

**Minutes of the Regular Arcola City Council Meeting
Monday, March 15, 2004**

Mayor Manna called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Alderpersons Gentry, Lampe, Kile, Williams, Ferguson and Wheeler. Treasurer Harvey, Attorney Moore, City Foreman Jack Logan, Police Chief Mike Phillips and Zoning Officer Byron Joergens were also present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Alderman Gentry led the Council and the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 1, 2004 MINUTES Alderman Wheeler moved to approve the March 1, 2004 Minutes, copies of which were furnished to each Council member and was seconded by Alderwoman Kile. Roll call vote, Gentry, aye; Lampe, aye; Kile, aye; Williams, aye; Ferguson, aye; Wheeler, aye. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 28, - MARCH 12, 2004 BILLS Alderman Ferguson moved to approve the February 28 – March 12, 2004 Bills as presented and was seconded by Alderman Wheeler. Roll call vote, Gentry, aye; Lampe, aye; Kile, aye; Williams, aye; Ferguson, aye; Wheeler, aye. Motion carried.

CONSIDER TIF STOREFRONT GRANT REQUEST – AUTO TECH A request from Paul Harshbarger d/b/a Arcola Auto Tech was presented again. Alderman Ferguson moved to approve the request submitted by Paul Harshbarger for a TIF Storefront Grant. Alderwoman Kile asked what had happened since the last Council meeting when the request was tabled. A letter had been submitted by Attorney Moore stating that the legal fees incurred on Mr. Harshbarger's Ordinance Violations were \$696.00. The Council felt Mr. Harshbarger should pay half the cost of the legal fees in order for his TIF Storefront Grant to be approved. Mr. Harshbarger agreed to pay half the cost which would be \$348.00. After further discussion, Alderman Ferguson rescinded his first motion and made a motion to approve the grant request from Paul Harshbarger for a TIF Storefront Grant with Mr. Harshbarger paying \$348.00 to the City before his Ordinance Violation court date, thus dismissing the charges, and allowing Mr. Harshbarger 6 months to install his fence as stated in the TIF request. Alderwoman Kile seconded the motion. Roll call vote, Gentry, aye; Lampe, aye; Kile, aye; Williams, aye; Ferguson, aye; Wheeler, aye. Motion carried.

AWARD BID FOR SOUTH SIDE STORM DRAINAGE PROJECT Alderman Williams reported that bids for the South Side Storm Sewer Improvements project were opened on February 26, 2004 as follows:

1.	Cross Construction	\$734,604.80
2.	B and T Drainage	897,020.03
3.	GRR Construction	916,229.85
4.	A and R Mechanical	917,355.46
5.	Feutz Contractors	952,881.50
6.	Central Illinois Tile	966,298.40
7.	Curry Construction	922,968.85
8.	A.J. Walker Construction	1,032,471.03

Marty Vogel, Clark, Dietz, Inc. was presented and told the Council that his firm did question the large difference in the amounts of low bid and that of B and T Drainage. Cross Construction reviewed their bid and sent a letter stating that their bid stood as presented. After further discussion, Alderman Williams moved to accept the low bid of \$734,604.80 from Cross Construction for the South Side Storm Sewer project and was seconded by Alderwoman Lampe. Roll call vote, Gentry, aye; Lampe, aye; Kile, aye; Williams, aye; Ferguson, aye; Wheeler, aye. Motion carried. Vogel said a tentative start date would be April 1, 2004 pending all of the paperwork being submitted.

Mayor Manna asked Marty Vogel to explain the letters from Eastern Illinois Precast and Gordon Dill from USDA Rural Development reference the pipe being used on the storm sewer project. Vogel said Eastern Illinois Precast had written a letter complaining about their pipe not being used in the City's storm sewer project. Vogel explained that they have not had good experiences with Eastern Illinois

Precast quality control and the way the material is made. Marty said Gordon Dill backed him up and wrote a letter stating the same. Council understood.

DISCUSS CONCESSION STAND AT MOORE PARK Alderman Williams said the Park Committee had discussed letting one of the Booster Clubs operate the Moore Park Concession Stand this year. Williams said the City has not made any money on the concession stand for the last several years. He said they would operate it and keep the profits. The use of the telephone was discussed and possibly having it disconnected. Alderman Wheeler said he would talk to the Boosters Clubs. Alderwoman Lampe moved to allow a Local Booster's Organization, to be later determined and approved, to operate the concession stand at their expense and was seconded by Alderman Gentry. Roll call vote, Gentry, aye; Lampe, aye; Kile, aye; Williams, aye; Ferguson, aye; Wheeler, aye. Motion carried.

CONSIDER SELLING WATER PLANT SURPLUS PROPERTY Marty Vogel reported that the City's water treatment plant had been updated just before the benzene spill at Quantum. He said the City then began purchasing water from Northern Illinois Water, Inc. and the equipment was no longer used. Consumer's Water in Danville supplies water to Indianola and is wanting to put in a new treatment facility. The type of treatment facility is the same that Arcola had, therefore Marty thought the City might sell the unused equipment to Consumer's Water. After further discussion, Alderwoman Kile moved to authorize Clark Dietz, Inc. to pursue negotiations with Consumer Water for purchase of the City's existing surplus water plant equipment and was seconded by Alderman Gentry. Roll call vote, Gentry, aye; Lampe, aye; Kile, aye; Williams, aye; Ferguson, aye; Wheeler, aye. Motion carried.

CLARK DIETZ, INC. OPINION ON WATER & SEWER EXTENSIONS Mayor Manna asked Marty to explain their opinion on water and sewer extensions to three properties in Arcola as the Council had requested. Marty reported that the first area that they considered was the property of Louie Turner who lives on 300E. Turner does not have City sewer, but Vogel said that the sewer system was too shallow in that area and that Mr. Turner would have to install a sewer ejector which would cost at least \$6,000.00. The second area considered is the Dick Prout property on N. Rt. 45. He said the sewer system is at his property line, but he would have to install a sewer ejector lift station also. He said water is to his property also and a fire hydrant could be put at the end of N. Walnut St. The third area that was considered was the triangle on the southwest side of the City. He said the City can provide water and sewer at a cost of approximately \$40,000.00. He said the cost is high due to boring under the State highway. Mayor Manna proposed that the City let this die and turn over to the committee for further consideration. Council felt Mr. Prout should be notified of the City's opinion since he had written a letter of request to the City. Mayor Manna said he would sign a letter that Clark Dietz, Inc. would prepare to send to Mr. Prout.

DISCUSS ANNEXATION OF 36 ACRES OF LIBMAN PROPERTY Attorney Moore reported that Libman's will be filing a petition for annexation and rezoning of 36+ acres of property to the City. The Plan Commission will meet on the rezoning issue on March 22, 2004. The land is unimproved farmland north of their current property and west to Elm St. Council discussed the property of Rusty Brown being surrounded by the City. In such a case Mr. Brown's property could be forced to be annexed also. After further discussion, Alderwoman Kile moved to authorize Attorney Moore to draw up the proper paperwork for the Libman Company annexation to be considered at the April 5, 2004 Council meeting. Alderman Ferguson seconded the motion. Roll call vote, Gentry, aye; Lampe, aye; Kile, aye; Williams, aye; Ferguson, aye; Wheeler, aye. Motion carried.

Mayor Manna asked about some other properties that are requesting to be in the City or TIF District. Attorney Moore said Eric Headrick's property on South Rt. 45 is already in the City, however there are some properties south and west of True Value that are requesting to be in the TIF District. He said he is working on that request.

APPROVE RESOLUTION 04-R-1, ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD Marty Vogel advised the Council that a permit application had to be sent to Illinois Central Railroad in order to construct on their right of way for the south side storm sewer project. A \$500.00 application fee has to be sent as well as a resolution authorizing the Mayor as the authorized agent for the City. Vogel said this would authorize the Mayor to sign documents for the City pertaining to this project with Illinois Central Railroad. Alderman Ferguson moved to approve Resolution 04-R-1, as presented and was seconded by Alderman Wheeler.

Roll call vote, Gentry, aye; Lampe, aye; Kile, aye; Williams, aye; Ferguson, aye; Wheeler, aye. Motion carried.

Mayor Manna thanked Clark Dietz, Inc. and Marty for working with the railroad on this very important project.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Alderman Gentry reported that the Employee Relations Committee had met and discussed employee's overtime in the handbook. Gentry said that the Committee would like to recommend that Holidays, Vacation Days and Funeral Days be counted as work days when overtime is figured. He said the Committee still needed to resolve overtime being paid when a personal or sick day has been taken within the same week. Also that the Long Term Disability be changed in the handbook to starting after 90 days of unemployment rather than 30 days. Alderman Gentry asked that amendment to the Employee Handbook be put on the next agenda.

Alderman Gentry also reported that he and Alderman Williams met with a representative of the U of I Leisure Studies Department and she brought up the idea of a Municipal Communications Tax in the City, where the taxes received could go to areas such as park improvements. Attorney Moore told Gentry that this was brought up years ago and falls under a broad category of taxes as a possible source of revenue. He said it was dropped due to affecting large businesses and local people. Attorney Moore said he could look into the tax again if the Council wanted him to.

Alderman Gentry asked for an update of the Casey's manager and the Liquor Ordinance. Attorney Moore said the State Statute supported the City Ordinance.

Alderman Gentry also asked about abandoned houses in the City. Attorney Moore said action had already been taken on some of the abandoned houses and that one was dropped due to the ownership of the property being in question. He said the person was in the nursing home and until she died he was not sure what could be done.

