

## **MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, February 2, 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 acknowledged Reverend Tony Hodgson, who announced the City Seeking God event will be held on Sunday, February 8th at 6:00 pm at Heartland Worship Center.

Mayor Hudson acknowledged Chris Zanetis of Zanetis Oil Company LLC, who was seeking the council's approval of the zoning board's recommendation for a variance for the commercial development of a new oil company. The zoning board had approved the recommendation on January 27<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Hudson stated expansion projects on businesses throughout the city are going very well. The Wabash General Hospital expansion is near completion and should be in operation by May or earlier, weather permitting. The MotoRad, First National Bank, Keepes Funeral Home and Highway One North Bridge projects are well under way. Other projects will be starting late spring, so positive progress is in motion.

Mayor Hudson announced the \$45,000 donation by a family in Keensburg is helping to put the completion on the Safe Haven project.

### **COMMISSIONER REPORTS:**

#### **COMMISSIONER DICK SHOAFF – FINANCE AND SENIOR CITIZENS**

Commissioner Shoaff reminded department heads that the city is in the last quarter of its fiscal year. Commissioner Shoaff stated each department has pretty well stayed within their budgets. However, there are a couple of problem areas that cannot be helped.

Commissioner Shoaff stated the city has been blessed so far this winter, as there hasn't been any really bad weather. Commissioner Shoaff reported the Senior Citizens Center is freezing and stock piling meals. The center delivers between twenty-five to thirty meals daily. In the case of inclement weather, the center will deliver the frozen meals so residents won't need to be out driving on the bad roads. Commissioner Shoaff stated the center is available to rent for parties, receptions, etc.

#### **COMMISSIONER JOE JUDGE – STREETS, CEMETERIES AND PARKS**

Commissioner Judge reported in the last two weeks the street department has cleaned intakes, jetted out storm sewers, worked on getting the Fourth Street ball park ready for spring play, poured concrete and patched an alley on the 300 block of North Cherry Street, did road work on the 100 block of East Sixth Street, cut trees throughout the city, and built a drainage box for Lincoln Park.

Commissioner Judge stated playground equipment has been ordered for Glendale Park. The upgrades to the park are due to a donation from the Gladys Fisher Trust.

Commissioner Judge announced the city will be starting the second round of the street sign bidding. Commissioner Judge stated that anyone interested in bidding on the signs to please call city hall. The bidding will end on Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm.

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

Commissioner Rodriguez reported in the last two weeks the fire department had nine runs. Five firefighters had forty hours training on fire instruction.

Commissioner Rodriguez announced the Twelfth Annual Gun and Hoses event will be held on March 9th at the Mount Carmel Middle School.

## **COMMISSIONER NORMAN BRUNSON – WATER AND SEWER**

Commissioner Brunson reported the water treatment plant has done general maintenance around the plant; including exercising the generators each Saturday and cleaning the sediment basins with chlorine to control algae. The water maintenance department has been doing general maintenance throughout the system including twenty-one locates. The crew has inspected manholes with a video camera, installed new service lines, and removed the old service lines. The wastewater plant is meeting all its standards and has been doing all its maintenance orders.

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

City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported on the resolution, which authorizes a loan to Travis Wagner in the amount of \$15,000. The loan is for five years and will be used to open a sporting goods store on Market Street. The city's loan committee recommended that the council approve the loan. Mr. Wagner has a primary loan through First Bank.

City Administrative Witsman stated he was informed by John Acree of Lamac Engineering that the costs for the electrical improvements at the wastewater plant were underestimated in the amount of approximately of \$100,000. Mr. Acree suggested the city increase the amount it is borrowing by \$150,000. This would allow for the complete electrical rework coming in to the facility, which will power the new aeration system, as well as being able to purchase a generator that will power the necessary equipment to run the plant in the case of a power outage. The total amount to be borrowed would be \$850,000. Plant Superintendent Josh Peach stated the plant currently does not have emergency backup power for the plant and in the case of a power outage the treatment process stops.

City Administrative Witsman reported the city's jet truck has several years of age on it and is reaching the end of its "life". The truck is not used on an everyday basis, but it is a vital piece of equipment. City Administrative Witsman stated the city would have new jetting equipment installed on the existing truck. City Administrative Witsman anticipates the city will have to get a loan for the equipment and then pay for that loan through the water rate system revenue.

City Administrative Witsman thanked all the news media for getting the word out to the public regarding the water billing mail dilemma. City Administrative Witsman stated he had been in contact with the post office several times and the problem seems to have fallen on the mail distribution center in Saint Louis. City Administrative Assistant Witsman was informed by the post office that they have a solution and hopefully the problem will not happen again. City Administrative Assistant Witsman reminded the council that email billing had been discussed at a previous meeting and asked the council's approval to now purchase the software for email water billing. This billing will be available to those customers who are interested in receiving their bill via email.

## **CITY ATTORNEY – TOM PRICE**

City Attorney Price no report.

## **CITY INSPECTOR – MIKE GIDCUMB**

City Inspector Gidcumb stated he needed the council's guidance on the list of properties that are in code violation. City Inspector Gidcumb acknowledged City Attorney Price, who stated the properties on the list would require going to court and the most of the individuals involved do not have the money to pay the fines and/or court costs. The process is very time consuming, as mandated by the law. The council gave City Inspector Gidcumb permission to precede with the imminent danger properties.

**BUSINESS MOTIONS**

Commissioner Brunson motioned and Commissioner Judge seconded to approve the recommendation from the Zoning Board to allow a variance for commercial development on a five acre tract of land currently zoned R-5. The applicant is Zanetis Oil Company LLC. This variance is incorporated into Ordinance 1028. Second reading is waived. All present voted Aye by roll call vote.

Commissioner Shoaff motioned and Commissioner Brunson seconded to approve Resolution R613 authorizing a loan from the revolving loan fund to Travis Wagner. Second reading is waived. All present voted Aye by roll call vote.

Commissioner Shoaff motioned and Commissioner Brunson seconded to purchase from COE Equipment a new truck mounted sewer jet cleaner in the amount of \$117,734.00. All present voted Aye by roll call vote.

Commissioner Rodriguez motioned and Commissioner Shoaff seconded to approve the expenditure for computer software in the amount of \$5400.00 plus the yearly maintenance fee of \$1100.00. This software will enable the city to email water/sewer bills. 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 January 19, 2015. All present voted Aye by voice vote.

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:44 p.m.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk