

**MINUTES  
CITY OF DEKALB  
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
JUNE 12, 2023**

The City Council of DeKalb, Illinois, held a Regular meeting on June 12, 2023, in the Yusunas Meeting Room of the DeKalb Public Library, 309 Oak Street, DeKalb, Illinois.

**A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Mayor Barnes called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Recording Secretary Ruth Scott called the roll, and the following members of City Council were present: Alderman Barb Larson, Alderman Tracy Smith, Alderman Greg Perkins, Alderman Mike Verbic, Alderman John Walker, and Mayor Cohen Barnes. Alderman Scott McAdams was absent. Alderman Carolyn Zasada was absent at roll call but arrived at the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

Others in attendance included City Manager Bill Nicklas, City Attorney Matt Rose, and Police Chief David Byrd.

Sasha Cohen was absent.

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Shadow Gentry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

MOTION: Alderman Verbic moved to amend the agenda to add Personnel to the Executive Session; seconded by Alderman Walker.

VOTE: Motion carried by a 6-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Larson, Smith, Perkins, Verbic, Walker, Barnes. Nay: None. Absent: Zasada, McAdams. Mayor Barnes declared the motion passed.

**D. PRESENTATIONS**

There were none.

**E. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Tom Riley apologized for the allegations made about a neighbor at the May 8, 2023, City Council meeting.

Mike Baron-Jeffery stated his opposition to the proposed Northern Illinois University (NIU) Greek Life building on the City owned property at W. Hillcrest Drive and Blackhawk Road (also known as the "L") and suggested placing buildings there that will provide goods and services to those living in the area.

**F. APPOINTMENTS**

Mayor Barnes read each of the following by title only:

1. Appointing Bill Cummings to the DeKalb Public Library Board for a Three-Year Term through June 30, 2026.
2. Reappointing Pat Fagan to the Police Pension Board for a Two-Year Term through May 31, 2025.

MOTION: Alderman Smith moved to approve the appointment and reappointment; seconded by Alderman Larson.

VOTE: Motion carried by a 6-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Larson, Smith, Perkins, Verbic, Walker, Barnes. Nay: None. Absent: Zasada, McAdams. Mayor Barnes declared the motion passed.

## **G. CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Barnes read the following by title only:

1. Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of May 22, 2023.
2. Accounts Payable and Payroll through June 12, 2023, in the Amount of \$3,061,943.22.
3. Investment and Bank Balance Summary through April 2023.
4. Year-to-Date Revenues and Expenditures through April 2023.
5. City of DeKalb Police Department Report – May 2023.

MOTION: Alderman Perkins moved to approve the Consent Agenda; seconded by Alderman Walker.

VOTE: Motion carried by a 6-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Larson, Smith, Perkins, Verbic, Walker, Barnes. Nay: None. Absent: Zasada, McAdams. Mayor Barnes declared the motion passed.

## **H. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

There were none.

## **I. CONSIDERATIONS**

There were none.

## **J. RESOLUTIONS**

1. Resolution 2023-064 Approving a Settlement Agreement to Allow for the Demolition of 825 Pleasant Street Using Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) Funding.

Mayor Barnes read the resolution by title only.

MOTION: Alderman Smith moved to approve the resolution; seconded by Alderman Walker.

City Manager Nicklas provided an overview of this item based on the information provided in the agenda packet.

Alderman Smith thanked Andy Raih, Director of Streets, Facilities and Airport, and Jennifer Yochem, Community Services Coordinator, for resolving this issue.

VOTE: Motion carried by a 6-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Larson, Smith, Perkins, Verbic, Walker, Barnes. Nay: None. Absent: Zasada, McAdams. Mayor Barnes declared the motion passed.

2. Resolution 2023-065 Approving the Regulation of Traffic for the Purpose of Holding the Northern Illinois University Homecoming Block Party on Illinois Route 38 (Lincoln Highway)

Between First Street and Fourth Street on Thursday, October 12, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. through Friday, October 13, 2023, at 6:00 a.m.

Mayor Barnes read the resolution by title only.

MOTION: Alderman Perkins moved to approve the resolution; seconded by Alderman Verbic.

City Manager Nicklas provided an overview of this item based on the information provided in the agenda packet.

Brief discussion ensued regarding the event.

Jennifer Groce of NIU Community Affairs thanked the Council and City staff for their assistance with bringing the event together.

VOTE: Motion carried by a 6-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Larson, Smith, Perkins, Verbic, Walker, Barnes. Nay: None. Absent: Zasada, McAdams. Mayor Barnes declared the motion passed.

#### **K. ORDINANCES – SECOND READING**

1. Ordinance 2023-022 Amending Chapter 52 “Offenses Against Public Peace – Safety And Morals”, Section 52.02 “Disorderly Conduct”, Section 52.130 “Parental Responsibility”, and Section 52.411 “Nuisance Gathering”.

Mayor Barnes read the ordinance by title only.

MOTION: Alderman Larson moved to approve the ordinance on second reading; seconded by Alderman Verbic.

Joey Moore spoke to the Council about the community service program the Barb City Food Mart provides.

Steve Kapitan stated he doesn’t think the ordinance is ready for passage and suggested it be passed on to the Human Relations Commission (HRC) for further review.

Jo Plenger-Schulz noted that while she sees good things happening in DeKalb, she’s also concerned about crime and recent events involving youth. Ms. Plenger-Schulz thanked Alderman Walker for his recent ward meeting and allowing citizens to discuss their concerns.

Dewayne Brown stated the violent behavior must stop because it’s a detriment to DeKalb and its reputation. He added that parents need to take more responsibility for their children by looking at their social media accounts and teaching them right from wrong. Mr. Brown also suggested the need for social programs and cooperation from teachers and schools.

City Manager Nicklas provided an overview of this item based on the information provided in the agenda packet, including changes to the draft ordinance since the last reading on May 22, 2023.

Lengthy discussion ensued regarding parental responsibility and involvement, parenting classes, community service availability, the COMPASS Program process, issues with truancy, and the suggested development of a consortium to address the issues and come up with smart and measurable goals.

Alderman Zasada arrived at the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

VOTE: Motion carried by a 7-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Zasada, Larson, Smith, Perkins, Verbic, Walker, Barnes. Nay: None. Absent: McAdams. Mayor Barnes declared the motion passed.

#### **L. ORDINANCES – FIRST READING**

1. Ordinance 2023-023 Approving a Plat of Dedication for the Kimberly Drive Right-of-Way Improvements from Delta Nu House Corporation for \$7,300 (917 Kimberly Drive; PIN 08-015-176-008).

Mayor Barnes read the resolution by title only.

MOTION: Alderman Larson moved to approve first reading of the ordinance; seconded by Alderman Walker.

City Manager Nicklas provided an overview of this item based on the information provided in the agenda packet.

There were no questions or comments from the Council.

VOTE: Motion carried by a 7-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Zasada, Larson, Smith, Perkins, Verbic, Walker, Barnes. Nay: None. Absent: McAdams. Mayor Barnes declared the motion passed.

#### **M. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

1. Council Member Reports.

Alderman Verbic welcomed WW Wings to the sixth ward.

Alderman Walker advised citizens to contact the police department when they see anything that looks suspicious.

Alderman Smith reported that the sign for the Five Guys restaurant location has been put in place. He also congratulated his brother-in-law, Colonel David Nowak, on his retirement from the United States Air Force after 42 years of service.

Alderman Zasada stated that allowing the community time to speak to the proposed amendment to Chapter 52 prior to second reading was the right thing to do.

Alderman Larson advised citizens to be cautious as road repair is in full swing.

Alderman Perkins thanked Jennifer Yochem for her assistance in setting up a food pantry at the Elks Lodge over the weekend.

Mayor Barnes provided highlights of recent events and meetings he's attended, including the Memorial Day Parade, which was well attended, his recent spot on the WLBK Radio Show, and meetings with DeKalb Community Gardens to continue conversation regarding their proposed plan for the "L".

2. City Manager Report.

City Manager Nicklas had no report.

## **N. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Barnes read the following Executive Session exceptions for the record:

1. Approval to Hold an Executive Session in Order to Discuss:
  - a. The Purchase or Lease of Real Property as Provided for in 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5);
  - b. The Sale or Lease of Real Property as Provided for in 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6); and
  - c. Personnel as Provided for in 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).

MOTION: Alderman Smith moved to recess for Executive Session; seconded by Alderman Walker.

VOTE: Motion carried by a 7-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Zasada, Larson, Smith, Perkins, Verbic, Walker, Barnes. Nay: None. Absent: McAdams. Mayor Barnes declared the motion passed and recess the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Following adjournment of the Executive Session, Mayor Barnes opened the meeting to the public at 8:00 p.m.

## **O. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: Alderman Perkins moved to adjourn the Regular meeting; seconded by Alderman Smith.

VOTE: Motion carried by a 7-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Zasada, Larson, Smith, Perkins, Verbic, Walker, Barnes. Nay: None. Absent: McAdams. Mayor Barnes declared the motion passed and adjourned the Regular meeting at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Ruth A. Scott, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved by the City Council on June 26, 2023.

Click [here](#) to view the agenda packet for the June 12, 2023, Regular City Council Meeting.

Click [here](#) to view the video recording of the June 12, 2023, Regular City Council Meeting.