

**The City Council of the City of Du Quoin  
Minutes of the Monday, December 14, 2020**

**Minutes:**

The Minutes of the City Council of the City of Du Quoin, County of Perry, held on this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December in the year 2020, said meeting held in the Council Chambers of the Du Quoin City Hall.

**Invocation:**

Ms. Jane Pritchert of the Du Quoin Ministerial Alliance gave the invocation and Mayor Alongi led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Call to Order:**

Mayor Alongi called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following individuals attending: Commissioners Jill Kirkpatrick, Charles Genesio, Michael Ward, and Bob Karnes. City staff present included City Attorney Aaron Atkins and City Clerk Ruth Hale.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The Council approved the Open Session Council minutes of the November 23<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Motion:** Commissioner Kirkpatrick      **Second:** Commissioner Karnes

**Ayes:** All      **Nays:** None

The Council approved the Minutes of the December 4<sup>th</sup> Truth in Taxation Public Hearing

**Motion:** Commissioner Karnes      **Second:** Commissioner Kirkpatrick

**Ayes:** All      **Nays:** None

**Approval of Bills to be Paid:**

The Council approved payment of the bill list.

**Motion:** Commissioner Kirkpatrick      **Second:** Commissioner Karnes

**Ayes:** All      **Nays:** None

**Ordinances:**

A. 2020-O11-05: An Ordinance Authorizing the Extension of an Option to Lease Twelve Acres in the Du Quoin Industrial Park with Sun Vest New Energy, LLC (Final Approval)

**Motion:** Commissioner Genesio      **Second:** Commissioner Ward

**Ayes:** All      **Nays:** None

B. 2020-O11-06: An Ordinance Establishing an Enterprise Zone in The City of Du Quoin, Illinois, The City of Pinckneyville, Illinois, The Village of St. Johns, Illinois, and Perry County, Illinois (Final Approval)

**Motion:** Commissioner Karnes                      **Second:** Commissioner Kirkpatrick

**Ayes:** All    **Nays:** None

C. 2020-O11-07: An Ordinance Enacting a Policy Statement Expressing a Commitment to Encourage the Development of Business Entities Owned by Minorities ,Women and Persons With Disabilities, and to Encourage the Hiring of Minority Persons, Women and Persons with Disabilities within the Perry County Enterprise Zone (Final Approval)

**Motion:** Commissioner Karnes                      **Second:** Commissioner Kirkpatrick

**Ayes:** All    **Nays:** None

D. 2020-O12-01: An Ordinance Levying Taxes for Corporate Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Display)

**Motion:** Commissioner Kirkpatrick                      **Second:** Commissioner Karnes

**Ayes:** All    **Nays:** None

E. 2020-O12-02: An Ordinance Levying Taxes for Library Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Display)

**Motion:** Commissioner Kirkpatrick                      **Second:** Commissioner Karnes

**Ayes:** All    **Nays:** None

F. 2020-O12-03: An Ordinance Enacting the Budget for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Display)

**Motion:** Commissioner Karnes                      **Second:** Commissioner Kirkpatrick

**Ayes:** All    **Nays:** None

G. 2020-O12-04: An Ordinance Authorizing the Renewal of the City’s Insurance Package (Public Display)

**Motion:** Commissioner Kirkpatrick                      **Second:** Commissioner Karnes

**Ayes:** All    **Nays:** None

**Resolutions:**

A. 2020-RI1-01: A Resolution Adopting a Budget for Du Quoin Tax Increment Financing Districts #1, #2, and #3 for 2021 Revenues Collected in 2020 (Final Approval)

**Motion:** Commissioner Kirkpatrick                      **Second:** Commissioner Karnes

**Ayes:** All **Nays:** None

B. 2020-RI1-04: A Resolution Waiving Bidding Pursuant to Section 1-2-43(B) for the lease of a 2018 Case 580 Super N Loader BackHoe (Final Approval)

**Motion:** Commissioner Karnes **Second:** Commissioner Genesio

**Ayes:** All **Nays:** None

C. 2020-RI1-05: A Resolution Authorizing a Municipal Lease and Option Agreement for a 2018 Case 580 Super N Loader Backhoe (Final Approval)

**Motion:** Commissioner Karnes **Second:** Commissioner Genesio

**Ayes:** All **Nays:** None

D. 2020-R11-07: A Resolution Waiving Bidding Pursuant to Section 1-2-43(B) for the lease of a 2021 Ford F-250 Pickup Truck (Final Approval)

**Motion:** Commissioner Genesio **Second:** Commissioner Karnes

**Ayes:** All **Nays:** None

E. 2020-R11-08: A Resolution Waiving Bidding Pursuant to Section 1-2-43(B) for the lease of a 2020 Ford F-150 Pickup Truck (Final Approval)

**Motion:** Commissioner Genesio **Second:** Commissioner Karnes

**Ayes:** All **Nays:** None

F. Resolution 2020-R12-01: A Resolution Authorizing a Redevelopment Agreement with the Du Quoin Community Development Corporation to Establish and Conduct a New Roof Program for Commercial Buildings in Downtown Du Quoin (Public Display)

