

MEETING MINUTES
Monday, March 17, 2003

Invocation was given by Rev. Brant Hazlett of St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church.

Present on Roll Call: Mayor George Woodcock, Commissioners Jack Emmons, Jim Pfeister, John Fearheiley, and Dick Shoaff.

Also Present: City Administrator Merle Weems, Police Chief Jim Seaton, City Attorney Tom Price, City Inspector Don Price, Street Superintendent David Easter, Fire Chief Steve Partee, Water Plant Superintendent Mark Weirich, Waste Water Treatment Manager Rob Windes, Economic Development Manager Bill Maples, and City Engineer Dave Dallas.

Absent: Airport Manager Ken Wood

MAYOR COMMENTS

“Our President and our servicemen and women need the prayers and support of all of us. I don’t know what the president will say tonight but we know what the intentions are and we know that our young people are facing death’s door. There are terrible times ahead and only the divine guidance from God can lead us to victory or resolve this matter. I call on the people of Mt. Carmel to remember in their prayers our servicemen and women, our president and leaders through this most difficult and delicate time of our lives.”

The Mayor received a copy of a letter from Congressmen Tim Johnson and John Hostettler that was addressed to Don Young, Chairman of Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and Chairman of the Highways and Transit Subcommittee, Tom Petri. The letter urges the Chairmen to support funding to reconstruct the bridge. This project is absolutely critical to the transportation and the economic development needs of the States of Illinois and Indiana. The current structure that serves as a vital link between Mt. Carmel and Princeton was built in 1937 and time and heavy use has brought this bridge very close to exceeding its usability. In fact, in 1995 an engineer determined the remaining life span of the bridge to be 10 years. These two cities can not afford to lose the access that the bridge provides. As a critical truck route connecting our states, the entire region would suffer tremendously, as trucks will be forced to travel 75 miles out of the way to reach the same destination on the other side of the river.

The Mayor called upon Economic Development Manager, Bill Maples, to introduce Rick Buck, a spokesman for MEI, LLC Company in Mt. Carmel, to the council. Mr. Buck appeared before the city council to briefly explain the project that his company is looking at doing in Mt. Carmel.

Mr. Maples presented an Incentive Package for MEI, LLC to the Council for approval.

A motion was made by Commissioner Shoaff and Seconded by Commissioner Fearheiley to approve the Benefit Package offered by the City of Mt. Carmel to MEI for a plant West of Mt. Carmel on Empire Street. All present voted Aye.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

COMMISSIONER JACK EMMONS - FINANCE AND SENIOR CITIZENS

Commissioner Emmons gave the following report.

Cash Investment balance as of 3/17/03:	\$352,108.00
Receipts:	9,318.00
Expenses:	93,975.00
Cash Investment Balance:	64,052.00
 Recreation Fund:	28,592.00
Receipts:	0.00
Expenditures:	2,079.00
Balance:	26,512.00
Accounts Payable:	1,491.00
 Garbage Fund Account beginning Balance:	\$25,310.00

Receipts:	12,205.00
Expenses:	2,990.00
Balance:	34,525.00
Accounts Payable:	16,065.00

Airport Fund:	(38,921.00)
Receipts:	1,424.00
Expenditures:	3,408.00
Balance:	(40,905.00)
Accounts Receivable:	1,992.00
Accounts Payable:	325.00

Water Fund Account beginning Balance:	\$18,489.00
Receipts:	37,565.00
Expenses:	25,747.00
Balance:	30,307.00
Accounts Payable:	19,204.00

Sewer Fund Account:	\$16,542.00
Receipts:	\$21,639.00
Expenses:	25,236.00
Balance:	12,945.00
Accounts Payable:	11,540.00

Golf Course Fund:	(\$128,586.00)
Receipts:	16,593.00
Expenses:	8,724.00
Balance:	(120,718.00)
Accounts Payable:	1,998.00

COMMISSIONER PFEISTER - STREETS, CEMETERIES AND PARKS

Commissioner Pfeister was one of several Mt. Carmel officials that attended a meeting with Trim Master officials in Lawrenceville. The same person that represented Trim Master upon an exploratory visit to Mt. Carmel to decide the location of their new factory was present at that meeting. The city delegation asked the official why Mt. Carmel was not chosen. The only reason Mt. Carmel was not chosen was because of the bridge. Trim Master's "Just In Time" agreement with Toyota could cost them thousands of dollars in late charges for being minutes late in their delivery. The narrowness of the bridge could cause a long delay for even the most minor accident. The official, however, did praise our city for the many other fine facilities that we do have.

Commissioner Pfeister also gave the following report. (See attached copy)

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

There have been no fire runs since the last council meeting. The Fire Department finally received their notice from ISO, which is the organization that evaluates the city for fire insurance. Every so often a man will come to Mt. Carmel and give them a rating. They have been waiting since October for the man to arrive and they have received word that he will be here the week of April 7th. The fire department's rating is currently at number six. Commissioner Shoaff is 99 percent sure that it will drop at least one rating point. This will mean \$25, \$30, or even \$40 annual savings on house insurance premiums and businesses and industries will save a lot more. The substantial drop in fire insurance should occur because of the new city water tower and excellent water pressure throughout the community.

COMMISSIONER FEARHEILEY - WATER AND SEWER

Commissioner Fearheiley also gave the following report. (See attached copy)

ADDITIONAL REPORTS

Merle Weems gave the following report.

Mr. Weems briefly discussed plans for the new overpass project.

City Attorney Tom Price had no report.

City Inspector Don Price gave the following report.

Mr. Price briefly discussed a sign application to place a sign at 6th and Market Street. It was decided by Chief of Police Jim Seaton that the sign would be detrimental to the traffic on those streets; therefore the application can not be approved. They will continue to work with the applicant to try and find an alternative solution.

Police Chief Jim Seaton gave the following report.

Chief Seaton stated that the three men that helped rescue the man that fell into the Wabash River will be acknowledged for their efforts at the next council meeting.

Fire Chief Partee had no report.

This weekend there will be training down at the South gate at the Training Center. Aaron Brown, who is an IL Certified Trainer, will be the instructor. Other communities from the surrounding areas will also be involved.

Street Superintendent Dave Easter gave the following report.

The stoplights on Market Street at 4th, 5th and 6th streets intersections have all been rebuilt. The city recently obtained parts from the Illinois Department of Transportation at Effingham to fix the old signal light controls. Superintendent Easter said he was surveying the city road conditions this week too see how bad they are after the winter we have had. City officials are now determining this year's street maintenance program.

Water Plant Superintendent Mark Weirich gave the following report.

(See Attached Copy)

Waste Water Treatment Manager Rob Windes had no report.

City Engineer Dave Dallas gave the following report.

Mr. Dallas stated that the upcoming state review of the Palmyra projects could release needed economic development funds to pay for a portion of Empire Street extension. This work will also help B&D Independence get started with their planned facility in the industrial park. Mr. Dallas also presented the council with drawings of the planned railroad overpass that could be the beginning of the end to a decade long problem of division of the town by lengthy trains.

Economic Development Manager Bill Maples gave the following report.

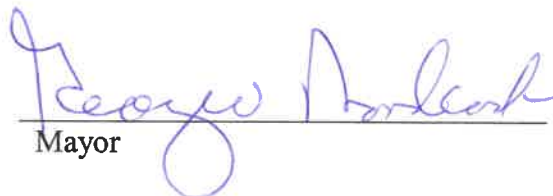
Mr. Maples was asked by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to appear in a video being prepared by the IEPA concerning Federal Assembly "Brownfield" grant project that the city and state are assisting. EPA will be showing the video of the site at its annual conference in May as an example of a good project. The grant will assist Federal Assembly's plans to develop the former McCuiston Distributing Company property on 9th Street.

BUSINESS MOTIONS


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

A motion was made by Commissioner Pfeister seconded by Commissioner Emmons to approve the minutes from the last City Council Meeting dated March 3, 2003. All present vote Aye.

Meeting was adjourned.


Mayor

ATTEST:


City Clerk