

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
OF THE ANNA CITY COUNCIL
AUGUST 17TH, 2021**

The Anna City Council met in regular session at Anna City Hall at 5:02 p.m. on August 17th, 2021. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Steve Hartline. The roll call went as follows: Present were Commissioner Michael Bigler, Commissioner Kathy Bryan, Commissioner Bryan Miller, Commissioner Martha Ann Webb and Mayor Steve Hartline.

Mayor Steve Hartline recognized Street Foreman, Billy Halter, for his 26 years of service to the City of Anna and congratulated him on his upcoming retirement.

City Administrator Dori Bigler informed council on August 11th, Public Works Manager Dahmer, Jon David Belcher, Billy Abernathy and herself met regarding a request from Mr. Abernathy and Mr. Belcher. Discussion was held regarding issues at Twin Springs. Ms. Bigler asked that they present their plan and request to the council.

Billy Abernathy, with Shawnee Professional Services, and John David Belcher, representing Twin Springs subdivision board, introduced themselves to the council. Mr. Abernathy explained he is aware that there had been individuals approach the council at previous meetings regarding Twin Springs, however, those individuals were not representing the Twin Springs board; he and Mr. Belcher were speaking on behalf of the subdivision board. Mr. Abernathy explained that currently Twin Springs is not meeting the requirements set by the EPA and IDPH and that due to this the EPA would soon begin issuing citations. He stated the board is aware there would be issues with their subdivision meeting all of the requirements listed in the City of Anna's subdivision ordinance due to the size of many of the parcels as well as the roads. Mr. Abernathy explained the interest made by the Twin Springs board of coming to an agreement on annexation with modifications such as the road ways remaining private. He expressed the importance of this annexation and the fact that if not done fourteen families will be required to build their own sewer system. Unfortunately, there is no other option and the board is asking the City of Anna for help in cleaning up the mess that was made many years ago.

Mayor Hartline asked how many acres are included in the area they are wanting to annex in. Billy Abernathy stated it would include twenty acres; they would like to annex in the area where the homes are and leave the wooded area along with the lake outside the annexed area. Mr. Belcher informed council that currently the Twin Springs board has not reached out to each of the owners regarding their opinion of annexing in due to the fact they did not know if the City of Anna would even entertain the idea. Mr. Abernathy stated that unfortunately there really isn't any other option for the owners, but to annex in. Mayor Hartline stated that the council will look at the proposal and that City Administrator Bigler and Public Works Manager Dahmer will take the lead and report back to the council regarding the details of the process and that the City Attorney, John Foley will need to be involved as well. City attorney Foley stated that they first need to officially file a petition for annexation and then the council will review and look at the missing criteria. Commissioner Bigler asked if the City of Anna agreed to the annexation what the cost would be. Billy Abernathy stated it would be in the range of \$198,000.00. Commissioner Webb asked if Twin Springs is willing to pay this amount. John David Belcher stated they really didn't have a choice. Administrator Bigler asked if the EPA is okay with the system they are looking into. Billy Abernathy stated that the EPA is okay with the type of system and that it is common at the Lake of Egypt. Mayor Hartline asked that Mr. Abernathy and Mr. Belcher keep Ms. Bigler involved so she can report back to the council. He also asked that they submit something in writing, such as the petition of annexation. City Administrator Bigler asked if the council would be accepting to review the petition with the variances. Discussion was had regarding the potential responsibilities being the City of Anna being responsible for the lines and Twin Springs would handle the costs of the work and installation. Commissioner Bigler verified the main variances would be within the subdivision ordinance requirements. Commissioner Webb asked if all of the homes in the Twin Springs subdivision needed this. Mr. Abernathy stated that yes; there is not enough room to put everyone on their own aeration system. Mayor Hartline asked the council what their feel was on situation. Discussion was had that they are okay with looking into it and Administrator Bigler keeping them informed. City Attorney Foley, stated that the City of Anna's engineer should be informed and involved in reviewing the plans as well. Mr. Abernathy and Mr. Belcher thanked the council for their time and consideration.

City Administrator Bigler updated the council on the following projects; (1) The City received its American Rescue Plan Act payment in the amount of \$278,685.63; we are still awaiting clear instructions on what the funds can be used for. The second payment should be received next summer. (2) The original census numbers for Anna were 4,006, however on August 12th IML released new numbers from the Census Bureau listing Anna at 4,303. (3) The Route 146 project had an original estimate project time of two weeks, unfortunately due to some unforeseen issues they are adding an additional two weeks for the project to be completed. (4) Currently the City of Anna pays J.T. Blankinship \$1,200 each month to utilize a licensed Sewer Operator due to the fact we do not have anyone with the required license; however, Scott Wagner, our disposal foreman, has passed the test and is awaiting his license. Once it is received, we will no longer have to contract this service out. (5) City Administrator Bigler followed up on prior discussions regarding codifying the city ordinances. She questioned if a city business license should be incorporated into the code and whether the council would like to move forward in creating this; the council agreed this would be a good thing. Cemetery cost and if they are interested in raising this cost; the council agreed to keep it the same at this time. Reformatting of the council members departments and roles; Commissioner Bryan stated she felt like the example format was set up for larger cities. Mayor Hartline stated he would like keep this the same at this time. (6) TIF statutory mailings were sent out and received by citizens; resulting in many calls with questions and concerns regarding the TIF. Commissioner Bryan stated she felt as though maps would be good for people to see to better help them understand. Mayor Hartline stated he has received many calls as well. Ms. Bigler reminded council of the TIF public meeting at 4:00 pm on September 21st. Also, Dick Hodges was named as the member at large for the TIF joint review board. (7) The work associated with the updated permit modification with the EPA is going well, with drilling today and a conference call tomorrow to discuss the results. (8) There are a couple of grant opportunities coming up; including Safe Routes to School, which has been discussed with Anna District 37 and they are on board to help with and Tourism Attractions which includes local festivals and could allow us to improve our current and future festivals. (9) There will be a disc golf tournament at the park on September 11th. (10) A cemetery draft was handed out with a request to read and review. There is no law that requires the City of Anna to replace headstones but seems all areas do keep up. Research is still underway and currently waiting for the quote to replace current headstones that are needed. (11) Colorfest planning is underway; the next agenda will include the requested liquor license applications. There will also be a pickleball

tournament. (12) Research was done on the cost of bullet proof glass and film for the drive thru and customer window at City Hall. It would cost \$1500 for safety film in those areas. (13) The City of Anna's first dog swimming day at the pool was a success including 43 dogs raising \$460.00. This money was placed in the capital equipment park fund for a potential City of Anna dog park in the future. People have even reached out inquiring about making donations for the development of a dog park.

A motion was made by Commissioner Webb and seconded by Commissioner Bryan that it be **RESOLVED TO APPROVE TO PAY ALL APPROVED BILLS.** A vote was taken upon the motion with the following results. Commissioner Bigler, Commissioner Bryan, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Webb and Mayor Hartline voted yea. Mayor Hartline declared the motion carried.

City Administrator Bigler informed the council the Shawnee Mass Transit District sale of lot item on the agenda has been resolved and will hopefully be on the agenda at the next meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bryan and seconded by Commissioner Webb that it be **RESOLVED TO APPROVE OUTSIDE TAP; ANDREW CRABTREE 400 FAWN DRIVE.** A vote was taken upon the motion with the following results. Commissioner Bigler, Commissioner Bryan, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Webb and Mayor Hartline voted yea. Mayor Hartline declared the motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bryan and seconded by Commissioner Webb that it be **RESOLVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2021-32; VETERANS DAY PARADE.** A vote was taken upon the motion with the following results. Commissioner Bigler, Commissioner Bryan, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Webb and Mayor Hartline voted yea. Mayor Hartline declared the motion carried.

City Administrator Bigler informed the council the Veteran's Day Parade will be Thursday November, 11, 2021 at 11:00 am.

City Administrator Bigler discussed the revisions made to the liquor control ordinance including the definition of a city block party as well as the juggling of licenses from one class to another. Commissioner Bryan asked if someone has a business if they can give wine away or sample liquor; she asked where we drew the

line, especially if this was done weekly. Discussion was held and Mayor Hartline asked what the Illinois Liquor Control Commission states. Research will be done regarding this.

A motion was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Mayor Hartline that it be **RESOLVED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 2021-15; LIQUOR CONTROL.** A vote was taken upon the motion with the following results. Commissioner Bigler, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Webb and Mayor Hartline voted yea. Commissioner Bryan abstained. Mayor Hartline declared the motion carried.

Administrator Bigler informed council of the new whistleblower protections that went into effect on July 1 due to Public Act 101-0652. Commissioner Bryan asked if when copies of the ordinance are given to employees if it will be a simplified version. Administrator Bigler stated that they would receive a copy of the exact ordinance that was approved. Commissioner Bryan asked what would happen if the individual accused is the listed auditor. Attorney Foley said that it was outlined in section 4.1 of the code and the States Attorney would then be the alternative auditor. Commissioner Bryan asked how the employee would know this. Attorney Foley stated this information could be included in the ordinance. Discussion was held and it was determined the ordinance would be updated to include this information.

Ordinance 2021-18; Adopting a Whistleblower Protection Policy was tabled.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bryan and seconded by Commissioner Bigler that it be **RESOLVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2021-33; AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH JUST CHILL TO OPERATE THE CONCESSION STAND AT THE ANNA, IL CITY PARK.** A vote was taken upon the motion with the following results. Commissioner Bigler, Commissioner Bryan, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Webb and Mayor Hartline voted yea. Mayor Hartline declared the motion carried.