Alderman Gentry reported that the Director of the Crazy Daze program this summer will be his wife, Angie. He said she has developed a website for Crazy Daze and was planning on building on that website. Gentry said he had acted as Treasurer for Crazy Daze in the past, but due to his Alderman position he would now have any donations sent to the City office.

Alderman Gentry reported that an adult Easter Egg Hunt fundraiser was scheduled for April 3, 2004 and tickets were available.

Alderwoman Kile felt there should be an ad in the paper that scholarships are available for children who cannot afford to pay the dues for Crazy Daze summer program.

Alderwoman Lampe reported that the Trash/Recycling Committee would meet before the next City Council meeting on April 5, 2004. She also reported that the new decorative Park lights are up and look very good.

Alderwoman Kile said the old sewer plant really looks bad. She said there are numerous bags of leaves there. Lampe said the City workers have been working on cleaning it up and will continue to work on it.

Alderwoman Kile reported that she had met with Terry Anderson, janitor at the Arcola Center, and that there are a lot of stains again on the carpet. Mayor Manna asked Jack Logan to look at the cost of tile for the Arcola Center. Alderwoman Kile said there are still complaints about the heat at the Arcola Center. She said it is set on 64 degrees and people are still complaining.

Alderwoman Kile ask if there was going to be a Special Council meeting next Monday. City Clerk Dill said that Alderman Ferguson had suggested a committee meeting and have all of the Alderpersons present. Mayor Manna said it would be a Special Council meeting and everyone would get paid. The

purpose is to hear a proposal on funding of the West Side Sanitary project by Fredi Beth Schmutte, Economic Development Consultant and Marty Vogel with Clark Dietz, Inc.

Alderman Williams reported that the Water and Sewer Committee's would meet tomorrow at 6:00 p.m. to talk with Carl Bartels about running water and sewer to his proposed subdivision.

Alderman Williams told the Council that the no parking on Rt. 45 was to be from Main St. to Washington St. and that would take away a lot of parking on the back and east side of the Arcola Center. Council decided that the first 75' south of Main St. should be no parking.

Alderman Williams asked about filling the pool in and what the Council wanted to do. He said demolition had been recommended and then fill with dirt. It was decided to get demolition prices for the pool.

Mayor Manna said Pat Monahan's daughter works for a Senator in Washington D.C. and was going to see if there was any money available to City's for swimming pools. Mayor Manna asked the Council to wait a couple of weeks to see if Monahan's daughter has any luck on getting a grant for the pool.

Alderman Williams said a survey on the Parks would be sent out soon by the U of I Department of Leisure Studies.

Marty Vogel reported he had put together an article on the sump pump survey that the City was going to do and suggested it be put in the newspaper. Council had no objections.

Alderman Ferguson thanked everyone involved in getting the first draft of the budget done. He said the Finance & Budget Committee would meet March 23, 2004 at 6:00 p.m. to go over the budget.

Alderman Ferguson asked that the Project planner be updated for every meeting and submitted to the Council members.

Alderman Ferguson asked about the request for a donation to the Jaycee's for their substance free graduation party. He asked that it be put on the next Council agenda. He also asked that approval of Ordinance 04-C-3 be put on the next agenda.

Alderman Wheeler thanked Chief Phillips on getting the \$149,490.00 of grant money for the police department.

Parking on Main St. at Oak St. was also discussed. Several ideas were discussed but no decisions were made.

Ed Fidler came in to the meeting late and Mayor Manna asked him for public comment. Mr. Fidler said he had been gone a couple of months and nothing had improved on clean up on the triangle west on town. He said it looks worse than it did. Chief Phillips said the Police Dept. had been working on getting that area cleaned up. He said one property owner asked for an extension of time and another owner had filled a dumpster and was attempting to clean up the property. Mayor Manna asked Chief Phillips to look at the situation again and see what he could do.

Mayoral Comments: Mayor Manna reminded all voters to vote at the Arcola center tomorrow.

He also reported that the Antique Show held in the Arcola Center was a very big success and brought a lot of people to town.

Mayor Manna reported that he had received several calls on the State Police being in town one morning issuing tickets for seat belt violations. He said he called the newspaper about it. He said he pleaded with them to give warnings only. He said people felt it was entrapment and harassment. Mayor Manna said the State Police said they were doing this around schools all over Illinois.

Mayor Manna said the Rt. 133 railroad crossing would be closed for one day for repairs. He said he had seen where potholes were being repaired on Jacques St. Mayor Manna said all City Council members were invited to the firemen's ball on Friday night.

Mayor Manna asked about the status of George Peter's. City Foreman Jack Logan said he would be off indefinitely. Mayor Manna asked about the new truck. Logan said it was ordered and should be here in August.

Mayor Manna said that the new manager at Casey's is having a problem finding a place to live in Arcola and something needed to be done.

As this concluded the business of the meeting, Alderwoman Kile moved to adjourn and was seconded by Alderman Wheeler. Council approved unanimously by voice vote.

Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Andrew A. Manna Sr., Mayor
Vickie Dill, City Clerk