

The City Council of the City of Du Quoin  
Minutes of the December 14 Meeting

**Minutes:**

The Minutes of the City Council of the City of Du Quoin, County of Perry, held on this 14th day of December in the year 2015, said meeting held in the Council Chambers of the Du Quoin City Hall.

**Invocation:**

City Attorney Aaron Atkins introduced Bethel Lutheran Church Pastor Mark Buetow. Pastor Buetow 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 Genesio, 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 23rd day of November. Commissioner Spencer moved, Commissioner Genesio seconded a motion to approve the minutes. Motion passed; all ayes.

**Approval of Bills:**

Commissioner Spencer moved, Commissioner Whitley seconded a motion to approve the bill list for December 14, 2015. Motion passed; all ayes.

**Guests:**

A. Paul Melzer, Southern Area 15 Director, and Bill Asbury, Softball, Inc. Founder, discussed Special Olympics and Softball, Inc. Mr. Melzer promoted the upcoming 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Indoor Softball Tournament and 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Beaver Rice Baseball Tournament. He said that last year they raised \$120,000 for Special Olympics. Mr. Asbury said that 390 teams wanted in the tournaments. He added that the overwhelming demand benefits the City through hotels and restaurants being full. Lastly, he thanked the City and Council for their continued support.

B. Loren Craig announced on behalf of Pitchford Professional Services that he was donating \$2,500 for the restoration of the City pool. He said that the City has been good to Pitchford Professional Services and wanted to pay that forward.

**Ordinances:**

A. 2015-O11-07: An Ordinance Authorizing Entering into an Intergovernmental Agreement with Community Unit District 300. Commissioner Spencer moved, Commissioner Ward seconded a motion that 2015-O11-05 be approved. Motion passed; all ayes.

B. 2015-O11-08: An Ordinance Authorizing sale of surplus real estate on North Chestnut Street by Sealed Bids. Commissioner Ward moved, Commissioner Whitley seconded a motion that 2015-O11-08 be approved. Motion passed; all ayes.

C. 2015-O11-09: An Ordinance Authorizing 4-year Contract with Arthur J. Gallagher. Commissioner Genesio moved, Commissioner Spencer seconded a motion that 2015-O11-09 be approved. Motion passed; all ayes.

D. 2015-O11-10: An Ordinance Approving renewal of Insurance package for 2016. Commissioner Spencer moved, Commissioner Whitley seconded a motion that 2015-O11-10 be approved. Motion passed; all ayes.

E. 2015-O12-01: An Ordinance Clarifying the Residency Requirements for Employees. City Attorney Atkins said that after the effective date of this ordinance, all new full time and part time employees must reside within the limits of District 300. However, he said this ordinance contains a waiver provision by a unanimous vote of the Council. Commissioner Spencer moved, Commissioner Ward seconded a motion to put 2015-O12-01 on public display. Motion passed; all ayes.

F. 2015-O12-02: An Ordinance Authorizing the Amendment of the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Du Quoin. Zoning Administrator Jeff Ashauer said that the Zoning Board met on November 19. At the meeting, the Board decided that it is in the City's best interests to amend the language of permitted uses in the C-2 Highway Business District to include "sales and services including food banks, soup kitchens, and similar public charitable organizations serving food to the public". He said that this passed the Board 4-0. Commissioner Whitley moved, Commissioner Ward seconded a motion that 2015-O12-02 be approved. Motion passed; all ayes.

G: 2015-O12-03: An Ordinance Amending the Zoning Code and the Official Zoning Map of the City of Du Quoin. Zoning Administrator Ashauer said that this ordinance amends the Zoning Code and Map to include a land parcel of 11.34 acres adjacent to Greens Market Road in the G-1 General Industrial District. Commissioner Ward moved, Commissioner Genesio seconded a motion that 2015-O12-03 be approved. Motion passed; all ayes.

H: 2015-O12-04: An Ordinance Enacting the Budget for Fiscal Year 2016. Commissioner Spencer introduced the 2016 Budget. He said that the Budget provides for general fund revenue of \$3.87 million with expenditures of \$3.89 million. In regards to the proprietary fund, the Budget is balanced with revenues and expenditures of \$2.59 million. In sum, total revenue is \$8.14 million with total expenditures of \$7.98 million

resulting in a surplus of \$158,000. Next, City Clerk Andrew Croessman outlined the Budget process and how Interim Budget and Finance Director Chuck Novak and he arrived at the figures. Moreover, City Clerk Croessman provided the Council with financial goals for the City including increasing cash reserves from \$1.06 million to \$3.42 million, and decreasing the wage expense to total expense ratio from 71% to 60%. Commissioner Spencer moved, Commissioner Genesisio seconded a motion to put 2015-O12-04 on public display. Motion passed; all ayes.

I: 2015-O12-05: An Ordinance Authorizing the Construction of a Ramp on the East Sidewalk of South Division Street to serve the New Business at 101 E. Main Street. Commissioner Genesisio said that he met with the building contractor Porter Construction and they decided that the most cost effective way of making the building handicap accessible is to construct a handicap ramp on the west side of the building. Commissioner Ward moved, Commissioner Whitley seconded a motion to put 2015-O12-05 on public display. Motion passed; all ayes.

**Resolutions:**

A. 2015-R11-03: A Resolution Authorizing sale of surplus real estate at 130 South Division Street to Alan Porter for 80% of Appraised Value. Commissioner Genesisio moved, Commissioner Spencer seconded a motion that 2015-R11-03 be approved. Motion passed; all ayes.

B. 2015-R11-04: A Resolution Authorizing a \$10,000 stipend to the Pinckneyville - Du Quoin Airport. Commissioner Whitley moved, Commissioner Genesisio seconded a motion that 2015-R11-04 be approved. Motion passed; all ayes.

C. 2015-R12-01: A Resolution for Maintenance of Streets and Highways by Municipality under the Illinois Highway Code. Commissioner Genesisio said that there is an increase in street maintenance costs due to the City being behind on oil and chip projects and the repaving of Division Street. For 2016, the total estimated street maintenance costs are \$297,047. Commissioner Whitley moved, Commissioner Ward seconded a motion to put 2015-R12-01 on public display. Motion passed; all ayes.

D. 2015-R12-02: A Resolution Re-appointing Auxiliary and Part Time Police and Volunteer Firemen and Waiving Residency Requirement. Mayor Alongi said that this resolution corrects the City's books and reappoints part time personnel and waives any applicable residency requirements. Commissioner Ward moved, Commissioner Genesisio seconded a motion to put 2015-R12-02 on public display. Motion passed; all ayes with the exception of Commissioner Spencer who abstained.

**Public Agenda:**

A. Discussion of proposed amendments to Liquor Code. Mayor Alongi said he wants to amend the Liquor Code to include the following: keep liquor licenses at \$1,000, limit licenses to two video game parlors, reduce single event licenses to \$50 per day,

require that taverns remove tint from windows, and require that all businesses with licenses have a surveillance system within 12 months. Commissioner Genesio suggested that if businesses are not in compliance with having a surveillance system, then, give them 48 hours to comply before penalizing them. Commissioner Whitley suggested that there should be a required minimum amount of surveillance coverage. No action was taken.

B. Discussion of wage increases for certain supervisory full time, non-union employees. Mayor Alongi said that Police Sergeants and Fire Captain are behind the curve in wages. He suggested that they receive a \$0.60 raise on their third, sixth, and ninth anniversary at that rank. No action was taken.

**Commissioners' Comments:**

Commissioners Ward and Genesio had no comment.

Commissioners Spencer and Whitley wished everyone a Merry Christmas and complimented the downtown Christmas decorations.

Mayor Alongi said that there were 600 cars at the Holiday Lights on Saturday night and 200 children visited with Santa Claus downtown. He also announced that a citizen donated \$1,000 to be randomly distributed by the Police Department to needy families.

**Adjournment:**

The City Council adjourned at 7:12 pm, motion by Commissioner Spencer, seconded by Commissioner Whitley; all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

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Andrew Croessman, City Clerk