

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
105 S MAIN ST
FARMER CITY, ILLINOIS
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2025
6:00 P.M.
AGENDA**

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- Call to order
- Roll call
- Pledge of allegiance to the flag
- Proclamations/presentations/recognitions -
- Public Comment –

CONSENT AGENDA

The following items will be adopted on a single motion without discussion unless a council member requests separate consideration:

- Approval of the minutes for August 4, 2025 council meeting
- Fund Warrant List

UNFINISHED BUSINESS--Ordinances or resolutions previously tabled.

NEW BUSINESS--Ordinances and resolutions for initial consideration

- A. Ordinance 1143 An Ordinance amending Chapter 32: Personnel Regulations and Policies – employee training and certification policy
- B. Approval of the bid to demolish 135 W Clinton Ave to Taza Construction DBA Tiles in Style LLC for \$66,850.00.
- C. Resolution 2025-134 Farmer City Haunted Forest donation of \$_____ from the Hotel/Motel account.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5) The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired.

OTHER ITEMS

- A. City manager report
- B. Non-agenda items and other business

ADJOURNMENT

NOTE: Anyone planning to attend the meeting who has need of special assistance under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is asked to contact the city clerk's office at (309) 928-2842, 48 hours before the meeting. Staff will be pleased to make the necessary arrangements.

PUBLIC COMMENT: This section is intended for public statement and is not a period of time for debate. Each speaker is limited to a maximum of 5 minutes per Ordinance 943 passed 10/6/2014.

MINUTES OF THE FARMER CITY, ILLINOIS
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 4, 2025 6 p.m.

ROLL CALL Present: Councilmembers David Walsh, Willard McKinley, Chad Jacobs, Kurtis Bozarth and Mayor Scott Testory.

Also, in attendance: City Manager Taylor Baxter, City Clerk Angie Wanserski and City Attorney Joe Chamley.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

PROCLAMATION/PRESENTATION Eric Shangraw with GFL Environmental was in attendance to apologize to council and residents regarding recent trash issues. There have been some workforce matters that have been problematic but they are in the process of making changes and cleaning things up. He wanted to assure everyone that GFL has heard the concerns and they apologize.

PUBLIC COMMENT

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the minutes of the July 21, 2025 council meeting.
- B. Fund Warrant List

MOTION by McKinley, seconded by Walsh, to approve the consent agenda. Voted unanimously. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS n/a

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Resolution 2025-132 Heritage Days donation of \$10,000 from the Hotel/Motel account and monies towards electrical usage.
Heritage Days made an original request of \$15,000 and the cost of electricity for the week of the 2026 event. Councilman McKinley opened with a blanket \$10,000 amount as the Hotel/Motel account did not have enough funds to support the original request. The beginning discussion revisited the issue of the city covering the cost of the 2025 electricity. Mayor Testory confirmed to Heritage Days that staff could find no evidence that this request was made and approved by council. Regardless, the city had supplied \$1000 worth of electrical supplies and HD used approximately \$363.50 of electricity totaling \$1363.50 for the 2025 event. Council and Chris Risler agreed to split this cost evenly at an amount of \$681.75 each. Council then awarded Heritage Days a total of \$10,000 for the year 2026. It was also agreed that the Heritage Day's 2025 electrical amount would be deducted from their 2026 donation check; they will receive a check in the amount of \$9318.25.
MOTION by McKinley, seconded by Walsh, to remove Resolution 2025-132 Heritage Days donation of \$10,000 from the Hotel/Motel account and monies towards electrical usage from the table to be discussed. Voted unanimously. Motion carried.
MOTION by McKinley, seconded by Walsh, to approve Resolution 2025-132 Heritage Days donation of \$10,000 from the Hotel/Motel account. Voted unanimously. Motion carried.
- B. Approve or deny entering into another lease agreement for Stensel Ponds.
Staff has looked into the cost of maintaining Stensel Ponds and found it to be minimal. Council

would like City Manager Baxter to proceed with negotiating a new lease with the Fairgrounds. Curt Homann was in attendance and spoke on behalf of the Fairgrounds. They would also like to extend the lease agreement as they are not able to carry insurance on bodies of water. CM Baxter confirmed that although the lease has expired, the city still has a policy on the Pond until the end of the year. A formal draft will be brought before council in the September meeting.

MOTION by McKinley, seconded by Walsh, to approve entering into another lease agreement for Stensel Ponds. Voted unanimously. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Baxter asked Chief Guest to be in attendance to discuss ordinance violations. Vacant property cleanup is going well and we have many derelict properties that have been addressed. Code enforcement is ongoing. Some violations are found by the officers and some are called in by citizens. There is a process to code violations that must be followed which can take from 10 to 30 days. Consequences include issuing citations up to a court appearance. Chief Guest mentioned that he would like to add a “habitual offender” clause to the current code. CM Baxter informed council that 2 EPA permits for water had been received. The Vac truck is currently getting maintenance. The water department is replacing a 3rd lead line. And last, the property next door is set to be appraised on Wednesday.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND OTHER BUSINESS n/a

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by McKinley, seconded by Walsh, to adjourn the meeting. Voted unanimously. Motion carried.

Angie Wanserski, City Clerk

Vendor Name	Net Invoice Amount	Description	Created by
100			
EVANS FROEHLICH BETH & CH	200.00	ADMIN ISSUE	DSB
EVANS FROEHLICH BETH & CH	160.00	PETTINGER DEMO	DSB
EVANS FROEHLICH BETH & CH	440.00	S. DEMOLITION	DSB
EVANS FROEHLICH BETH & CH	140.00	SOLAR	DSB
MIDWEST MAILING & SHIPPING	561.00	RENTAL-FOLDER INSERTER	DSB
T-MOBILE	33.83	MONTHLY SERVICE	DSB
FULTON SIREN SERVICES	1,546.90	SIREN MAINTENANCE- JULY 25	DSB
NICOR GAS	60.59	NICOR GAS	DSB
NICOR GAS	61.56	NICOR GAS	DSB
MTK TECHNOLOGIES INC.	935.00	MONTHLY IT SERVICE	DSB
FARMER CITY RACEWAY	4,000.00	FIREWORKS REIMBURSEMENT	DSB
EVANS FROEHLICH BETH & CH	1,000.00	CITY COUNCIL MEETING	DSB
EVANS FROEHLICH BETH & CH	300.00	FOIA POLICE REPORT REQUEST	DSB
EVANS FROEHLICH BETH & CH	1,060.00	ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS	DSB
AMUNDSEN DAVIS LLC	511.00	LEGAL SERVICES	DSB
VERIZON	186.35	MONTHLY TELEPHONE	DSB
EVERGREEN FS INC	1,118.71	POLICE FUEL	DSB
EVERGREEN FS INC	997.04	POLICE FUEL	DSB
MID-WEST TRUCKERS ASSOCI	24.00	CLEARINGHOUSE SERVICES	DSB
T-MOBILE	33.82	MONTHLY SERVICE	DSB
FS CUSTOM TURF	250.00	STREETS SERVICES	DSB
FS CUSTOM TURF	150.00	STREETS SERVICE	DSB
FS CUSTOM TURF	100.00	STREETS SERVICE	DSB
FS CUSTOM TURF	150.00	STREETS SERVICE	DSB
MENARDS - CHAMPAIGN	129.99	STREETS- SUPPLIES	DSB
MENARDS - CHAMPAIGN	447.76	FENCE & POST KIT- STREETS	DSB
NAPA AUTO PARTS	32.69	STREETS SUPPLIES	DSB
McKINLEY WATER CONDITIONI	7.00	STREETS SUPPLIES	DSB
McKINLEY WATER CONDITIONI	10.00	STREETS SUPPLIES	DSB
PEARL TRUCKING LLC	262.60	CA-6 MATERIALS	DSB
HEIDELBERG MATERIALS	363.60	CA10- MATERIALS	DSB
LEROY TRUE VALUE HARDWAR	43.74	STREETS SUPPLIES	DSB
PROGRESSIVE CHEMICAL & LI	84.70	STREETS SIGNS	DSB
EVERGREEN FS INC	450.74	STREETS FUEL	DSB
EVERGREEN FS INC	274.50	STREETS DIESEL	DSB
EVERGREEN FS INC	401.72	STREETS FUEL	DSB
WALKER TIRE & EXHAUST	61.50	PARKS NEW TIRES	DSB
WALKER TIRE & EXHAUST	36.00	PARKS TIRE REPAIR	DSB
MID-WEST TRUCKERS ASSOCI	12.00	CLEARINGHOUSE SERVICES	DSB
T-MOBILE	33.83	MONTHLY SERVICE	DSB
EVERGREEN FS INC	572.93	PARKS FUEL	DSB
EVERGREEN FS INC	510.62	PARKS FUEL	DSB
MENARDS - CHAMPAIGN	44.28	PARKS MISC	DSB
MENARDS - CHAMPAIGN	29.99	PARKS- MISC	DSB
McKINLEY WATER CONDITIONI	21.00	POOL SUPPLIES	DSB
McKINLEY WATER CONDITIONI	10.00	POOL SUPPLIES	DSB
Total 100:	17,801.01		
240			
FEHR GRAHAM	2,250.00	WATER & SEWER	DSB
Total 240:	2,250.00		
270			
MAURER-STUTZ	52.50	SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL	DSB
TRIMBLE PLUMBING INC.	190.00	RENTAL- JULY 25	DSB

Vendor Name	Net Invoice Amount	Description	Created by
Total 270:	242.50		
290			
FARMER CITY CHAMBER OF C	1,000.00	CHRISTMAS PARADE DONATION	DSB
FARMER CITY HERITAGE DAYS	9,318.25	HERITAGE DAYS DONATION	DSB
Total 290:	10,318.25		
490			
GFL ENVIRONMENTAL	12,628.22	MONTHLY SERVICE	DSB
Total 490:	12,628.22		
510			
CLASPILL AUTOMOTIVE SALES	235.31	WATER VEHICLE REPAIR	DSB
T-MOBILE	33.82	MONTHLY SERVICE	DSB
FRONTIER	187.77	WATER PHONE	DSB
EVERGREEN FS INC	165.63	WATER FUEL	DSB
EVERGREEN FS INC	147.62	WATER FUEL	DSB
EVERGREEN FS INC	274.50	WATER DIESEL	DSB
MAURER-STUTZ	270.00	WASHINGTON STREET WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT	DSB
MAURER-STUTZ	2,128.75	WASHINGTON STREET WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT	DSB
G.A. RICH & SONS	7,982.00	EPA FILTER PROJECT	DSB
G.A. RICH & SONS	21,843.00	EPA FILTER PROJECT	DSB
DONOHUE & ASSOCIATES INC.	2,221.14	EPA FILTER PROJECT- PERMITS	DSB
Total 510:	35,489.54		
520			
T-MOBILE	33.83	MONTHLY SERVICE	DSB
DONOHUE & ASSOCIATES INC.	1,620.00	ENGINEERING SERVICES	DSB
USA BLUEBOOK	299.44	SEWER SUPPLIES	DSB
EVERGREEN FS INC	124.90	SEWER FUEL	DSB
EVERGREEN FS INC	111.32	SEWER FUEL	DSB
EVERGREEN FS INC	274.50	SEWER DIESEL	DSB
MAURER-STUTZ	1,160.00	WASHINGTON STREET SEWER LINING	DSB
DONOHUE & ASSOCIATES INC.	3,335.00	IEPA SRF FACILITY PLAN	DSB
Total 520:	6,958.99		
530			
BHMG ENGINEERS INC.	1,178.03	EPA ANNUAL REPORTING	DSB
MID-WEST TRUCKERS ASSOCI	24.00	CLEARINGHOUSE SERVICES	DSB
T-MOBILE	33.82	MONTHLY SERVICE	DSB
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE	738.02	MONTHLY BILLS	DSB
NICOR GAS	53.70	NICOR GAS	DSB
IMEA	155,586.52	ELEC GENERATION- JULY 25	DSB
NICOR GAS	913.73	NICOR GAS	DSB
NICOR GAS	153.83	NICOR GAS	DSB
MENARDS - CHAMPAIGN	32.84	ELECTRIC SUPPLIES	DSB
EVERGREEN FS INC	282.39	ELECTRIC FUEL	DSB
EVERGREEN FS INC	251.68	ELECTRIC FUEL	DSB
EVERGREEN FS INC	274.50	ELECTRIC DIESEL	DSB
Total 530:	159,523.06		

Vendor Name	Net Invoice Amount	Description	Created by
Grand Totals:	<u>245,211.57</u>		



CITY OF FARMER CITY, ILLINOIS

105 South Main Street
Farmer City, Illinois 61842-0049
Telephone: (309) 928-2842

MEMO

Date: 9/2/2025
To: Mayor Testory and City Council
From: Taylor Baxter, City Manager
RE: Employee Personnel Policy Addition – Employee Training and Certification(s) Policy

Mayor and Council,

I want to establish a baseline for all employees who need to obtain certain certifications in their field. Many of our full-time specialty employees are required to have certain certifications at the time of hire or obtain certifications within 6 months of hire. Over time, we have been very lax with allowing employees to continue to take exams even after their first attempt. By setting this policy in place, it sets the standard for all full-time and part-time employees that the city will be fully supportive of employees who choose to get certified but after the first attempt, all related expenses will be paid for by the employee and not the residents of Farmer City.

I have spoken with our employees, and they know that this policy is being voted on tonight. Our team understands what this policy entails and what that means moving forward after this vote. This policy is not meant to prohibit employees from taking exams or to discourage obtaining certifications but rather setting expectations across the board and having everyone be on the same page while still being mindful of spending taxpayer funds responsibly.

If you have any questions regarding this policy, please let me know.

Thank you,

Taylor Baxter
City Manager

ORDINANCE 1143

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 32: PERSONNEL REGULATIONS AND POLICIES

WHEREAS; the City of Farmer City is a municipality in accordance with the constitution of the State of Illinois of 1970; and

WHEREAS; the City of Farmer City has the authority to enact ordinances guiding personnel rules and regulations; and

WHEREAS; the City of Farmer City desires to add to the existing code providing guidelines for employee training and certification;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Farmer City, DeWitt County, Illinois that:

Section 1. Chapter 32, Personnel Regulations and Policies, is hereby amended as follows, to add:

§ 32.074 EMPLOYEE TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION POLICY

PURPOSE

To support employee development while ensuring responsible use of resources, the City of Farmer City provides limited costs for professional certification exams that directly relate to an employee's job duties.

POLICY

- The City of Farmer City believes in the development of our workforce, both to enhance employee engagement and commitment to the city as an employer and to ensure the continued excellence of our organization. Training and development are essential business investments that enable the city to maintain and extend our employees' knowledge and skills as our business environment evolves. Training and development plans and budgets shall be built into the City of Farmer City annual budget.
- The investment that the City of Farmer City makes in partnership with employees in their continuing career development allows us to achieve maximum flexibility in meeting our current and future skills requirements. The city is committed to creating and fostering an environment that facilitates and enhances the skills training and career development of

our employees. Employees will be provided with opportunities so that they may maintain and develop their skills, adapt to changing workplace needs and fulfill their employment potential within the city.

- The City will cover the cost of **the initial certification exam which includes (but not limited to) exam fee, training, course materials, meals and lodging (if necessary)**. This one-time cost is intended to assist employees in obtaining a certificate that is required and/or enhances their ability to perform their assigned duties. The city will also pay all costs for the employee to obtain recertification as needed.
- If the employee **fails the first exam or recertification** any subsequent attempts (including time off to retake tests or classes) will be taken on the employee's **own time and expense** using vacation, personal, or comp time.

DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this policy:

- **Training and Development:** May include formal training or formal courses of study to update and enhance the skills/knowledge necessary to make a continuing contribution to the work of the City of Farmer City, in current and future roles.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Administration/Department Heads:

Create and foster an environment that facilitates and enhances the skills training and career development of employees by:

- Providing resources for employees' training and development to ensure that the skill levels of employees are strong, broad and well-suited to the pursuit of the city's objectives.
- To the extent that operational requirements allow, providing employees with appropriate opportunities to acquire skills or experience would enhance employees' ability to make a continuing contribution to the work of the City of Farmer City.

Employees

Eligibility and Conditions:

- The certification must be directly related to the employee's current position.
- Prior written approval must be obtained from the employee's Department Head and/or the City Manager.
- Vacation, personal, or comp time must be used if classes occur during working hours after first failed attempt.
- This policy applies to full-time and part-time employees. Temporary, seasonal, or contract workers are not eligible. A separate training reimbursement program policy has been approved for all seasonal lifeguards and should be utilized as written.

COSTS NOT COVERED BY THE CITY

- Any retake fees after failed exam attempt.
- Any certification renewals after failed attempt.
- Any related costs such as books, courses, travel, or lodging after failed attempt.
- Any courses unrelated to municipal duties or future roles within the City.

EXCEPTIONS

Exceptions may be made in limited cases where:

- A new certificate or license is required due to changes in legal, regulatory, or operational requirements.
- The employee’s job classification changes due to City restructuring or reorganization.

Any exception must be approved in writing by the City Manager.

POLICY REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed annually by the City Manager and presented to the City Council for adjustments, ensuring that it remains consistent with budget priorities and the City’s commitment to fiscal responsibility.

Section 2. Invalidity. Should any section or provision of this Ordinance be declared to be invalid, that decision shall not affect the validity of this Ordinance as a whole or any part thereof, other than the part so declared to be invalid.

Section 3. Effective Date. The provisions of this Ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days following its passage, approval and publication as required by law.

Section 4. Conflict. All other ordinances or parts of ordinances which are in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are, to the extent of such conflict, hereby superseded.

Section 5. Publication. The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause this Ordinance to be published in pamphlet form immediately after passage.

Upon motion by Council Member _____, seconded by Council Member _____, passed by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Farmer City, Illinois this 2nd day of September 2025, by roll call vote, as follows:

Voting “aye” (names): _____

Voting “nay” (names): _____

Abstained (names): _____

Absent (names): _____

PASSED this 2nd day of September 2025.

Angie Wanserski, City Clerk

APPROVED this 2nd day of September 2025.

Scott Testory, Mayor

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
COUNTY OF DEWITT) SS
CITY OF FARMER CITY)

CERTIFICATION OF ORDINANCE

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that I am the duly selected, qualified and acting Clerk of the City of Farmer City, DeWitt County, Illinois (the “**Municipality**”), and as such official I am the keeper of the records and files of the Municipality and of the Mayor and City Council (the “**Corporate Authorities**”).

I do further certify that the foregoing constitutes a full, true and complete excerpt from the proceedings of the meeting of the Corporate Authorities held on the 2nd of September 2025, insofar as same relates to the adoption of Ordinance No. 1143 entitled:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 32: PERSONNEL

REGULATIONS AND POLICIES

a true, correct and complete copy of which ordinance (the “**Ordinance**”) as adopted at such meeting appears in the proceedings of the minutes of such meeting and is hereto attached. The Ordinance was adopted and approved by the vote and on the date therein set forth.

I do further certify that the deliberations of the Corporate Authorities on the adoption of such Ordinance were taken openly, that the vote on the adoption of such Ordinance was taken openly and was preceded by a public recital of the nature of the matter being considered and such other information as would inform the public of the business being conducted, that such meeting was held at a specified time and place convenient to the public, that notice of such meeting was duly given to all of the news media requesting such notice, that the agenda for the meeting was duly posted at the City Hall and so that each page of the agenda was continuously visible for public review and inspection in a City Hall window 24/7 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting, that such meeting was called and held in strict compliance with the provisions of the open meetings laws of the State of Illinois, as amended, and the Illinois Municipal Code, as amended, and that the Corporate Authorities have complied with all of the applicable provisions of such open meeting laws and such Code and their procedural rules in the adoption of such Ordinance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto affix my official signature and the seal of the City of Farmer City, Illinois, this 2nd day of September 2025.

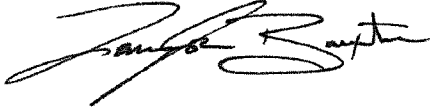
(SEAL)

Angie Wanserski, City Clerk

Angie Wanserski

From: City of Farmer City Manager
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2025 3:35 PM
To: Angie Wanserski
Subject: FW: Hotel/motel funds request-updated to reflect available amount

For the council meeting.



Taylor Baxter

City Manager
City of Farmer City
105 S. Main Street
Farmer City, Illinois 61842
309-928-3412

From: Rachel Cox <nightmareonmainstcoffee@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 11, 2025 3:12 PM
To: City of Farmer City Manager <citymanager@cityoffarmercity.org>
Subject: Hotel/motel funds request-updated to reflect available amount

To the Honorable City Council,

My name is Rachel Cox and I'm speaking on behalf of the Farmer City Haunted Forest. Over the years, the Haunted Forest has grown from a small community effort into a beloved tradition, drawing thousands of guests annually and showcasing our town's creativity, volunteer spirit, and spooky charm.

As of this year, we've formally separated from the Chamber of Commerce and are now operating as our own nonprofit incorporation. This change allows us to independently manage our operations, apply for targeted funding, and ensure that 100% of proceeds and donations go directly into the event's success.

However, with this change comes new responsibilities and growing costs. One of the most significant challenges we're currently facing is the steep increase in insurance requirements. Our prior policy no longer meets the criteria for hayrack-related liability, and updated quotes for proper coverage now average around \$5,000. This insurance is required in order to continue offering hayrides—one of the cornerstone attractions of our event.

Additionally, to meet new safety standards set by insurers, we must now provide our own hayracks so we can permanently modify them with secure seating and railings. The ones we have found so far range between \$500-\$600 each, we are looking at purchasing two. The modifications are estimated to cost around \$2,000, approximately \$1,000 per hayrack, though we are trying to get the bulk of the materials donated.

We are committed to making these improvements not only to keep the Haunted Forest running, but to ensure the safety and comfort of every guest who joins us. We are asking for \$7400 to help us maintain this time honored tradition. With your support, we can preserve this frightfully fun event and help it evolve into an even more exciting experience for the community and beyond.

Total request amount: \$7,400

\$5,000 for event insurance

\$1,200 for hayracks

\$1,200 for modifications

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rachel Cox

On Behalf of the Farmer City Haunted Forest

RESOLUTION 2025-134

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FROM
HOTEL/MOTEL ACCOUNT**

WHEREAS, the purpose of expenditures from the municipal hotel/motel tax, levied and collected by the City of Farmer City under Ordinance 771, is “to promote tourism and conventions within the city, and otherwise attract nonresident, overnight visitors to the City and;

WHEREAS, the City of Farmer City had received a request from Rachel Cox on behalf of the Farmer City Haunted Forest for a grant to help defray the costs of the event; and

WHEREAS, the City of Farmer City recommends that the city council approves a grant of \$_____ for this purpose; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FARMER CITY FARMER CITY, DEWITT COUNTY, ILLINOIS THAT:

FIRST: that the City of Farmer City award a grant of \$_____ from the proceeds of the municipal hotel-motel tax to the Farmer City Haunted Forest to help defray the costs of putting on the annual Farmer City Haunted Forest.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FARMER CITY, COUNTY OF DEWITT, ILLINOIS THIS 2nd DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2025.

AYES: _____ NAYS: _____ ABSTAIN: _____ ABSENT: _____

Scott Testory, Mayor

Angie Wanserski, City Clerk