

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Invocation was given Commissioner Norman Brunson.

Present on Roll Call: Mayor Bill Hudson Commissioners – Dick Shoaff, Rod Rodriguez, and Joe Judge, Norm Brunson

Also Present: Administrative Assistant Rudy Witsman, City Attorney Tom Price and City Inspector Mike Gidcumb.

MAYORS COMMENTS

Mayor Bill Hudson brought the city council meeting to order.

Mayor Hudson said progress is continuing on Market Street, with anticipation of new stores opening In the spring.

Mayor Hudson spoke with Michael Fox from the Illinois Department of Transportation on the completion of the Third Street overpass bridge project. Weather permitting the project should be completed by July 4th, 2012. Mayor Hudson reported that some semis are not taking the highway detour but instead driving Keneipp Lane and then a country road through a trailer park, disturbing those residents. Chief Besing said the driver of the large trucks could be fined for violation of load limits on the improvised detours.

Mayor Hudson welcomed two visitors from DAV Chapter 80, Sr. Vice Commander Chuck Schryer and Chapter Commander Doug Stout. The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter 80 presented the keys to a replacement van that will be used to transport Mt. Carmel veterans to health care appointments in Marion, Effingham, Mt. Vernon, Evansville and Vincennes. Jack Emmons and Nick Nelson are currently the only two drivers, and the DAV is in need of more drivers. The DAV can be reached at 618-516-1064 for rides or for volunteering. Last year 2,604 Veterans were taken for medical appointment, 4,711 volunteer hours were donated, 159,510 miles were driven. The DAV Chapter 80 is an excellent service for all our local Veterans.

Mayor Hudson advised everyone that there is a city ordinance that allows placement of the blue totes on public right-of-way for 24 hours but many residents are not rolling the containers back onto their property after garbage pickup. Mayor Hudson encouraged residents to please remove totes from roadways.

Mayor Hudson welcomed Mr. Dennis Poland, the 911 Wabash County Coordinator.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

COMMISSIONER DICK SHOAFF – FINANCE AND SENIOR CITIZENS

Cash Investment Balance as of 01/10/12	\$632,148.63
Receipts:	\$ 37,821.23
Expenditures:	\$ 89,906.81
Cash Investment Balance 01/09/12:	\$580,063.05
Recreation Fund:	\$ 7,811.15
Receipts:	\$ -0-
Expenditures:	\$ 452.16
Balance:	\$ 7,358.99
Account Payable:	\$ 496.10
Garbage Fund Account Beginning Balance:	\$191,033.62
Receipts:	\$ 16,223.53
Expenditures:	\$ 25,804.19
Balance:	\$181,452.96
Accounts Payable:	\$ 2,766.99
Airport Fund:	\$ (25,191.37)
Receipts:	\$ 681.76
Expenditures:	\$ 3,636.55

Balance:	\$ (28,146.16)
Accounts Payable:	\$ 1,336.33
Water Fund Account Beginning Balance:	\$ 231,354.97
Receipts:	\$ 39,789.93
Expenditures:	\$ 23,184.88
Balance:	\$ 247,959.34
Accounts Payable:	\$ 21,016.39
Sewer Fund Account:	\$ 7,902.73
Receipts:	\$ 23,355.93
Expenditures:	\$ 13,333.69
Balance:	\$ 17,924.97
Accounts Payable:	\$ 16,492.48
Golf Course Fund:	\$ (312,130.15)
Receipts:	\$ 5,518.57
Expenditures:	\$ 49,912.70
Balance:	(356,524.28)
Accounts Payable:	\$ 10,202.54

Commissioner Shoaff recapped that the State of Illinois currently owes the City of Mt. Carmel \$250,000.00, and that Mt. Carmel could definitely use that money.

Commissioner Shoaff reported that the Senior Citizens Center is running smoothly, and the Center has recently purchased several new tables.

COMMISSIONER JOE JUDGE – STREETS, CEMETERIES AND PARKS

Commissioner Judge reported that he and Street Supt. David Easter will be going door to door on East Fifth Street to Golden Aces Way to get residents input for the Grant sought to improve this section of East Fifth street storm sewers. Commissioner Judge reported that they have to get 75 percent of response from the residents.

Commissioner Judge also reported another undertaking the City Street Department must complete is replacement of some 500 old street name signs in the city and replace with high intensity prism reflecting signs.

Commissioner Judge reported that he has had recent conversations with local police officers who have asked Commissioner Judge to remind everyone that Illinois House Bills 71 and 72 make it illegal- at all times while driving – to compose, send or read text messages or e-mail, or surf the Internet, and the laws also ban talking on a cell phone while in a school or construction zone while driving.

COMMISSIONER ROD RODRIGUEZ – FIRE, HEALTH & SAFETY, GARBAGE, CITY HALL AND CIVIL DEFENSE

Commissioner Rodriguez reported that the Fire Department had 10 runs in the last two weeks.

Commissioner Rodriguez reported that the emergency service officials have been gathering comparative information concerning the upcoming federally required change to narrow band radio services. Commissioner Rodriguez introduced Wabash County 911 Coordinator Dennis Poland who said the deadline for the change in Emergency Services radios affects everyone. The pagers carried by Emergency personnel are important because they only tone a message when a 911 alarm has been sent and the firefighter can play back what dispatch has sent to the pager. Our grant application for assistance with radio replacement this year was turned down. The estimated \$48,000 expenditure is not in this year’s city budget, but the Federal Communications Commission law adopted in 2004 set the narrow-band standard to be effective on January 1, 2013, and setting large fines for violations by agencies not using the radio bands. Mr. Poland said he hopes that in the coming months the county-wide conversion to narrow band emergency channels can be completed within a two to three day period.

COMMISSIONER NORMAN BRUNSON – WATER AND SEWER

Commissioner Brunson reported both his departments are running smoothly. The Water/Sewer Maintenance Department has a 37 year old dump truck they would like to replace at some point.

CITY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – RUDY WITSMAN

City Administrator Rudy Witsman reported that the City's Hackberry property will be advertised to be sold to the highest bidder within the very near future.

City Administrator Rudy Witsman reported that a public hearing will be held before next council meeting on February 6th, 2012 at 4:45 about the Fifth Street Project.

City Administrator Rudy Witsman recently attended an IMRF workshop and was told the City needs a resolution approved by the City Council designating our Cafeteria Plan funds that the employees pay into for their health insurance portion to be considered IMRF earnings. The City has always done this but does not have a designated resolution for this. The Council approved Resolution No. 594 – IMRF 125 Plan.

City Administrator Rudy Witsman presented Resolution No. 595 – GWRPC Support and Fund Commitment. Council approved.

CITY ATTORNEY – TOM PRICE

No Report.

CITY INSPECTOR – MIKE GIDCUMB

City Inspector Mike Gidcumb presented Ordinance 973 for the Second Reading, Amending Special Uses Section.

BUSINESS MOTIONS

Commissioner Judge motioned and Commissioner Shoaff seconded to approve Ordinance No. 973 – Second Reading, Amending Special Uses Section. All present voted Aye.

Commissioner Brunson motioned and Commissioner Rodriguez seconded to approve Resolution No. 594 – IMRF 125 Plan. All present voted Aye.

Commissioner Judge motioned and Commissioner Shoaff seconded to approve Resolution No. 595 – GWRPC Support and Fund Commitment. All present voted Aye.

Commissioner Brunson motioned and Commissioner Rodriguez seconded to accept the Minutes from last regular meeting of City Council 1/9/12. All present voted Aye.

Commissioner Brunson motioned and Commissioner Rodriguez seconded to approve to pay all bills bearing the proper signatures. All present voted Aye.

Meeting was adjourned.

Mayor
ATTEST:

City Clerk