

The City Council of the City of Mattoon held a Regular City Council meeting in the Council Chambers of City Hall on March 19, 2024. Mayor Hall presided and called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Hall led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following members of the Council answered roll call physically present in person: YEA Commissioner Jim Closson, YEA Commissioner Dave Cox, YEA Commissioner Sandra Graven, YEA Commissioner David Phipps and YEA Mayor Rick Hall.

Also physically present were City personnel: City Administrator Kyle Gill, City Attorney Daniel C. Jones (by audio means), Finance Director/Treasurer Beth Wright, Public Works Director David Clark, Fire Shift Captain Mike Romine, Police Chief Sam Gaines, Code Enforcement Alex Benishek and City Clerk Susan O'Brien.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Hall seconded by Commissioner Cox moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Regular Meeting minutes of March 5, 2024; bills and payroll for the first half of March 2024.

<u>Bills and payroll for the first half of March, 2024</u>			
<u>General Fund</u>			
Payroll		\$	275,747.31
Bills		\$	<u>361,264.50</u>
	Total	\$	637,011.81
<u>Hotel Tax Administration</u>			
Payroll		\$	3,973.12
Bills		\$	<u>15,730.17</u>
	Total	\$	19,703.29
<u>Insurance and Tort Jdgmnt</u>			
Bills		\$	<u>3,293.65</u>
	Total	\$	3,293.65
<u>Capital Project Fund</u>			
Bills		\$	<u>29,636.51</u>
	Total	\$	29,636.51
<u>Broadway East Bus Dist</u>			
Bills		\$	<u>3,238.69</u>
	Total	\$	3,238.69
<u>Remington Rd & I-57 Bus Dist</u>			
Bills		\$	<u>120,933.58</u>
	Total	\$	120,933.58
<u>Water Fund</u>			
Payroll		\$	42,402.80
Bills		\$	<u>77,627.69</u>
	Total	\$	120,030.49
<u>Sewer Fund</u>			
Payroll		\$	42,299.54
Bills		\$	<u>56,937.47</u>

	Total	\$	99,237.01
<u>Health Insurance Fund</u>			
Bills		\$	364,190.03
	Total	\$	364,190.03
<u>Motor Fuel Tax Fund</u>			
Bills		\$	31,874.66
	Total	\$	31,874.66

Mayor Hall declared the motion carried by the following omnibus vote: YEA Commissioner Closson, YEA Commissioner Cox, YEA Commissioner Graven, YEA Commissioner Phipps, YEA Mayor Hall.

PRESENTATIONS, PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

This portion of the City Council meeting is reserved for persons who desire to address the Council. The Illinois Open Meetings Act mandates that the City Council may NOT take action on comments received on matters that have not been identified on this agenda, but the Council may direct staff to address the topic or refer the matter for action on the agenda for another meeting. Persons addressing the Council are requested to limit their presentations to three minutes and to avoid repetitious comments. We would also ask you to state your name and address for the record as well as stand when speaking.

Mayor Hall opened the floor for comments from the Public attending in person and online with no response.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

Administrator Gill noted there was no budget workshop necessary due to a surplus with Department’s asks, Mobile Equipment Fund being funded more in anticipation of future purchases for vehicles, Capital Fund having \$1.3 million in improvements, a three-year projection by Director & Treasurer Wright and Administrator Gill had positives for the next three-years; and opened the floor for Council questions after announcing a budget hearing at the next council meeting. Mayor Hall noted the Governor’s proposed elimination of the grocery tax, which amounted to \$475,000 for the City and had no effect on the State budget, but hurts the municipalities, and would cause the City to be in the red. Administrator Gill stated he and Director & Treasurer Wright were watching the legislation closely. With no questions Administrator Gill requested Council to contact him or Director & Treasurer Wright if they had further questions or concerns.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Hall seconded by Commissioner Phipps moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-5477, approving and causing publication of the Official Zoning Map of the City of Mattoon, Illinois.

CITY OF MATTOON, ILLINOIS

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-5477

ORDINANCE APPROVING AND CAUSING PUBLICATION OF THE UPDATED OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF MATTOON, ILLINOIS

WHEREAS, the Illinois Municipal Code requires the City Council of the City of Mattoon, Illinois to cause to be published each year a map showing the existing zoning classifications and revisions made during the preceding year and the map so published shall be the Official Zoning Map for the City of Mattoon; and

WHEREAS, the Community Development Office has submitted a request to approve the revised Official Zoning Map; and

WHEREAS, after due and proposed consideration, the Mattoon City Council has deemed it to be in the best interest of the City of Mattoon to approve the new Official Zoning Map.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF MATTOON, COLES COUNTY, ILLINOIS, as follows:

Section 1. The attached map entitled Official Zoning Map of Mattoon, Illinois dated March 31, 2024 is hereby approved as the Official Zoning Map of the City of Mattoon, Illinois pursuant to the Illinois Municipal Code and Section 159.20 of the Mattoon Code of Ordinances, which said map reflects the correct location of the official zoning districts in the City of Mattoon between March 31, 2023 and March 31, 2024.

Section 2. Updated versions of the Official Zoning Map may be printed in the interim between the approval of this Official Zoning Map and the approval of the Official Zoning Map next year.

Section 3. The City Clerk is hereby directed to publish a full-sized copy of the Official Zoning Map and to make copies available in her office for inspection and purchase by the public.

Section 4. The City Clerk is directed to publish this Ordinance in pamphlet form by authority of the Corporate Authorities, and this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication in accordance with the terms of Section 1-2-4 of the Illinois Municipal Code.

Upon motion by Mayor Hall, seconded by Commissioner Phipps, adopted this 19th day of March, 2024, by a roll call vote, as follows:

AYES (Names): Commissioner Closson, Commissioner Cox,
Commissioner Graven, Commissioner Phipps,
Mayor Hall
NAYS (Names): None
ABSENT (Names): None

Approved this 19th day of March, 2024.

/s/Rick Hall
Rick Hall, Mayor
City of Mattoon, Coles County, Illinois

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

/s/Suan J. O'Brien
Susan J. O'Brien, City Clerk

/s/Daniel C. Jones
Daniel C. Jones, City Attorney

Recorded in the Municipality's Records on _____03-19_____, 2024.

Mayor Hall opened the floor for comments. Administrator Gill remarked that by State Statutes this approval was considered every year and noted any changes of zoning or annexations were reflected on the map. Commissioner Phipps questioned the compact residential housing and PUD zoning with Administrator Gill acknowledging the only PUD was West Park Plaza.

Mayor Hall declared the motion carried by the following vote: YEA Commissioner Closson, YEA Commissioner Cox, YEA Commissioner Graven, YEA Commissioner Phipps, YEA Mayor Hall.

Mayor Hall seconded by Commissioner Cox moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-5478, amending Chapter 159 Zoning Code to establish and to regulate Accessory Dwelling Units under Sections 159.04, 159.24, 159.25, 159.46, 159.55, and 35.01 of the municipal code.

CITY OF MATTOON, ILLINOIS

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-5478

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS WITHIN THE ZONING CODE OF ORDINANCES AND ESTABLISHING THE PERMITTING FEES OF THE CITY OF MATTOON

WHEREAS, The City of Mattoon is seeking to provide quality housing opportunities for residents; and

WHEREAS, Demand for more housing stock is at an all-time high, with a need for new residences to be established within our community; and

WHEREAS, Elderly and young residents of the City of Mattoon would benefit from the establishment of multigenerational housing opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the current zoning ordinance of the City of Mattoon creates barriers to the establishment of these types of housing arrangements; and

WHEREAS, The City of Mattoon desires to encourage the development of a variety of unique housing types that benefit residents of all ages pursuant to the abilities of City Council enshrined in Section 32.05 of the Mattoon Code of Ordinances.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF MATTOON, COLES COUNTY, ILLINOIS, as follows:

Section 1. Recitals. The facts and statements contained in the preamble to this Ordinance are found to be true and correct and are hereby adopted as part of this Ordinance.

Section 2. Amendments. Chapter 159 ZONING, Section 159.04 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Mattoon to establish Accessory Dwelling Units is hereby amended with the addition as follows:

§ 159.04 DEFINITIONS.

Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) - “A smaller, secondary independent dwelling located on the same zoning lot as a principal residential building. ADUs are independently habitable and provide the basic requirements of shelter, heating, cooking, and sanitation, and may be internal, attached or detached so long as they adhere to current code.”

Section 3. Amendments. Chapter 159 ZONING, Section 159.24 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Mattoon is hereby amended with the addition as follows:

§ 159.24 R2 TWO-FAMILY RESIDENCE DISTRICT.

- (A) Any use permitted in the RI Single-Family Residence District.
- (B) Two-family dwelling.
- (C) Zero lot-line dwelling.
- (D) Accessory building, including storage sheds and garages located within the setback standards of this chapter; however, an accessory structure is prohibited in the front yard or yards.
- (E) One (1) Accessory Dwelling Unit.
- (F) Special uses as may be permitted in § 159.45 of this chapter.
- (G) No business is permitted, except as specifically provided herein.

Section 4. Amendments. Chapter 159 ZONING, Section 159.25 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Mattoon is hereby amended with the addition as follows:

§ 159.25 R3 MULTIPLE-FAMILY RESIDENCE DISTRICT.

- (A) Any use permitted in the R2 Two-Family Residence District.
- (B) Multiple-family dwelling.
- (C) Group House/Townhouse.
- (D) Accessory building, including storage sheds and garages located within the setback standards of this chapter.
- (E) One (1) Accessory Dwelling Unit.
- (F) Special uses as may be permitted by § 159.45 of this chapter.
- (G) No business is permitted, except as specifically provided herein.
- (H) No outside storage permitted.

Section 5. Amendments. Chapter 159 ZONING, Section 159.46 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Mattoon is hereby amended with the addition as follows:

§ 159.46 TABLE 2 SPECIAL USES, DISTRICTS AND PARKING REQUIREMENTS.

<i>Type of Use</i>	<i>Permitted In</i>	<i>Parking Identifiers</i>
<u>Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU)</u>	<u>RI, RIC</u>	<u>1 Off Street Space</u>

Section 6. Amendments. Chapter 159 ZONING, Section 159.55 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Mattoon is hereby amended with the addition as follows:

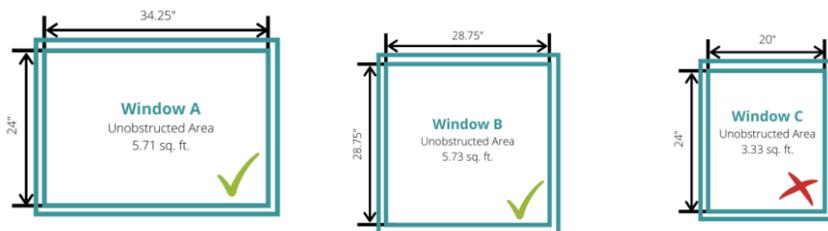
§ 159.55 Accessory Dwelling Unit Standards

- (A) The following requirements shall apply to ADUs established via Special Use:
 - 1) **The Planning and Zoning Commission shall require that any Special Use for an Accessory Dwelling Unit shall be recorded with the deed for the property and shall run with the land. The Special Use shall be contingent upon this requirement.**
 - 2) Ownership and Occupancy: The property owner must reside in either the principal building or the ADU. An ADU shall remain under common ownership with the residential building. Occupancy of the ADU shall be limited to no more than one family of three persons.

- 3) All ADUs established via Special Use shall be inhabited only by blood relatives or marital relatives of the owner of the principal building.
 - a. A designated caregiver for a resident of the principal building shall also be permitted, so long as said caregiver does not pay an inhabitant or owner of the principal building for the right to occupy the ADU.
- 4) Alterations of Existing Structures: If a detached ADU is created from an existing detached accessory structure in compliance with current code via allowed nonconforming use, the structure is exempt from the zoning standard(s) it does not meet. However, any alterations that would result in the structure becoming less conforming with those zoning standards it does not meet shall not be permitted.
- 5) The construction of ADUs shall conform and adhere to the lot coverage, height, and setback requirements of the zoning district in which they are constructed.
- 6) The construction of ADU's shall conform and adhere to the characteristics of the existing principal building.
- 7) Maximum ADU Size: All ADUs shall be smaller than the floor area of the largest primary or principal dwelling unit. Any detached ADU constructed shall not be more than 900 square-feet. An internal or attached ADU created through the altering of an existing structure may exceed 900 square-feet of floor area, but the floor area shall be limited to not more than one level of the existing structure (i.e. a basement, story, or half story).
- 8) All ADUs shall require separate ingress and egress than that of the principal building.
- 9) Minimum ADU Size: All ADUs shall be constructed no smaller than 300 square-feet for up to two occupants, and no smaller than 375 square-feet for three occupants.
 - a. Newly adopted code requirements shall take precedence over this section.
- 10) All kitchen facilities located within an ADU shall measure at least 50 square feet and contain the following facilities:
 - a. A countertop for food preparation
 - b. Cabinetry for proper food storage
 - c. A sink with running water and a drain
 - d. A stove or stove hookup
- 11) Prior to the issuance of a building permit for an ADU, an Accessory Dwelling Unit Relative Permit shall be obtained from the Building/Zoning Official.
 - a. ADUs shall pass inspection by the Community Development department prior to habitation.
- 12) All ADUs located below grade or above the first floor of a structure shall have at least one exterior emergency escape and rescue opening in accordance with this section. Where basements contain one or more sleeping rooms, emergency egress and rescue openings shall be required in all sleeping rooms, but shall not be required in adjoining areas of the basement. The sill height shall not be more than 44" above the floor.
 - a. Emergency and escape rescue openings shall have a net clear opening of not less than 5.7 sq. ft. The net clear opening dimensions required by this section shall be obtained

by the normal operation of the emergency escape and rescue opening from the inside. The net clear height opening shall be not less than 24" and the net clear width shall be not less than 20".

b. Table 1 – Examples of Compliant and Non-Compliant Emergency Egress Windows:



c.

- i. Ex: Windows A and B meet all of the area and dimensions requirements and would pass egress in Illinois. Window C, while meeting the dimension requirements, does not meet the area requirement and would not pass egress.

13) All sanitary facilities shall adhere to the same requirements as the Illinois State Plumbing Code for single-family residences.

14) All ADU's shall adhere to the most recently adopted Illinois Energy Efficiency Code to ensure adequate and safe living facilities.

15) All ADU's shall adhere to the currently adopted property maintenance code.

16) All detached ADU's shall have a dedicated subpanel for electrical supply.

(B) The following requirements shall apply to ADUs established by right in R2, R3, C1, C2, C3, and C5 Zoning Districts:

- 1) The same requirements as outlined for ADUs established by Special Use with the following exceptions:
- a. Hierarchical Zoning for ADUs shall not be permitted in C4 and Industrial Districts.
 - b. ADUs established via this section may be occupied by non-family members for rental purposes.
 - c. Prior to the issuance of a building permit for an ADU, an Accessory Dwelling Unit Rental Permit shall be obtained from the Building/Zoning Official.
 - d. ADUs shall pass inspection by the Community Development department prior to habitation.

Section 6. Amendments. Chapter 35 FINANCE AND REVENUE, Section 35.01 Fees and Charges of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Mattoon is hereby amended with the addition as follows:

§ 35.01 FEES AND CHARGES.

(E) *Community development.*

(1) Schedule of construction permit fees.

<i>Type of Construction</i>	<i>Rate Computation</i>	<i>Minimum Fee</i>
<i>Type of Construction</i>	<i>Rate Computation</i>	<i>Minimum Fee</i>
New construction and additions <i>exclusive of gas, plumbing, mechanical, electrical and other fees presented on these schedules</i>	Gross area x square foot construction cost index x 0.004 (a)	\$40 (b)
Alterations and remodeling	Est. construction costs x 0.004	\$40 (b)
Mechanical, HVAC systems & gas systems	Est. construction costs x 0.004	\$40 (b)
Plumbing systems	Est. construction costs x 0.004	\$40 (b)
Water and sewer service renewals	Lump sum	\$40 (b)
Demolition permits	Lump sum	\$25 (b)
Fence construction permits	Lump sum	\$25 (c)
Boulevard, curb and street cut permits:	Lump sum	\$50 (b)
Additional fee by type of cut		
Curb cut	Lump sum	\$60 (b)
Sidewalk cut	Lump sum	\$60 (b)
Alley cut	Lump sum	\$60 (b)
Street cut	Lump sum	\$250 (b)
Only the \$50 minimum fee is assessed when areas cut are restored by the property owner, his or her contractor		
Electrical systems	See <u>35.01(E)(2)</u>	See <u>35.01(E)2</u>
<u>Accessory Dwelling Unit Relative Permit</u>	<u>Lump Sum</u>	<u>\$100</u>
<u>Accessory Dwelling Unit Rental Permit</u>	<u>Lump Sum</u>	<u>\$500</u>

Section 7. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is, for any reason, held to be unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance. The City Council hereby declares that it would have passed this ordinance, and each section, subsection, clause or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clause and phrases may be declared unconstitutional.

Section 8. The City Clerk is hereby directed to cause this ordinance to be published in pamphlet form.

Section 9. This ordinance and the rules, regulations, provisions, requirements, orders and matters established and adopted hereby shall take effect and be in full force and effect 10 days after its publication in pamphlet form as herein provided.

Section 10. The City Clerk shall make and file a duly certified copy of this ordinance with the Clerk and Recorder's Office of Coles County, Illinois.

Upon motion by Mayor Hall, seconded by Commissioner Cox, adopted this 19th day of March, 2024, by a roll call vote, as follows:

AYES (Names): Commissioner Closson, Commissioner Cox,
Commissioner Graven, Commissioner Phipps,
Mayor Hall
NAYS (Names): None
ABSENT (Names): None

Approved this 19th day of March, 2024.

/s/Rick Hall
Rick Hall, Mayor
City of Mattoon, Coles County, Illinois

ATTEST:

/s/Susan J. O'Brien
Susan J. O'Brien, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

/s/Daniel C. Jones
Daniel C. Jones, City Attorney

Recorded in the Municipality's Records on 03-19, 2024.

Mayor Hall opened the floor for comments. Manager Benishek noted the Planning Commission approved after making changes to the special use running with the land and contingent of granting a special use, which should make housing affordable. Administrator Gill added the requirement of a family member with no rentals.

Mayor Hall declared the motion carried by the following vote: YEA Commissioner Closson, YEA Commissioner Cox, YEA Commissioner Graven, YEA Commissioner Phipps, YEA Mayor Hall.

Commissioner Closson seconded by Commissioner Phipps moved to adopt Special Ordinance No. 2024-1893, authorizing the employment of Heather McFarland as Water Treatment Plant Superintendent with an annual compensation of \$85,000 effective April 20, 2024, due to the retirement of David Basham.

CITY OF MATTOON, ILLINOIS

SPECIAL ORDINANCE NO. 2024-1893

AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING THE EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT OF HEATHER MCFARLAND FOR THE POSITION OF WATER TREATMENT PLANT SUPERINTENDENT

WHEREAS, the Water Treatment Plant Superintendent has become vacant, and the City wishes to fill the vacancy due to the retirement of David Basham; and,

WHEREAS, Heather McFarland is currently the Lab Director at the Water Plant and has been performing the duties of the Water Treatment Plant Superintendent on an interim basis; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Mattoon enters into employment agreements with member of its management team; and,

WHEREAS, the City is naming Heather McFarland as the Water Treatment Plant Superintendent, effective February 10, 2024; and,

WHEREAS, the parties wish to memorialize the terms of Heather McFarland’s employment agreement with the City.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF MATTOON, COLES COUNTY, A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, as follows:

Section 1. Heather McFarland is hereby named the Water Treatment Plant Superintendent, effective April 20, 2024.

Section 2. The City Council hereby approves an Employment Agreement with Heather McFarland for the position of Water Treatment Plant Superintendent, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

Section 3. This ordinance shall be deemed published as of the day of its adoption and approval by the City Council.

Section 4. This ordinance shall be effective upon its approval as provided by law.

Upon motion by Commissioner Closson , seconded by Commissioner Phipps , adopted this 19th day of March 2024, by a roll call vote, as follows:

AYES (Names): Commissioner Closson, Commissioner Cox,
Commissioner Graven, Commissioner Phipps,
Mayor Hall
NAYS (Names): None
ABSENT (Names): None

Approved this 19th day of March 2024.

/s/Rick Hall
Rick Hall, Mayor
City of Mattoon, Coles County, Illinois

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

/s/Susan J. O’Brien
Susan J. O’Brien, City Clerk

/s/Daniel C. Jones
Daniel C. Jones, City Attorney

Recorded in the Municipality’s Records on 03-19, 2024.

Mayor Hall opened the floor for comments. Commissioner Closson noted Ms. McFarland was very qualified with 19 years at the Water Treatment Plant, and the employment of a lab director causing stability in the Department.

Mayor Hall declared the motion carried by the following vote: YEA Commissioner Closson, YEA Commissioner Cox, YEA Commissioner Graven, YEA Commissioner Phipps, YEA Mayor Hall.

Commissioner Closson inquired about considering the receipt of the exhibit after receiving the council packet with Mayor Hall answering affirmatively.

Commissioner Closson seconded by Commissioner Cox moved to adopt Special Ordinance No. 2024-1894, authorizing the transfer of certain City-owned properties to the Central Illinois Land Bank Authority to allow for housing development.

CITY OF MATTOON, ILLINOIS

SPECIAL ORDINANCE NO. 2024-1894

**AN ORDINANCE TO ALLOW THE TRANSFER VACANT CITY-OWNED LOTS TO THE
CENTRAL ILLINOIS LAND BANK AUTHORITY FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT**

WHEREAS, The City of Mattoon is looking for new and innovative ways to promote quality housing development; and

WHEREAS, the City of Mattoon has a variety of vacant lots acquired through the code enforcement process; and

WHEREAS, The City of Mattoon has recently joined the Central Illinois Land Bank Authority via intergovernmental agreement which would better facilitate the acquisition and disposition of property to potential housing developers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF MATTOON, COLES COUNTY, ILLINOIS, as follows:

Section 1. Pursuant to the abilities of City Council enshrined by our intergovernmental agreement with the Central Illinois Land Bank Authority, hereby transfers vacant city-owned lots to the Central Illinois Land Bank Authority as outlined in Exhibit A; authorizing the Mayor and/or City Administrator to dispose of such property.

Section 2. This ordinance shall be deemed published as of the day of its adoption and approval by the City Council.

Section 3. This ordinance shall be effective upon its approval as provided by law.

Upon motion by Commissioner Closson, seconded by Commissioner Cox, adopted this 19th day of March 2024, by a roll call vote, as follows:

AYES (Names): Commissioner Closson, Commissioner Cox,
Commissioner Graven, Commissioner Phipps,
Mayor Hall

NAYS (Names): None

ABSENT (Names): None

Approved this 19th day of March 2024.

/s/Rick Hall
Rick Hall, Mayor
City of Mattoon, Coles County, Illinois

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

/s/Susan J. O'Brien
Susan J. O'Brien, City Clerk

/s/Daniel C. Jones
Daniel C. Jones, City Attorney

Recorded in the Municipality's Records on _____ 03-19, 2024.

Mayor Hall opened the floor for comments. Manager Benishek explained the 11-12 City-owned lots as unproductive, selling process by bids and how the CILBA has a more effective process in getting the properties back on the tax rolls. Administrator Gill added the downgrading of properties if the City bid the properties and was good for smaller homes. Manager Benishek added anyone with an existing violation could not purchase the properties. Commissioner Closson questioned the process with Manager Benishek explaining the decision by the Land Bank would be reviewed by Manager Benishek and Administrator Gill. Commissioner Phipps inquired as to whether landowners were considered first with Administrator Gill answering affirmatively.

Mayor Hall declared the motion carried by the following vote: YEA Commissioner Closson, YEA Commissioner Cox, YEA Commissioner Graven, YEA Commissioner Phipps, YEA Mayor Hall.

Commissioner Cox seconded by Commissioner Phipps moved to approve Council Decision Request 2024-2458, authorizing the employment of Cadet Colton Romine as a probationary Firefighter with a base salary of \$47,753.92 for the Mattoon Fire Department effective March 24, 2024.

Mayor Hall opened the floor for discussion/comments. Shift Captain Romine explained Mr. Romine's background as a cadet, Academy complete, Paramedics license obtained and was ready to go. Mr. Romine stated he was excited to be here and to start his career. Commissioner Cox added Mr. Romine was one of the first two in the cadet program and had good reviews and comments. Commissioner Closson noted the paramedic license took 42 months to complete and Mr. Romine already had completed the licensing.

Mayor declared the motion carried by the following vote: YEA Commissioner Closson, YEA Commissioner Cox, YEA Commissioner Graven, YEA Commissioner Phipps, YEA Mayor Hall.

Commissioner Cox seconded by Commissioner Closson moved to approve Council Decision Request 2024-2459, authorizing the employment of Stetsen Traub as a probationary Firefighter with a base salary of \$47,753.92 for the Mattoon Fire Department effective March 25, 2024.

Mayor Hall opened the floor for comments. Shift Captain Romine provided a background for Mr. Traub including his former employment with the Carbondale Fire Department, no Academy needed, and paramedic licensing to be complete in 2025. Mr. Traub stated he was grateful for the opportunity and explained his wife's employment with Sarah Bush and parents in the area.

Mayor Hall declared the motion carried by the following vote: YEA Commissioner Closson, YEA Commissioner Cox, YEA Commissioner Graven, YEA Commissioner Phipps, YEA Mayor Hall.

Commissioner Cox seconded by Commissioner Phipps moved to Approve Council Decision Request 2024-2460, approving a \$15,000 grant by the Tourism Advisory Committee from FY23/24 hotel/motel tax funds to the Mattoon Cobra Softball in support of the Mother's Day Tourney on May 10-12th, USSSA Schools Out Blowout on May 31 - June 2nd, USSSA State Tourney on June 14-16th, and Donny Howell Fall Classic /College Showcase on October 5-6, 2024; and authorizing the mayor to sign the agreement.

Mayor Hall opened the floor for comments. Commissioner Cox noted the Cobras were a great organization, tournament brings teams to town and had overwhelming support. Administrator Gill added a projection of more teams this year which was continuing to grow.

Mayor Hall declared the motion carried by the following vote: YEA Commissioner Closson, YEA Commissioner Cox, YEA Commissioner Graven, YEA Commissioner Phipps, YEA Mayor Hall.

Commissioner Phipps seconded by Commissioner Closson moved to approve Council Decision Request 2024-2461, authorizing the employment of Ethan Carmean as a Maintenance Worker II with a base salary of \$39,603.20 for the Public Works Department effective March 25, 2024.

Mayor Hall opened the floor for comments. Administrator Gill provided a background of Mr. Carmean and Mr. Carmean's excitement to join the team and would perform well.

Mayor Hall declared the motion carried by the following vote: YEA Commissioner Closson, YEA Commissioner Cox, YEA Commissioner Graven, YEA Commissioner Phipps, YEA Mayor Hall.

Commissioner Phipps seconded by Commissioner Graven moved to approve Council Decision Request 2024-2462, awarding the bid in the amount of \$163,683.96 from Shores Builders, Inc. of Centralia, Illinois through the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) bid letting for the Riddle Elementary School Sidewalk Project. 21-00333-00-SW

Mayor Hall opened the floor for comments. Director Clark noted the new low bidders and their prequalification by IDOT, and the project to start after school is out and finish before school starts. Mayor Hall announced a ribbon cutting event for the sidewalk.

Mayor Hall declared the motion carried by the following vote: YEA Commissioner Closson, YEA Commissioner Cox, YEA Commissioner Graven, YEA Commissioner Phipps, YEA Mayor Hall.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

CITY ADMINISTRATOR noted budget processing, union negotiating, sports complex meetings, responding to unfounded buses with immigrants, and complaint-driven responses. Mayor Hall opened the floor for questions with no response.

CITY ATTORNEY updated Council on the Quakenbush Judge's decision determining non-compliance by Mr. Quakenbush and a telephonic review on April 5th. Mayor Hall opened the floor for questions. Commissioner Cox inquired about the \$75/day fines with Attorney Jones noting original fines of \$6,000 and judge's attempt to get Mr. Quakenbush's attention.

CITY CLERK noted busy navigating IMRF's new system, insurance issues, new hire processing, and preparation for 125 Cafeteria and 457 open enrollments. Mayor Hall opened the floor for questions with no response.

FINANCE distributed and reviewed the February Final Report including the General Fund revenues, expenditures, fully-collected property taxes, cash position, Revenue Tracking, and unrestricted cash in the General Fund. Mayor Hall opened the floor for questions with no response.

PUBLIC WORKS updated Council on the crews Spring cleanups, projects on Western Avenue, US 45 water main project, Broadway Streetscaping project, and several bids out for MFT and Sports Complex Roadway Project. Mayor Hall opened the floor for questions with no response.

FIRE congratulated the new hires and the current 30 firefighter staffing, reported on calls for service, and new fire truck in service while thanking Council for the purchase. Mayor Hall opened the floor for questions with no response.

POLICE noted the good job by personnel; reported on calls for service, 62 arrests, and unfounded migrant rumors. Mayor Hall opened the floor for questions with no response.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT reported on junk properties, demolition of first house, with Inspector Sudkamp and Administrator Gill several more houses for demolition, successful Town Hall for housing meeting, housing study to be completed by April 26, community development issues, permits, digital permit system for May, working on an economic development website for the City, and completion of his Community Developer's Certificate after three years. Mayor Hall congratulated Manager Benishek. Mayor Hall opened the floor for questions.

COMMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

Council congratulated the new firefighters. Commissioner Closson announced that the pickleball players were ready and striping would happen with warmer weather. Commissioner Cox thanked Shift Captain Romine for filling in and complimented the training of the new firefighters with a good future. Commissioner Graven had no further comments. Commissioner Phipps congratulated Manager Benishek on his certification and Director and Treasurer Wright and Administrator Gill on their work on the budgets. Mayor Hall stated the City had great teams and thanked everyone.

Mayor Hall seconded by Commissioner Cox moved to recess to closed session pursuant at 7:18 p.m. to the Illinois Open Meetings Act for the purpose of the discussion of the appointment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the City or legal counsel for the City under (5ILCS 120 (2)(C)(1)); and collective negotiating matters between the City of Mattoon and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees under (5ILCS 120 (2)(C)(2)).

Mayor Hall declared the motion carried by the following vote: YEA Commissioner Closson, YEA Commissioner Cox, YEA Commissioner Graven, YEA Commissioner Phipps, YEA Mayor Hall.

Council reconvened at 7:53 p.m.

Administrator Gill revisited the grocery tax cut anticipation, GMT Fire Department funding, ambulance revenue side, MEF cuts, sales tax, other ways to generate revenues, LGDF funds. Council discussed increased revenues, power to collect grocery taxes, replace loss with other taxes, cannabis and IML working hard on issues.

Commissioner Closson seconded by Commissioner Cox moved to adjourn at 8:02 p.m.

Mayor Hall declared the motion carried by the following vote: YEA Commissioner Closson, YEA Commissioner Cox, NAY Commissioner Graven, YEA Commissioner Phipps, YEA Mayor Hall.

/s/Susan J. O'Brien
City Clerk