

**The City Council of the City of Du Quoin
Minutes of the Monday, August 23, 2021 Meeting**

Minutes:

The Minutes of the City Council of the City of Du Quoin, County of Perry, held on this 23rd day of August 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 Jill Kirkpatrick, Charles Genesio, Michael Ward, and Bob Karnes. 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 August 9th meeting.

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

Ayes: All **Nays:** None

The Council voted to retain the audio of the Executive Session of the April 12th City Council Meeting.

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

Ayes: Genesio, Ward **Nays:** Kirkpatrick, Karnes, Alongi

Approval of Bills to be Paid:

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

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

Ayes: All **Nays:** None

Guests:

Matt Hortenstine, J&J Ventures Gaming, LLC, commented in opposition to proposed Ordinance 2021-008-02 Pertaining to the Amusement Tax.

Travis Akin, Support Mainstreet Illinois Coalition, commented in opposition onto proposed Ordinance 2021-008-02 Pertaining to the Amusement Tax

Keith Botsch, Silver Dollar Gaming, commented in opposition to proposed Ordinance 2021-008-02 Pertaining to the Amusement Tax

The Mayor provided a rebuttal: The City of Du Quoin only charges \$25 per terminal. The City also limits the number of licenses available to businesses in order to keep those businesses that have licenses from losing more revenues. The last month, the city has had five requests for new licenses and all were turned down. He has also had a conversation with the lawyer on the case for the lawsuit against the municipalities that currently approved a Push Tax. The attorney believes they will win the case. If the lawsuit is won, this ordinance will not be implemented. If Senate Bill 521 is passed, a grandfather clause will be added that allows municipalities that pass the Push Tax prior to that date to keep the ordinance on the books. Du Quoin received \$173,000 last year from the machines. That is roughly five percent of the proceeds. The city has an obligation to taxpayers to get this tax on the books. The council is trying to help our town and community. It's not a tax on everyone, it's on the person making the push.

Ordinances:

A. Ordinance 2021-O08-01: An Ordinance Establishing Process and Procedure for the Use of the Contingency Reserve Fund Proceeds of the General Obligation Pension Bonds Series 2021 (Final Approval)

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

Ayes: All **Nays:** None

B. Ordinance 2021-O08-02: An Ordinance Pertaining to Amusement Taxes for the City of Du Quoin (Final Approval)

Motion: Commissioner Kirkpatrick **Second:** Commissioner Ward

Ayes: All **Nays:** None

C. Ordinance 2021-O08-04: An Ordinance Pertaining to the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (Final Approval)

Motion: Commissioner Kirkpatrick **Second:** Commissioner Genesio

Ayes: All **Nays:** None

D. Ordinance 2021-O08-05: An Ordinance Authorizing the City of Du Quoin to Enter into a Memorandum of Agreement Public Display)

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

Ayes: All **Nays:** None

Resolutions:

A. Resolution 2021-R08-01: Resolution Authorizing a Grant Application to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for an Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development Grant to Benefit the Du Quoin Municipal Swimming Pool Complex (Final Approval)

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

Ayes: All **Nays:** None

B. A. Resolution 2021-R08-02: Resolution Authorizing Issuance of Fund-raising Road-Block Permit for the Knights of Columbus (Final Approval)

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

Ayes: All **Nays:** None

13.) Other Business:

Mayor Alongi informed the council that in order for the council to receive a raise for the next term, they must propose it at least six months ahead of the election. He asked if they would like to consider a raise based on the Consumer Price Index rate of inflation from the previous raise date to the next term. Commissioner Ward said he didn't think that should address it now and should leave it as is. People don't run for the money, they run to serve. Karnes agreed with Ward, especially since we have been going through Covid. Consensus of Council was to not act at this time.

The Second item was a discussion regarding agenda items. The council concluded that some items may require more than two meetings to discuss. Therefore, it was determined that items will be added for debate/public display prior to final approval leaving room for an additional week of discussion if necessary.

Commissioners' Comments:

Ward: no comment

Kirkpatrick: Welcome everyone, it's Fair time.

Karnes: Welcome government class. Thanks for coming.

Mayor: Mask up if you can, get the vaccination if you can. Government class, welcome. Go out and enjoy the Du Quoin State Fair and be safe.

Public Comment:

Public comment was closed at 7:13 p.m.

Adjournment:

The City Council adjourned at 7:13 pm.

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

Ayes: All **Nays:** None

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Hale

Ruth Hale, City Clerk