

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 27th, 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,
City Inspector Mike Gidcumb

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Hudson brought the city council meeting to order.

Mayor Hudson acknowledged Cameron Peach and Janice Williams with the Youth Advisory Board, who were requesting the council approval for their 5K Color Run Event on April 8th. The race will begin at 10:00 am at Mount Carmel High School. Mayor Hudson advised that the police department be notified of the race route.

Mayor Hudson stated thoughts and prayers are with the family of Phillip E. Orr, as he was killed in an automobile accident last night at the Sugar Creek entrance on Highway 1 South.

Mayor Hudson congratulated Melissa Strine and all the volunteers involved with the Saint Mary's Mardi Gras Fun Run last Saturday. Mayor Hudson stated the race, the dinner and the entertainment were all a success. Mayor Hudson thanked the police department for traffic control, the news media and all the participants.

Mayor Hudson congratulated the Mount Carmel High School Golden Aces Basketball Team for winning the regional championship and wished them good luck this Wednesday night against the Teutopolis Wooden Shoes.

Mayor Hudson stated within the next month some new projects will be forthcoming.

Mayor Hudson acknowledged Terry Beckerman, who was seeking council approval for the Eighteenth Annual Ribberfest Event on April 28th and 29th. Mr. Beckerman was requesting the streets be blocked off on the afternoon of Thursday, April 27th from intersection of Third and Market to the middle of Fifth and Market Streets. Commissioner Ikemire stated the Kiwanis' Downhill Derby Race is held in conjunction with the Ribberfest Event and requested Third Street to Cherry Street be closed on Saturday, April 29th, as well.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

COMMISSIONER ERIC IKEMIRE – STREETS, CEMETERIES AND PARKS

Commissioner Ikemire reported in the last two weeks the street department cleaned intakes; continued to service equipment; patched potholes; cut down and cleared trees; worked on cleaning the city streets with the street sweeper; and installed lights on a trailer for the wastewater plant.

COMMISSIONER JOE JUDGE – FINANCE AND SENIOR CITIZENS

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

Commissioner Judge reported the city is holding stable with its finances and in two months the new fiscal year begins. Commissioner Judge asked the department heads to meet with City Comptroller Mick Mollenhauer regarding their individual department budgets, as he is anticipating the first reading of the new budget at the April 10th council meeting.

Commissioner Judge announced the Senior Citizens Center continues to serve good meals and is offering a “Manager’s Special” each Friday. Commissioner Judge reported the center is considering offering new menu choices in April.

COMMISSIONER JUSTIN DULGAR – WATER AND SEWER

Commissioner Dulgar reported the water maintenance department met with a company regarding advise on water installations, locations and depths; placed barricades in the area of a sinkhole, monitored that area and then reopened the alley; checked complaints of sewer backup; cleaned locates; repaired water line and drain in filter building at the water treatment plant; and smoked a sewer main checking for sewer gas complaint.

Commissioner Dulgar stated the water treatment plant personnel cleaned the sediment basins and the clarifiers; Bill Miller attended the annual IRWA conference in Effingham for training; the crew performed their general routine maintenance on the equipment, chemical feeders, landscaping and yard work.

Commissioner Dulgar reiterated at the last council meeting he had discussed the possible water rates increases. Commissioner Dulgar stated those increases will be put on hold until after the new budget year and at that time he will examine the original proposal and present modifications if necessary.

Commissioner Dulgar reported the proposed costs for the painting and cleaning of both water towers and for the repairs of the Third Street water tower is between \$1 million and \$1.4 million depending what the city chooses to do. Commissioner Dulgar stated the water tower maintenance was one of the projects which sparked the water rate increase.

Commissioner Dulgar stated Straeffler Pump and Supply was on site to look at the Mulberry Lift Station to see what updates need to be done. Commissioner Dulgar emphasized the proposed expense to bring the lift station up to date is approximately \$30,000, which will be addressed during the new budget cycle.

Commissioner Dulgar reported the wastewater plant outfall project, which was delayed from last year, will be starting soon. Commissioner Dulgar stated the proposed schedule for the project is as follows: the submitting of the project loan will be May 1st; advertising for bids on June 1st; bid opening on August 15th; and construction starting on September 1st.

Commissioner Dulgar reminded that sign up time for Little League is approaching with sign ups being held at South School and NICE School on Saturday, March 11th or individuals may sign up on the Little League’s Facebook Page, as well.

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 two runs and attended trauma training at Wabash General Hospital.

Commissioner Rodriguez announced the Guns and Hoses Event will be Sunday, March 12th.

CITY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – RUDY WITSMAN

City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported Fireman Aaron Brown, who is a certified trainer, conducted the required OSHA training sessions on Wednesday, February 22nd for the city’s various departments. City Administrative Assistant Witsman emphasized that it was very beneficial to the city to have Mr. Brown qualified and available to conduct the training.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman announced he was notified today that the city’s levee is due for a five-year periodic inspection, which will be conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers on April 4th. City Administration Assistant Witsman reported pending items that could possibly be pointed out are some maintenance issues and the recommendations for the suggested endeavors will be very costly.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported within the consent agenda is Resolution R-630, which is the change of control of the cable franchise, as Cable One is in the process of purchasing the assets of New Wave Communications.

CITY ATTORNEY – TOM PRICE

City Attorney Price no report.

CITY INSPECTOR – MIKE GIDCUMB

City Inspector Gidcumb stated water meter audits have been conducted during the past month and are still ongoing.

City Inspector Gidcumb reported he and Commissioner Judge recently “revisited” some of the city’s vacant houses. City Inspector Gidcumb requested Council approval for City Attorney Price to conduct searches as to the recorded owners and lien holders of the said properties. Those interested in purchasing the vacant properties could then contact the owners, identified by Mr. Price, in hopes of getting the properties cleaned up or demolished. City Inspector Gidcumb presented the council four houses for consideration; 615 North Cherry Street, 727 West Second Street, 114 East Second Street, and 214 East First. City Inspector Gidcumb stated the houses are falling in and attention is needed for safety reasons. The council decided to take City Inspector Gidcumb’s request under advisement.

BUSINESS MOTIONS

Mayor Hudson and the Council approved the Consent Agenda, as presented in the agenda dated February 27th, 2017. The consent agenda approved the minutes for the council meeting held on February 13th, 2017; approved paying all bills bearing the proper signatures; and approved Resolution R-630 – Providing approval for the change of control of the cable franchise.

Meeting adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk