

The City Council of the City of Du Quoin
Minutes of the September 28, 2015 Meeting

Minutes:

The Minutes of the City Council of the City of Du Quoin, County of Perry, held on this 28th day of September in the year 2015, said meeting held in the Council Chambers of the Du Quoin City Hall.

Invocation:

City Attorney Aaron Atkins gave the invocation.

Call to Order:

Mayor Alongi called the meeting to order at 6 pm with the following individuals present: Commissioners Michael Ward, Dale Spencer, Charles Genesisio, and Gerald Whitley. City staff included City Attorney Aaron Atkins, City Treasurer Stephanie Cravens, and City Clerk Andrew Croessman.

Previous Meeting Minutes:

The Council reviewed the minutes of the meeting held on the 14th day of September. Commissioner Whitley moved, Commissioner Genesisio seconded a motion to approve the minutes. Motion passed; all ayes.

Approval of Bills:

Mayor Alongi suggested that a monthly payment in the amount of \$42,411.09 to Du Quoin School District 300 be redirected to City Attorney Aaron Atkins' trust fund until issues with the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City and District 300 are resolved, at which time the Mayor may release the funds. Commissioner Spencer questioned the frequency of payment in the amount of \$350.00 to B & J True Value for a parking lot lease. Mayor Alongi informed him it was an annual payment. Commissioner Spencer moved, Commissioner Genesisio seconded a motion to approve the bill list for September 28, 2015 conditional on that the District 300 payment be redirected to City Attorney Aaron Atkins' trust fund. Motion passed; all ayes.

Ordinances:

The following two ordinances were presented to the Council.

A. 2015-O09-01: An Ordinance Forbidding the Construction of Certain Ponds Within the Corporate Limits.

B. 2015-O09-02: An Ordinance Regulating Agricultural Grass Cutting.

Mayor Alongi stated that the aforementioned Ordinances needed to be better refined. In reference to Ordinance 2015-O09-02, he stated that he would appoint a committee to draft a better-suited Ordinance. The committee will report back by February 2016. Commissioner Genesio moved, Commissioner Ward seconded a motion to table Ordinance 2015-O09-01 and Ordinance 2015-O09-02. Motion passed; all ayes.

Resolutions:

A. Resolution 2015-R09-02: A Resolution Closing Park Street from Mulberry Street to Division Street from 6 am to 6 pm to Facilitate the Fall Festival of October 3. Commissioner Genesio moved, Commissioner Whitley seconded a motion to adopt Resolution 2015-R09-02. Motion passed; all ayes.

B. Resolution 2015-R09-03: A Resolution Condemning 353 North Chestnut Street. Commissioner Spencer moved, Commissioner Whitley seconded a motion to adopt Resolution 2015-R09-03. Motion passed; all ayes.

C. Resolution 2015-R09-04: A Resolution Rescinding Condemnations. Commissioner Spencer moved, Commissioner Whitley seconded a motion to adopt Resolution 2015-R09-05. Motion passed; all ayes.

Public Agenda:

A. Mayor Alongi introduced discussion relating to the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City and District 300. The Intergovernmental Agreement states that the City will collect a half-cent sales tax to be paid to District 300 to retire bonds issued for the construction of the High School. A condition of the Intergovernmental Agreement is that District 300 will pay the City \$585,435.88. The City contends that it should be paid a portion of \$585,435.88. Mayor Alongi stated that the City does not want to take legal action against District 300, but rather negotiate. To further discuss the issue, Mayor Alongi invited Attorney Rhett Barke to address the Council.

Mr. Barke stated that the Intergovernmental Agreement was signed in 2006 with a subsequent Addendum signed in 2008. He states that District 300 issued bonds in 2007 in the amount of \$3,000,000.00 and was retired in 2011. However, he noted that \$2,885,000 of 2007 bond issue was outstanding and put into a 2011 bond issue in the amount of \$3,960,000.00. Mr. Barke cited that the City had paid District 300 \$2,806,744.78 to date and only roughly \$115,000.00 was used to pay down bonds. Furthermore, he suggested that the City retain all half-cent sales tax revenue exceeding \$230,000 in a given year.

The consensus of the Council was to have Mayor Alongi, City Attorney Aaron Atkins, and Attorney Rhett Barke contact District 300 in search of answers and to negotiate a resolution to the issue. Commissioner Spencer moved, Commissioner Whitley seconded a motion to retain Attorney Rhett Barke for negotiations. Motion passed; all ayes.

B. Du Quoin Park Board President Joe Stephens reported to the Council on Park related activities. Mr. Stephens stated that he met with EWR Architecture to discuss Pool restoration. He stated that the Pool sweeper was being repaired for between \$300.00 and \$400.00. He noted that the Park Board purchased an additional sump pump to be placed in the Pool Pump House to ensure that the motors were kept dry. Lastly, he directed City Janitor Dean Knight to conduct a weekly check at the Pool to verify that pumps are working.

C. Commissioner Spencer suggested that the City purchase a new mosquito sprayer. He cited that the mosquito sprayer in use has exceeded its useful life. He stated that a new mosquito sprayer would cost \$9,875.00 less \$1,200 trade in value of the City's mosquito sprayer. Lastly, he stated that the City could reserve the mosquito sprayer now through Mug-A-Bug and pay in 2016.

D. Commissioner Spencer moved, Commissioner Ward seconded a motion to reserve the mosquito sprayer through Mug-A-Bug to purchase in 2016. Motion passed; all ayes.

E. City Clerk Andrew Croessman opened the lone bid for property on 537 South Jefferson Street. He stated the bid was submitted by Ronald Kujawa in the amount of \$2,777.68. Commissioner Genesisio moved, Commissioner Whitley seconded a motion to award the property on 537 South Jefferson Street to Ronald Kujawa for the amount of \$2,777.68. Motion passed; all ayes.

F. Commissioner Genesisio stated that the Street Department bucket truck is in need of repair. He told the Council that he wanted to weigh the cost of repairing versus replacing the bucket truck. He sought a motion from the Council to repair the bucket truck for less than \$7,500 if he decided to take that route. Commissioner Ward moved, Commissioner Spencer seconded a motion to authorize less than \$7,500 to repair the bucket truck. Motion passed; all ayes.

Commissioners' Comments:

Commissioner Ward had no comment.

Commissioner Genesisio thanked Attorney Rhett Barke for addressing the Council on issues related to the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City and District 300.

Commissioner Spencer promoted the upcoming Fall Festival in the City Park.

Commissioner Whitley stated that the City's Water Service was only operating at 78% efficiency. He stated that this was not acceptable and urged the Water Department to search for water leaks.

Mayor Alongi commented that Downtown Du Quoin will glow pink at night during October for Breast Cancer Awareness month. He stated that he would authorize

liquor licenses for Pheasant Hollow Winery and St. Nicholas Brewing Company to sell alcohol outside the City Park for the upcoming Fall Festival. Lastly, he stated that the City will enter into negotiations with the Village of Dowell regarding a new water rate contract.

Adjournment:

The City Council adjourned at 7:04 pm, motion by Commissioner Spencer, seconded by Commissioner Whitley; all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Croessman, City Clerk