

# CITY OF COUNTRYSIDE

*803 Joliet Road  
Countryside, IL 60525  
www.countryside-il.org*



## **Meeting Minutes**

### **Special Events Committee Meeting**

Wednesday, February 20, 2020

6:00 PM

City Hall—Council Chambers

#### **Committee Members**

**Chairman – Alderman James Jasinski  
Member – Alderman Mark Benson  
Member – Alderman John Von Drasek**

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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Jasinski called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Present: Chairman Jasinski  
Alderman Benson  
Alderman Von Drasek

Also Present Mayor McDermott, City Administrator Paul, and Alderman Finn

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 12, 2020.**

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 12, 2020 were previously distributed to the members of the Special Event Committee.

I move to approve the minutes of the Special Event Committee meeting of February 12, 2020.

**A motion was made by Alderman Benson to APPROVE the minutes from the February 12, 2020 meeting, seconded by Alderman Von Drasek and carried unanimously.**

**V. CONSIDERATION TO APPLY FOR THE 2020 COMED GREEN REGION GRANT.**

Chairman Jasinski would like to apply for a grant from ComEd for the Green Region program. We would like to plant milkweed bushes by the retention area and nectar plants in the planters out front of city hall and on the roof top garden.

City Administrator Paul had a couple options for the committee's consideration. The skate park was brought up by the Public Works Superintendent Serna as a possibility. Mr. Serna stated that it really isn't utilized and they would be able to dig it out and put in a nice big garden. We could also use the space for other purposes such as recreational activities. Another idea would be Flagg Creek along Joliet Road.

Ms. Paul stated that Mallory Beavers, from Frederick Quinn Corporation, raises monarch butterflies and releases them every year. She has milkweed in her backyard, collects the eggs, then waits until the caterpillars are grown, and puts the caterpillars outside to eat the milkweed to survive. Ms. Beavers also has the nectar flowers so when the caterpillars develop into butterflies they can feed on the flowers and pollinate other plants. Ms. Beavers has volunteered to bring over some of her caterpillars.

Ms. Paul stated that ComEd has a grant for up to \$10,000 that we can apply for. Do we want to focus on this piece of property, Flagg Creek, or one of the parks? Alderman Benson asked if it was a matching grant. Ms. Paul stated that it is not a matching grant, we would have to spend the money and then get reimbursed. Most of our labor would be our Public Works staff. We would have to buy soil, mulch, the milkweed seeds and all the plants.

Member Benson stated that he thought the skate park would be too expensive to put the garden there. City Administrator Paul agreed that it would be much more than \$10,000.

Member Von Drasek said he thinks Doug (from the Golf Course) has been putting milkweed plants in around the ponds. City Administrator Paul said she sent all the information to Doug to look at. The Park District could apply for a grant also.

Member Benson said we might as well apply for the grant and see if we get it. Then we can come back and make a decision. City Administrator Paul stated that we have to specify a plan and have a designated area. Member Benson said that he would be in favor of planting the milkweed plants in the planters out front of city hall.

Chairman Jasinski stated that MWRD is also getting into the pollination program and is giving away milkweed seeds. City Administrator Paul stated that Public Works Maintenance Technician Murray has milkweed plants on his property and has seeds available for us. Ms. Paul stated that there is a new program coming out in the spring called Illinois Monarch Project. It will encourage and educate people about the importance of preserving the monarch butterflies and all pollinators. We can add this as part of our grant application.

Member Benson asked if there is any negative repercussions with all of these milkweed plants. We are in a residential area and would there be an increase in pollen or allergy count? City Administrator Paul said she doesn't have the answer for that. It's a native plant. We will only plant a couple different species not all thirteen.

#### **VI. CONSIDERATION TO PURCHASE HOLIDAY DECORATIONS.**

Chairman Jasinski stated that since we moved in we really didn't have any decorations put up last year. City Administrator Paul stated that she did some research on trees. We thought it would be a good idea to put the tree right outside the City Council chamber on the patio. There was several options to choose from. She priced 18 foot trees and received quotes on these. On one tree you can add another level on the bottom, either 2 feet or 4 feet. The first one is an animated tree, it plays five songs and the lights are synchronized with the music. It comes with its own sound system. There also is a tree that has just lights on it, you can get all white lights or multi-color lights.

Member Benson asked if we have the infrastructure for the tree outside. City Administrator Paul said we do have electric on the patio. Member Benson asked if that is all that's required for the sound system or do we need something special for it? Ms. Paul said we did not need anything special for the sound system. City Administrator Paul said that the trees have a six year warranty for the garland frame and the wiring. There is also a three year warranty for the lights. The first company Temple is out of Oswego, IL. The other company is more expensive and there warranty is not as good. They don't warranty the lights at all. Temple is also offering a 33% discount on the trees through the end of February.

City Administrator Paul stated that the quotes she received are as follows, the first tree is for the 18 foot tree, it comes in four colors, and includes five licensed songs. They give you a list to pick the songs from. The second tree is an 18 foot tree with C7 lights and no music but you can have it animated. The third tree is just the 18 foot tree with solid lights, no animation, and no music. They charge extra for snowflakes that go on and off. The tree has four different colored lights and the snowflakes are white. The snowflakes would cost \$500 more.

Member Benson thought that we were going to get a live tree for outside. City Administrator Paul stated that yes we were thinking of bringing the tree from the old building that's by the annex building. Public Works had many safety issues with moving the tree over here. So we decided not to do that this year.

Member Benson asked if there was any safety concerns with an artificial tree. City Administrator Paul said that the trees are structurally engineered and are all steel framed.

Alderman Finn said that most artificial pre-lit trees only have a 5 year life expectancy. That's why they only have a 3 year warranty. So you are looking to replace the tree in 5 years. It's not going to be a one-time purchase. Have we gotten a price on buying a new tree and planting it?

City Administrator Paul said we could plant a live tree but it would have to be a pretty big tree. Mayor McDermott asked if we could buy a larger mature tree. Alderman Finn said that you could buy any size tree you want but it would cost more money. Mayor McDermott said that he likes the idea of a natural tree. Member Von Drasek said maybe one of the local nurseries would plant a tree for us. Alderman Finn said we could call a local nursery or call one of the arborists that work with us on our tree removal program and ask them for their input.

City Administrator Paul asked if they wanted her to get pricing on a real tree and having the tree planted. Chairman Jasinski said yes to pricing on a real tree. Ms. Paul said that she will get pricing on a real tree before the City Council meeting next week so if we decided to go with an artificial tree we can still get the discount.

**VII. OTHER COMMITTEE BUSINESS.**

Alderman Finn asked if we heard anything back from Katie about the bands and restructuring for the Concerts in the Park. City Administrator Paul said that Assistant City Administrator Peterson has not heard back from Katie.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further Special Event business, Alderman Jasinski adjourned the meeting at 6:28 PM.

APPROVED:

Respectfully Submitted,

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Alderman James Jasinski, Chairman

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