

**The City Council of the City of Du Quoin
Minutes of the Monday, November 8, 2021 Meeting**

Minutes:

The Minutes of the City Council of the City of Du Quoin, County of Perry, held on this 8th day of November in the year 2021, said meeting held in the Council Chambers of the Du Quoin City Hall.

Invocation:

Bill Wiggs of Sunfield Methodist Church 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 and Michael Ward. Attending via teleconference was Commissioner Bob Karnes. City staff present included City Attorney Aaron Atkins, City Clerk Ruth Hale, and City Treasurer Stephanie Cravens.

Approval of Minutes:

The Council approved the Open Session Council minutes of the October 25th meeting.

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

Ayes: All **Nays:** None

The Council approved and retained the Executive Session Council minutes of the October 25th meeting.

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

Ayes: All **Nays:** None

Appointments:

Motion and vote to Appoint Keith J. Norris as Auxiliary Policeman

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

Ayes: All **Nays:** None

Guests

Ms. Paula Dunlap introduced Dr. Sam Indorante to make remarks regarding drainage at Solitude Subdivision. Both are residents of Solitude drive. Dr. Indorante spoke on behalf of himself, Dr. Patrick Riley, and Ms. Paula Dunlap. He indicated that they are all in favor of the Annexation of Solitude Drive. He is Certified Professional Soil Scientist retired from the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Services after 34 years and is currently an Adjunct Professor at Southern Illinois University. He then provided the council a handout of the area for

discussion. Their concern was surface water and drainage issues in the strip pit. He provided a scenario from July 11 -16, 2021 when Du Quoin received major rainfalls according to the National Weather Service. He said the high amounts of rainfall caused water to impede drainage, seep into back yards, and allegedly caused sump pump failure in one residents' basement. He respectfully offered his expertise and assistance to help address the drainage issue. He thanked the council.

Donald Bigham, Esq., made remarks on behalf of Rick and Connie Krone regarding Solitude Subdivision. He responded to Dr. Indorante comments indicating that Rick and Connie would certainly want to see what he had presented and would want to help alleviate it. The Krones submitted a plat of the four lots for development in the subdivision. They are going to comply with specifications for the road and the Ordinance requirements. The Krones have signed the petition for Annexation and are asking the council to proceed. If the Plat is satisfactory, they would like it approved first and then the Annexation. The Ordinance requires a bond be posted, and the Resolution includes the Performance Bond. They believe the matter is in order tonight.

The Mayor asked if there were any questions. There were no questions. The Mayor said there were some drainage issues that are two separate issues. The city would address the issue caused by some work that was conducted by the city. The Mayor then called for the question.

Ordinances:

A. A. Resolution 2021-R11-03: Resolution Authorizing Approval of the Plat of "Solitude" Second Addition to the City of Du Quoin, Illinois (Final Approval)

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

Ayes: All **Nays:** None

B. Ordinance 2021-O09-05: An Ordinance for Annexation (Final Approval)

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

Ayes: All **Nays:** None

C. Ordinance 2021-O10-05: An Ordinance Waiving Bidding Pursuant to Section 1-2-43 (B) The Ordinances of the City of Du Quoin, Office Renovation (Final Approval)

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

Ayes: All **Nays:** None

D. Resolution 2021-R10-05: Resolution Authorizing Entry into an Agreement for Engineering Services between the City of Du Quoin and Clarida & Ziegler for the Delta Regional Authority Community Development Block Grant (Final Approval)

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

Ayes: All **Nays:** None

E. Resolution 2021-R10-06: Resolution Authorizing Entry into an Agreement for Engineering Services between the City of Du Quoin and Clarida & Ziegler for the Economic Development Administration Grant (Water Tower Project) (Final Approval)

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

Ayes: All **Nays:** None

F. Resolution 2021-R10-07: Resolution Closing Certain Streets for Trunk-or-Treat (Final Approval)

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

Ayes: All **Nays:** None

F. Resolution 2021-R11-01: Resolution Authorizing Issuance of a Parade Permit to Facilitate a Christmas Parade (Final Approval)

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

Ayes: All **Nays:** None

G. Resolution 2021-R11-02: Resolution Authorizing Closing Certain Streets for Christmas Parade and Related Activities (Final Approval)

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

Ayes: All **Nays:** None

Other Business:

Commissioner Comments:

Cravens: Congratulate girls and boys cross-country team for their fantastic Saturday and Coach Kirkpatrick.

Genesio: ditto

Ward: ditto

Karnes: He is proud of the team and the individuals. That is a feather in the hat for all of Du Quoin.

Kirkpatrick: same, congrats to Olivia Phillips and Landon Swinney.

Mayor: ditto on the team congratulations. Veterans' parade is Thursday at 10:00am.

Public Comment:

The Mayor called for public comment at 6:23 p.m. Public comment was closed at 6:40 p.m.

Keith Norris made a statement on behalf of his generation, "Z". This summer he organized a walk on Fridays with the American flag to show his support for the men and women that work as first responders in our country. He congratulated those first responders hired and promoted at last council meeting. He thanked the first responders and reminded them that they are appreciated. He thanked Chief Ingram and the council for hiring him as an auxiliary police officer.

Pete Spitler presented research on the legend of Doctor Du Quoin. Professional curiosity brought him to research Johnathan J. Black "Dr. Du Quoin" from the 1890's. Most records have went missing. He

was able to locate a relative, Elsie Reed, that provided him some history and Cyrus Black's journal (a relative of Jonathan Jedidiah Black, born 9/20/1868 in Du Quoin. He was a well-known prominent physician turned "seance hosting" mortician in 1898. He supposedly died saving a child from a train, 06/7/1914. The legend says he supposedly arrives two weeks before Halloween and leaves Halloween night. There was indication his return took place until 1927. The journal also foretells that the Dr. will return in 2021.

Stephen Burnett made comments regarding Assistant Police Chief Howard Baxter. He was glad to see Asst. Chief Baxter walk down main street greeting citizens and business owners. He felt the town would be a better place if all officers took the time to get out and do the same. He then made a comment that he thought his title should be changed to Captain Baxter. The Mayor explained that his title is according to city ordinance and that captain is a lower rank than assistant police chief.

The Mayor echoed that Howard is a great public relations officer. He also said the night shift officers would have a hard time doing what Howard is able to do. But perhaps the day shift can do some more. He was glad that someone in town came forward to give his perspective. So often we hear the bad, it is nice to hear the good.

Adjournment:

The City Council adjourned at 6:40 pm.

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

Ayes: All **Nays:** None

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Hale

Ruth Hale, City Clerk