



ROBINS CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 7TH, 2023 MEETING

Mayor Hinz called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Robins City Hall on Monday, August 7th, 2023. After the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, roll call was taken with Councilors JD Smith, Dave Franzman, Roger Overbeck, Dick Pilcher and Marilyn Cook present along with Attorney Dan Morgan, Engineer Kelli Scott, Planning and Zoning Administrator Dean Helander, Police Captain Gary Manhart, Fire Chief Keith Feldkamp, Assistant Fire Chief Neal Boeckmann, Building Official/Public Works Superintendent Mike Kortenkamp, Deputy Clerk Lisa Goodin, City Clerk/Treasurer Lori Pickart, and around 12 guests.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- ~ Mayor Hinz thanked all of those who have helped make the Farmers Market a great event for Robins.
- ~ Finance Coordinator Marilyn Cook noted the revenues seem to be coming in as budgeted.
- ~ Safety Coordinator Dick Pilcher noted both the Police and Fire Reports were included in the packets.
- ~ Public Works Coordinator Roger Overbeck noted with the drought, the detention basins are working great.
- ~ Parks Coordinator Dave Franzman noted Cedar Rapids is having a grand opening for their pickle ball courts, adding He noted he plans to attend.
- ~ Streets Coordinator JD Smith noted the intersection improvements are beginning next week.
- ~ Engineer Kelli Scott noted with the recent rain overnight, some washing has occurred. Adding the contractor will be working on getting that resolved. She noted a meeting was held with the Hindu Temple representatives who would like to begin ground breaking this fall. She reported the city did not receive the RAISE grant, but would attend a meeting to obtain recommendations for next year's submittal.

CITIZEN COMMENTS - AGENDA ITEMS

- ~ Todd Roberts, 420 Michelle Avenue advised the Council the old manhole which is in his back yard and is a part of the SE Trunk Sanitary Sewer reconstruction has sunk and added the green silt socks have failed and caused the black dirt to wash out which was followed by the washing out of the gravel. Scott noted these issues have been brought to the attention of the contractor who will be correcting in the very near future.
- ~ Lea Benson, 450 Michelle Avenue added she too has a huge wash out. She said she worries her dog will fall in it, or a deer run through it and break a leg. There is no dirt left and no grass seed adding it is very dangerous!
- ~ Tyler Turner, 655 S. Troy Road noted he is in favor of the Council changing the city ordinances to allow urban chickens.
- ~ Lindsey Gifford, 470 Beverly Road noted she also hopes the Council will allow chickens in the city on smaller properties.
- ~ Carrie Smith, 285 Landau Street noted she too would like to have chickens, and added not everyone would be happy, but chickens can be raised with the area being clean. She added she is trying to be self-reliant.

- ~ Kate Turner, 655 S. Troy Road noted she wants chickens to be educational for her children.
- ~ Mike Fossom, 101 N. Second Street noted he would like to speak to item 12 B when it comes up on the Agenda.

CITIZEN COMMENTS - NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- None

CONSENT AGENDA

- Franzman moved to approve the Consent Agenda which included the Minutes of the July 10th meeting; the Financial Report; and the List of Bills submitted. Overbeck seconded the motion and all voted aye.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Chapter 55 - Animal Protection and Control. Mayor Hinz noted Chapter 55 of the Robins Municipal Code defines "Domestic Animals" as domestic sheep, horses, cattle, goats, swine, chickens, geese, turkeys, pheasants, ducks and other bird and animals raised and/or maintained in confinement. Domestic animals are also referred to as farm animals or livestock. He also noted the code states domestic animals are allowed on properties over 5 acres, and asked the Council if they wanted to change the current code. Overbeck asked if Chapter 55 would be added to, or would there be a new ordinance. Franzman noted he is not against amending the code adding all the other towns are allowing a limited number of chickens with a license fee and feels Robins should do the same. Cook noted she has talked with Hiawatha who allows chickens on properties that are over 2.5 acres and are zoned agricultural. Overbeck noted Iowa City allows up to 6 chickens even in apartment buildings. Mayor Hinz noted the city has an ordinance on the books, adding it works fine and doesn't feel it needs to be changed. Pilcher noted he feels this has two sides adding he has done his own survey noting he walks a lot and has talked with several people and has found no interest in changing the ordinance. Mayor Hinz noted he and the Council have received several e-mails from persons in town who oppose chickens, adding there is not a lot of support to change it. Smith noted he agrees, adding the majority of residents want to keep the ordinance as it is. Cook noted she feels it isn't fair to the neighbors who have to accept this and feels it will create a lot of conflicts in neighborhoods and noted if people want chickens, they need to purchase more land. Smith noted the city does not have adequate staff to regulate and manage chickens. Overbeck moved to modify the ordinance to allow chickens, Franzman seconded. The vote failed on a 3-2 vote with Cook, Pilcher and Smith voting no, and Overbeck and Franzman voting aye.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. September Council meeting date. Mayor Hinz noted the first Monday of September is the Labor Day Holiday. He recommended moving the meeting to the next Monday, which is the 11th at 7:00 p.m. Pilcher moved to set the date on the 11th, at 7:00 p.m., Smith seconded and all voted aye.
- b. 101 N. Second Street Parcel. Property Owner Mike Fossom addressed the Council stating he does not want to give the city 14.5 feet of his back property line for the future widening of N. Troy Road as it could be several years before this may happen. The Council discussed the pros and cons and noted most of the properties along North Troy Road would need to provide additional right-of-way and agreed to wait until the city is ready to construct and deal with ROW issues then. Pickart noted she would put the tabled Resolution on the next Agenda for approval.
- c. Replacement Skag mower. Kortenkamp noted a quotation has been received from Midway Outdoor Equipment to replace the 2015 Skag mower with a new 2023 model.

He noted the bottom line (including the trade-in) being \$15,856.00, and added the mower would need to be ordered as it has a diesel motor, adding Midway is allowing \$3,500 for the 2015 mower. Cook moved to approve Resolution # 0823-1 approving the purchase and the trade in, Franzman seconded and all voted aye.

- d. Job Description. The Council reviewed the job description for the Fire Code Official/Deputy Superintendent Public Works position and made a clarification relating to dismissal procedures. Pilcher moved to adopt the job description as amended, Smith seconded and all voted aye.
- e. Appointment. Mayor Hinz supplied a copy of the "Fire and Life Safety Inspection Report" to the City Council and explained there are around 50 locations which need to be inspected on an annual basis. This document is on a laptop and shared with City Hall staff for insertion in the permanent property files. Mayor Hinz noted he feels this is a good recording/documentation system. Smith asked if the city charges a fee for an inspection. Pilcher noted this will be a city service, but repeat inspections could be billed. Fire Chief Feldkamp noted Assistant Fire Chief Neal Boeckmann is very qualified for this position as he is certified as an EMT, Fire Fighter 1 and 2 and has been performing the position for quite a while. Smith moved to approve Resolution No. 0823-2, appointing Neal Boeckmann as the full time Fire Code Official/Deputy Superintendent Public Works for the City of Robins; Franzman seconded and all voted aye.

Smith moved to adjourn at 8:17 p.m.

Chuck Hinz, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lori Pickart, City Clerk/Treasurer