

The City Council of the City of Mattoon held a Regular City Council meeting in the Council Chambers of City Hall on September 2, 2025. Mayor Hall presided and called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

Also physically present in person were City personnel: City Manager Kyle Gill, City Attorney Daniel C. Jones, Finance Director/Treasurer Beth Wright, Public Works Director David Clark, Fire Chief Jeff Hilligoss, Deputy Police Chief Ryan Hurst, Community Development Planning Director 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 August 19, 2025, bills and payrolls for the last half of August 2025.

<u>Bills and payroll for the last half of August, 2025</u>			
<u>General Fund</u>			
Payroll		\$	312,838.73
Bills		\$	110,935.28
	Total	\$	423,774.01
<u>Hotel Tax Administration</u>			
Payroll		\$	5,577.32
Bills		\$	154,248.85
	Total	\$	159,826.17
<u>Festival Mgmt Fund</u>			
Bills		\$	2,874.90
	Total	\$	2,874.90
<u>Insurance & Tort Jdgmnt</u>			
Bills		\$	3,009.80
	Total	\$	3,009.80
<u>Capital Project Fund</u>			
Bills		\$	2,969,843.67
	Total	\$	2,969,843.67
<u>I-57 East TIF Dist.</u>			
Bills		\$	96,008.51
	Total	\$	96,008.51
<u>I-57 East Business Dist.</u>			
Bills		\$	57,981.44
	Total	\$	57,981.44
<u>Water Fund</u>			
Payroll		\$	49,451.95
Bills		\$	94,163.32
	Total	\$	143,615.27
<u>Sewer Fund</u>			
Payroll		\$	43,828.86
Bills		\$	58,163.63
	Total	\$	101,992.49

Health Insurance Fund

Bills		\$	438,598.19
	Total	\$	438,598.19

Motor Fuel Tax Fund

Bills		\$	6,034.28
	Total	\$	6,034.28

Mayor Hall declared the motion carried by the following omnibus vote: YEA Commissioner Butler, YEA Commissioner Closson, YEA Commissioner Cox, 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 read the following proclamation:

PROCLAMATION: See Tracks? Think Train Week

PROCLAMATION

National See Tracks?

ThinkTrain® Week

WHEREAS, See Tracks? Think Train® Week is to be held across the U.S. from September 15 to 21, 2025; and

WHEREAS, 2,252 rail grade crossing collisions resulted in 749 personal injuries and were responsible for 268 fatalities in the United States during 2024; and

WHEREAS, 1,465 pedestrian trespassing casualties have occurred in the United States resulting in 821 pedestrians being killed and another 644 injured while trespassing on railroad property rights of way during 2024; and

WHEREAS, educating and informing the public about rail safety (reminding the public that railroad right of ways are private property, enhancing public awareness of the dangers associated with highway rail grade crossings, ensuring pedestrians and motorists are looking and listening while near railways, and obeying established traffic laws) will reduce the number of avoidable fatalities and injuries caused by incidents involving trains and citizens; and

WHEREAS, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, National Operation Lifesaver Inc., United States Department of Transportation, and all local, state, county, and railroad law enforcement officers, first responders, and railroad corporations commit to partnering together in an effort to educate at a national level all aspects of railroad safety, to enforce applicable laws in support of National See Tracks? Think Train® Week.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that I, Rick Hall, Mayor of Mattoon, do hereby attest my full support proclaiming September 15 to 21, 2025, National See Tracks? Think Train® Week, and I encourage all citizens to recognize the importance of rail safety education.

IN RECOGNITION THEREOF, I, Mayor Rick Hall, have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Mattoon, Coles County, Illinois to be affixed this 2nd day of September, 2025.

Rick Hall
Mayor
City of Mattoon, Illinois

PUBLIC HEARING: SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL – MMS & MHS

Mayor Hall opened the Safe Routes to School Public Hearing for Mattoon Middle School and Mattoon High School at 6:35 p.m. in the City Council Chambers on September 2, 2025, located at 208 N. 19th Street, Mattoon, Illinois. Grant Writer Dr. Darci Cather explained the grant opportunity through the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) as a pass-through funding by a federal grant which is 100% funded up to \$250,000. Dr. Cather stated Mattoon's grant is focusing on the enhancement of school safety, encouraging students to walk or ride bicycles therefore causing a reduction of traffic around those school routes. Dr. Cather explained the requirements of the grant include the routes being within two miles of the school, two applications for the grants involving Mattoon Middle School area, addressing school crossings, ADA accessibility, repairing and replacing sidewalk hazards and safety issues for a potential \$254,000 resulting in approximately a \$4,000 match by the City. She noted Public Works Director David Clark had been working with the school district, and Principal, and Phases 2 and 3 would be completed later. The second grant would involve the Mattoon High School area and was also in the Safety Action Plan which had key areas for safety concerns involving intersection and crossings, repair and replacement of sidewalks resulting in approximately \$261,000 requiring a match of \$12,000 while Phases 2 and 3 were in the future Dr. Cather added. The floor was opened for questions. Commissioner Closson recalled a petition for Walnut Avenue repairs and the competitiveness of the grants. Manager Gill stated affirmatively that the petitioned area would be in the area to be repaired. Dr. Cather added that the grant was very competitive with a possible six-month timeline before the City would hear of any award, and that the City has a good relationship with IDOT. Mayor Hall inquired if the last grant was for Riddle School. Director Clark answered affirmatively, citing the two grants and three phases over multiple years and only cover the construction and engineering, so the work is to be done in-house. Mayor Hall opened the floor for Public comments from those in attendance and those on-line with no response. With no further questions Mayor Hall closed the public hearing at 6:43 p.m.

Mayor Hall opened the floor for Public comments from those in attendance in person. Mr. Ez;a Weber presented a petition with 98 signatures requesting a new ramp installation at the Roundhouse Skate Park to attract more people and for safety; described the concrete mini ramp of four feet on east side for beginners, a two foot beginner ramp for younger and beginner skaters and BMX riders to help reduce the risk of collisions, and lighting at the park to increase safety, usability after sunset, deter vandalism and be more inviting. Director Benishek visited with Mr. Tom Wright to advertise the pump track project and described 200-300 people at an event where tents were placed up, out-of-town participants, need for outdoor spaces and possibility of TIF District. Mr. Weber added the commuting of people over an hour. Mayor Hall asked if there were volunteers to be on a committee to work on this project for public input. Mr. Weber stated there would be some people who would help design it and work with people. Director Benishek stated Mr. Weber had been in contact with the American Ramp Company. Commissioner Closson asked about the OSLAD grant with Director Benishek stating the public hearing had already occurred so the City had to stay with those projects; and offered starting a skate park committee. Commissioner Cox complimented Mr. Weber on his presentation. Mayor Hall opened the floor for additional Public comments with no response.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Phipps seconded by Commissioner Cox moved to approve Council Decision Request 2025-2633, approving the purchase in the amount of \$26,344.45 from Hydro Bioscience for an ultrasound algae remediation monitoring and solar-powered buoy at Lake Paradise.

Mayor Hall opened the floor for comments. Director Clark explained the buoy would be similar to units the City had at the lake, but would monitor various elements 24/7 for the health of the lake and would help with the adjustment of treatments accordingly. Commissioner Cox inquired whether the buoy was one piece with more to come and a three to four weeks' timeline was not a long time. Manager Gill stated the buoy was one piece which could be in place quickly; described meeting with consultants of

Crawford, Murphy and Tilly in Springfield to review priorities citing filtration could take a couple of years considering the IEPA would want to study for six months to a year and would work with the IEPA to narrow down possible dredging with watershed taking years, and to obtain costs for everything. Commissioner Cox noted the dredging in the past with Manager Gill stating dredging occurred in 2010 with plants for nitrates with more in the north end and contacting North Water Engineering firm to assist with prioritizing the watersheds. Commissioner Cox added the projects were incremental.

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

Mayor Hall seconded by Commissioner Cox moved to approve Council Decision Request 2025-2634, approving the re-appointments of Dr. Rob Colombo, Sarah Dowell, Chris Suerdieck, Tom Wright and Bob Zollmann to the Bicycle Committee for the City of Mattoon for a period of 2 years ending 08/06/2027.

Mayor Hall noted appointees had been contacted and agreed to serve.

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

Mayor Hall seconded by Commissioner Phipps moved to approve Council Decision Request 2025-2635, approving the appointments of Jennifer Lee, Jenn Tariq, Susan Warren and Brian Gillaspie and the re-appointments of Alex Benishek, TJ Hesse and Tony Nicholson to the Tree Commission for the City of Mattoon for a term of 2 years ending 08/06/2027.

Mayor Hall noted this was normal re-appointments and having new members.

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

Commissioner Butler seconded by Commissioner Cox moved to approve Council Decision Request 2025-2636, approving a water and sewer billing adjustment in the amount of \$23,703.80 on behalf of Quality Inn & Suites located at 4922 Paradise Road.

Mayor Hall opened the floor for comments. Director and Treasurer Wright noted they had a huge leak causing a huge bill. Manager Gill noted the RVC valve for backflow was malfunctioning and had been 20-30 days before noticed causing the sizeable bill.

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

Commissioner Closson seconded by Commissioner Phipps moved to adopt Resolution No. 2025-3317, authorizing the support and adoption of an OSLAD grant application for fiscal year 2026.

CITY OF MATTOON, ILLINOIS

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-3317

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CITY OF MATTOON APPLICATION FOR THE FY26 OPEN SPACE LANDS ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT (OSLAD) GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the City of Mattoon is applying for a State of Illinois Department of Natural Resources Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Grant for improvements to and expansion of local/regional outdoor recreational activities, and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the City of Mattoon to plan and identify opportunities to improve quality of life for residents; and

WHEREAS, the City of Mattoon possesses many valuable natural resources, and desires to preserve and enhance the ability of our residents and visitors to enjoy and access public lands and open spaces.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Mattoon, Illinois, that:

Section 1. That the City of Mattoon shall apply for a grant under the terms and conditions of the State of Illinois and shall enter into and agree to the understandings and assurances contained in said applications.

Section 2. That the Mayor on behalf of the City of Mattoon Council execute such documents and all other documents necessary for the carrying out of said application.

Section 3. That the City of Mattoon approves improvements identified by staff during the Public Meeting conducted on August 19, 2025.

Section 4. That the City of Mattoon will approve the certified Public Meeting minutes of the Public Meeting conducted on August 19, 2025 for the discussion of the improvements being considered for OSLAD grant application.

Section 5. That the Community Development Department is hereby authorized to provide such additional information as may be required to accomplish obtaining such grant.

Section 6. This resolution shall be in full force and effective immediately upon its adoption.

Upon motion by Commissioner Closson, seconded by Commissioner Phipps, adopted this 2nd day of September, 2025, by a roll call vote, as follows:

AYES (Names):	<u>Commissioner Butler, Commissioner Closson,</u>
	<u>Commissioner Cox, Commissioner Phipps,</u>
	<u>Mayor Hall</u>
NAYS (Names):	<u>None</u>
ABSENT (Names):	<u>None</u>

Approved this 2nd day of September, 2025.

/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/Dan C. Jones
Dan C. Jones, City Attorney

Recorded in the Municipality's Records on 09-02, 2025.

Mayor Hall opened the floor for comments. Director Benishek stated this was essentially the same as the last council meeting and waiting on matching funds for the pump park and would go with the recreational items, if the pump park cannot find the matching funds.

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

Commissioner Cox seconded by Commissioner Closson moved to adopt Resolution No. 2025-3318, authorizing the support and adoption of a Safe Routes for School grant application for sidewalk extensions and improvements along 9th Street from Dakota Avenue to Oklahoma Avenue on the north side of Mattoon Middle School.

CITY OF MATTOON, ILLINOIS

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-3318

**A RESOLUTION PLEDGING SUPPORT FOR AN “ILLINOIS SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL”
GRANT APPLICATION**

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Transportation administers the Illinois Safe Routes to School Program which provides funding for sidewalk projects near public schools serving Kindergarten through 12th grade; and

WHEREAS, the City of Mattoon wishes to extend and/or improve the existing sidewalks along 9th Street from Dakota Avenue to Oklahoma Avenue on the north side of Mattoon Middle School; and

WHEREAS, the City plans to apply for the project with a reimbursement grant in the amount of up to \$250,000; and,

WHEREAS, the City is offering to provide a match of up to 10% of the total project costs from general funds to ensure project completion.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council for the City of Mattoon, Coles County, Illinois, that the City Council hereby pledges support for an Illinois Safe Routes to School Grant Application for sidewalk improvements on the north side of 9th Street in front of Mattoon Middle School.

Upon motion by Commissioner Cox, seconded by Commissioner Closson, adopted this 2nd day of September, 2025, by a roll call vote, as follows:

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

NAYS (Names): None

ABSENT (Names): None

Approved this 2nd day of September, 2025.

/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/Dan C. Jones
Dan C. Jones, City Attorney

Recorded in the Municipality's Records on 09-02, 2025.

Mayor Hall opened the floor for comments with no response.

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

Commissioner Phipps seconded by Commissioner Butler moved to adopt Resolution No. 2025-3319, authorizing the support and adoption of a Safe Routes for School grant application for sidewalk extensions and improvements along 27th Street from Marshall Avenue to Mattoon High School and on Walnut Avenue from 27th Street to 29th Street.

CITY OF MATTOON, ILLINOIS

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-3319

**A RESOLUTION PLEDGING SUPPORT FOR AN “ILLINOIS SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL”
GRANT APPLICATION**

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Transportation administers the Illinois Safe Routes to School Program which provides funding for sidewalk projects near public schools serving Kindergarten through 12th grade; and

WHEREAS, the City of Mattoon wishes to extend and/or improve the existing sidewalks along 27th Street from Marshall Avenue to Mattoon High School and on Walnut Avenue from 27th Street to 29th Street to improve safety and walkability for students and residents alike, and

WHEREAS, the City plans to apply for the project with a reimbursement grant in the amount of up to \$250,000; and,

WHEREAS, the City is offering to provide a match of up to 10% of the total project costs from general funds to ensure project completion.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council for the City of Mattoon, Coles County, Illinois, that the City Council hereby pledges support for an Illinois Safe Routes to School Grant Application for sidewalk improvements along Marshall Avenue and Walnut Avenue near Mattoon High School for improved safety and walkability.

Upon motion by Commissioner Phipps, seconded by Commissioner Butler, adopted this 2nd day of September, 2025, by a roll call vote, as follows:

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

NAYS (Names): None

ABSENT (Names): None

Approved this 2nd day of September, 2025.

/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/Dan C. Jones
Dan C. Jones, City Attorney

Recorded in the Municipality's Records on 09-02, 2025.

Mayor Hall opened the floor for comments. Manager Gill noted this was from tonight's public hearing.

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

Commissioner Butler seconded by Commissioner Phipps moved to approve Council Decision Request 2025-2637, awarding the bid in the amount of \$278,412.56 from Beniach Construction Company, Inc. for the annual 2025 Sidewalk Contract for sidewalk replacement from 13th Street to 17th Street on Bell Avenue; and authorizing the mayor to sign the contract. [25-00380-00-SW]

Mayor Hall opened the floor for questions. Mayor Hall inquired whether the replacements were on both sides of the street with Director Clark answering affirmatively. Manager Gill noted there were several bidders. Director Clark noted 10 bidders.

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

Commissioner Closson seconded by Commissioner Phipps moved to adopt Resolution No. 2025-3320, waiving the request for proposals and authorizing a Professional Services Agreement between the City of Mattoon and Coles County Regional Planning and Development Commission (CCRP-DC) to update the City of Mattoon's Comprehensive Plan and authorizing the City Staff to support CCRP-DC in the plan creation and implementation.

CITY OF MATTOON, ILLINOIS

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-3320

RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MATTOON AND THE COLES COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION TO UPDATE THE CITY OF MATTOON'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

WHEREAS, the City of Mattoon is waiving the Request for Proposals to update the City's Comprehensive Plan.

WHEREAS, the City of Mattoon has selected the Coles County Regional Planning and Development Commission to provide certain Professional Services to the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has examined the proposed agreement, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference and entitled "Professional Services Agreement between the City of Mattoon, Illinois and the Coles County Regional Planning and Development Commission," and finds said agreement to be acceptable.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Mattoon, Illinois, that the City shall waive the request for proposals, shall enter into and execute said Agreement with the Coles County Regional Planning and Development Commission, and shall authorize City Staff to support CCRP-DC in the plan creation and implementation. The Mayor is authorized to execute said Agreement.

Upon motion by Commissioner Closson, seconded by Commissioner Phipps, adopted this 2nd day of September, 2025 by a roll call vote, as follows:

AYES (Names):	<u>Commissioner Butler, Commissioner Closson,</u>
	<u>Commissioner Cox, Commissioner Phipps,</u>
	<u>Mayor Hall</u>
NAYS (Names):	<u>None</u>
ABSENT (Names):	<u>None</u>

Approved this 2nd day of September, 2025.

/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 09-02, 2025.

Mayor Hall opened the floor for comments. Manager Gill explained the last update was in 2012-2013 where CCRP-DC was the lower bidder, but was decided to go with a Chicago firm which produced a cookie-cutter plan; and determined CCRP-DC would be a local group who was already working on the Safety Plan and would work with City Staff. Commissioner Closson inquired about a 12-15 month timeline. Manager Gill stated the timeline through next November. Mayor Hall stated CCRP-DC's other plans and their work on the County's comprehensive plan.

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

COMMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

Commissioner Butler stated the City set 25% of funds from the cannabis dispensary to be spent on mental health issues, and one avenue to be explored was a nurse practitioner to ride with officers and help contact resources or directly admit to hospital noting one of the individuals could get started right away and ride-along with Deputy Chief Ryan Hurst on Friday which would keep those funds in Mattoon; and secondly with the nuisance properties take a deeper dive into what Director Benishek mentioned at the last council meeting and allocate funds to have quicker results rather than use the Police Department which could be doing other duties. Commissioner Closson stated the Pickleball courts were dedicated one year ago and now there is a fall league, beginners' league, an average about 90-100 people per week using the courts, surrounding communities play, and some tournaments next Spring. Commissioner Cox complimented Mr. Weber for his presentation, thanked the Police and Fire Department for inviting Commissioner Closson and himself to umpire their softball game for Relay for Life, and noted Deputy Chief Hurst continued to have nuisance properties cleaned up and fielding more phone calls, and requested an update. Deputy Chief Hurst stated the City needed to be more aggressive on cleaning and liens instead of the court system which holds up the results, and needed to budget more for cleaning and liens. Commissioner Cox inquired as to the average cost. Deputy Chief Hurst stated \$9,500 for one residence and another had to be cleaned twice, could use a public nuisance officer, and complimented Attorney Jones' efforts to prosecute. Further discussion was held on dealing with nuisance properties. Commissioner Phipps thanked Dr. Cather for her presentation and Mr. Weber for his presentation. Mayor Hall commented on the softball game with Chief Hilligoss' note on making awareness for Relay for Life. Manager Gill added there was a rough draft on prohibiting wake boats and was working on the Reservoir Ordinance update.

Commissioner Cox seconded by Commissioner Closson moved to adjourn at 7:21 p.m.

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

/s/Susan J. O'Brien
City Clerk