



ROBINS CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE JULY 1, 2024 MEETING

Mayor Hinz called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Robins City Hall on Monday, July 1, 2024. After the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, roll call was taken with Councilors Leigh Cook, Mike Foley, Dave Franzman, Cary Smith and JD Smith present along with Attorney Holly Corkery, Deputy Clerk Lisa Goodin, Fire Chief Keith Feldkamp, Police Captain Gary Manhart, and Building Official/Superintendent of Public Works Mike Kortenkamp. Absent was City Clerk Lori Pickart. Attorney Corkery noted item 12b is addressed in the personnel policy and does not need to be addressed again. JD Smith moved to approve the agenda as amended, Franzman seconded and all voted aye.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mayor Hinz commented the 3rd Farmers Market of the year was well attended, adding city staff has been busy with various summer projects.
- Public Works Coordinator JD Smith noted the annual sewer infiltration inspections are nearly complete with two of the three the repairs made. He noted the drainage area relating to the SE Trunk Sanitary Sewer project is working as it should with the recent rains.
- Parks Coordinator Dave Franzman reported an increase in the park usage with the baseball teams, adding soccer is also well attended. He noted the city of Hiawatha is building four pickleball courts in Guthrie Park right across the street from Hiawatha Elementary, adding that could have implications as to what may occur in the future Robins Landing park.
- Finance Coordinator Leigh Cook noted there is not much to report at this time.
- Streets Coordinator Carey Smith noted Kortenkamp in the process of getting estimates for repairs on W. Main Street, along with getting core samples taken along North Center Point Road to see what lies underneath the asphalt for future repairs. She noted Linn County REC is currently working on getting electricity to the new Robins Landing subdivision from Quass Road, adding they are boring the work, not tearing up Main Street.
- Public Safety Coordinator Mike Foley noted the fire calls were down for the month of June from the normal average of 22. He added the police have had a pretty typical month in June with calls for assists, citations, etc.
- Mayor Hinz noted the Engineer's Report was included in the packet.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

- There were no comments relating to agenda items.
- With Non-Agenda items Molly Donahue, 4408 Pepperwood Hill, Marion spoke briefly about her candidacy for Linn County Supervisor.
- Brooke McLaughlin, 3335 Wild Rose Road spoke as the President of the Wildflower Neighborhood home owners association. She noted the association has installed a light pole on the corner of Twinleaf and Wild Rose Roads. as there are no street lights in the area noting a lot of families and kids access the pond area, adding it is a safety concern. She noted the contractor applied for a permit with the city of Cedar Rapids as they have Cedar Rapids addresses in this area, but come to find out they should have asked the city of Robins. She noted the city pays for the electricity to all of the other street lights in the sub-division and the association is asking permission to add the light to the city electricity by the sewer lift station. Councilor JD Smith noted a permit has been pulled, but not yet picked up or paid for. There was discussion relating to the location of the power source to run the pump for the private pond, so the HOA could pay for the electricity. Ms. McLaughlin noted there was no other electricity close to the pole location. Mr. Smith noted it was his understanding the electricity was connected to the lift station power source. When the city disconnected it, someone cut the city's padlock and connected it back up. Ms. McLaughlin noted once that happened, they thought they should probably get a hold of the city of Robins. Mayor Hinz noted the city will look into the situation and see what steps should be taken to remedy the problem.
- AJ Becker, 3385 Heartleaf Rd also spoke in favor of this connection.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Hinz asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda which contained the Minutes of the June 17th and June 24th meetings, along with the List of Bills submitted. Feldkamp noted the value listed for one of the firefighters was listed incorrectly on the list of bills along with a duplication of the Doors, Inc. invoice. Smith moved to approve the Consent Agenda as amended, Franzman seconded. On the vote, all voted aye.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. The Council reviewed the request of Clifford McDonald to be allowed to construct a 28' x 40' (1,140 s/f) accessory building on his property located at 3365 Singer Hill Lane. It was noted the siding of the building would match that of the primary structure (home). C. Smith moved to approve Resolution No. 0724-3, approving Mr. McDonald's request, Foley seconded and all voted aye.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Council Rules. Mayor Hinz noted this has been added to the agenda to talk about council processes. He noted the first meeting of the month is generally the business meeting to approve resolutions, minutes, bills, etc. He added the mid-month meeting is supposed to be more of a work session, but has somewhat swayed away from that. Foley noted he would like to have agenda items and citizen comments at each and every council meeting. He would like to have a more open agenda for the public to learn what is done by the council. He commented he believes the Council should set the agenda and come up with agenda items. He added he feels if someone wants something on the next agenda, they should be able to have it added, adding it should be on the very next meeting. He noted he would like to have the meetings be all at the same time as it is confusing when there are some at 7:00 p.m. and others at 5:30. Mayor Hinz noted we could think about these items. Cook asked if there should be more than one point of contact with the Attorney? It was noted the contract states the Mayor and City Clerk are the two points of contact. Attorney Corkery noted we do that just so we are not all asking the same question and getting billed six times. Foley notes he feels any council person should be able to contact the attorney at any time.
- b. Item b was removed from the Agenda.
- c. Opt-out Insurance Stipend. Foley asked what the employee insurance benefit really was. Why are we wanting to pay someone to not partake in our health insurance plan? Foley would like to know what the city is offering for insurance. It was noted the city pays 90% of the premium with the employee paying 10%. Foley noted he feels this is not a good idea. Either the employee takes the City's insurance plan or they don't. He doesn't understand why we are paying people to not take our plan. Carey Smith asked when this option would be available. Attorney Corkery noted the proposed resolution states January 1, 2025. Mayor Hinz noted we could discuss this at our next meeting. JD Smith noted he feels this is a short-term fix which can be changed at any time. He noted we could change it with another resolution. Foley noted he doesn't know what the hurry is.
- d. Resolution No. 0724-2, approving the "Opt-out" Stipend in Lieu of Enrollment of the City's Health Insurance Program and the 2025 Waiver of Insurance" form. JD Smith moved to approve said resolution, Franzman seconded. On the vote, all voted aye except Mike Foley who voted no.
- e. Reserve Officer pay. Mayor Hinz noted Attorney Corkery has done some research relating to payment for reserve police officers. Captain Manhart explained the reserve program to the council. Mayor Hinz noted we will work on creating a policy for the next meeting.

The Council adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Chuck Hinz, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lori Pickart, City Clerk/Treasurer