

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DIXON, ILLINOIS  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2011  
6:30 P.M.

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Burke. Commissioners Blackburn, Brechon, Considine and Mayor Burke answered the Roll Call. Absent was Commissioner Kuhn. The Pledge of Allegiance was cited. Pastor Bob Mavis gave the Invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Blackburn moved that the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of Monday, October 3, 2011 be accepted and placed on file. Voting Yea: Commissioners Blackburn, Brechon, Considine and Mayor Burke. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF TOTAL LABOR & OUTSIDE CLAIMS

Commissioner Blackburn moved that the City of Dixon's Total Labor & Outside Claims in the amount of \$872,160.12 be approved and ordered paid. Voting Yea: Commissioners Blackburn, Brechon, Considine and Mayor Burke. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Burke advised the highest bid on the house on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street was \$5600 and it is the consensus of the Council not to accept it. He then asked if the City should try and sell it conventionally; whereby an appraisal will be needed. Commissioner Brechon agreed with Mayor Burke on selling it this way.

Commissioner Brechon thanked everyone involved in the cleanup at the Cemetery and the help at the Cemetery Walk. She also expressed her views on KSB Hospital's successful Open House.

Commissioner Considine advised that two Dixon Firefighters, Scott Romaine and Adam Arnould are finishing up their schooling and are in the top 5% of the class. He also advised that last week was Fire Prevention Week and due to the light response, he advised it is necessary to make citizens aware of having smoke detectors in their homes.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS REPORTS

Mayor Burke reported the Treasurer's Report of September, 2011 and the Library Board Minutes of September 12, 2011 were on file with the Clerk and available for inspection.

VISITORS

Prior to anyone speaking, Mayor Burke announced the tax levy would be tabled tonight so as to have further discussions and would be on the November 21<sup>st</sup> agenda. He also advised many emails were received from band members and citizens on this subject.

Mark Bressler, Dixon Municipal Band Director, addressed the Council to speak of his 5-year plan, which entails Band quality and creating a commissioning project for marketing. He detailed the Reagan of Illinois project and stated our cost is under \$4 each, and the anticipated revenue for the City would be \$10 per unit for the CDs and \$12 per unit for the DVDs. Mark then spoke of decreasing the Band's budget back to \$42,000 and giving the Arts & Cultural Commission free reins at fundraisers, having them apply for grants, and having a Council member be an ex-officio member of said Commission.

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Mark stated a goal of his is working with the Arts Commission and the Tourism Commission as community-based art in this area is the way to go. He also added that the Mayor and Council have the right vision for the future of Dixon.

Dave Johnson, 22-year Band member and businessman, stated he wants to support the City and keep the Band going. He talked of cutting back on performances and cutting salaries, as the love of music comes first, before money. He stated he wants to see the Director achieve his goals

Tom Whitcombe, former Band Director from the 1980's, gave a historical perspective of the Band, which was originally formed in 1936. He advised his budget in the 1980's was \$25,000. He stated the Dixon Municipal Band has grown under Mark Bressler's leadership and the value it brings to the community is great. He advised he seconds what Mark Bressler and Dave Johnson stated tonight.

Donald Burnett, retired Dixon High School Math Teacher, provided information on the location of where the Band performs. He then read statements from former students of what playing in the Band meant to them, including a letter from Jerry Hey, who is a professional musician now.

Commissioner Blackburn advised the City is in a fiscal crisis and we need to weigh all options. He advised our crisis is due to tax caps, landfill revenues decreasing, rising health care costs and the State of Illinois being 8 months behind on tax payments to the City.

Commissioner Brechon advised that part-time employees needed could not be hired, as the monies were not there. She stated the Band should function on a lower budget and come up with a plan.

Commissioner Considine stated the Band's budget should be condensed. He advised Mark Bressler and Dave Johnson he would like to meet with them as the City's liaison for discussions.

Mayor Burke stated everyone appreciates what the Band has done for the City. He praised the efforts of Mark Bressler on the CD and DVD sales. Mayor Burke lastly stated that hopefully something can be worked out and advised Mark to come back with a proposal.

Cathy James, Band Manager, advised she has made personal sacrifices to keep our youth in the Band. She stated that the arts and culture that we offer in this town is what people look at when they think about moving here.

"Bible" Joe Shoemaker, Dixon, advised his father has always loved the Band's music. He stated that band concerts are a national pastime and asked the Council to please continue the Dixon Municipal Band.

John Dziedzic, Ashton, asked if the house on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street would need to be cleaned out. Commissioner Considine advised the house was toured last week and it is accessible for a walk-through. John then asked if the Council would consider changing their laws on the landlord's liability on water and garbage bills when tenants move out. Commissioner Blackburn advised Mr. Dziedzic to put this in writing.

Stan Szydelki, 1305 Christiana Terrace, advised the Building Department told him there were violations on the bids for the sale of the house on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and Mayor Burke advised the City will supply this list to him.

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PUBLIC HEARING – INTENT TO SELL GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING  
BONDS (UTILITY AND PERSONAL PROPERTY REPLACEMENT TAX  
ALTERNATE REVENUE SOURCE) SERIES 2011A NOT TO EXCEED \$6,000,000

Mayor Burke opened the Public Hearing at 7:15 p.m. He explained this hearing is for the intent to sell General Obligation Refunding Bonds (Utility and Personal Property Replacement Tax Alternate Revenue Source) Series 2011A not to exceed \$6,000,000. Commissioner Blackburn stated the issuance is a cost not to exceed \$6,000,000 so when we have the amount owed for the 2004 bond and the cost of issuance to the firms involved, and if there is any interest, it will be paid off early on the other; so chances are, it will be less than the \$6,000,000 and we will only borrow what is absolutely required and nothing more. Mayor Burke then asked for any public comments. Hearing none, Mayor Burke asked for a motion to conclude the hearing. Commissioner Considine moved that the Public Hearing concerning the intent of the Council of the City of Dixon, Lee County, Illinois to sell General Obligation Refunding Bonds (Utility and Personal Property Replacement Tax Alternate Revenue Source) Series 2011A in the amount not to exceed \$6,000,000 be concluded. Voting Yea: Commissioners Blackburn, Brechon, Considine and Mayor Burke. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING – INTENT TO SELL GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS  
(UTILITY AND PERSONAL PROPERTY REPLACEMENT TAX ALTERNATE  
REVENUE SOURCE) SERIES 2011B NOT TO EXCEED \$350,000

Mayor Burke opened the Public Hearing at 7:17 p.m. He explained this hearing is for the intent to sell General Obligation Bonds (Utility and Personal Property Replacement Tax Alternate Revenue Source) Series 2011B not to exceed \$350,000. Commissioner Blackburn advised this is for a Wastewater Treatment Plant screw pump repair project. He advised the actual cost of this project is unknown until the engineering and bid process starts. He then stated the City will only borrow what is needed. Mayor Burke then asked for any public comments. Hearing none, Mayor Burke asked for a motion to conclude the hearing. Commissioner Brechon moved that the Public Hearing concerning the intent of the Council of the City of Dixon, Lee County, Illinois to sell General Obligation Bonds (Utility and Personal Property Replacement Tax Alternate Revenue Source) Series 2011B in the amount not to exceed \$350,000 be concluded. Voting Yea: Commissioners Blackburn, Brechon, Considine and Mayor Burke. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING – INTENT TO SELL GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS  
(UTILITY AND PERSONAL PROPERTY REPLACEMENT TAX ALTERNATE  
REVENUE SOURCE) SERIES 2011C NOT TO EXCEED \$600,000

Mayor Burke opened the Public Hearing at 7:19 p.m. He explained this hearing is for the intent to sell General Obligation Bonds (Utility and Personal Property Replacement Tax Alternate Revenue Source) Series 2011C not to exceed \$600,000. Commissioner Blackburn stated this is for the current street re-surfacing project that is going on in the City. Mayor Burke then asked for any public comments. Hearing none, Mayor Burke asked for a motion to conclude the hearing. Commissioner Blackburn moved that the Public Hearing concerning the intent of the Council of the City of Dixon, Lee County, Illinois to sell General Obligation Bonds (Utility and Personal Property Replacement Tax Alternate Revenue Source) Series 2011C in the amount not to exceed \$600,000 be concluded. Voting Yea: Commissioners Blackburn, Brechon, Considine and Mayor Burke. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.

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ORD. – FY 2011/2012 TAX LEVY

Commissioner Blackburn moved that an Ordinance for the levy of taxes for the corporate purposes of the City of Dixon, Lee County, Illinois for the period commencing May 1, 2011 and ending April 30, 2012 be tabled until the regularly scheduled Council Meeting of Monday, November 21, 2011. Voting Yea: Commissioners Blackburn, Brechon, Considine and Mayor Burke. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION – MUNICIPAL AGGREGATION

Mike Mudge addressed the Council to give a brief overview of municipal aggregation and then answer questions on the subject. He stated the City of Fulton has saved its customers over 20% on their electric bills and less than 3% opted out. He advised that Mount Morris, Milledgeville, Polo and Erie passed their referendums in April and have showed a 25-30% cost savings. Mike also advised that the wording in the referendum states “not mandatory”, meaning it is a third choice for the citizens. Commissioner Considine advised that there should be a fact sheet put out to the people. He also questioned Mike on why the 3% of the people did not choose aggregation. Mike advised it could have been loyalty to ComEd or just being nervous about change. Commissioner Blackburn stated the primary election is in March; therefore, the City would have to pass an Ordinance by December. Mayor Burke stated this needs to be on the next agenda. Mayor Burke then asked Mike who pays him and he advised the suppliers do. Mike stated the costs to the City would be the advertising for 2 public hearings and the cost for legal review. At this time, former Commissioner Roy Bridgeman asked to say a few words. He advised he is all for municipal aggregation and the utility tax will go down. He stated ComEd would still be the carrier and the City of Dixon would not be reaping any revenues. Mike advised the benefit to the City is the usage not on the dollar amount.

RES. #2369-11 – OPPOSING CLOSING OF THE MABLEY DEVELOPMENTAL  
CENTER

Commissioner Brechon moved that a Resolution opposing the closing of the Mabley Developmental Center be adopted. Voting Yea: Commissioners Blackburn, Brechon, Considine and Mayor Burke. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Blackburn moved that the Regular Council Meeting of Monday, October 17, 2011 meet in Executive Session to consider the appointment, employment, compensation and performance of a specific employee. Voting Yea: Commissioners Blackburn, Brechon, Considine and Mayor Burke. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.

RECONVENED MEETING

Commissioner Blackburn moved that the Regular Council Meeting of Monday, October 17, 2011 reconvene into Open Session. Voting Yea: Commissioners Blackburn, Brechon, Considine and Mayor Burke. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.

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ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Considine moved that the Regular Council Meeting of Monday, October 17, 2011 be adjourned to meet in Regular Session on Monday, November 7, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Voting Yea: Commissioners Blackburn, Brechon, Considine and Mayor Burke. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

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Kathe A. Swanson, City Clerk