

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 29, 2016

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 recognized Andrew Wise of the Mount Carmel High School Wrestling Team and honored him with a proclamation stating Monday, February 29th, 2016 shall be celebrated as "Andrew Wise Day". Andrew won the IHSA State Wrestling Championship for the 220 pound weight class.

Mayor Hudson acknowledged City Golf Course Greens Committee Chairman John White, who recommended to the council that the golf course fees remain the same as the previous year. The committee understands in the future small incremental fee increases will be needed to keep up with the increasing costs of equipment, supplies and wages. The golf course budget, however, has seen an increase each year for the last four years.

Mayor Hudson congratulated the Mount Carmel High School Aces Basketball Team for winning the regionals. Mayor Hudson wished the Aces good luck when they play in Flora Wednesday night.

Mayor Hudson announced Melissa Strine and the Mardi Gras Committee had a great day on Saturday, February 27th for the Saint Mary's Fun Walk/Run. The event has had good weather every year it has been held. Mayor Hudson thanked the committee for their well-managed efforts.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

COMMISSIONER ERIC IKEMIRE – STREETS, CEMETERIES AND PARKS

Commissioner Ikemire reported in the last two weeks the street department has patched pot holes; cleared trees from the levee to the river for the new outfall line for the wastewater plant; continued to service mowers for spring mowing; cleaned intakes; cut and removed uprooted trees out of roadways and sidewalks from the recent storms; and cleaned the street department/yard area.

COMMISSIONER JOE JUDGE – FINANCE AND SENIOR CITIZENS

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

Commissioner Judge reported the city's expenditures have exceeded its receipts in the last two weeks. Commissioner Judge stated the city is paying its bills and holding steady.

Commissioner Judge announced the Senior Citizens Center will be receiving a few updates in the coming weeks due to donations. The center will be getting new carpet and blinds in the main dining area. Commissioner Judge stated the center would like to do additional updates in the dining area and any donations from individuals or organizations would be greatly appreciated. Commissioner Judge added the Senior Citizens Center serves a great meal every week day and anyone of any age is welcome.

Commissioner Judge reported the city has applied for two grants to help offset the costs of the swimming pool liner. Commissioner Judge stated he is hopeful to receive positive results in May.

COMMISSIONER JUSTIN DULGAR – WATER AND SEWER

Commissioner Dulgar stated the cross connection surveys were mailed out Friday, February 26th and asked residents to please fill out the surveys and send them back in. Commissioner Dulgar added if anyone has questions they may call the water treatment plant or city hall.

Commissioner Dulgar reported he and Water Treatment Plant Superintendent Keith Reed toured the EJ Water Cooperative Facility in Dietrich, Illinois on Friday, February 19th, which is a soft water facility. Commissioner Dulgar stated he and Keith will be touring many more water treatment facilities, as the city moves forward in their decision making regarding the taste and odor water issues and the aging water treatment plant. Commissioner Dulgar added a meeting at the end of March will be held with Hydro-Max from Evansville, Indiana regarding the water issues, as the company has some suggestions and ideas that could hopefully help eliminate those issues.

Commissioner Dulgar addressed questions that arose from the previous council meeting regarding his idea of replacing the water treatment facility. Commissioner Dulgar explained he would like all residents to be aware of the water issues and to understand that a new facility would not necessarily alleviate all the issues. Commissioner Dulgar reiterated the taste and odor water problems do not affect everyone however, some residents are always affected when the issues arise. Commissioner Dulgar stated the city is now in the problem solving stage and it will be some time before any major decisions are made. Commissioner Dulgar reassured citizens the city's water supply is tested daily, samples are sent to an EPA Certified Lab, and the city's water is safe to drink. Commissioner Dulgar reaffirmed that the aging water treatment plant necessitates the need for a new facility.

Commissioner Dulgar reported the water maintenance department inspected areas of recent water main repairs, used the jet truck to clean multiple sewer mains, finished removing the liner in the deep end of the city swimming pool, and continued to work on the College Drive project.

Commissioner Dulgar stated the grit collector has been cleaned and is back in operation at the wastewater plant and the Division Street pump station has been activated due to the river rising.

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

Commissioner Rodriguez reported the fire department had eight runs in the last two weeks and conducted First Aid/CPR training at the safety meeting. On a safety note, Commissioner Rodriguez asked residents to please slow down, stop texting, and be sure to wear their seat belts while driving.

Commissioner Rodriguez announced the Guns and Hoses Event will be held on March 13th with the proceeds going to ShoCap.

Commissioner Rodriguez stated the Spring Fix-Up/Clean-Up week will be April 4th through the April 8th.

CITY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – RUDY WITSMAN

City Administrative Assistant Witsman presented a funding raising application to the council from the American Cancer Society for the Relay for Life Event. The local representative Liz Dunn is requesting May 30th as the only day to collect funds at the designated intersections in the city. The council approved the request.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman presented to the council a tentative request for a weekend before Easter from First Baptist Church seeking approval to "hand out" donations at the designated intersections. The hand-outs will be an encouragement for citizens to attend a church service on Easter Sunday.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman thanked city workers on behalf of the City of Mount Carmel. The street department crew was in a time crunch to remove trees from the area designated for the new outfall discharge line for the wastewater plant. One of the permits required for the discharge line stated the trees had to be removed before April 1st. City Administrative Assistant Witsman expressed his gratitude to Street Department Superintendent David Easter and his workers for "stepping up" and getting the trees removed in three days. City Administrative Assistant Witsman recognized Bill Reed and his water maintenance crew for their work to remove the swimming pool

liner. Their efforts contributed to over a \$5000 savings for the city. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated his is very appreciative of the all the workers efforts and for their help to the city.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported he is working with the city's TIF consultant on a façade program for the businesses along Market Street. City Administrative Assistant Witsman advised that the preliminary plan would donate \$10,000 of TIF funds to the program. The city would match dollar for dollar up to \$1000 to ten interested business owners, who wish to make improvements to the appearance of their facility. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated that the program is not in place at this time, however, it should be within the next few weeks. This program is another benefit of the TIF that can be shared with the business along Market Street.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported he along with Mayor Hudson had met with the Illinois Municipal League Director Brad Cole. The city goes through the league for all its liability, equipment and building insurances. Mr. Cole was touching base with the city and making sure the city was aware that he is available at any time should a need arise.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated this council meeting constitutes the first reading of Ordinance 1046. This ordinance is for the correction of the rates for the city's sewer charges. City Administrative Assistant Witsman reiterated an ordinance was passed last year stating effective April 20, 2016 the minimum sewer charge would be \$11.95 for the first one thousand gallons of water used and the basic user rate of \$2.54 for each additional thousand gallon for commercial accounts and \$3.04 for residential. The rate that was presented at that time was in error. The increases should be \$2.79 and \$3.29 respectively, per thousand for each additional thousand gallons after the first thousand. The next council meeting will constitute the second reading of the ordinance.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman reiterated at the last council meeting he had advised the council he was working on some suggested language changes and additions to the Ordinance Chapter Four – Alcoholic Beverages. City Administrative Witsman provided to the council those suggested changes and asked the council to please study the changes. The changes will be addressed at a later date.

CITY ATTORNEY – TOM PRICE

City Attorney Price no report.

CITY INSPECTOR – MIKE GIDCUMB

City Inspector Gidcumb reported the warm weather has prompted complaints by residents which has resulted in notices being mailed out. City Inspector Gidcumb stated he has been working with Water Plant Superintendent Keith Reed and Commissioner Dulgar on the city's water production.

BUSINESS MOTIONS

Commissioner Ikemire motioned and Commissioner Dulgar seconded to approve the recommendation from the Greens Committee for the golf fees to stay the same as last year. All present voted Aye by roll call vote.

Commissioner Ikemire motioned and Commissioner Dulgar seconded to approve the Minutes from the regular meeting of City Council held on February 15, 2016. All present voted Aye by voice vote.

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk