

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 13th, 2017

5:00 pm

Invocation was given by Reverend Tony Hodgson.

Present on Roll Call: Mayor Bill Hudson Commissioners – Eric Ikemire, Joe Judge,
Justin Dulgar, Rod Rodriguez

Also Present: City Administrative Assistant Rudy Witsman, City Attorney Tom Price

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Hudson brought the city council meeting to order.

Mayor Hudson wished everyone an early Happy Valentine's Day.

Mayor Hudson stated the weather has turned around and we have been fortunate to have a very mild winter so far.

Mayor Hudson congratulated all the Wabash County basketball teams on their great seasons and their accomplishments. Mayor Hudson wished the Golden Aces basketball team good luck this coming Friday against Washington, Indiana in the conference championship.

Mayor Hudson asked citizens to please be careful while driving through the city, especially along River Road, on February 25th as lots of people will be participating in the Saint Mary's Mardi Gras 5K/10K Walk-Run event.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

COMMISSIONER ERIC IKEMIRE – STREETS, CEMETERIES AND PARKS

Commissioner Ikemire reported in the last two weeks the street department cleaned intakes; continued servicing mowers for the spring mowing season; patched pot holes; did maintenance work on the levee department bush hog; and performed maintenance work on the wastewater plant's fork lift and drill press.

COMMISSIONER JOE JUDGE – FINANCE AND SENIOR CITIZENS

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

Commissioner Judge reported the city is continuing to pay its bills and should still have monies until the upcoming budget year. Commissioner Judge stated the rate for renting the Senior Citizen's Center is \$60.00 and it is frequently being rented for events and parties.

COMMISSIONER JUSTIN DULGAR – WATER AND SEWER

Commissioner Dulgar reported the water maintenance opened the levee gates and turned off the pump station; separated water service from a house and a Church; used jet truck to clean out sewer mains; and located sewer lines between East Thirteen Street and Mount Carmel Stabilization Group on Highway One North for fiber optic installation. Commissioner Dulgar stated the cleaning of Water Well #1 has been completed; Water Well #1 motor is being inspected to see if it requires any maintenance and Water Wells #2 and #3 were pump tested. Commissioner Dulgar reported the sediment basins and clarifiers at the water treatment plant are scheduled for cleaning, weather permitting.

Commissioner Dulgar presented to the council a possible water rate increase stating the increase is long overdue, as there has not been an increase since 2011. Commissioner Dulgar stated the main driving factor for the increase is mainly due to the expense of producing water and maintenance of the aging water treatment plant. Commissioner Dulgar reported the costs for replacing old water lines with the rate increase is being explored, as well. Commissioner Dulgar stated the proposed

new water rates are as follows: the minimum water bill would increase from the current amount of \$7.09 to \$8.25 with the water tax increase from 35 cents to 41 cents; and the utility fee will change from \$4.00 to \$5.00. Commissioner Dulgar reiterated the total increase for the first year will be \$2.22. The increase for the second year will be the minimum water bill changing from \$8.25 to \$8.66; the water tax will increase from 41 cents to 43 cents, and the utility fee will increase from \$5.00 to \$6.00 with the overall water bill increase being \$1.43, per month. Commissioner Dulgar reported the third year minimum water bill increase will be \$8.66 to \$9.09, the water tax will change from 43 cents to 45 cents, and the utility fee will increase from \$6.00 to \$7.00 with the third year bill overall increase being \$1.45, per month. Commissioner Dulgar reiterated unfortunately the proposed increase is necessary for the future of the quality of the city's water supply.

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

Commissioner Rodriguez reported in the last two weeks the fire department responded to six runs.

Commissioner Rodriguez announced the Thirteenth Annual Guns and Hoses Event will be held on Sunday, March 12th with all the proceeds going to the Wabash County Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Fund.

Commissioner Rodriguez reported the drawing for the car for the Safe Haven Benefit Raffle will be held tomorrow, February 14th at 10:00 am at WSJD. Commissioner Rodriguez thanked Kevin List of Littles Italy's Pizza for his efforts and for organizing the raffle benefit.

CITY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – RUDY WITSMAN

City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported requests from the local American Cancer Society Relay for Life to have a fundraiser at the designated intersections on April 22nd, 2017 and from the Mount Carmel Little League for a fundraiser at the designated intersections on May 13th, 2017 are included in the consent agenda.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman reiterated at the last council meeting it was agreed that himself, Street Department Superintendent David Easter and Commissioner Eric Ikemire were to meet with Greg Locke, who has the current cemetery maintenance contract with the city and had asked for a one year allowable extension of the contract. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated the contract shortcomings were discussed at the meeting and Mr. Locke affirmed he will address those shortcomings with the coming mowing season. City Administrative Assistant Witsman recommended the council approve the extension of the contract for one year with Mr. Locke and that approval would be included in this council meeting's consent agenda. City Administrative Assistant Witsman acknowledged Commissioner Ikemire who stated the cemetery maintenance contract will then be up for regular bidding at the end of this year.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman again presented to the council the Air Evac membership agreement, which was discussed and postponed at the last council meeting. City Administrative Assistant Witsman suggested to the council to postpone a decision until the new budget year, which begins May 1st, 2017. After a lengthy discussion, the council decided to remove the proposal from this consent agenda. Commissioner Dulgar made a motion to provide the air ambulance insurance to the full time city employees, only. The motion died for a lack of a second. The council decided to readdress the Air Evac membership at a later date.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman reiterated at a prior council meeting, Brittany Campagna of Brush Fire Creative had proposed to the council the creating of a new website for the city and maintenance of the website at no charge until May of 2018. City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported himself and City Inspector Mike Gidcumb had also met with another individual, who had offered a similar proposal. City Administrative Assistant Witsman recommended the council accept the offer from Brush Fire Creative, after the reviewing of both proposals.

CITY ATTORNEY – TOM PRICE

City Attorney Price no report.

CITY INSPECTOR – MIKE GIDCUMB

City Inspector Gidcumb absent.

BUSINESS MOTIONS

Mayor Hudson and the Council approved the Consent Agenda, as presented in the agenda dated February 13th, 2017. The consent agenda approved the minutes for the council meeting held on January 30th, 2017; approved paying all bills bearing the proper signatures; approved the Cemetery Maintenance agreement; and the fund raising requests for the American Cancer Society and the Mount Carmel Little League.

Meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk