

Committee of the Whole
January 10, 2017

Present: Mayor Vulich, Council Members Gassman, Seeley, McGraw, Allesee, O'Neill, and Connell, City Administrator, Deputy City Administrator, City Attorney, City Clerk, Press and interested citizens.

1. Railpark Site Certification – Mike Kirchhoff/Jenelle Kreiling

Mike Kirchhoff, Clinton Regional Development Corporation (CRDC), state that he was excited to talk about the site certification at the Railpark; however, this does not mean that the City will win every project. He continued in stating that Project Prairie (Sterilite) looked at the site but chose the Davenport location instead. He further stated that Davenport's site was certified before Clinton's. He proceeded to state that the slope of the land at the Railpark needs a lot of work.

Ms. Jenelle Kreiling, CRDC, stated that she is excited about the site certification at the Railpark. She continued in stating that in 2002-2003 the CRDC purchased 230 acres and in December of 2008 the City purchased nearly 300 acres. In February, 2010 the rail spur construction began and in February 2013 site certification began. She further stated that currently Clinton County BioDiesel, Rail.One and Nevada Rail are located on the site. Ms. Kreiling advised the Council that site certification is a 3-step process the purpose of which is to verify that a site is market-ready. She stated that McCallum-Sweeney Consultants was chosen for this that way if there is a major issue it can be addressed ahead of time. She continued in stating that on December 19, 2016 there was a press conference with the Governor who announce the certification. She further stated that the City has a shovel-ready site with increased visibility and marketing. She thanked the City for being a partner in the certification process.

Councilmember Connell inquired regarding whether there has been any interest lately. Ms. Kreiling stated that there is one new project and she will keep track moving forward. Mr. Kirchhoff stated that the site has not been certified long enough to see new prospects.

Councilmember McGraw stated that she heard about the incentives given to Sterilite from the City of Davenport and was doubtful that the City of Clinton could match those incentives. Councilmember O'Neill stated that Davenport had to build a spur and the Railpark already has one. Mr. Kirchhoff stated that that there would have still had to be additional track built for them. He continued in stating that their fire protection needs were higher than the water capacity at the Railpark. He further stated that if Highway 30 was 4-lanes across Iowa and extended to Sterling Illinois that would have been a factor. We must continue to push for four lanes across Iowa and to Sterling. This will give us leverage.

Councilmember Allesee stated that she hoped that we would have been compatible since there is a plastics plant nearby. Mr. Kirchhoff stated that Lyondell does produce the product; however, not at our plant in Clinton. He continued in stating that representatives from Sterilite were pleased when we met at the airport and said that we could draw the necessary labor from Clinton and Davenport, which is a positive sign; however, the wage range is \$11 to \$13 per hour and the balance of the wages are \$18 per hour which is lower than the County average range. He further stated that Ms. Kreiling did the lion's share of getting the site certified.

2. City Council Vacancy – Mayor Vulich

Mayor Vulich advised that it is up to the Council to decide how to fill the vacancy on the Council. He stated that the Council could vote to hold a special election or appoint someone. He asked if any of the Council wanted a special election and did not receive a motion. He advised that there would be a resolution at the special Council meeting following the Committee of the Whole setting a public hearing during a special Council meeting on January 16, 2017. He stated that the City would accept applications until January 19th at 4:30 and would hold the interviews during the next City Council meeting. He continued in stating that the position must be filled within 40 days.

Councilmember Allesee inquired regarding when the position would end. Mayor Vulich stated that it would end on December 31, 2017. The person would need to run for re-election. He continued in stating that interested parties could obtain applications from the City Clerk in person or by email. They could also be accessed on the City's website.

Councilmember Seeley inquired regarding what would happen if the Council did not agree on one person. Mayor Vulich stated that it would be up to the Council. He further stated that we should wait to see how many applications the City receives.

City Attorney Patrick O'Connell advised that the City is considering the date that the email was received as the date of the resignation which would place it on January 2, 2017; however, we must make sure the seat is filled within 40 days of December 31, 2016.

Mayor Vulich stated that persons do not have to attend the public hearing on the 16th to be considered applicants.

3. Legislative Lobbyist – Dick Schrad

Deputy City Administrator Dick Schrad advised the Council that the 28E agreement has been sent out to all coalition participants. He stated that he has not heard from the County yet; however, no one has withdrawn. He continued in stating that Exhibit "A" is the contract with Advocacy Strategies and they agree with the terms.

Councilmember O'Neill stated that he is not exactly a proponent of having a lobbyist; however, he is not totally against it. He continued in stating that when something is beneficial to the City it is beneficial to all entities. He further stated that he thought that \$5,500 is too much for the City to cover. He moved to amend the amount to \$3,500 for the City and County contribution and \$2,000 for the other entities.

Mayor Vulich stated that this would need to go back to the other entities to be voted on for another amount. Councilmember O'Neill stated that this is the first time the Council has seen this. He continued in stating that he did not want to delay this; however, the Council must have time to make amendments.

Deputy City Administrator Schrad stated that this was presented to the Council prior to this meeting and the amounts were laid out at that time. He continued in stating that at that time he was given permission to move forward. Mayor Vulich stated that the lobbyist would lobby for three City of Clinton items which will benefit the other entities also. Councilmember Allesee stated that this is a one year contract. She suggested that it could be re-evaluated when the contract is up. Councilmember Seeley stated that it is good that the City is working with the County and the other cities and entities.

Deputy City Administrator Schrad stated that this will be an unusual legislative session which could impact the City a great deal. Councilmember O'Neill stated that he had no problem moving this item forward; however, he did have a problem with the amount the City is expected to pay.

Councilmember Connell stated that the City of Clinton is the largest city in the County and must be successful for the others.

City Attorney O'Connell stated that the way the 28E is drafted makes sense and if the ratio is changed the whole thing will be wrong.

M/S, O'Neill-Gassman moved to amend the amount to \$3,500 for the City and County contribution and \$2,000 for the other entities. On roll call, Gassman, O'Neill- Yes; Seeley, McGraw, Allesee, Connell - No. Motion failed.

M/S, Connell-Allesee moved to forward the Legislative Lobbyist to the next City Council agenda as presented. On roll call, Seeley, McGraw, Allesee, Connell – Yes; Gassman, O'Neill – No. Motion carried.

4. New Liquor License (2116 Harrison Drive “Bonnie’s”) – Pat Van Loo

City Clerk Pat Van Loo advised the Council that although Bonnie’s has been in the community for a long period of time it is necessary for them to apply for a new liquor license since the owner’s son is taking over the business. She stated that they comply with all City and State requirements and the Fire Department, Police Department and Building and Neighborhood Services Department has not denied their application.

M/S, Gassman-Seeley moved to forward the new liquor license for Bonnies to the next City Council agenda. On roll call, carried unanimously.

5. Council Meeting Schedule for January – Mayor Vulich

Mayor Vulich advised the Council that January 24th, the normally scheduled date for the next Council meeting is also the date of Des Moines Day. He stated that the odds of those attending being able to get back in time for the meeting are not good. He continued in stating that he was proposing that the meeting date be changed to January 25th at 7:00 PM. He further stated that the resolution which will be considered at the special City Council meeting following this Committee of the Whole must be amended to also state that the Committee of the Whole Budget meeting #3 for January 26, 2017 be canceled.

M/S, Connell-Allesee moved that the City Council and Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for January 24, 2017 be moved to January 25, 2017 and the Committee of the Whole Budget Workshop #3 scheduled for January 26, 2017 be canceled. On roll call, carried unanimously.

6. Mayor & Council Updates

Councilmember O'Neill advised that he would be holding his radio show on Thursday at 11:00 AM.

Mayor Vulich advised that Des Moines Day would be January 24, 2017. He also invited everyone to the welcome reception which would be held for the new City Administrator Matt Brooke on January 27, 2017 at Eagle Point Lodge from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

Deputy City Administrator Schrad stated that the time has come for him to go. He continued in stating that he is trying to wrap up some projects. He further stated that his last day will be January 20, 2017 or perhaps he may need to stay until he finishes the project which have been started.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Van Loo
City Clerk