

**Public Safety Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
May 14, 2020**

Members Present: Alderman Will Krause  
Alderwoman Janet Stack  
Alderman Chris Farrar

Other Present: Rick Welle, Fire Chief  
Eric Williams, Director of Public Works  
Jay Keeven, Director of Police  
Devin Gray, Director of ITC  
Kevin Head, City Administrator  
Jeanne Wojcieszak, Director of Finance  
Jeff Berkbigler, City Attorney  
Walter Williams, Economic / Community Development Director  
Ryan Zwijack, City Engineer  
Anna Roseman, Fire Department

The Edwardsville Public Safety Committee in person and via ZOOM meeting was called to order by Chairman Will Krause at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 118 Hillsboro Avenue, with a quorum present: Chairman Will Krause, Alderwoman Janet Stack and Alderman Chris Farrar.

**Public Comment:**

- *A public comment via email was read in for the record concerning a threat to the safety of residents.*

The Madison County Board recently voted to allow businesses to reopen which is in defiance of the Governor's directive and the guidelines from the Illinois Department of Public Health. This public comment states that opening up businesses will put residents' lives at risk and indicates that business interests are more important than people's lives. The comment also states that a 'safe' community is not just about police and fire coverage, but in these extraordinary circumstances it involves protecting the health of all residents.

*Also read into the record was a statement from the City.*

The City of Edwardsville will continue to support the Governor's Executive Orders and are sympathetic to the economic impact to the COVID-19 pandemic. The City places the safety of their residents as their top priority. It is the City's recommendation that businesses consult their attorneys before taking any actions that conflicts with the Governor's Executive Orders.

**Approval of Minutes**

- Motion by Alderwoman Stack, second by Alderman Krause to approve minutes from the Public Safety Committee meeting held Thursday, February 27, 2020. Motion carried.

**Police Department:**

- None

**Fire Department:**

- None

### **Emergency Management:**

- *Overview of the City's response to the COVID-19 outbreak*  
Fire Chief R.W. Welle, Emergency Management Coordinator gave a brief overview of the City's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
  1. The COVID-19 Coronavirus has introduced new words and phrases into our normal conversations; pandemic, isolation/quarantine, social distancing and personal protection equipment (PPE).
  2. In just the last two (2) months there have been many changes. Public Safety in Edwardsville opened the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) on March 12<sup>th</sup> and business offices of the City closed at the end of the business day on March 20<sup>th</sup>. It had become clear that there would be significant impact to our daily lives. By Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> less than two (2) months ago, Illinois was reporting nine (9) deaths in the Chicago area and 1,040 positive cases. Madison County had two (2) positive cases and no deaths.
  3. As of today May 14<sup>th</sup>, Illinois has 87,937 confirmed positive cases across the 99 counties, 3,928 deaths and 512,037 COVID-19 tests has been performed.
  4. For Madison County as of today May 14<sup>th</sup>, there have been 456 confirmed cases, 35 deaths, 85 still hospitalized and 190 considered "recovered". The "recovered" are those that were confirmed to have COVID-19 and are no longer contagious. Not included in these numbers are the people in the earlier days that could not or did not get tested and recovered at home.
  5. One (1) of Edwardsville's skilled nursing care centers this past weekend reported 91 positive cases between its residents and staff. Unfortunately seventeen (17) people have passed away as a result of the coronavirus. There are two (2) other skilled nursing care centers within Madison County. One of them has 31 positive cases and seven (7) deaths and the other with nine (9) positives and no deaths.
  6. The City Of Edwardsville made some general changes:
    - a. Opened the EOC as mentioned above.
    - b. Instituted the Emergency Operation Plan.
    - c. Immediately identify essential workers within the City. Some were able to work from home and others were unfortunately furloughed.
    - d. Closed down the public buildings and other facilities; parks with the exception of the bike and walking paths, Wildey Theatre, the Water Shed, Children's Museum, Benjamin Stephenson House and the Library.
    - e. Instituted new policies within all the departments, in particularly with the Police Department and Fire Department. Those policies have everything to do from what kind of PPE to wear, how to approach the public and mostly how to keep the virus from spreading into our own facilities.
    - f. Increased the cleaning and disinfecting of the City's buildings/offices.
  7. Through all of this the City of Edwardsville tried to remain flexible responding to the problems as they arose and keep paramount the health and welfare of the community. This is new for everyone. Continuance of governance is the key, in that they are able to keep the business of the City and its residents going.

### **Old Business:**

- None

### **New Business:**

#### Discussion Items:

- *Temporary designation of parking spots for downtown businesses utilizing curbside pickup*  
Many of the businesses downtown are doing curbside pickup. The situation they are encountering is there are a few people who will park along Main Street and leave their vehicle for several hours and that is deterrent for them. This is causing customers to walk further for

curbside to go. Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) gave the following advice that the City of Edwardsville was able to move forward with limited spaces on Main Street for a limited time with the Police Chief's approval that it won't cause a public safety hazard and curbside pickup would be on the passenger side window. A discussion occurred about the locations for curbside pickup spaces and what the signage might say. Temporary signage effective Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup> until Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup> will be put into effect and then it will be revisited to see if it needs to be extended. The Police Department and Public Works will work together to get this done. Signage will say along the lines of "City of Edwardsville supports our local business. Please leave these spaces open for curbside pickup at this time."

The next regular scheduled meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Thursday, May 28, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. at City Hall in the Council Chambers.

With no further business at hand the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

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Will Krause, Chair

Minutes prepared by: Anna Roseman, Fire Department

Approved Signature: /s/ Will Krause, by staff liaison

Approved Date: May 28, 2020

