

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
COUNTY OF WHITESIDE  
CITY OF MORRISON  
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

February 7, 2022

The Morrison City Council met in Special Session on February 7, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the Morrison Community Room, 307 S Madison St., Morrison, IL. Mayor Scott Vandermyde called the meeting to order. City Clerk Michael Hemmer recorded the minutes.

Aldermen present on roll call were Greg Kruse, Sidonna Mahaffey, Harvey Zuidema, Mick Welding, Josh West, Kevin Bruckner, Jr, and Arlyn Deets. Absent: Vernon Tervelt.

Other City officials present were City Administrator Barry Dykhuizen, Public Services Director Lori Matlack, City Treasurer Maggie Jones and Police Chief Brian Melton.

Public Comment (regarding items not on the agenda). None.

Sports Complex Usage: Community Input

Mayor Vandermyde explained that this meeting was for discussion only and that no decisions would be made. The City was seeking community input regarding a change to the Sports Complex usage.

Former Alderman Scott Connely spoke of the Sports Complex's 'quality of life' benefit for its residents. The past council intended on creating equal facilities for boys and girls. Connely questioned the financial benefits of such a deal besides the City no longer being responsible for maintenance.

Randy Stralow, former President of the Morrison Little League, spoke of the benefits to his group's players (boys and girls). He suggested to look for a person to run the complex and promote it.

A number of parents spoke of the benefits of kids playing on teams in their own town and warned the city 'not to turn their backs on the girls'. Without facilities to keep people in town, why live here? Many felt that girls needed to be treated equally.

Parent Jennifer Suarez spoke specifically on the financial history of the proposal's company and president. The proposal's organizer has several lawsuits in his name or affiliations. Suarez wondered if the same would happen here.

Sports Complex Usage: Council Discussion

Mayor Vandermyde thanked the public for their interest and comments. He challenged Council to dig into the proposal and make suggestions for improvements. He cited the costs of building and running the complex were quite high especially considering the park's under-utilization. He also spoke of the drainage problems that have plagued the park since inception.

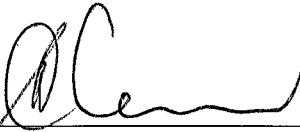
Alderman West proposed that the residents might consider a Parks and Recreation referendum in creating a Park District to run the local parks and facilities. Alderman Zuidema

called for additional financials on running the complex and which costs the City would still be responsible for.

School Superintendent Scott Vance answered several of Council's questions. Shawn Kramlich addressed parent's concerns and explained the lawsuits settled and pending. He also explained that with his company's investments in complex upgrades, the leasing price was misleading. Alderman Mahaffey urged the public to read the proposal and to consider that currently the complex is often empty during the playing season.

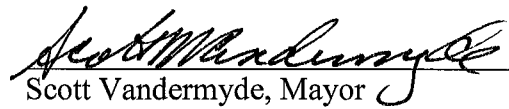
With no additional business to discuss, Alderman Zuidema motioned for adjournment; Alderman West seconded. Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Approved:



---

Michael Hemmer, City Clerk



---

Scott Vandermyde, Mayor