

MEETING MINUTES
Monday, January 19, 2015
5:00 pm

Invocation was given by Commissioner Norm Brunson.

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 acknowledged the Mount Carmel High School Key Club members, who asked the council's approval for the second annual citywide clean-up project. The event is scheduled for Saturday, April 18 beginning at 11:00 am. Mayor Hudson stated the event went very well last year and all the work that was put into the event was very much appreciated.

Mayor Hudson acknowledged Melissa Strine, who was seeking the council's approval for the Sixth Annual Saint Mary's School Mardi Gras 5K/10K Kids Fun Run Celebration. The event is to be held on Saturday, February 28th. The race route is the same as the previous years, however the dinner celebration will be held at the Elks Club. Mayor Hudson advised Ms. Strine to contact the police department and the street department with the race route.

Mayor Hudson stated the Wabash River railroad bridge is being repaired and the "pounding" noise that residents have been hearing is the construction workers replacing the wooden piers on the bridge with concrete pillars.

Mayor Hudson announced a groundbreaking ceremony for Moto-Rad's thirty thousand square foot addition will be held tomorrow morning, Tuesday January 20th.

Mayor Hudson stated thankfully there was a break in the weather so that the street department crew could get the Christmas decorations taken down.

Mayor Hudson asked residents to please still check on their elder neighbors even though we are now having nicer weather.

Mayor Hudson reported new Storage Express units are under construction on West Third Street; the Conoco Convenience Store on Walnut Street should be opening soon; and First National Bank has started its new addition.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

COMMISSIONER DICK SHOAFF – FINANCE AND SENIOR CITIZENS

Commissioner Shoaff stated the city is looking toward Springfield, the new governor, and the new legislator to see what's in store for the future. Commissioner Shoaff reported the city has been hit with some big expenses; however the city has been able to pay its bills.

COMMISSIONER JOE JUDGE – STREETS, CEMETERIES AND PARKS

Commissioner Judge reported in the last two weeks the street department has rebuilt the side brooms on the street sweeper, installed new street signs, took down the Christmas decorations on Market Street, cleaned intakes, replaced impeller and liners on leaf machines, and did maintenance on city trucks.

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

Commissioner Rodriguez reported in the last two weeks the fire department had fourteen runs. Commissioner Rodriguez stated the department had four runs in thirty-six hours. Commissioner Rodriguez thanked the police department and the ambulance service for their assistance; McDonalds for the food they provided to the firemen after McDonald's recent fire; and also thanked Amanda and Amber for providing the much appreciated hot chocolate.

COMMISSIONER NORMAN BRUNSON – WATER AND SEWER

Commissioner Brunson reported the water treatment plant has been doing its general maintenance. The department had experienced some problems with the computer that controls the plant and that problem is being resolved. The water maintenance department did general maintenance throughout the system including eleven locates. The crew removed trees and undergrowth at the South Division Street Levee near the wastewater plant, repaired a sewer service line that was damaged by Mount Carmel Public Utility, used the jet truck at West Second and Chestnut Street to clean out a sewer main, and repaired one of the city's trucks. The wastewater plant is operating satisfactorily. The heater at the Mulberry Street lift station failed and a new heater has been ordered. The ammonia nitrate permit project is proceeding and bid letting for the project should begin soon. Wastewater Plant Superintendent Josh Plant met with John Acree of Lamac Engineering, Tim Raibley of ADG, and the representative with United Energy Incorporated on Friday, January 16th.

CITY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – RUDY WITSMAN

City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported several weeks ago the council had discussed much needed water line repairs along College Drive. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated the city is waiting for approval from the State of Illinois regarding a \$200,000 project grant for those repairs. Lamac Engineering has contacted the city with a proposal for that project; stating now is a good time for their company to do the design work. City Administrative Assistant Witsman proposed to the council the use of TIF funds for payment of the design work. The design plans will then be held until spring and hopefully the city will have the funds to proceed with the construction of the project. City Administrative Assistant Witsman added construction will be disruptive for the residents who live on College Drive and the walkers that use College Drive. However, the end result will be a new water main line and a widened sidewalk.

City Administrative Witsman stated this meeting constitutes the second reading of Ordinance 1027, which changes the current grass nuisance ordinance.

City Administrative Witsman reported Resolution R-612 is the annual resolution with Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission. The city will commit \$1900 in funds to the commission and Wabash County Government.

CITY ATTORNEY – TOM PRICE

City Attorney Price reported demolition permits have been issued for 110 Pecan Avenue and 630 N Division Street, so now those areas of town will be cleaned up. City Attorney Price also stated the new Storage Express buildings on Outer West Third have really helped make that area of the city look better.

CITY INSPECTOR – MIKE GIDCUMB

City Inspector Gidcumb stated a longtime member of the zoning board has asked to step down due to health issues. City Inspector Gidcumb recommended, per the zoning board, that Tim Raibley fill the vacancy.

City Inspector Gidcumb reported the Wabash Valley College housing units should be ready for drywall by this coming Friday, and a final inspection has been done at the Conoco Station on Walnut Street.

BUSINESS MOTIONS

Commissioner Brunson motioned and Commissioner Judge seconded to approve Resolution R-612, Support and Commitment of Funds to Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission. All present voted Aye by roll call vote.

Commissioner Shoaff motioned and Commissioner Rodriguez seconded to approve Ordinance 1027. All present voted Aye by roll call vote.

Commissioner Brunson motioned and Commissioner Rodriguez seconded to approve the zoning board recommendation to appoint Tim Raibley to replace Paul Kolb on the zoning board. All present voted Aye by roll call vote.

Commissioner Judge motioned and Commissioner Brunson seconded to authorize Lamac Engineering to prepare construction plans for the replacement of the waterline and sidewalk from Thirteenth Street to Park Road along College Drive. All present voted Aye by roll call vote.

Commissioner Brunson motioned and Commissioner Judge seconded to approve the Minutes from regular meeting of City Council held on January 5, 2015. All present voted Aye by voice vote.

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk