

SPECIAL TAYLORVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Wednesday, November 10, 2021

At the Special Council Meeting held in the Council Chambers by the City Council, November 10, 2021 the following proceedings were held and entered in this record in the following words and figures to wit:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

Roll Call - Aldermen Brown, Bryant, Budd, Driskell, Olive, and Wilson were present. Aldermen Dorchinecz and Skultety were absent.

Also present were Mayor Barry, City Clerk Lilly, Treasurer Hamell, William Sleeman, and Superintendents Speagle and Mann.

REBUILD DOWNTOWNS AND MAIN STREETS GRANT

Bill Sleeman, Benton and Associates, Inc., was present to discuss the possible options for the Rebuild Downtowns and Main Streets Grant. He noted that the purpose of the grant is to support improvements and encourage investment in commercial corridors and downtowns that have experienced disinvestment, particularly in communities hardest hit by the Covid-19 public health and economic crisis. These projects should make commercial areas more attractive for private investment, generate short-term and long-term employment opportunities and improve the quality of life for residents. This grant is administered by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity(DCEO). Approximately 30 grants will be administered with a minimum amount of \$250,000.00 up to a maximum of \$3,000,000.00. No local match is required and it is set up as a reimbursement program funded at 100%, although 20% local match of engineering design, construction and construction engineering costs is suggested. Application is due by January 10, 2022. Suggested allowable improvements include landscaping, lighting, bump-outs for outdoor dining, brickwork, ornamental sign posts and railings, benches, bike racks, sidewalks and curbs to meet ADA guidelines. The square could also be modified to one-lane of traffic. The square and areas connecting East and West Main Cross are ideal for this grant. East Main Cross project will be completed in the Spring of 2022, with West Main Cross work to begin in Fall 2022 – Spring 2023.

A Public Information Meeting will be held on December 20, 2021 to discuss the details and scope of the project, as well as a City Resolution of Support to be passed at the City Council Meeting. The Chamber of Commerce, as well as the Downtown Taylorville organization, will be included in discussion moving forward. Local business owners, along with City, County and State officials, school board members and residents will be contacted and encouraged to write letters of support for the project.

Mayor Barry suggested a plan be drawn up by Benton & Associates, Inc. for the maximum amount of \$3,000,000.00 with a match of \$600,000.00 by the City of Taylorville, for areas including East Walnut to Webster and Park to Main Street. Several aldermen expressed interest in concentrating the project on the square itself and asked for pictures of other communities who have utilized a downtown concentration to assist in the development of the scope of the project

Further discussion will be held at the Street and Sewer Committee Meeting, which will be held prior to the Finance and Ordinance Committee Meetings on December 16, 2021 at 5:00 P.M.

Motion by Alderman Bryant and seconded by Alderman Brown to adjourn. Motion carried (6-0).

The meeting adjourned at 5:47 P.M.