

MEETING MINUTES
Monday, March 13, 2006

Invocation was given by Pastor Joe French, Belmont Christian Church

Present on Roll Call: Mayor Tom Meeks, Commissioners, Jack Emmons, John Fearheiley, Mike Witters and Norm Brunson.

Also Present: City Administrator Merle Weems and City Attorney Tom Price

MAYORS COMMENTS

Mayor Meeks started the meeting out talking about all the different fundraisers and donations the city has had in the past year. He had a list of businesses and clubs that have used the City Golf Course to raise these funds. Mayor Meeks had heard negative comments concerning the golf course, but said "that everyone should be thankful that there is a City Golf Course to help with these fund raisers."

OTHER BUSINESS

The city council approved acquisition of golf greens aerator. Mayor Meeks said the city is currently paying a Missouri-based firm \$4,500 a year to do the greens work, so the new machine lasting 10 or more years will pay for itself in four years.

The plans for the Wabash River Bridge is moving forward. IDOT are getting their rights-of-way and easements for this project. Mayor Meeks questioned why Gov. Blagojevich's recent letter having \$108 million in proposed projects did not mention our river bridge. Economic Development Planner Brandi Stennett said the state divides regions into a southeast region which also includes Lawrence and Richland counties.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

COMMISSIONER JACK EMMONS - FINANCE AND SENIOR CITIZENS / 2/27 – 3/13

Cash Investment balance as of 02/27/06:	252,752.42
Receipts:	53.00
Expenditures:	108,947.76
Cash Investment Balance:	143,857.66
 Recreation Fund:	8,569.44
Receipts:	00.00
Expenditures:	1,208.46
Balance:	7,360.98
Accounts Payable:	1,543.63
 Garbage Fund Account beginning Balance:	57,638.45
Receipts:	11,677.17
Expenditures:	7,022.77
Balance:	62,292.85
Accounts Payable:	18,330.88
 Airport Fund:	(40,495.48)
Receipts:	6,290.47
Expenditures:	5,437.14
Balance:	(39,642.15)
Accounts Receivable:	5,037.72
Accounts Payable:	1,927.47
 Water Fund Account beginning Balance:	26,977.36
Receipts:	31,396.75
Expenditures:	37,037.37
Balance:	21,336.74
Accounts Payable:	18,265.66

Sewer Fund Account:	21,811.10
Receipts:	20,687.22
Expenditures:	28,423.70
Balance:	14,074.62
Accounts Payable	13,266.07

Golf Course Fund:	(204,234.10)
Receipts:	12,912.00
Expenditures:	14,095.52
Balance:	(205,417.62)
Accounts Payable:	18,198.63

COMMISSIONER WITTERS - STREETS, CEMETERIES AND PARKS

Commissioner Witters said the flood gates are in place as the Wabash River continues to rise. It is expected to reach 29 feet by the weekend. The city will not blocked the roads across the levees until we see how high the water gets.

COMMISSIONER BRUNSON - FIRE, HEALTH & SAFETY, GARBAGE, CITY HALL AND CIVIL DEFENSE

Commissioner Brunson reported the Fire Department made 10 runs in the past two weeks. Firefighter Jerry Lathrop has received his Medical Release and is now back on duty.

COMMISSIONER FEARHEILEY - WATER AND SEWER

Comm. Fearheiley has been doing budget reviews with superintendents Mr. Weirich and Mr. Windes. Commissioner Fearheiley reported he plans to discuss specific changes made at both the city water and sewer plants at the next council meeting. With the extra water at the Waste Water Plant it has created some extra maintenance work on the motors that have been flooded out. We should have everything up and running normal soon, and commented that employees have been doing a fine job.

City Attorney Tom Price gave the following report.

Mr. Price told Mayor Meeks and Commissioners that the city may better assist CVS in its new development here by adopting an ordinance designating a new North End Business District and adopting the accompanying plat for that neighborhood. After forming the new North End Business District, the city would be in a better position to file a condemnation suit for the property Mt. Carmel wants to acquire through eminent domain action.

Administrative Assistant Merle Weems

Mr. Weems reported that he will be meeting with George Wright this Thursday to order the new swimming pool slide. The slide will be in the range of \$25,000 to \$30,000 and we should be able to pay for this slide between TIF and city donations. Mr. Weems said we need to get it ordered because it will take about 30 days to get it and a few days to install. The city council will review the purchase and make the final decision. Mayor Meeks said he has already received contribution offers in this project. The swimming pool has also been repaired.

The new CVS will be putting up a sign that will be approximately a 16' X 24' tall and will be located off city and state right-of-way. All paperwork is complete.

City Administrator Merle Weems reported Newwave Communications of Sikeston, MO, will be attending the next council meeting March 27th, to discuss the acquisition of Mt. Carmel's cable system, and for the city to learn a little more about the company. Commissioner Emmons checked out the companies Website and talked to a company Rep. which told him they would send an 80 page document about the cable acquisition.

Economic Development Director Brandi Stennett

Brandi reported that she's working on three projects seeking senior government funding to assist Mt. Carmel. The first is from Illinois Clean Energy program, is to replace traffic signal stop lights on Market Street with LED bulbs. The estimated project cost is \$2,690 plus city street dept. labor cost. We should see an anticipated \$400 per month energy savings.

Secondly, the city hopes to obtain first responder equipment funding for mobile and portable radios totaling \$5,099. Brandi commented that this is a priority application that should be funded.

The third project is seeking USDA Rural Development funding support to acquire four new storm warning sirens. Brandi said the county, without the cities application, could not solely fund the sirens which will cost \$5,510.

BUSINESS MOTIONS

A motion was made by Commissioner Witters and seconded by Commissioner Emmons to approve Resolution #518 to establish procedures for eminent domain proceedings, and to designate the area of the North End Business District and to conduct a public hearing on Monday, March 27th, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. All present voted Aye.

A motion was made by Commissioner Witters and seconded by Commissioner Emmons to purchase a Redexim 7007H Verti-Drain Airifier at a cost of \$15,009.25. Money will be borrowed from a local bank for three to four years at the most. All present voted Aye.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fearheiley and seconded by Commissioner Brunson to approve CVS Sign location at 9th and Market Street. All present voted Aye.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fearheiley and seconded by Commissioner Brunson to pay all bills bearing the proper signatures. All present vote Aye.

A motion was made by Commissioner Brunson and seconded by Mayor Meeks to accept the minutes from the last City Council Meeting. All present voted Aye.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City of Mt. Carmel has agreed to rejoin the Southern Illinois Drug Task Force. The \$8000 funding will be paid from special fines collected in some local drug offense sentencing. This is not a Mt. Carmel Police Dept. officer.

Also discussed was bidding the brush and yard waste collection service. Commissioner Witters presented Mayor Meeks and the city commissioner with a written proposal describing in detail what is required.

EXECUTIVE MOTIONS

A motion was made by Commissioner Witters and seconded by Commissioner Brunson to approve Intergovernmental Agreement with State Police Drug Task Force. All present voted Aye.

A motion was made by Mayor Meeks and seconded by John Fearheiley to allow City Administrator Merle Weems to purchase a new slide for the Mt. Carmel Municipal Swimming Pool. All present voted Aye.

Meeting was adjourned.

Mayor



ATTEST:


City Clerk