

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 5, 2015
5:00 pm

Invocation was given by Reverend Tony Hodgson.

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

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

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Hudson brought the city council meeting to order.

Mayor Hudson wished everyone a Happy New Year. Mayor Hudson reported the 2014 year showed positive progress with buildings, roads, bridges and businesses expanding. All was a positive outlook for the City of Mount Carmel and Wabash County. Mayor Hudson stated hopefully 2015 will continue this positive progress with the Wabash General Hospital expansion (including doctors), the Wabash Valley College dorms, restaurants, businesses, and housing. With the help of the enterprise zone, other things could follow. Each city department will take a positive outlook for the betterment of the City of Mount Carmel.

Mayor Hudson announced on Sunday, February 8th the City Seeking God event will be held at the Heartland Worship at 6:00 pm.

Mayor Hudson asked residents to please check on their elderly neighbors this week as the temperatures are supposed to be freezing cold.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

COMMISSIONER DICK SHOAFF – FINANCE AND SENIOR CITIZENS

Commissioner Shoaff stated he would like to see a plan put in place by this summer for the all expenditures for the needed upgrades at the Wastewater Plant. Commissioner Shoaff stated unfortunately the people that use the facility will have to pay for the improvements. Commissioner Shoaff added the city needs to take the wastewater plant issues one step at a time, as far as trying to figure out how to handle the upcoming expenses and he is confident there will be a way to pay for the expenditures.

COMMISSIONER JOE JUDGE – STREETS, CEMETERIES AND PARKS

Commissioner Judge reported in the last two weeks the street department worked on installing the v-box spreaders, worked on the shop ground lifts, repaired air hydraulic leaks, rebuilt side brooms for the street sweeper, installed new street signs, worked on the brush crew truck, cleaned intakes, and put barricades out during the heavy rains on Saturday.

Commissioner Judge stated the city should be receiving another load of road salt and hopefully there should be enough on hand to last this winter season.

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

Commissioner Rodriguez reported in the last two weeks the fire department had sixteen runs. The department had a total of two hundred sixty-six runs and eight hundred thirty-eight hours of training for 2014 year. In the last four years, the fire department has had a total of one thousand thirteen runs and three thousand two hundred eighteen hours of training. Commissioner Rodriguez gave "hats off" to the fire department and the police department for all that they do.

Commissioner Rodriguez announced the Shop with a Cop/Fireman event was held on December 22nd with thirty-one children participating. Commissioner Rodriguez thanked the businesses, all the individuals who made donations, and everyone who contributed. It was a wonderful event.

COMMISSIONER NORMAN BRUNSON – WATER AND SEWER

Commissioner Brunson reported the water treatment plant has been doing general maintenance around the plant, including painting the basement of the plant. The water maintenance department has done routine maintenance throughout the system. The crew did sixteen locates as well as checking the sewer mains at several different addresses and locating a sewer manhole for the wastewater plant. The wastewater plant is operating satisfactorily. At this time, the water treatment plant and the wastewater plant are in the black.

CITY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – RUDY WITSMAN

City Administrative Assistant Rudy Witsman stated direction was needed from the council in regarding the Wastewater Treatment Plant’s proposed improvements. The city is under a time constraint issued by the State of Illinois. City Administrative Assistant Witsman acknowledged John Acree of Lamac Engineering, who was in attendance to answer any questions from the council. Mr. Acree stated the State Revolving Loan Program is a hundred percent direct construction loan but unfortunately, the 2015 loan rate has been raised to 2.21%. Mr. Acree also stated the time frame is very tight but added the EPA will work with the city, as per his prior experience working with the EPA. City Administrative Assistant Witsman clarified the NPDES permit allows the city to put the treated water that flows out of the Wastewater Plant back into the Wabash River. The federal government has tightened the restrictions on the ammonia that is discharged into the river, which in turn has created the need for the plant upgrades.

CITY ATTORNEY – TOM PRICE

City Attorney Price reported last year a house was torn down at 206 West Eleven Street. The city has obtained a sheriff’s deed for the property and is now the owner of that lot. The property is for sale.

CITY INSPECTOR – MIKE GIDCUMB

City Inspector Mike Gidcumb reported on Ordinance 1027, which is the grass nuisance ordinance. The ordinance had been discussed at a previous council meeting in the fall of 2014 and some guidelines had been given to City Inspector Gidcumb by the council. The grass height will be changed from twelve inches to eight inches. The length of time for the notice will be changed from ten days to seven days. The ordinance also establishes whoever is in violation will only receive one notice during the year and subsequent violations will not require any notice. City Inspector Gidcumb stated this council meeting constitutes the first reading of Ordinance 1027.

BUSINESS MOTIONS

Commissioner Shoaff motioned and Commissioner Judge seconded to approve authorization for Lamac Engineering to proceed with the improvement at the Wastewater Plant. They will solicit bids and make application to the IEPA Revolving Loan Program. All present voted Aye by roll call vote.

Commissioner Judge motioned and Commissioner Brunson seconded to approve the Minutes from regular meeting of City Council held on December 22, 2014. All present voted Aye by voice vote.

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk