

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST MOLINE,
COUNTY OF ROCK ISLAND, STATE OF ILLINOIS
MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2019 6:30 P.M.**

PLEDGE:

Mayor Freeman led the City Council and all those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Freeman called the meeting to order and directed City Clerk Arletta D. Holmes, to call the roll. The following Aldermen were present: Alissa Sallows, Gary Almblade, Nancy Mulcahey, Frederic Kotoku, Maria Tapia, Jose Rico, and Mayor Freeman.

Mayor Freeman stated that City staff was instructed to look for ways to increase revenue thus addressing the Cities deficit. Mayor Freeman also explained that the City of East Moline is not a Home Rule Municipality, therefore the City is very limited on what the we can tax.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Gary Schmooke, 561 17th Avenue, East Moline, IL – Mr. Schmooke is the owner of Smokey’s Country Diner. Mr. Schmmoke said his biggest complaint was not being notified that this item was going to be discussed at the next City Council Meeting. Mr. Schmooke stated he received notification a day or two after the City Council had made the decision to increase the sales tax on food and beverage and said that the tax increase would be rough on independent businesses.

Mayor Freeman stated that there should have been more transparency.

Connie Cornmesser, 1140 15th Ave, East Moline, IL – Ms. Cornmesser owner of Hey Bryan’s Sports Bar and President of the Rock Island Liquor Association. Ms. Cornmesser informed the City Council that East Moline is a smaller community then Moline or Rock Island she also noted that now the tax rate is a ½% higher than either of those two cities.

Patricia Hansen, 2841 8th Street, East Moline, IL – Ms. Hansen is the President of the East Moline Main Street Association. Ms. Hansen informed the City Council that she has heard from multiple business owners and the new tax will threaten her ability to obtain sponsorships for events in the City. Ms. Hansen also questioned how the additional money being brought in from the increased tax would be used, and she felt that the City should have communicated better with the businesses regarding this tax increase.

Joe Schilling, 363 Avenue of Cities, East Moline, IL – Joe Schilling owner of St. Giuseppe’s Pizza. Mr. Schilling asked that the City Council reverse the decision to increase the Amusement tax and places for eating tax. When I have a money problem last thing I think to do is raise my prices I run deals to get people in the door. Mr. Schilling moved from Moline which had a 1 ½ % food and liquor tax. It was a relieve coming here without that tax. When you talk about 2% that is one week out of the year that is completely committed to a tax.

Robert Schilling, 367 Avenue of the Cities, East Moline, IL. – Robert Schilling is the original founder of the St. Giuseppe’s Pizza. Mr. Schilling stated to the City Council that one of the thing Joe Schilling hit upon that he thinks is important is you cannot tax your way out of some situations. There needs to be a well thought out solution to this issue, otherwise it looks like to us that you have a deficit and you are going to go hit the restaurants with this food and liquor tax.

Andy Fuhrman, 1347 Avenue of the Cities, East Moline, IL – Mr. Fuhrman, owner of Godfather’s Pizza stated that when he had to decide whether to close his Godfather’s in Davenport or East Moline, he specifically chose to remain open in East Moline because he loves the City. Mr. Fuhrman also stated that the increase in taxation made him the bad guy to his customer’s when he had no other choice but to raise his prices.

Mayor Freeman stated that the City could have handled communications with the business owners much better. The City has decided to push back the effective date for the new taxation to begin June 1, 2019. Mayor Freeman stated that he was glad to hear everyone’s expressed concerns regarding this issue.

A motion was made by Alderman Almblade, seconded by Alderman Sallows to reconsider the vote on the Amusement and Restaurant tax until the City Council can review additional information. Upon roll call the following voted in favor: Rico, Sallows, Almblade, Mulcahey, Frederic and Tapia. Motion carried.

CITY CLERK’S REPORT

City Clerk Holmes passed.

ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA:

None

CONSENT AGENDA:

City Clerk Arletta Holmes read the Consent Agenda that included the following:

- a. Approval of the City Council Minutes of March 4, 2019.
- b. Approval of the Committee-of-the-Whole of March 4, 2019.
- c. Approval of Salaries for March 8, 2019 in the amount of \$435,234.31.
- d. Approval of Bills in the amount of \$1,060,349.97.

After a brief discussion regarding the Great River Property Development payment; A motion was made by Alderman Almblade, seconded by Alderman Mulcahey, to approve the Consent Agenda except for line item 1684600-452.0 payment to Great River Property Development. Upon roll call the following voted in favor: Rico, Almblade, Mulcahey and Tapia. **Opposed:** Sallows and Frederic. Motion carried. **4 - 2**

REPORT BY MAYOR

Mayor Freeman has no items for discussion.

CITY ATTORNEY LINCOLN SCOTT PRESENTED THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION 19-18: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST MOLINE, ILLINOIS, AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A REPLACEMENT VEHICLE FOR THE EAST MOLINE POLICE DEPARTMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$45,936.49.

A motion was made by Alderman Mulcahey, seconded by Alderman Rico to approve **Resolution 19-18**. Upon roll call the following voted in favor: Rico, Sallows, Almblade, Mulcahey, Frederic and Tapia. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 19-19: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF EAST MOLINE, ILLINOIS, AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF THE PURCHASE OF A REPLACEMENT VEHICLE FROM REYNOLDS FORD, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$32,838.68.

A motion was made by Alderman Almblade, seconded by Alderman Mulcahey to approve **Resolution 19-19**. Upon roll call the following voted in favor: Rico, Sallows, Almblade, Mulcahey, Frederic and Tapia. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 19-20: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST MOLINE, ILLINOIS, AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF NEW FENCING FOR JACOBS PARK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,280.00.

A motion was made by Alderman Sallows, seconded by Alderman Almblade to approve **Resolution 19-20**. Upon roll call the following voted in favor: Rico, Sallows, Almblade, Mulcahey, Frederic and Tapia. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 19-21: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST MOLINE, ILLINOIS, APPROVING THE PARKING AGREEMENT BETWEEN CTL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, LLC AND THE CITY OF EAST MOLINE, ILLINOIS.

A motion was made by Alderman Almblade, seconded by Alderman Frederic to approve **Resolution 19-21**. Upon roll call the following voted in favor: Rico, Sallows, Almblade, Mulcahey, Frederic and Tapia. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE (Alderman Tapia)

Alderman Tapia had no items for discussion. All items have been covered under the Consent Agenda, Resolution, or Ordinance.

CITY STAFF COMMUNICATION:

Each City Staff member present was given the opportunity to inform the City Council and those present of events in their departments:

Chief Reynolds, EMPD – Chief Reynolds reported to the City Council that on April 27, 2019 the Police Department will be participating in the DEA Take Back Program from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Bring your medications and DEA will dispose of them.

Douglas Maxeiner - City Administrator – Mr. Maxeiner explained that since a potential buyer is involved with the parcels of land the City does not want to be involved at this time.

Mr. Kammler, Director of Engineering – Mr. Kammler updated the City Council on the various activities going on in the City.

- State Highway felt IL 92 along 18th Ave will be left closed until they can safely go in and clean up the area.
- Public Informational Meeting regarding the Ravine's on Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Lambrecht, Director of Maintenance Services – Mr. Lambrecht informed the City Council about the flooding the River has crested at 10’ and by next Sunday 11’. RICWMA will be having Hazardous Waste drop off at the Rock Island County Fair Grounds a date to follow.

Mr. Drake, WWTP Facilities Director – Mr. Drake informed the City Council that do to all the heavy rain and flooding the water looks like chocolate milk.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Alderman Sallows, seconded by Alderman Almblade, to adjourn the City Council meeting. Upon roll call the following voted in favor: Rico, Sallows, Almblade, Mulcahey, Frederic and Tapia. Motion carried. **7:16 p.m.**

Minutes taken and submitted by,

Arletta D. Holmes, City Clerk