

City of Fairbury
City Council Minutes – September 19, 2018
6:30 p.m. - Fairbury City Hall

1. **Call to order** – Mayor Slagel called the meeting to order.
2. **Mayor Slagel directed the Clerk to call roll and the following members of Council answered present:** Gary Norris, Nancy Gerdes-Hibsich, Charles Hoselton, Jon Kinate, Bruce Weber, Gerald Hoffman, Lynn Dameron and Bill Schmidgall.
3. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**
4. **Motion to approve the Consent Agenda** – Motion by Dameron, second by Kinate to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda:
 - A. Minutes from the September 5, 2018 council meeting
 - B. Board Report listing the bills
 - C. Treasurer’s Cash Report (second meeting of the month)
 - D. Check Register (second meeting of the month)
 - E. None
 - F. Overtime Report

Motion carried 8-0. YES-Norris Gerdes-Hibsich Hoselton Kinate Weber Hoffman Dameron Schmidgall
5. **Mayor Slagel opened Public Comment and the following persons provided comments:**
 - **Steve Endres, 308 W Maple Street, volunteers his time in the community and is a supporter of the Police Department in that his curb is painted blue and black and he also displays the blue and black sign in his yard. He distributed an article from the June 17, 2017, Pantagraph entitled “Review panel of police is a good idea”. He asked the council to read the article and to consider creating a board of appointed community members to review complaints made against the Police Department. (The article is attached and will become a permanent record of the City of Fairbury)**
 - **Deb Moran, ESDA Director for the City of Fairbury, asked for her Volunteer forms to be turned in at the next council meeting on October 3rd**
6. **Reports of Departments**
 - Street Superintendent Steidinger reported
 - The skid loader needs repair from a place in Bloomington
 - Pontiac National Bank has sidewalks that need repair; Opperman will provide a quote
 - Sewer Superintendent Duncan was absent
 - Water Superintendent Ifft was absent
 - Chief of Police Travis’ report included in council packet
 - City Superintendent Ashburn reported
 - The gym floor at the Boys & Girls Club is finished
 - 2 additional properties at the east end of Locust Street have asked to annex to the City
 - City Attorney Mason – no report

7. Reports of Aldermen

- Alderman Norris provided an end of the year report for the pool
- Alderman Gerdes-Hibsich – no report
- Alderman Hoselton is happy to be back after illness
- Alderman Kinate asked if progress is being made with the railroad
- Alderman Weber reported he received a complaint from an individual who dressed in a costume and mask at a school function for fun but kids were afraid of him and the Police were called
- Alderman Hoffman – no report
- Alderman Dameron – no report
- Alderman Schmidgall – no report

8. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – None

9. Old Business – Discussion/Action Items

- A. Motion by Weber, second by Kinate to approve a request from Doug Aaron to host a Sprint-Mania Cruise-In on Locust Street between 3rd to 5th Streets Saturday, October 6th from 10 am to 2 pm. Motion carried 8-0. YES-Norris Gerdes-Hibsich Hoselton Kinate Weber Hoffman Dameron Schmidgall
- B. Consideration of a petition for disconnection of less than 0.2 of an acre of real estate from the City of Fairbury, Illinois - **TABLED**
- C. Consideration of an Ordinance for disconnection of less than 0.2 of an acre of real estate from the City of Fairbury, Illinois - **TABLED**

10. New Business – Discussion/Action Items

- A. Motion by Schmidgall, second by Dameron to accept the annual audit from Sulaski & Webb, as presented. Motion carried 8-0. YES-Norris Gerdes-Hibsich Hoselton Kinate Weber Hoffman Dameron Schmidgall
- B. Consideration of Resolution to join NCICG (North Central Illinois Council of Governments) in the amount of \$1,127.10 annually - **TABLED**
- C. Consideration of \$1,500 payment to NCICG for assistance in the process of grant funding for “Safe Route To Schools” (SRTS) - **TABLED**
- D. Motion by Norris, second by Kinate to approve the Streator Area Enterprise Zone Intergovernmental Agreement. Motion carried 8-0. YES-Norris Gerdes-Hibsich Hoselton Kinate Weber Hoffman Dameron Schmidgall
- E. Motion by Kinate, second by Hoselton to approve Ordinance No. 2018-21 Authorizing Participation In The Streator Area Enterprise Zone. Motion carried 8-0. YES-Norris Gerdes-Hibsich Hoselton Kinate Weber Hoffman Dameron Schmidgall
- F. Motion by Kinate, second by Dameron to approve a pay request from Vissering Construction in the amount of \$354,167.39. Motion carried 8-0. YES-Norris Gerdes-Hibsich Hoselton Kinate Weber Hoffman Dameron Schmidgall

11. Other Items for Discussion & Information **NONE**

This section includes items received after the required posting of 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting.

12. Public Comment

- Diane Pawlowski questioned the street closure dates for the Sprint-Mania on October 6th
- Steve Endres thanked Martin and crew on a job well done trimming City trees near his home
- Steve Endres asked if the council would consider the article he handed out earlier in the evening

- City Superintendent Ashburn scheduled a Sewer & Water Committee meeting Wednesday, October 3rd at 6 p.m.

13. Executive Session - DID NOT ENTER

14. Adjournment – Motion by Dameron, second by Gerdes-Hibsch @ 7:14 p.m.
Nancy Widlackj, City Clerk

THE PANTAGRAPH

OPINION

THE PANTAGRAPH

Established 1837 | A Lee Enterprises newspaper
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Review panel of police is a good idea

OR police is a good idea

The thought that communities should have some type of official citizen group to keep tabs on how local police are doing their job is not new. A national commission established by President Herbert Hoover 88 years ago, largely to survey how prohibition enforcement was working, recommended that each city has "some disinterested agency" to help people who had complaints about police.

Today, a wide variety of citizen review boards exist in at least a couple hundred communities, and Bloomington's city council is likely to step toward creating one here Monday night.

Some cops and most police unions bristle at the very idea of citizen oversight because it seems to shout "we don't trust you." And trust is in the very foundation of the authority we give police. Body and street cameras and citizens' phones that double as video recorders often document police activity in a way never before possible. It shapes accountability, so we're probably

all better for it.

Unfortunately, public trust has eroded at virtually every level of our society, partly because of reckless and impulsive behavior of a few, partly because we've lowered the bar on what is deemed acceptable behavior, partly because technology has accelerated and broadened distribution of misinformation in competition with the truth.

Organizations that are supposed to hold us together and solve common problems — from government, churches and schools to big business, organized labor and media — seem to be tearing us apart.

Lack of trust invites us to ignore society's rules. Which brings us to police and a perceived need to have a board of appointed citizens empowered to review police activity.

Gallup polls conducted last year found three in four Americans have "a great deal" of respect for police in their area. Even among non-whites, a sub-group at the center of heated national discussion of police shootings and brutality, 67 percent said they have a great deal of respect for police. Those "respect" numbers are appreciatively big — roughly double, triple, even quadruple those achieved by other key institutions like banks, media, the criminal justice system and Congress.

So why a local citizens board here and why now? To enhance the already reasonable trust and confidence citizens have in the system; to put in place a pressure valve we hope will never be needed; and to provide police and city management ready access to citizen perspective on a variety of matters, including how police management handles individual complaints.

It also can be a two-way street where law enforcement can educate the public on challenges it faces while addressing community concerns.

So the very title of the proposed board of seven citizen appointees — "Public Safety and Community Relations Board" — is telling. While review of and comment on (not re-investigation of) citizen complaints about specific incidents and how they were handled may be a principal purpose, it's not the only one.

Perhaps the town of Normal and McLean County government should consider joining Bloomington in creating a single board for both cities' police departments and the sheriff's department.

It could be a community-wide connection between the dedicated men and women we must trust to handle many of society's problems and citizens whose cooperation police require.



STEVE
VOGEL