

Ottawa, Illinois
August 15, 2013
3:00 p.m.

Special meeting of the Council of the City of Ottawa, Illinois

Present: Commissioners Dan Aussem, Dale Baxter, Edward Whitney and Mayor Bob Eschbach.

Absent: Wayne A. Eichelkraut.

Mayor Eschbach presented Resolution.

Moved by Mayor Eschbach that a Resolution of Support to apply to the Illinois Department of Transportation for a Transportation Enhancement Program Grant for a pedestrian bridge over Interstate 80, be adopted.

Second by Baxter.

Ayes: Aussem, Whitney, Baxter and Eschbach.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

A discussion was held regarding the idea of a community garden in the City. Stephanie Stacy, of Garden's Gate, gave a brief presentation and volunteered to oversee the proposed 2 acre parcel for the first garden, should the City decide to go with the program. It was added that this parcel is next to her current commercial location on Dayton Road and the City may choose to lease the property from the owner and pay the real estate tax bill in lieu of rent.

A second discussion was held regarding the City's NCAT program and its fees. Jaime Blatti, of LOTS, was present, and told the Council that the City has 2 possible sources of income from riders, those being fares or punch cards. In order to be grant reimbursable from the Federal or State portion of the grant, the City must charge fees. Commissioner Baxter recommended a \$1.00 per ride each way for routes in the City limits.

The next item on the table was a discussion regarding the City's Water Policies. It was clarified that the current leak adjustment policy has been in effect since 2002. Water Superintendent Bob Rick, explained his position on a recent situation that arose from a resident's high bill. Commissioner Aussem, who oversees the Water Department, feels the policy needs to be tweaked.

The Mayor led the discussion on the next topic, which was allowing golf carts to be driven on the streets in Heritage Harbor. The City currently has an electric vehicle Ordinance in place but this Ordinance requires a specific mile per hour to be posted etc. Commissioner Baxter agreed that Heritage Harbor development should be allowed to have golf carts, but Commissioner Aussem thought the opposite. Aussem wondered why Heritage Harbor should be treated differently than any other subdivision in the City of Ottawa.

A brief discussion was held regarding liquor on the south side of the City. Corporation Counsel, Keith Leigh, has been researching this issue as it was always thought that a referendum was held prohibiting the sale of liquor on the south side. No records exist that can verify that position. The Mayor added that the south side Kroger's store has approached the Council about adding package liquor. So the question remains, can it be a simple Ordinance change by the Council or must the question be on a referendum. The Council was in agreement that package and restaurant licenses were a good idea but not tavern. Corporation Counsel has contacted the State Board of Elections and is awaiting their response. Commissioner Aussem then wondered why the City does not allow alcohol in City Parks for family reunions. He noted that we have liquor at special events sponsored by the City on public property and felt that family gatherings at our parks should be allowed to have liquor like the State parks. Commissioner Baxter felt the opposite because of the oversight.

Commissioner Whitney presented motion to adjourn.

Moved by Commissioner Whitney that this special meeting be adjourned.

Second by Aussem.

Ayes: Aussem, Whitney, Baxter and Mayor Eschbach.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

Council adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelly L. Munks, City Clerk