



# MOLINE COW/COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday, July 19, 2022

6:00 PM

City Hall

Council Chambers - 2nd Floor

619 16th Street

Moline, IL 61265

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## Council Call to Order

Mayor Rayapati called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. in the Committee-of-the-Whole Room.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Sangeetha Rayapati (*Chair*)  
Alderman Scott Williams (*Ward 1*)  
Alderman Alvaro Macias (*Ward 2*)  
Alderman Mike Wendt (*Ward 3*)  
Alderman Matt Timion (*Ward 4*)  
Alderman Sam Moyer (*Ward 5*)  
Alderman Pat O'Brien (*Ward 6*)  
Alderman Mike Waldron (*Ward 7*)  
Alderman James Patrick Schmidt (*Alderman At-Large*)

**ABSENT:** None.

**STAFF:** Bob Vitas, City Administrator  
Janine Hollembaek Parr, City Clerk  
Carol Barnes, Finance Director  
Mike Doi, Director of Public Works  
David Dryer, Director of Engineering  
Darren Gault, Chief of Police  
Eric Griffith, Parks Recreation Director  
Ryan Hvitlök, Director of Community and Economic Development  
Tony Loete, Director of Utilities  
Leah Miller, Human Resources Director  
David Rowatt, Information Technology Manager  
Jeff Snyder, Fire Chief  
Steve Regenwether, Deputy Fire Chief  
K.J. Whitley, Community Development Program Manager

**OTHERS:** Margaret Kostopulos, Corporation Counsel  
David Talbot, CTC ~ *via telephone*  
Craig Loken, Revolving Loan Fund Committee

## Pledge of Allegiance

## Invocation

Alderman Williams gave an invocation.

## Roll Call

Roll call was taken with Mayor Rayapati, Aldermen Williams, Macias, Wendt, Timion, Moyer, O'Brien, Waldron and Schmidt present. Absent: None.

### **Public Comment**

The Clerk read an email public comment from resident David Anderson sharing his dissatisfaction with Metronet's installation and service.

### **Questions on the Agenda**

None.

### **Roundtable Discussion**

**Broadband.** David Talbot, CTC, provided an account of response received since a request for proposals (RFP) for broadband service to the community was issued. Upon review, the City Council directed CTC to request a revised proposal, with an aerial assumption, from all respondents. Windstream had already withdrawn, citing changing market conditions, and declined to return to the table even when aerial became an option. Under the City's requirements, CTC recommends that a contract be negotiated with either Metronet or Geneseo Communications. If the City's priority is underground construction, then Geneseo is the way to go. The trade-off is cost and time to install. Metronet would take one year to install, mostly aerial, at no cost, while Geneseo would take two years to install underground at a cost of \$10 million. It is a policy decision on the part of the City. Once the Council provides direction, CTC would negotiate, sharpening terms for ubiquitous service. Bob Vitas, City Administrator, added that no one is just handing over fiber, and this would be part of the term sheet negotiated. Talbot elaborated that the City requested that fiber be brought to approximately 600 sites. Geneseo would offer 6 strands of fiber as requested, with access points at ground-level, whereas Metronet would not offer fiber, but would offer the equivalent in services. An analysis of the value of these two approaches would be needed. There was discussion. Talbot confirmed that Windstream had been asked to return the table a number of times, but on July 15, 2022, declined a final time. Alderman Waldron stated that there has been much discussion on this project, and it is time to vote as policymakers. Alderman Waldron, seconded by Alderman Timion, moved to not follow the ordinance, either by variance or amendment, and allow above-ground installation. Discussion had. Council shared perspectives, as well as conversations and comments garnered from Moline residents and business owners. Broadband financing options were presented. At a cost of \$10 million, \$7 million in bonds would be issued and a levy rate increase of .069 would be needed to pay for the annual debt service. The impact on the total levy rate to pay for the debt service on \$7 million in bonds would be 2.01270. There was discussion that underground installation of all utilities might be a goal for the City, and accomplishing this would set it apart from other municipalities. Alderman Wendt noted that the Safe Routes to School grant project requires removal of a utility pole in order to install an ADA ramp. If poles are eliminated, there will be fewer confines on construction projects. David Dryer, Director of Engineering, explained that Metronet needs to relocate its equipment to a new pole, but have not yet done so. Alderman Timion stated that if buried utilities is a goal, the City would benefit from scale if all utilities are buried at once. Alderman Waldron, seconded by Alderman Timion, moved to call the question. Motion passed on roll call with the following vote: ayes: Aldermen Macias, Timion, Moyer, O'Brien and Waldron; nays: Aldermen Williams, Wendt and Schmidt. The clerk restated the motion. Alderman Wendt requested clarification. Motion passed on roll call with the following vote: ayes: Aldermen Macias, Timion, O'Brien, Waldron and Schmidt; nays: Aldermen Williams, Wendt and Moyer. Alderman Waldron stated that this speaks to policy and whether to allow aerial installation of broadband. Alderman Schmidt moved to reconsider. Seconded by Alderman Wendt. Alderman Schmidt explained that the original motion was broad, and he would like additional information. Margaret Kostopulos commented that Alderman Waldron, through his motion, was requesting a broader policy decision. Though the motion, as voted on, may lack some clarity, to direct staff to come back with something defeats Alderman Waldron's purpose of reaching a policy decision. Kostopulos encouraged the Council to look at how a motion could be properly made to clarify that. Motion passed on roll call with the following vote: ayes: Alderman Williams, Macias, Wendt, Timion, Moyer, O'Brien and Schmidt; nays: Alderman

Waldron. Alderman Schmidt moved to strike the entirety of the previous motion to say that we the Council approve the negotiating of a variance as a component of negotiating a contract with a service provider installing above-ground/aerial internet service. Clarification was added that the variance would be to Chapter 6, "RIGHTS OF WAY AND PUBLIC PROPERTY USES," of the Moline Code of Ordinances. Seconded by Alderman Timion. Alderman Schmidt stated his preference to allow a variance for this project vs. permanently altering the Code. There was discussion. Kostopulos provided clarification that the Council would vote to allow a variance and then there would be negotiation with a provider to make aerial installations of broadband internet in the City. The Council would need to allow the variance in order to effectuate its policy decision to install aerially. She advised combining those elements into a single motion. Alderman Schmidt moved to table. Seconded by Alderman Wendt. Motion failed on roll call with the following vote: ayes: Aldermen Williams, Wendt, Timion and Schmidt; nays: Aldermen Macias, Moyer, O'Brien, Waldron and Mayor Rayapati. Alderman Schmidt withdrew his previous motion. Alderman Schmidt moved to strike all previous motions and replace with a motion to direct staff to negotiate with Metronet as an internet service provider and to include a variance to Chapter 6 to accomplish this. Seconded by Alderman Waldron. Alderman Wendt questioned whether Metronet meets the Code's requirements to qualify for a variance. Kostopulos reviewed the Code and advised that Metronet has not met the requirements. Council might amend the motion to "consider" a variance. Alderman Schmidt withdrew his motion. Discussion had. Alderman O'Brien, seconded by Alderman Waldron, moved to direct CTC to negotiate with Metronet as an internet service provider and consider a variance to Chapter 6 to accomplish this. Motion passed on roll call with the following vote: ayes: Aldermen Macias, Timion, O'Brien, Waldron and Schmidt; nays: Aldermen Williams, Wendt and Moyer. Discussion had. Alderman Schmidt, seconded by Alderman Waldron, moved to strike all previous motions and replace with a motion to direct CTC to negotiate with Metronet as an internet service provider and consider a variance to Chapter 6 to accomplish this. Motion passed on roll call with the following vote: ayes: Aldermen Macias, Timion, O'Brien, Waldron and Schmidt; nays: Aldermen Williams, Wendt and Moyer. The amended motion to direct CTC to negotiate with Metronet as an internet service provider and consider a variance to Chapter 6 to accomplish this passed on roll call with the following vote: ayes: Aldermen Macias, Timion, O'Brien, Waldron and Schmidt; nays: Aldermen Williams, Wendt and Moyer. Talbot indicated that there are other issues besides underground vs aerial installation, and negotiation will take some weeks to complete. CTC will return to Council with an update.

**Revenue Enhancing Projects and Programs.** Bob Vitas, City Administrator, presented various opportunities to enhance existing revenue including Fleet, Water and Wastewater IGAs, and a Utility Rate Study of water, sewer and stormwater. Vitas explained that staff is exploring options to provide services to neighboring communities. The City will provide water to Silvis and Tony Loete, Director of Utilities, explained that staff is working to connect 16 neighboring homes to City water. There was discussion. Alderman Waldron noted that when properties are brought into City water and sewer service, then other services like sanitation and public safety are impacted as well. Jeff Snyder, Fire Chief, indicated that response time should not be a problem. Chief of Police Darren Gault explained that adding service to pockets within current boundaries is not a problem; however, mass expansion will require additional staff. Development south of the Rock River will require additional municipal staff. Vitas stated that orderly growth and development is essential. Staff continues to work with Coal Valley and Colona leadership on provision of water and wastewater services. Regarding utility rates, Loete reported that there have been no changes to wastewater, drinking water and stormwater rates since 2018, 2014 and 2005 respectively. There was discussion. It was noted that staff was asked to bring forward proposed updates to the stormwater policy. Finance Director Carol Barnes stated that rates should be reviewed, noting that staff is looking at alternative service opportunities. Loete indicated plans to bring the rate study details forward during next month's roundtable discussion. New revenue sources were discussed including Solar Power, New Growth and Development/Redevelopment, a strategic, sequential annexation Program, a Start-up Accelerator Program,

EV Charging Stations, Air B&B Hotel Tax and Cannabis Dispensaries. Clean Energy presents much opportunity, including solar farms placed near the airport. Staff was asked to investigate additional uses on solar farms, such as agriculture planted under solar panels. Ryan Hvitøk explained that the 2001 Comprehensive Plan calls for new growth, i.e. rooftops. The plan is being updated, and the goal for new growth remains the same. We must look at growing the City to the south and the redevelopment of SouthPark Mall. Downtown redevelopment, including approximately 400 rooftops, is planned. Parking maximums will be investigated by the Plan Commission. MetroLINK is looking to electrify its fleet and the community. City and MetroLINK staff will partner in examining clean energy sources. It was noted that Air B&B Hotel Tax was codified in 2019. A cannabis dispensary is planned for opening in September. A traffic study is underway, which includes parking.

### **Miscellaneous Business**

Mayor Rayapati shared an invitation to the dedication of the new Doric Lodge building at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Alderman Timion moved to direct staff to investigate the impact of codifying Robert's Rules.

### **Public Comment**

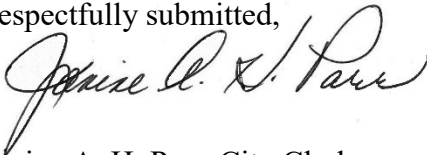
Craig Loken, Revolving Loan Fund Committee Member, shared funding and revenue generating ideas with the Council.

### **Adjournment of City Council**

Upon motion of Alderman O'Brien, seconded by Alderman Macias, Council adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting is on July 26, 2022. View recorded meetings at <http://www.moline.il.us/CivicMedia?CID=9>

Respectfully submitted,



Janine A. H. Parr, City Clerk