



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SULLIVAN,
ILLINOIS, MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2019**

1. The City Council of the City of Sullivan, Illinois, met in regular session on Monday, January 14, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. at the Elizabeth Titus Memorial Library, 2 West Water Street, Sullivan. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ann Short. A roll call was taken.

Commissioner Mike Mossman	- present
Commissioner Mike Kirk	- present
Commissioner Grant Wade	- present
Commissioner Jerry Risley	- present
Mayor Ann Short	- present

2. Mayor Short stated her appreciation for the efforts of City employees with the snow removal. Many departments worked long hours over the weekend, and other members of the Council expressed their appreciation.

3. Mayor Short asked if there were any comments from the public in attendance, and once citizen wanted to add thanks for the efficient snow removal on the Square and all of the City streets.

4. Mayor Short read the items on the consent agenda:

- Approval of minutes of the previous regular meeting held December 26, 2018
- Approval of claims report
- Approval of Treasurer's Report for December 2018
- Approve waiving of fees at the Civic Center for Moultrie County Beacon clients

It was requested that the claims list be pulled and voted on separately. A motion was made by Commissioner Wade and seconded by Commissioner Mossman to approve the claims for TIF I. Upon a roll call being taken, the results were as follows:

Commissioner Mike Mossman	- yea
Commissioner Mike Kirk	- yea
Commissioner Grant Wade	- yea
Commissioner Jerry Risley	- abstain
Mayor Ann Short	- yea

and the motion was declared carried.

5. A motion was made by Commissioner Mossman and seconded by Commissioner Kirk to approve the remaining items on the claims list and the rest of the items on the consent agenda. Upon a roll call being taken, the results were as follows:

Commissioner Mike Mossman	- yea
Commissioner Mike Kirk	- yea
Commissioner Grant Wade	- yea
Commissioner Jerry Risley	- yea
Mayor Ann Short	- yea

and the motion was declared carried.

6. Lee Beckman of Milano & Grunloh Engineering was present to discuss City projects. He discussed the Jefferson Street sidewalk project, and explained that this would give ADA accessibility for all entrances off the sidewalk. He noted that if a local contractor would take on that project, the cost could be a lot cheaper. He will finalize the specs and plan and may have bids ready by the second meeting in February.

Mr. Beckman explained that the next round of ITEP grants are due in the fall of 2019. One big change is that engineering must be completed before the application, so if the City wanted to apply, the Council would need to make that decision within the next month. It may be easier to win a grant award because more municipalities may not be turning in applications due to the fact that engineering must be completed beforehand.

7. Commissioner Mossman reported that a group of people met at Tabor Park to discuss the creek and trees in regards to erosion. Wayne Jamison, an independent contractor, will survey the situation once the snow melts. The City is free to do any work it would like on the bank, but if work is to be done in the creek, permits must be obtained. Mr. Flannell also explained that engineering work has been completed for the island and Wyman Lake. Backfilling and a seawall could be installed to stop erosion. Wyman Lake could also be dredged. Mr. Flannell thanked Nancy Drury for her efforts in dealing with the erosion issue in the creek.

8. Jim Russell of West & Company was present to explain the FY 17-18 Audit. He stated that the audit went very well considering Treasurer Golden's maternity leave. She requested a complete list of work papers that she could prepare instead of having his staff do them, and she had them completed before her leave.

This last fiscal year the City earned an unqualified opinion, which means that the financial statements and numbers as presented were reasonably stated. The unqualified opinion is the best opinion that the City can earn. He explained that the cash position is the most important thing to most municipalities. In governmental funds, the cash balance from 2017 to 2018 has mostly stayed the same, with just a slight increase of 1.5%. There has not been much growth, and any increase is due to the amount of monies transferred from the utilities to the governmental funds. The cash reserves in the utility funds increased 13%. The governmental funds would not be at their level without the utilities, and the City would not be able to offer the services available without the utilities.

