

MINUTES OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

August 16, 2021

The regular meeting of the Pontiac City Council was held on July 16, 2021. Mayor Alvey called to order the meeting of the City Council at 7:00 P.M.

The City Clerk was directed to call roll, and the following members of the Council were present: Barr, Giovanini, Eckhoff, Kallas, Lee, Hicks, Myers, Gabor and Wille.

PUBLIC HEARING - Close Out Downstate Small Business Stabilization Grants

Mayor Alvey called to order the Public Hearing at 7:05 P.M.

Sonny Bekirovski, owner of Pontiac Family Kitchen spoke at hearing summarizing how the Grant money was spent and the impact it had on his business. He was appreciative of the State of Illinois and City of Pontiac for receipt of funds.

Michael Occhipinti, owner of DMRG Theaters Inc. - Crescent Cinemas was unable to attend the public hearing but he submitted the attached statement that was read into record.

Sherry Elliott, of Elliot's Corner Junction told Council how the Grant funds helped their business and thanked the City for the assistance in applying for the Grant funds.

Representation of Bulls Family Restaurant were unable to attend public hearing, but did submit the attached statement that was read into the record.

At the conclusion of the statements, the Mayor opened the hearing for public comment. Hearing none, Mayor Alvey then closed the Public Hearing at 7:20 P.M.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Alvey stated that there three items on the consent agenda. He asked if there was a need to have any item removed for later discussion. Hearing none, motion made by Kelly, second by barr that the items on the consent agenda be approved as presented.

A. Motion Eckhoff, second by Barr to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2021 City Council meeting. On a roll call vote, motion carried 9-0. Aye votes recorded: Barr, Giovanini, Eckhoff, Kallas, Lee, Hicks, Myers, Gabor, and Wille.

B. Motion by Eckhoff, second by Barr to approve the payment of bills totaling \$534,215.64 from all funds. On a roll call vote, motion carried 9-0. Aye votes recorded: Barr, Giovanini, Eckhoff, Kallas, Lee, Hicks, Myers, Gabor, and Wille.

C. Motion by Eckhoff, second by Barr to approve the closing of the 300 block of Maple Street for a block party on August 21, 2021 sponsored by Katrina Hertz. On a roll call vote, motion carried 9-0. Aye votes recorded: Barr, Giovanini, Eckhoff, Kallas, Lee, Hicks, Bradshaw, Myers, Gabor, and Wille.

REGULAR AGENDA

A. Street Maintenance Bid Award

Brian Verdun presented the bids that were opened on August 16, 2021. This is for work on Cardinal Court, Reynolds St., Water St., and Mill Street. Motion by Myers, second by Gabor to approve the low bid of \$414,402.00 from Tobey's Construction and after the (8) day waiting period required by IDOT, grant authority to the Mayor to sign the contract with Tobey's Construction. On a roll call vote motion carried 9-0. Aye votes recorded: Barr, Giovanini, Eckhoff, Kallas, Lee, Hicks, Myers, Gabor and Wille.

B. Report from the Finance Committee

Kelly Eckhoff, chairman of the Finance Committee reported the Committee had reviewed the progress made on the establishment of the ambulance service. She then asked City Administrator Bob Karls and Fire Chief Campbell to provide a status of the transition. There were several action items necessary to continue developing service.

(1) Ordinance 2021-O-020 - Fire Dept. Structure Amendment

Motion by Gabor, second by Giovanini to approve Ordinance 2021-O-020, amending the Fire Department structure to accommodate EMT's and Paramedics as written. On a roll call vote motion carried 9-0. Aye votes recorded: Barr, Giovanini, Eckhoff, Kallas, Lee, Hicks, Myers, Gabor and Wille.

(2) Ordinance 2021-O-021 - Ambulance Charges

Motion by Eckhoff, second by Kallas to approve Ordinance 2021-O-021, establishing a schedule of charges for ambulance services as written. (Noted that the rates for Medicare and Public Aid are established by the State and the rates in the Ordinance are an average of surrounding municipalities) On a roll call vote motion carried 9-0. Aye votes recorded: Barr, Giovanini, Eckhoff, Kallas, Lee, Hicks, Myers, Gabor and Wille.

(3) Ambulance Purchase

Motion by Kallas, second by Eckhoff to purchase from the Cullom Fire Protection District, an 2007 Ford E-450 Type II Ambulance at a cost to the City of \$28,000.00 and \$10,000.00 to purchase added equipment. American Rescue Plan Act Funds will be used. On a roll call vote motion carried 9-0. Aye votes recorded: Barr, Giovanini, Eckhoff, Kallas, Lee, Hicks, Myers, Gabor and Wille.

(4) Ambulance purchase - Klocke's Emergency Vehicle

Motion by Eckhoff, second by Wille, to approve the purchase of a 2021 Ford F-450 Life Line Ambulance from Klocke's Emergency Vehicles at a cost to the City of \$262,077 plus additional funds for added equipment for a total of \$275,000.00. American Rescue Plan Act Funds will be used. On a roll call vote motion carried 9-0. Aye votes recorded: Barr, Giovanini, Eckhoff, Kallas, Lee, Hicks, Myers, Gabor and Wille.

(5) LUCAS Devise Purchase

Motion by Gabor, second by Lee to purchase (3) LUCAS Devices (used for CPR) at a cost of \$50,000.00. American Rescue Plan Act Funds will be used. On a roll call vote motion carried 9-0. Aye votes recorded: Barr, Giovanini, Eckhoff, Kallas, Lee, Hicks, Myers, Gabor and Wille.

(6) LifePak - 15-Monitors Purchase

Motion by Eckhoff, second by Hicks to approve the purchase of LifPak Monitors at a total cost of \$114,243.00. American Rescue Plan Act Funds will be used. On a roll call vote motion carried 9-0. Aye votes recorded: Barr, Giovanini, Eckhoff, Kallas, Lee, Hicks, Myers, Gabor and Wille.

(7) 4th Ambulance

Chief Campbell explained to Council a 4th ambulance is needed to complete coverage. Ambulances are in short supply and when one becomes on the market . It sells fast. Motion by Barr, second by Kallas to approve the purchase of a 4th ambulance when one becomes available at a cost of up to \$100,000 with Mayor and Finance Committee approval. On a roll call vote motion carried 9-0. Aye votes recorded: Barr, Giovanini, Eckhoff, Kallas, Lee, Hicks, Myers, Gabor and Wille.

(8) Transfer Billing Contract - Andres Medical Billing, LTD

Motion by Gabor, second by Wille to approve an additional contract with Andres Medical Billing, LTD for transfers. On a roll call vote motion carried 9-0. Aye votes recorded: Barr, Giovanini, Eckhoff, Kallas, Lee, Hicks, Myers, Gabor and Wille.

(9) Part-Time EMT/Paramedic Pay Rates

Motion by Myers, second by Giovanini to approve the salaries for Part-Time EMT at \$11.00 per hour and Paramedic salaries at \$17.00 per hour. On a roll call vote motion carried 9-0. Aye votes recorded: Barr, Giovanini, Eckhoff, Kallas, Lee, Hicks, Myers, Gabor and Wille.

C. Back to Business Grant

Liz Vincent explained to Council the Back to Business Grant Funding available for Small businesses in Illinois. The City will become a Community Navigator for the City to contact businesses in our area along with help from the GLCEDC for the Livingston County Area.

D. WGN Contract

Motion by Eckhoff, second by Lee to approve the model contract with WGN to represent Illinois in its Best of the Midwest Campaign. On a roll call vote motion carried 9-0. Aye votes recorded: Barr, Giovanini, Eckhoff, Kallas, Lee, Hicks, Myers, Gabor and Wille.

E. Indiana Ave Update

Brian Verdun gave an update of the Indiana Ave construction project that will begin shortly.

F. Alcohol-Riverside Part Sept 18th

Motion by Barr, second by Gabor to approve the use of Riverside Park for the plan for the sale of alcohol at the weekend Fall events (Rockin at the River & the GTOAA Car Show), partnering with the United Way, Relay for Life, who have appropriate training and will be responsible for sales. On a roll call vote motion carried 8-1. Aye votes recorded: Barr, Giovanini, Eckhoff, Kallas, Lee, Hicks, Gabor and Wille. Nay vote recorded: Myers

Mayor Comments

Mayor Alvey thanked the Fire Department for their work in the transition of the ambulance service

Administrator Comments

None

Council Comments

None

Public Comments

None

Executive Session

Motion by Giovanini second by Kallas to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Personnel and Collective Negotiating Matters as authorized under Section 2(c)2 of the Illinois Open Meetings Act. On a roll call vote motion carried 9-0. Aye votes recorded: Barr, Giovanini, Eckhoff, Kallas, Lee, Hicks, Myers, Gabor and Wille.

Adjournment

On motion duly made and seconded, the regular meeting of the City Council was adjourned.

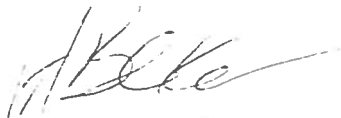
Respectfully submitted,



Sharon L Dunham
City Clerk

First of all, I would like to thank the city of Pontiac and the administration for awarding me the \$25,000 grant. Special thanks to the people that helped make it possible Stephanie Kennedy, Bob Karls, and Mayor Bill Alvey. As I mentioned before we got a total of \$25,000 which was spent on resealing our parking lot. Just as summer hit our AC units went out and a portion of the money was spent to replace all 3 of our units. We also used portions of the grant for payroll and other running expenses such as food and supplies. After this hard past year, we really were not sure how and if our business of 15 years was going to survive. With great community support and the help of city hall, we are starting to back on the right path. I truly appreciate everything that anyone has done to help. Pontiac has become a second home for me and my family and we feel truly blessed to live here.

Thank you,



Sunny Bekirovski

Dated 8/12/2021

To the Community & City of Pontiac,

I would like to start by thanking Stephanie Kennedy & Bob Karls of the City of Pontiac, for all their time and assistance with the necessary paperwork to complete the filing for the Crescent Cinemas Grant Funding. I truly appreciate all their support.

In addition to the City's help, I would also like to publicly thank the entire community for their continued support of the Theatre while our screens were dark! Showing up just to purchase Popcorn, or other theatre snacks to take home during our Curbside Concession provided us with a much needed boost. Even coming up to purchase gift cards, and not knowing if we were to ever be open again, was an incredible dedication of support in keeping us open for business. We enjoyed seeing people come out for popcorn, candy and snacks & leave with a smile during the pandemic closure! Thank You!

As everyone knows, Movie Theatres were forced to close their doors for months on end, then we were told we could reopen with restrictions in late summer of 2020, only to be forced to close again about 2 1/2 months later in November. The bills piled up with very limited income being generated, creating a backwards trajectory before we were able to re-open in late Aug 2020. In hind sight, we probably should not have tried at that time to reopen as the lack of attendance during those 2 1/2 months actually cost us more to be open than to stay closed. The movies were not coming close to meeting the bare minimums that the Studios charge to run the films, so every movie was

costing more to rent than the paid attendance coming through our doors. Our On-Screen advertisements that generally help to bring in some additional income, had also come to a halt, due to the closure & lack of attendance, it was not worth it for the advertisers to pay for advertising. It was a bleak time to be in the Theatre business.

Receiving the Grant Funds has provided much needed assistance in helping to maintain our business and keep our heads above water.

A great amount of the funding was applied towards past due bills for necessities such as our Service contracts and Warranty extensions associated with the digital projectors & equipment (\$6,000).

A portion of the funding was also utilized to pay additional piled up past due utility bills, Taxes, and film contracts.

In addition, the funding provided an avenue for us to continue our employee's payroll & pay film rental in advance, that allowed for some cushion to stay ahead of movie contract deadline payments.

The remaining Grant funds, will be utilized to assist in Purchasing a New Ice Machine (\$2,500), to replace our 15 year old unreliable existing machine.

As we look forward, we know business will be different, No one can predict if patrons will come back 100% to the theatres again! How much the attendance will be affected moving forward from this Covid virus, is yet to be determined. The movie studios are pushing their streaming services more & more, while theatres are being pushed to the brink! While we have been re-opened since Jan 24th, 2021, attendance is scarce, averaging only 45-50% compared to pre-Covid. We have lost a significant amount of business due to COVID, our School field trip showings & company group showings, which greatly contributed to our business is now non-existent.

We graciously ask for continued support from the Community & City, by coming in to see a movie once a month, coming in for some fresh popcorn to take home, telling friends & family about a movie you just saw, or maybe just sharing a Facebook post, anything & everything can help drive our business into full recovery!

We are optimistic and ready to push our business through this difficult time & look forward to movies playing on the Silver Screens in Pontiac for many years to come! We hope to see everyone at the Movies...again!

Sincerely,

Michael Occhipinti

Crescent Cinemas

AUGUST 16, 2021

TO THE PONTIAC CITY COUNCIL.

I, SHERRY ELLIOTT, WOULD LIKE TO THANK STEPHANIE KENNEDY AND BOB KARLS, FOR ALL OF THEIR DILLIGENT WORK IN HELPING ME APPLY FOR STATE GRANT MONEY,

THEIR WAS A LOT INVOLVED ON THEIR PART TO GET ALL PAPERWORK FILLED OUT PROPERLY AND SUBMITTED.

WITHOUT THEM CONTACTING ME AND THE WORK ON STEPHANIE'S PART, I WOULD NOT HAVE KNOWN I COULD APPLY FOR THE STATE GRANT.

THE GRANT MONEY SAVED US, IF NOT FOR IT, WE WOULD HAVE HAD TO POSSIBLY CLOSE THE DOOR'S TO ELLIOTT'S CORNER JUNCTION.

WITH THE PANDEMIC HITTING ALL OF US SO HARD AND ALL THE MANDATES, WE DIDN'T NO HOW MUCH LONGER WE COULD REMAIN OPEN.

I HAVE USED THE GRANT MONEY TO PAY FOR FOOD INVENTORY, PAYROLL, UTILITIES, PROPERTY TAXES.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOOD PERMIT RENEWAL, AND STATE LIQUOR LICENSE, AND CITY LIQUOR LICENSE. AND WILL CONTINUE TO USE IT TO KEEP ELLIOTT'S RUNNING.

SO A BIG THANK YOU TO STEPHANIE, BOB AND THE CITY COUNCIL FOR MAKING THIS GRANT POSSIBLE.

WITH SINCERE THANKS

SHERRY ELLIOTT

ELLIOTT'S CORNER JUNCTION

Baby Bulls, Inc has continued to struggle over the last year with many restrictions being placed upon them by the State of Illinois as a restaurant and a bar. Baby Bulls was shut down completely during the pandemic for a period but has since reopened and continues to provide services to the community of Pontiac. The Downstate Small Business Stabilization Grant funds were used for payroll, product supply and utilities for their business during the time when they were only able to provide carryout services. The money was very much needed, and they were grateful to have been given the opportunity to apply for this grant.

Baby Bull's