

Monday, November 21, 2022
City Council Meeting at 6:30 pm

CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
Council Chambers - First Floor
212 Third Avenue
Zoom ID 87276919629

1. Meeting Opening

Subject : A. Call to Order
Meeting : Nov 21, 2022 - City Council Meeting at 6:30 pm
Type : Procedural

1. Meeting Opening

Subject : B. Roll Call
Meeting : Nov 21, 2022 - City Council Meeting at 6:30 pm
Type : Procedural

1. Meeting Opening

Subject : C. Pledge of Allegiance
Meeting : Nov 21, 2022 - City Council Meeting at 6:30 pm
Type : Procedural

2. Communication from Visitors

Subject : A. Public Comment
Meeting : Nov 21, 2022 - City Council Meeting at 6:30 pm
Type : Information

File Attachments

[public comment policy.pdf \(75 KB\)](#)

3. Consent Agenda

Subject : A. Approval of Minutes
Meeting : Nov 21, 2022 - City Council Meeting at 6:30 pm
Type : Action (Consent)
Recommended Action : Approval of Minutes as presented

File Attachments

[cc11072022.pdf \(119 KB\)](#)

Consent

Our adopted rules of Parliamentary Procedure, Robert's Rules, provide for a consent agenda listing several items for approval of the Board by a single motion. Most of the items listed under the consent agenda have gone through Board subcommittee review and recommendation. Documentation concerning these items has been provided to all Board members and the public in advance to assure an extensive and thorough review. Items may be removed from the consent agenda at the request of any board member.

3. Consent Agenda

Subject :	B. Approval of Bills and Payroll
Meeting :	Nov 21, 2022 - City Council Meeting at 6:30 pm
Type :	Action (Consent)
Recommended Action :	Approval of Bills and Payroll as presented

Public Content

File Attachments

[admin_20221118_110018.pdf \(619 KB\)](#)
[Accounts Payable by G_L Distribution Report 11_18_2022 11_17_41 AM_Mary McCormick_3D4099VO.pdf \(383 KB\)](#)
[10-31-22 Budget Performance Report.pdf \(403 KB\)](#)
[10-31-22 Balance Sheets.pdf \(326 KB\)](#)

Consent

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3. Consent Agenda

Subject :	C. Pay Request for for Central Memorial Park to Hibbard Builders in the Amount of \$40,037.59
Meeting :	Nov 21, 2022 - City Council Meeting at 6:30 pm
Type :	Action (Consent)
Recommended Action :	Approve Pay Request for for Central Memorial Park to Hibbard Builders in the Amount of \$40,037.59

Public Content

Work continues to progress on the concession, bathroom and splash pad facility at Central Park. Hibbard Builders is responsible for site supervision and coordination of the various contractors and utilities.

File Attachments

Consent

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3. Consent Agenda

Subject :	D. Pay Request for for Central Memorial Park to MO-ST Plumbing in the Amount of \$42,895.00
Meeting :	Nov 21, 2022 - City Council Meeting at 6:30 pm
Type :	Action (Consent)
Recommended Action :	Approve Pay Request for for Central Memorial Park to MO-ST Plumbing in the Amount of \$42,895.00

Public Content

Mo-St Plumbing performed all the plumbing work at Central Park. This included installing sewer service to the site for the bathrooms and concession area at Central Park. It also allows for drainage from the spray pad that has been installed on the site.

File Attachments

[Council Agenda Item Pay Request - Central Memorial Park - Most Plumbing November.pdf \(194 KB\)](#)

Consent

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8. Business Items

Subject :	A. Approve Contract with SynConn Solutions for Grant Writing on behalf of the City
Meeting :	Nov 21, 2022 - City Council Meeting at 6:30 pm
Type :	Action
Recommended Action :	Approve the Contract with SynConn Solutions for Grant Writing Services

Public Content

On October 17th, 2022, Greg Gates of SynConn Solutions presented the Sterling City Council with information on their grant writing services. The Sterling Council indicated an interest in retaining SynConn for their services. City staff, including City's Counsel, reviewed the contract and negotiated edits to better clarify terms. Staff is excited for the opportunity to engage SynConn in identifying additional grant opportunities.

File Attachments

[COS Independent Contractor Agreement \(Greg Gates\) Edits.pdf \(148 KB\)](#)

8. Business Items

Subject :	B. Tax Levy Estimate
Meeting :	Nov 21, 2022 - City Council Meeting at 6:30 pm
Type :	Action
Recommended Action :	Staff recommends the City Council approve the Tax Levy Estimate of \$5,412,155, which is below the requirement for a Truth-in-Taxation hearing.

Public Content

Each year the City is required to prepare a Tax Levy Estimate prior to adopting the tax levy for the upcoming fiscal year in accordance with the Illinois Truth in Taxation law. The purpose of the tax levy estimate is to determine whether the estimated levy extension is 5% or greater than the previous years actual levy extension. If the upcoming levy extension is 5% or greater than the actual prior levy, the City must conduct a public hearing. The initial tax levy *estimate* is \$5,657,977, an increase of \$245,169 or 4.53%, thus no hearing is required.

The projected Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) of the City is projected to increase approximately 8.29%. This will provide an 8.29% dollar increase for levies such as police protection and fire protection if their individual levy rates remain unchanged, which is past practice. The aforementioned levy rates are at the Statutory cap, thus the amount collected for those specific levies can only increase through overall growth in property values. Because of the increase in property values, the amount the City anticipates collecting will increase 4.53%, but the actual property tax rate would *decrease* from 3.1221 to 3.0138.

Pension funds do not have levy rate caps under State Statutes in order to provide a guaranteed source of funding for the pensions. The pension funds tax levies have traditionally grown faster than inflation and EAV growth. This year the City received a report that recommended slight decreases in contributions. However, that report is based on investments as of April 30, 2022 and all major market indices have trended negative since then. As such, staff proposes to increase the pension levies by 2.9% each to cover the negative returns and prevent a spike next year.

Staff gives consideration to several factors when recommending a tax levy, including: property tax rates to businesses and citizens, adequate funding of operation, increasing funding ratios to the pension funds to increase their stability and save long-term and the statutory requirements with which the City must comply. Council and staff have expressed a desire to level out annual increases in the future to avoid sharp spikes in levies to property taxpayers. Increasing the funding ratio and making recommended

contributions is key to avoiding spikes and a negative spiral. The Tax Levy Estimate is not final and can be adjusted before the final passage in December.

File Attachments

[2022 Tax Levy Estimate.pdf \(27 KB\)](#)

8. Business Items

Subject :	C. Approve Acceptance of Easement from Com-Ed for Wallace Street for \$800 in Consideration
Meeting :	Nov 21, 2022 - City Council Meeting at 6:30 pm
Type :	Action
Recommended Action :	Staff Recommends Acceptance of the Easement from Com-Ed for Wallace Street in exchange for \$800 in Consideration

Public Content

The realignment of Wallace Street necessitated either a property purchase or easement from ComEd to cross their service entrance to a power station located along the Rock River. This property is a gravel drive between the former National and NWSW properties on the south side of Wallace Street. City staff have been pursuing this acquisition since at least 2017. The City and ComEd finally came to an agreement on the grant of an easement and cost to have the easement granted on November 18th 2022. In exchange for granting the permanent easement, the City will pay ComEd \$800.

File Attachments

[C-22-083 - Wallace Street Easement.pdf \(2.790 KB\)](#)