**Motion:** Commissioner Kirkpatrick **Second:** Commissioner Karnes

**Ayes:** All **Nays:** None

G. Resolution 2020-R12-02: A Resolution Authorizing a Redevelopment Agreement between the City of Du Quoin and Du Quoin Tourism Commission, Inc. for 20 North Chestnut Street (Public Display)

**Motion:** Commissioner Karnes **Second:** Commissioner Kirkpatrick

**Ayes:** All **Nays:** None

H. Resolution 2020-R12-03: A Resolution Authorizing Appropriation for Maintenance Costs of Streets and Highways for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Display)

**Motion:** Commissioner Karnes                      **Second:** Commissioner Genesio

**Ayes:** All    **Nays:** None

I. Resolution 2020-R12-04: Memorandum of Understanding by and between the Applicant Parties of the Perry County Enterprise Zone Concerning the Creation and Establishment of Designated Zone Organizations (Final Approval)

**Motion:** Commissioner Karnes                      **Second:** Commissioner Kirkpatrick

**Ayes:** All    **Nays:** None

**Other Business:**

Mayor Alongi discussed the tax revenues for the City of Du Quoin year ending 2020. In summation, the City is behind approximately \$213,000 from 2019 in the categories not restricted, Municipal and Home Rule sales tax and Local Use (online) sales tax. And there are indicators that the first few months in 2021 will fall short of 2020 and 2019's totals. There is also a possibility that the Income tax in 2021 will be below 2020 as many were laid off due to the pandemic.

**Commissioners' Comments:**

Genesio – Wished all a Merry Christmas. Prayers for Josh Gross's father and all those sick with Covid. Hope everyone does their best to keep their families safe. There are things that you have to do like going to work. Wished everyone a speedy recovery. Addressed the property tax increase, was emphatic that none of the commissioners want to put the burden on the citizens. Asked everyone to bombard the State Legislatures with requests to fix the issue. The folks in Springfield can fix it if there is support to do it. Everyone downstate municipality needs to petition the legislature to find a fix and possible move the downstate pensions into IMRF. Our first responders need to know they have security with their pensions. He said God Bless everyone and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Ward – Wished a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone. He stated he never thought the pandemic would hit this close to home. Asked for prayers for the vaccine and cure. He said it shows what the community thinks of our 1<sup>st</sup> responders as they did not complain about the tax increase. He was insistent that we have to keep going to find solutions to fund the pension and not put the burden on our taxpayers. To Aaron Akins, he was glad he was o.k. after his accident over the weekend. He knew that Aaron was a Christian man that he was thanking God for protecting him. He said he appreciated what everyone does and let's continue to work together.

Kirkpatrick – Echoed what was said previously. She was glad Aaron was alright and asked for prayers for David Gross and his family. She offered condolences for Dave Eaton's family. Wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Karnes – Told Aaron Atkins that he was glad he was o.k, mentioned prayers for David Gross and condolences for the Eaton's. He wanted to mentioned that the Teachers Retirement fund in Illinois had not been fully funded since 1956. And the State needs to fix the pension issues. He then wished everyone a Merry Christmas and reminded them to remember the true meaning of Christmas. Stay safe

and concerned about others. He gave congratulations to Eric Kirkpatrick on being name Coach of the Year for his work with the girls cross-country and track teams. He also praised Cody Doerflein on his accomplishments, his is a good story that was published in the Southern Illinoisan. Coach Karnes also wanted it known that there was an article in the Southern about him that neglected to give his wife the credit she deserves. Pat Karnes has always been there supporting him and the families and kids of Du Quoin.

Hale – Thanked everyone for a difficult first year as City Clerk. Reminded everyone that there is a lot to be thankful for and during this season to take time to remember those blessings. Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mayor – Responded to Commissioner Genesio and said that some morning he wakes up mad. Said we all have had to deal with things we have never dealt with before. We cannot fix these things. Especially pensions. It is bigger than us. All downstate municipalities need to come together to propose a solution. He thanked the tourism girls for the lights fair. Attendance at the Fairgrounds has been great. Last weekend saw almost 600 children to visit Santa. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas. Said the pandemic has not been easy. Sometimes text messages take emotions out of it and we misunderstand others. We have all had times when we have not gotten along but we need to remember what we were elected to do and that is represent the citizens of Du Quoin. We must embrace and respect each other. Agree to disagree. We will see each other on the 28<sup>th</sup> and hope that all have a Merry Christmas and that 2021 is a more prosperous year. The State of Illinois announced a lineup for the 2021 State Fair so that shows they are in support of our community. They understand what an economic driver the Fair is so that is good news. Thoughts and prayers to Josh Gross and his father. Pray for everyone to get through the holidays.

**Public Comment:**

Mayor Alongi announced that the City Hall phone line (618) 542-2895 was open for public comment at 6:42 p.m. Public comment was closed at 6:45 p.m.

**Adjournment:**

The City Council adjourned at 6:45 pm.

**Motion:** Commissioner Karnes                      **Second:** Commissioner Kirkpatrick

**Ayes:** All    **Nays:** None

Respectfully submitted,



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Ruth Hale, City Clerk