A motion was made by Mayor Bigler and seconded by Commissioner Bryan that it be **RESOLVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2021-34; OSLAD.** A vote was taken upon the motion with the following results. Commissioner Bigler, Commissioner Bryan, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Webb and Mayor Hartline voted yea. Mayor Hartline declared the motion carried.

City Administrator Bigler informed the council that the project on E. Davie Street is still underway. The project is estimated to be complete by homecoming and she will report to council when the project is finished. Commissioner Miller stated he asked Public Works Manager Dahmer questions regarding the project and did not receive answers back, he received a response from Administrator Bigler that said the project is still underway; when it is complete, they will report out. Commissioner Bigler said he felt as though they are logical questions but it needs to go through the proper channels such as contacting Commissioner Bryan since she is over the street department. Mayor Hartline said he likes to set up meetings with individuals directly to discuss any issues or concerns. Commissioner Miller said Commissioner Webb brought her concerns regarding the cemetery to the council as a whole. Commissioner Bigler said she did, but she also reached out via email to him since he is over the cemetery. Mayor Hartline suggested everyone reach out to the commissioner over the department that there is a concern or issue with and inform them first. Commissioner Webb suggested commissioners be switched over different departments and not have the same department for the entire term. Mayor Hartline said there are pros and cons with operating that way and it seems to be more difficult for new commissioners trying to learn. Administrator Bigler said she would like it if complaints were discussed during the meeting when everyone is together rather than via emails the next day. She informed the council she will have the current cost of the E. Davie St. project at the next meeting.

Mayor Hartline informed the council that he would like any ideas or changes wanted regarding the purchasing policy to be provided to City Administrator Bigler. Once she receives these, she will do an assessment and present at the council meeting for discussion.

City Administrator Bigler asked what was still needed or requested for fiscal year 2020. Commissioner Miller asked for copies of the replacement checks written in fiscal year 2020 as well as the correspondence between City Administrator Bigler and Scott Hickam. Commissioner Bigler asked why Commissioner Miller would like to see the emails. Commissioner Miller stated he just wanted to see them so he could move on. City Administrator Bigler said the plan of correction has been implemented and that she will report out each quarter how the corrective action plan is going and that the requested information will be sent. Mayor Hartline stated he is focused on moving forward and following the corrective action plan.

Administrator Bigler informed council there was a misunderstanding with the liquor paperwork for the Strong Man Event and there needed to be an addition to the agenda to include a special event liquor license for Starview Vineyards for the event on Sept 4th, 2021 from 11-4 pm, pending certificate of good standing.

A motion was made by Mayor Hartline and seconded by Commissioner Miller that it be **RESOLVED TO APPROVE SPECIAL EVENT LIQUOR LICENSE FOR STARVIEW VINEYARDS, PENDING CERTIFICATE OF GOOD STANDING, FOR SEPTEMBER 4TH, 2021 11-4PM.** A vote was taken upon the motion with the following results. Commissioner Bigler, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Webb and Mayor Hartline voted yea. Commissioner Bryan abstained. Mayor Hartline declared the motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Webb and seconded by Commissioner Bryan that it be **RESOLVED TO APPROVE PARK USAGE APPLICATION FOR AJ HIGH SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2021 AND OCTOBER 6TH, 2021.** A vote was taken upon the motion with the following results. Commissioner Bigler, Commissioner Bryan, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Webb and Mayor Hartline voted yea. Mayor Hartline declared the motion carried.

Commissioner Webb distributed flyers to each of the council members regarding her idea to hang banner throughout the City of Anna. The banners would have veterans and or current service men and women's photos and names on them and would be purchased by the family of the individual. This is done in the Village of Cobden. Commissioner Webb said that they could use the profits of this to go towards Honor Wreaths. Cobden's banners hang from the beginning of November and are taken down when the Christmas banners are hung. Administrator Bigler said she can do additional research as far as how many banner spots there are available.

Commissioner Webb also informed the council she attended a council meeting at the Village of Cobden and presented on the Honor Wreaths Program. She said they were very receptive and will vote on participating at their next meeting. She is hoping to get Dongola involved in the program as well.

Police Chief Watkins informed the council that Jeremy Smith will be leaving next week for the police academy in Belleville. The program is 14 weeks long. He said it had been 23 years since the City of Anna put an individual through the academy. He also informed the council that he traveled to Chicago and picked up his new squad

car. Commissioner Webb said she appreciates the officers and has always had great experiences with them. Chief Watkins said he is very proud of his officers.

A motion was made by Commissioner Webb and seconded by Commissioner Bryan that it be **RESOLVED THAT THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE ANNA CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF AUGUST 17TH, 2021 BE ADJOURNED AT 6:42 P.M.** A vote was taken upon the motion with the following results. Commissioner Bigler, Commissioner Bryan, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Webb and Mayor Hartline. voted yea. Nay – none. Mayor Hartline declared the motion carried.