

**The City Council of the City of Du Quoin
Minutes of the Monday, July 26, 2021 Meeting**

Minutes:

The Minutes of the City Council of the City of Du Quoin, County of Perry, held on this 26th day of July in the year 2021, said meeting held in the Council Chambers of the Du Quoin City Hall.

Invocation:

City Attorney Aaron Atkins 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 Charles Genesio, Michael Ward, and Bob Karnes. Commissioner Jill Kirkpatrick was absent. City staff present included City Attorney Aaron Atkins, City Clerk Ruth, and City Treasurer Stephanie Cravens.

Approval of Minutes:

The Council approved the Open Session Council minutes of the July 12th meeting

Motion: Commissioner Karnes **Second:** Commissioner Ward

Ayes: All **Nays:** None

Approval of Bills to be Paid:

The Council approved payment of the bill list and payroll report.

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

Ayes: All **Nays:** None

Appointments:

The Council approved the appointments of Braylyn G. Funk and Shelby D. Maglich to Part-time Telecommunicators

Motion: Commissioner Ward **Second:** Commissioner Karnes

Ayes: All **Nays:** None

The Council approved the appointments of Nathan L. Bebout to Part-time Police Officer

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

Ayes: All **Nays:** None

The Council approved the appointments of Bryce E. Clarry to Part-time Police Officer

Motion: Commissioner Ward **Second:** Commissioner Karnes

Commissioner Genesio would like the Executive Session audio from June 14th transcribed and redacted and added to the next agenda for release.

Commissioners' Comments:

Genesio: Congratulations and welcome to the those that were hired tonight. Welcome to the workforce.

Ward: Welcome to the new hires. There will most likely be a badge presentation at the next council meeting.

Karnes: Congratulations and welcome to the team. Prayers with Jill and safe journey on her return.

Mayor: Hello to Andrew Croessman the previous City Clerk that is joining us tonight. Also, the Back to School event has raised around \$5,000. It should be a great event for the kids. We have received donations for food and drinks and there will be a magic show and bouncy house. It should be a fun time.

Public Comment:

Mayor Alongi asked if anyone was in attendance that would like to make a comment during the public comment portion at 6:10 p.m.

Cindy Russel of Winters Street addressed the council regarding flooding of her home on Friday. The city had experienced torrential rainfall of over seven and half inches in a couple of hours. As a result, her home flooded for the second time since in four years and she said about 20 others as well. She stated that she does not have insurance and has recently battled cancer. She would like the city to either purchase her home or use funds to fix the storm drain so it can prevent flooding in the future. She stated that she is on a fixed income and cannot afford the repairs and may have to sell her home. She pleaded for assistance from the city. Again, she mentioned that her and her neighbors were flooded and needed help. The Mayor sympathized with her situation and explained that due to the massive amount of rainfall, it would have been impossible for any storm drains to handle that much water very quickly. He promised to have Commissioner Genesio meet with her to check into possibilities with FEMA and flood plain designations. Genesio asked her to get a list of the neighbors that she mentioned that were affected before they met to assist him as he researches what assistance may be available.

Lester Furlow discussed two issues. The first is the house next to his mother-in-law on Illinois Avenue. Aaron gave the status update - he is currently trying to serve a tax buying company that is in another state. He hopes to have it completed by the end of August. The second is a house owned by the 2nd Baptist Church with no electricity or water. The tenants are using a generator and urinating and defecating in the bushes in the yard. The neighbors have complained repeatedly. The church is trying to evict but Governor Pritzker's moratorium on evictions will not be lifted until August 1st. Aaron explained that it may be September before they could be removed from the premises.

Public comment was closed at 6:29 p.m.

Adjournment:

The City Council adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Motion: Commissioner Genesio

Second: Commissioner Karnes

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Hale

Ruth Hale, City Clerk