and take over. He advised that in Article XIII of the Park District code it states 2/3's of the votes cast by the top vote getter and not less than 20% of the total voters for a dissolution. Attorney LeSage added that once the vote to dissolve is approved, the Dixon Park District would have to take care of all debts and unfinished business, and any monies left would go to the local schools. He went on to educate the Council on the other referendums that would be required as well as cooperation from the taxing districts. Attorney LeSage stated a non-binding referendum is an advisory question to see what the citizens are thinking. He advised there would have to be an adoption of a Resolution or Ordinance not less than 79 days before the election and the City Clerk would have to submit such question to the Election Department 68 days prior to the election. Mayor Arellano advised the financial part of this is to find ways to legally switch the levy levels. He advised that Paula's chart shows the City can levy for 4 additional things and or it shows 2 scenarios—the City's current levy and the monies received on the Park District's levy.

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WORK SESSION – CONSOLIDATION OF CITY OF DIXON AND  
DIXON PARK DISTRICT (CONT'D.)

Mayor Arellano advised the first step would be to get a non-binding referendum out to the citizens, which would stop the petition drive. He added that the Park District, in his opinion, could broaden their tax base by expanding their borders or share/consolidate with the City. Ron Pritchard and Deb Carey both spoke on behalf of the Park District regarding earlier referendums they did. Ron stated in the early 2000's, they did a referendum to increase their borders, and Deb advised a referendum was done regarding the Memorial Pool. Matt Sowers stated he feels a lot of citizens think the Park District is an entity of the City's. He also felt this advisory referendum would pass. At this time, Attorney LeSage was asked to explain "co-terminus" and he obliged by stating it is the corporate boundary of the City versus the corporate boundary of the Park District. John Weitzel asked what precipitated the need for this change and who stands to gain from it. Mayor Arellano advised the public asked for the change and the gain would be anyone who gets services by expanding their borders. He further added that the Park District could share administrative structures and resources with the City. Councilman Bishop reminded everyone that this is just the initial stage. Councilman Tucker emphasized that the Dixon Park District should expand their boundaries.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Bishop moved that the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of Monday, October 5, 2015 be accepted and placed on file. Seconded by Councilman Tucker. Voting Yea: Councilmen Marx, Tucker, Venier, Bishop and Mayor Arellano. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF TOTAL LABOR & OUTSIDE CLAIMS

Councilman Marx moved that the Total Labor & Outside Claims in the amount of \$691,983.67 be approved and ordered paid. Seconded by Councilman Venier. Voting Yea: Councilmen Marx, Tucker, Venier, Bishop and Mayor Arellano. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.

ACCEPTANCE OF YTD FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Councilman Tucker moved that the YTD Financial Summary through September 30, 2015 be accepted. Seconded by Councilman Bishop. Voting Yea: Councilmen Marx, Tucker, Venier, Bishop and Mayor Arellano. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.

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CITY MANAGER REPORT

David Nord welcomed the new Public Works Director, Tim Ridder to the City. He then advised a press release has been issued by the Water Department, as they will be doing work at South Galena Avenue and Patrick Court for one day. Lastly, David announced the City is now the owner of a drone as his business card was chosen in a drawing at an exhibition he attended at Navy Pier.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Arellano advised a union negotiating attorney has been chosen. He requested the unions deliver their first offer before Christmas due to time constraints with the end date for these contracts and the budget process. Mayor Arellano advised he met with hotel developers and his question to the Council is location of the hotel at I-88 or along the river. He then spoke regarding the consideration of leasing railroad property. Attorney LeSage suggested entering into a long-term lease, and Councilman Marx concurred. Lastly, Mayor Arellano advised visitors from Thika were in Dixon over the weekend.

Councilman Tucker spoke about the time structure for Thursday's meeting.

Councilman Venier commended Dixon Main Street for hosting 2 festivals—the West End Fest and the Ultimate Tail Gate in the Beanblossom parking lot.

Councilman Bishop shared that at Reagan Middle School, they took first place in boys and Girls Cross Country.

BOARD & COMMISSIONS REPORTS

Mayor Arellano reported that the Dixon Sister Cities Association Minutes of September 9, 2015 and September 15, 2015 and the Library Board Minutes of September 28, 2015 are on file with the Clerk and available for inspection. He also added that there are still openings on the Library Board, the Airport Board and the Plan Commission.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Matt Sower, Mr. Cab, handed the Council a sheet showing his first month in business. He advised he has offered all discounts he previously promised and thanked the Council. He then asked about doing "for-profit" fundraising through a raffle to help his business and he questioned vehicle signage permits. Attorney LeSage instructed Matt to see him after the meeting.

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**ORD. #2979 – VACATING A PORTION OF A PUBLIC ALLEY PURSUANT TO  
THE REQUEST OF THE ESTATE OF KENNETH GARRISON &  
DIXON HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, INC.**

Councilman Venier moved that an Ordinance vacating a portion of a public alley pursuant to the request of the Estate of Kenneth Garrison and Dixon Habitat for Humanity, Inc. be passed. Seconded by Councilman Marx. Voting Yea: Councilman Marx, Tucker, Venier, Bishop and Mayor Arellano. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.

**REVIEW, ACCEPT & APPROVE BIDS  
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT V.F.D.**

Councilman Bishop moved that the bids for the Wastewater Treatment plant Oxidation Ditch No. 1 Aerator No. 2 VFD Replacement Project be reviewed, accepted and approved. Seconded by Councilman Venier. Voting Yea: Councilman Marx, Tucker, Venier, Bishop and Mayor Arellano. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.

**AWARD BID – WWTP OXIDATION DITCH NO. 1 AERATOR NO. 2 VARIABLE  
FREQUENCY DRIVE (VFD) REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

Councilman Marx moved that the bid for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Oxidation Ditch No. 1 Aerator No. 2 Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) Replacement Project be awarded to Engel Electric, Sterling, Illinois for their low bid in the amount of \$51,245.00. Seconded by Councilman Tucker. Voting Yea: Councilman Marx, Tucker, Venier, Bishop and Mayor Arellano. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.

**DISCUSSION – ALTERNATIVE FOR BRIDGE RAIL PAINTING PROJECT**

City Manager David Nord deferred this discussion over to Tim Ridder. Tim addressed the Council on the bridge deterioration and how the rails cannot handle the sandblasting. He also spoke on liability issues in removing the river side railings. Tim suggested a negotiated settlement to cancel the contract and put new specifications together for a future bid letting. He advised using City staff to paint the rails in place and advised they need to be cleaned every spring to stop any future rusting. Councilman Bishop questioned the new issues; Councilman Tucker advised the rails are rusting from the inside out, and Councilman Venier spoke about the loss of the view with these current railings. He suggested scrapping them and installing aluminum railings to bring the vista back.

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At this time, the discussion turned to the Lee County retaining wall. David Nord advised the City finally received an answer back from the State of Illinois. He advised this letter contained a \$10,000 offer to end this issue.

Mayor Arellano advised that Item #12-E has been removed from the agenda tonight.

OATH OF OFFICE  
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR TIM RIDDER

Mayor Arellano administered the Oath of Office to the Public Works Director, Tim Ridder.

EXECUTIVE SESSION


Councilman Tucker moved that the Regular Council Meeting of Monday, October 19, 2015 be adjourned to meet in Executive Session to review prior Executive Session Minutes, to discuss pending or threatened litigation, deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of municipal employees and the possible acquisition of real estate. Seconded by Councilman Marx. Voting Yea: Councilman Marx, Tucker, Venier, Bishop and Mayor Arellano. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.

RECONVENE MEETING

Councilman Venier moved that the Regular Council Meeting of Monday, October 19, 2015 reconvene into Open Session. Seconded by Councilman Tucker. Voting Yea: Councilman Marx, Tucker, Venier, Bishop and Mayor Arellano. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Venier moved that the Regular Council Meeting of Monday, October 19, 2015 be adjourned to meet in Special Session on Thursday, October 22, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at Town Square Centre, Suite 206 in Conference Room 2. Seconded by Councilman Bishop. Voting Yea: Councilmen Marx, Tucker, Venier, Bishop and Mayor Arellano. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

  
Kathe A. Swanson, City Clerk