

EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE CITY COUNCIL
203 W. DIGGINS ST., HARVARD, ILLINOIS
DECEMBER 12, 2023 – 7:20 PM

Mayor Kelly called the meeting to order to discuss Section 2(c)(5) Purchase or Lease of Real Estate. Mayor Kelly indicated that the meeting is not being streamed but is being recorded as required by statute. City Clerk Moller called roll to establish a quorum. Aldermen present: Haderlein, Schulz, Lavalley, Carncross, Lancaster, Gorman, Perkins and Luna. Also present: Mayor Kelly, City Administrator Leone and City Attorney Clifton.

City Attorney Clifton advised the City Council that closed session is limited in what can be discussed and that the only item that can be discussed is the purchase or lease of real estate.

Purchase or Lease of Real Estate

City Administrator Leone informed the City Council that the City recently received notification from McHenry County of a tax sale for property located at 503-B S. Eastman St., PIN 01-35-383-009. Said tax sale is by sealed bid auction that ends on December 15th, with a starting minimum bid of \$814. City Administrator Leone reviewed his memo regarding the possible purchase of the subject property which is located in the floodway which limits development options. He will also investigate the possibility that as a municipality, the City may be able to directly purchase the property from the County at a lower price.

Additional discussion ensued and it was noted that the City currently owns adjacent parcels. Alderman Perkins expressed concerns about purchasing additional park land at this time as well as public perception with the upcoming increase in water rates. Alderman Schulz said the Park Board has not discussed any plans for this property, and if the parcel is purchased, minimal cleanup could be done, perhaps as a community day type project for a nature park. Alderwoman Haderlein indicated there are potential grant funds available for tree planting, care, and restoration type work that Harvard is going to be eligible for that could be used in this area. Mayor Kelly related there was a preliminary plan to create a walking path from this neighborhood that would connect the area subdivisions to the downtown.

City Administrator Leone requested authorization to put in a bid for no more than \$814. There was a general consensus to move forward. Attorney Clifton indicated that action will be required in open session to authorize City Staff to make an offer up to the amount disclosed in closed session with the offer contingent upon ratification by the City Council at the January, 2024, meeting.

The Closed Session was adjourned at 7:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Lori Moller, City Clerk

January 3, 2024