

The City Council of the City of Mattoon held a Regular City Council meeting in the Council Chambers of City Hall on October 7, 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, Arts & Tourism Director Angelia Burgett, Public Works Director David Clark, Fire Chief Jeff Hilligoss, Police Chief Sam Gaines, 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 September 16, 2025, bills and payroll for the last half of September 2025 and Mayor's Expenses for IML.

Bills and payroll for the last half of September, 2025

<u>General Fund</u>			
Payroll		\$	316,317.16
Bills		\$	<u>265,413.16</u>
	Total	\$	581,730.32
<u>Hotel Tax Administration</u>			
Payroll		\$	5,473.32
Bills		\$	<u>4,259.96</u>
	Total	\$	9,733.28
<u>Festival Mgmt Fund</u>			
Bills		\$	<u>2,747.64</u>
	Total	\$	2,747.64
<u>Mobile Equipment Fund</u>			
Bills		\$	<u>11,600.00</u>
	Total	\$	11,600.00
<u>Insurance & Tort Jdgmnt</u>			
Bills		\$	<u>122.00</u>
	Total	\$	122.00
<u>Midtown TIF Fund</u>			
Bills		\$	<u>39,840.00</u>
	Total	\$	39,840.00
<u>Capital Project Fund</u>			
Bills		\$	<u>260,275.04</u>
	Total	\$	260,275.04
<u>Remington Rd I-57</u>			
Bills		\$	<u>121,793.73</u>
	Total	\$	121,793.73
<u>Water Fund</u>			
Payroll		\$	48,544.85
Bills		\$	<u>162,921.55</u>
	Total	\$	211,466.40

Sewer Fund

Payroll		\$	43,908.13
Bills		\$	188,537.79
	Total	\$	232,445.92

Health Insurance Fund

Bills		\$	434,259.73
	Total	\$	434,259.73

Motor Fuel Tax Fund

Bills		\$	410,771.00
	Total	\$	410,771.00

Commissioner Closson requested clarification for the Thompson Coburn invoice. Manager Gill explained the billings and reimbursements. Council with Manager Gill discussed the reimbursements from Rural King.

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 opened the floor for Pubic discussion from the in-person attendees as well as those attending virtually with no response.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Closson seconded by Commissioner Phipps moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-5499, amending the municipal code of ordinances Chapter 159 ZONING Section 159.46 Table 2 Special Uses, Districts and Parking Requirements to update zoning definitions and to establish setback standards for utility scale energy generation.

Mayor Hall opened the floor for comments. Attorney Jones explained the potential court challenge based on the Appellate Court ruling on prohibiting windfarms. Manager Gill stated the amendment would not ban the solar farms imposing a conditional use. Director Benishek explained not going against State goals, significant community support, Planning Commission passing unanimously, and City's regulation of the boundary. Council with input from Attorney Jones, Manager Gill and Director Benishek continued the discussion of the ordinance.

Commissioner Phipps withdrew his second to the motion. Mayor Hall called for a second to the motion. With no second the motion died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Cox seconded by Commissioner Phipps moved to adopt Resolution No. 2025-3321, supporting the grant application for the development of a Watershed Management Plan for Lake Paradise and Lake Mattoon in collaboration with the Coles County Soil and Water Conservation District.

CITY OF MATTOON, ILLINOIS

RESOLUTION 2025-3321

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF
A WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR LAKE PARADISE AND LAKE MATTOON IN
COLLABORATION WITH THE COLES COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article VII, Section 10 of the 1970 Constitution of the State of Illinois, and the Illinois Intergovernmental Cooperation Act (5 ILCS 220/1, et seq.), units of local government in the State of Illinois may contract between themselves to obtain or share services and to combine functions which either of the units of local government is authorized by law to perform; and

WHEREAS, the City of Mattoon is an Illinois municipal corporation organized and operating under the laws of the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the Coles County Soil and Water Conservation District (CCSWCD) is a special district established under the Soil and Water Conservation Districts Act (70 ILCS 405/1, et seq.); and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) has encouraged the development of watershed-based plans as a critical step in improving water quality, reducing nonpoint source pollution, and protecting public drinking water supplies; and

WHEREAS, the condition of the Lake Paradise and Lake Mattoon watersheds directly impacts the City of Mattoon's drinking water treatment requirements, its permits issued by the IEPA, and the health, safety, and welfare of its residents; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the City of Mattoon and its taxpayers to partner with the Coles County Soil and Water Conservation District and other local, state, and federal stakeholders in the establishment and maintenance of a comprehensive Watershed Management Plan for Lake Paradise and Lake Mattoon.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MATTOON, COLES COUNTY, ILLINOIS, that the City supports the submission of a grant application to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's Section 604(b) Water Quality Management Program for the development of a Watershed Management Plan for Lake Paradise and Lake Mattoon, and further commits to collaborating with partner agencies and stakeholders in the successful development and implementation of said plan.

Upon motion by Commissioner Cox, seconded by Commissioner Phipps, adopted this 7th day of October, 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 7th day of October, 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 10-7, 2025.

Mayor Hall opened the floor for discussion. Manager Gill noted the application was due tomorrow; and had been working with Coles County Soil & Water Conservation District. Mayor Hall stated this was a letter of support. Commissioner Closson noted the Watershed Management Plan could open up significant fund opportunities in the future with Manager Gill noting once the City had the plan in place.

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. 2025-3322, authorizing the approval and execution of a solar subscription agreement between the City of Mattoon and SunCentral, L.L.C.; and authorizing the mayor and city clerk to execute the agreement and other relevant documents.

CITY OF MATTOON, ILLINOIS

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-3322

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL AND THE EXECUTION OF AN ILLINOIS COMMUNITY SOLAR SUBSCRIPTION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MATTOON AND SUNCENTRAL L.L.C. (SunCentral); AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE THE ATTACHED AGREEMENT AND OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

WHEREAS, the City of Mattoon from time to time enters into power purchase agreements reduce energy cost; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager has previously signed a non-binding solar community distributed generation subscription agreement to secure a place on a solar farm with Solar on Earth; and

WHEREAS, the City is desirous of moving forward with an Illinois Community Solar Subscription Agreement with discount to community solar credits, and

WHEREAS, Solar on Earth representing SunCentral L.L.C. (SunCentral) a firm experienced in arranging Illinois Community Solar Subscription Agreements and participates in the Illinois Shines program, has presented an agreement to the City.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF MATTOON, COLES COUNTY, ILLINOIS, that the City enters into the Illinois Community Solar Subscription Agreement with SunCentral L.L.C., and further authorizes the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the attached agreement and other relevant documents as necessary to move forward with the endeavor.

Upon motion by Commissioner Phipps, seconded by Commissioner Butler, adopted this 7th day of October, 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 7th day of October, 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 10-07, 2025.

Mayor Hall opened the floor for comments. Manager Gill reminded Council that Solar on Earth had presented to the Council at a past meeting, representatives were here to answer questions, 20% savings with tax credits buying into solar farms, projecting a minimum \$80,000 savings, and spoke with Pekin, Pontiac, LaSalle who seemed very pleased.

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 Closson moved to approve Council Decision Request 2025-2641, approving a home occupation application for a special use to allow the gunsmithing of firearms by Ron Bateman at 2801 Richmond Avenue; and authorizing the mayor to sign the permit.

Mayor Hall opened the floor for comments. Manager Gill noted the special use was nothing new, allows one person to run a business in their home, cited beauty shops, catalog sales of guns, gunsmithing in the past, pet grooming, and Inspections had visited the property which also had plenty of parking.

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

Commissioner Closson seconded by Commissioner Cox moved to approve Council Decision Request 2025-2642, approving the proposal in the amount of \$105,888 from Helitech to perform work associated with settlement issues on the Burgess Osborne Auditorium building; and authorizing the mayor to sign the proposal.

Mayor Hall opened the floor for comments. Director Clark noted the building had been settling and cracking for years, monitored the situation which was getting worse, and the renovation would stop further settlement and correct some of it. Commissioner Closson inquired what fund this was to be paid out and Woods Basement Systems quote with Manager Gill stating Capital Improvement which had \$175,000 slated for repairs and Director Clark stated \$110,000 quote from Woods Basement Systems.

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.

Mr. Nathan McCarny of Solar on Earth offered some suggestions for regulations for solar farms including rules on fencing, berms, and gates.

COMMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

Mayor Hall opened the floor for Council comments with no additional comments from the Council.

Commissioner Cox seconded by Commissioner Closson moved to adjourn at 7:09 p.m.

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.

/s/Susan J. O'Brien
City Clerk