Looking at the City as a whole, the main question is how long the City could operate in a worst case scenario. If there was a dramatic decline in revenues from the state and from the utilities, the City in its current position could operate for 1.2 years. This assumed that expenses stayed the same and needed to operate with cash to fund operations. Mr. Russell believes that this is a good position for the City to be in.

In regards to revenues in governmental funds, the property tax revenue basically stayed the same with no increase. State revenues decreased by about \$20,000, and each year those will probably continue to decline. There is no significant growth in revenue streams from investments because funds are kept in local banks. When dealing with local

banks there is nothing the City can do about getting better interest rates. If the City were to use brokers, the money would be tied up longer and money would be moved out of the community. Over the last 3-4 years, revenues in the utility funds have been just higher than expenses, and his opinion is that this shows fiscal responsibility. Mr. Russell reiterated that the City had a good audit, he thanked Treasurer Golden for her work, and let the Council know that he is always available by phone or appointment if any questions were to come up.

9. Commissioner Kirk explained that the IMUA Scholarship Program was giving \$1,000 scholarships to the winners. It is always the City's intention to match that scholarship if a local student were to win. There were a few minor outages with the storm that came through, and a pole was snapped on Mattox Street. Work was done by BHMG Engineers to handle a transformer that feeds the CAT generators. The department is doing a good job completing work even though employees have been absent from injuries or training. One employee is close to finishing his training to become a journeyman lineman.

10. Commissioner Risley stated that the street sweeper is having mechanical issues. More discussion may come up in the future if we are unable to get the sweeper fixed. New sweepers can cost in the range of \$130,000-\$150,000.

11. Mayor Short stated that the Annual Chamber Luncheon is to be held on January 25th. Council members need to let Clerk Johnson know if they plan to attend.

12. Mayor Short began discussion regarding liquor licenses and video gaming. There is currently one Class A license available, which is a tavern license that lets businesses serve drinks on the premises. That license is open because the Nite Landing is closed. There have been other businesses inquiring about obtaining that license because they want to have video gaming. For a business to have video gaming, they must have a liquor license that lets you serve drinks for consumption on the premises.

There are currently 29 video gaming machines in the City limits. There are another 24 machines in the rest of Moultrie County. The video gaming within the City brings in \$34,000 worth of revenue to the City of Sullivan's government. One theory is that allowing more video gaming may not result in an increase of the overall revenue, but might just spread out the current gaming amongst all entities and give each current business less income. The City also has 10 restaurant liquor licenses, six of which are taken. Any or all of those restaurants have the ability to add video gaming if they choose to do so.

Mr. Flannell stated that many people have called in the past year inquiring about opening a video gaming café whose primary business would simply be video gaming. The Council has the ability to limit video gaming by changing the liquor code to create a video gaming liquor license. Some municipalities have video gaming as an "add on" to their liquor license. Mayor Short explained that she would like the Council to think about what direction they would like to go and if they want to limit the number of video gaming establishments in the City.

Mr. Flannell also stated that the legalization of cannabis is a very real possibility in the State of Illinois. We have no way of knowing how that could be regulated, but it is

possible that the State does something similar with cannabis as it did with the video gaming, and put part of the burden on the City.

13. City Administrator Dan Flannell reported the following:

- There has been discussion of extending the random drug screening to all employees. It has been shown that there is a big difference between public and private employers, and there is belief that the City may not be able to drug test without showing evidence of impairment. He also stated that the City Attorney is opposed to any move to increase the random screening for drugs.
- The closing for the Chamber property has been rescheduled for January 15th
- As weather permits, the new signage to sell the City acreage along Route 32 should be erected soon

14. A motion was made by Commissioner Mossman and seconded by Commissioner Kirk that the meeting be adjourned. Upon roll call being taken, the results were as follows:

Commissioner Mike Mossman	- yea
Commissioner Mike Kirk	- yea
Commissioner Grant Wade	- yea
Commissioner Jerry Risley	- yea
Mayor Ann Short	- yea

and the motion was declared carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Attest *Ann G. Short*
Monte Johnson, City Clerk
Mayor Ann Short

Monte A. Johnson
~~Mayor Ann Short~~
City Clerk Monte Johnson