

**MEETING MINUTES**  
Monday, February 8, 2021  
5:00 pm

Mayor Judge brought the City Council meeting to order.

Present on Roll Call: Mayor Joe Judge Commissioners – Tom Meeks, Eric Ikemire,  
Justin Dulgar, Chandler Madden

Also, Present: City Administrative Assistant Rudy Witsman, City Attorney Brady Waldrop

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Judge requested a motion to approve the minutes of the last council meeting.

Commissioner Dulgar motioned and Commissioner Ikemire seconded to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 25, 2021. All present voted Aye by voice vote.

**MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

Mayor Judge acknowledged Barbara Escobedo, who addressed the council with concerns regarding the intersection of East Fifth and Pear Streets. Ms. Escobedo stated there are stop signs on the Pear Street sides, but not on the East Fifth Street sides of the intersection and is seeking council approval for stop signs to be placed on East Fifth Street sides. Ms. Escobedo further stated several junior high school children cross that intersection while walking on their way to school and it is dangerous due to the lack of stop signs. Mayor Judge acknowledged Street Department Superintendent Dave Easter, who stated a traffic study needs to be done first as that intersection is part of a FAU route, which is a snow route. Mayor Judge clarified then approval has to be granted by the State of Illinois because of the FAU route. The council decided to move forward with Ms. Escobedo's request and asked Police Chief Turner to conduct the traffic study.

Mayor Judge acknowledged City Administrative Assistant Rudy Witsman, who presented to the council the bids for the city's vacant lots along Market Street. City Administrative Assistant Witsman opened and Mayor Judge read the bids as follows: Constance Folsom bid \$250.00 for Lot #1 being 321 N. Market Street (the Warren lot); bids for Lot #3 being 504, 506, and 508 N. Market Street are Dan Schonert - \$3555.00, Ian Forester - \$1950.00, John Clancy - \$1.00, Terry Jackson - \$2000.00, Nancy Walsh - \$200.00, Sibean O'Neill - \$500.00, Dave Dallas - \$3000.00; bids for Lot #2 being 414 and 416 N. Market Street (Hadley's Lot) are St. Mary's Rockets Foundation - \$1000.00, Dave Dallas - \$7000.00, Jeff Landingham - \$1000.00. Mayor Judge thanked everyone who submitted a bid and stated the bids will be reviewed for presentation at the next council meeting.

Mayor Judge asked council approval for the purchase of a new back hoe for the street department. Mayor Judge acknowledged City Administrative Assistant Witsman who stated the trade in value of the street department's current back hoe is \$34,000.00, which would leave a balance of \$80,382.36 for the purchase price and added the purchase amount is a municipal price. Mayor Judge stated the purchase is not in the budget, however funds will be derived from the Cures Act monies.

Mayor Judge reported he has been asked about the swimming pool opening this summer and stated, unfortunately, at this point in time he does not have an answer. Mayor Judge clarified he is waiting to hear what the IDPH will and will not allow. Mayor Judge stated, however, if the city is awarded the grant monies for the new water park and upgrades to the pool, the chance of the swimming pool opening this summer is slim.

Mayor Judge reiterated he has been reviewing board appointments to various city boards and asked council for approval of the appointments. Mayor Judge asked that Shad White be reappointed to the Fire/Police Commission for a three-year term as his current term expires on April 30, 2021. Mayor Judge thanked the following people whose terms on the Zoning Board are expiring at the end of April; Harold Bailey, Bill Mabry, and Bob McGregor. Mayor Judge stated these gentlemen have served on the Zoning Board for a very long time and have done an excellent job. Mayor Judge reported the replacements for the gentlemen are as follows: Vikram Singh, Andrea Downing, and Katie Slane with the five-year terms starting on May 1, 2021. Mayor Judge stated Shawn Storckman will serve as an alternate as required per the Zoning Board Ordinance and his appointment will be effective immediately.

Mayor Judge reported the Airport Board Ordinance states the county has to appoint someone to serve on the board and after speaking with Wabash County Commissioner Rob Dean, he volunteered to serve on the board. Mayor Judge asked council approval for the appointment.

Mayor Judge stated all the officer's terms on the Ethics Board expired in 2007 and 2008. Mayor Judge reported Kelli Storckman is already the legal advisor to the board and asked council approval to appoint Mike McWilliams for a one year-term; Stan Ernest and Bill Easton for two-year terms.

Mayor Judge encouraged everyone to go out to the city park to see the new shelter house; the electrical portion of the shelter is not complete and other finalization has to be done, however, the main shelter is up and looks wonderful. Mayor Judge gave a big "thank you" to the Mount Carmel Rotary Club for the fundraising and for being the liaison with the construction. Mayor Judge also thanked everyone who donated to the project and stated donations are still being accepted for the completion of the new restrooms that are to be constructed at the park, as well.

Mayor Judge asked council approval to move forward with a contract for the purchase of property located on Oak Street. Mayor Judge stated council approval must be granted first before he can elaborate on the property and the council voted to grant the approval. Mayor Judge stated the City of Mount Carmel would like to announce, with the vote that just took place, that an offer has been made to purchase the former manufacturing lot of the Snap-On Tools on Oak Street in the amount of \$15,000.00. Mayor Judge reported he had discovered as of January 8, 2021, the property had been out of court proceedings for some time and with the help of the Wabash County Courthouse along with the Wabash County Assessor's Office he was able to track down the owners of the property. Mayor Judge stated after discussions with IEPA and the property owners, a price was agreed upon for the purchase of the manufacturing site. Mayor Judge reported the city is aware of the IEPA remediation on the lot that goes back to 1993 and the property has completed a Phase One Remediation while having almost completed the Phase Two Remediation. Mayor Judge stated the city has been working with IEPA throughout this process on the lot and what is required for it to be redeveloped. Mayor Judge reported the option at this time is to clear and level the lot while still being in compliance with the IEPA requirements. Mayor Judge stated once the city completes the purchase of the property; it will be rolled into DMP Program and the city will work with state as well as federal representatives to be awarded a Brownsville Remediation Phase Two Grant to finish the remediation for redevelopment. Mayor Judge reported this a grant phase process that will provide the financial need to pay for the clean up to reach the final of the Phase Two Remediation. Mayor Judge expressed his appreciation to the council for their help and stated this council along with prior councils have been wanting to accomplish this since 2008 when the destruction of the Snap-On property and the lawsuits started, which left the property in disarray. Mayor Judge emphasized the purchase is for the manufacturing lot only; not either of the parking lots. Mayor Judge stated the main parking lot had already been sold to a local businessman and there is a separate deal going on for the smaller parking lot that the city is not involved in. Mayor Judge reported it is the city's goal to purchase the lot, clean it up, seed it to grow grass in order to maintain it until the time comes when the city can receive funds from the state and federal government through remediation for redevelopment in order to put the property back on the tax rolls.

## **COMMISSIONER REPORTS:**

### **COMMISSIONER TOM MEEKS – STREETS, CEMETERIES AND PARKS**

Commissioner Meeks absent.

### **COMMISSIONER ERIC IKEMIRE – FINANCE AND SENIOR CITIZENS**

Statement of Receipts and Expenditures – See attached agenda with financials.

Commissioner Ikemire reported, in the last two weeks, the general fund received \$13,355.00 in receipts and had expenditures of \$92,838.00. Commissioner Ikemire stated the city is roughly eighty percent through the fiscal year and is right on schedule with budgeted receipts.

Commissioner Ikemire stated at a prior Wabash County Board meeting a resolution passed asking that the governor veto the bill involving the Police Criminal Justice Reform. Commissioner Ikemire recommended to the council that city do the same thing in order to show support to the local police department. City Administrative Assistant Witsman interjected by stating he will contact the Wabash County Board to adapt a similar resolution and it will be Resolution 679.

## **COMMISSIONER JUSTIN DULGAR – WATER AND SEWER**

Commissioner Dulgar stated City Administrative Assistant Witsman will be presenting to the council, Resolution 678, which will authorize the city to sign a bank loan for a new water plant.

Commissioner Dulgar reiterated the loan is the “stop gap” while the city waits for the EPA funding and the final vote for a new water plant has to be presented to the council for approval at a future council meeting.

Commissioner Dulgar reported the water treatment plant had issues with the radio communications to Well #3, the well is still pumping but there is no communication back to the Scada System. Commissioner Dulgar stated Marshall Electric will be repairing the problem within the next few days.

Commissioner Dulgar stated the water maintenance department has been performing its routine maintenance along with being busy repairing water leaks and working on sewer clean outs.

Commissioner Dulgar reported the Waste Water Plant’s College Lift Station Pump #2 experienced a pump overload and they are troubleshooting the issue; a sensor went out on one of the aeration basins, which was a warranty item and it will be replaced. Commissioner Dulgar stated Linson’s Seamless Gutting is giving an estimate for roof repairs on one of the plant’s buildings.

## **COMMISSIONER CHANDLER MADDEN – FIRE, HEALTH & SAFETY, GARBAGE, CITY HALL AND CIVIL DEFENSE**

Commissioner Madden reported in the last two weeks the fire department responded to seventeen runs.

Commissioner Madden reiterated he had reported on the moving of the recycling area to 130 Railroad Street from Golden Aces Way and announced the move date will be Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. Commissioner Madden reminded residents to please do not leave items outside the gate when it is locked and be sure to only put acceptable items in the recycling bin. Commissioner Madden stated everyone’s help as well as consideration is greatly appreciated in order to keep the recycling area open and a full list of acceptable items will be announced within the next few weeks.

Commissioner Madden reminded residents, with the cold temperatures expected this week, to please check on their elderly neighbors. Commissioner Madden stated, with the snow we are getting this evening and with the chance of snow later this week, to please slow down and allow yourself enough time to arrive at your destination safely.

## **CITY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – RUDY WITSMAN**

City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated, within the consent agenda is Resolution 678, which is per the request of the auditing department of the lending institution. City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported the actual applying of the loan itself was approved by a general motion at a prior council meeting. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated on Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup> a public hearing is scheduled at 4:00 pm in the council room regarding the new water plant proposal. City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported the meeting is open to the public with the opportunity being given to have questions answered at that time and Terry Boyer will make a short presentation of what is being proposed as well as to provide input for questions that may arise.

## **CITY ATTORNEY – BRADY WALDROP**

City Attorney Waldrop no report.

## **CITY INSPECTOR – MIKE GIDCUMB**

City Inspector Gidcumb absent.

## **STREET DEPARTMENT SUPERINTENDENT – DAVE EASTER**

Street Department Superintendent Easter reported in the last two weeks the street department finished repairs on one of the dump trucks; continued working on the loader and assisted the Water Maintenance Department with a water main leak. Street Department Superintendent Easter stated the department has been trying to do most of the repair work on equipment as possible.

**POLICE CHIEF – RYAN TURNER**

Police Chief Turner reported the police department has been certified by the Illinois Chiefs of Police Association, which was from an executive order passed by Former President Trump. Police Chief Turner stated the order restricts certain tactics in the use of force by police officers and the certification allows the police department to continue to receive federal funding.

**FIRE CHIEF – FRANCES SPETH**

Fire Chief Speth absent.

**BUSINESS MOTIONS**

Commissioner Ikemire motioned and Commissioner Madden seconded to approve the purchase of the property known as the Snap-On manufacturing property. All present voted Aye by voice vote. Commissioner Meeks absent.

Commissioner Dulgar motioned and Commissioner Madden seconded to approve the purchase of a new Cat Backhoe from Fabick in the amount of \$80,382.36 with trade-in of current Cat Backhoe. All present voted Aye by voice vote. Commissioner Meeks absent.

Commissioner Ikemire motioned and Commissioner Dulgar seconded to approve the appointment of Rob Dean to the Airport Board. All present voted Aye by voice vote. Commissioner Meeks absent.

Commissioner Ikemire motioned and Commissioner Dulgar seconded to approve the appointment of Shad White to the Fire/Police Commission. All present voted Aye by voice vote. Commissioner Meeks absent.

Commissioner Ikemire motioned and Commissioner Madden seconded to approve the appointment of Bill Easton, Stan Ernest, and Mike McWilliams to the Ethics Board. All present voted Aye by voice vote. Commissioner Meeks absent.

Commissioner Ikemire motioned and Commissioner Madden seconded to approve the appointment of Vikram Singh, Andrea Downing, and Katie Slane to the Zoning Board effective 5/1/21. Also, Shawn Storckman is appointed to the Zoning Board as an alternate effective immediately. All present voted Aye by voice vote. Commissioner Meeks absent.

Commissioner Ikemire motioned and Commissioner Madden seconded to approve Resolution 679. All present voted Aye by voice vote. Commissioner Meeks absent.

Commissioner Dulgar motioned and Commissioner Madden seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. The consent agenda included Resolution 678 – Authorizing Mayor and City Clerk to sign bank loan related to water plant and approval of the paying of all bills bearing the proper signatures. All present voted Aye by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 5:42 pm

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk