

## **MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, March 2, 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 City Administrative Assistant Witsman, who spoke for Doug McPherson and the Mount Carmel Junior Aces Football League. The league requested the council's permission to construct a storage building on city property adjacent to an existing football building, which is also on city property. The council approved the request.

Mayor Hudson acknowledged Liz Dunn, who was representing the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life Committee. Ms. Dunn requested the council's approval to have a fundraiser at the designated intersections on April 25, 2015. The council granted the request.

Mayor Hudson acknowledged Wabash County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Lesley Hipsher, who announced the Chamber's first annual Spectacular 5K Fun Run/Walk for Kids and Costume Parade. The event is scheduled for the afternoon of October 24th, 2015.

Mayor Hudson acknowledged John Acree of Lamac Engineering, who presented to the council the Wastewater Plant's NPDES preliminary report and loan application. The council agreed to increase the sewer rates including in the water billing. This increase had to be approved by in the council before the NPDES permit loan application and documentation could be signed, as the increase is noted in that permit documentation. City Administrative Assistant Rudy Witsman stated this meeting, therefore, constitutes the second reading of Ordinance 1030, which is an ordinance raising the sewer rates. The ordinance was approved by the council. Mr. Acree will submit the signed loan application and documentation to the Illinois EPA for funding by the March 31<sup>st</sup> deadline.

Mayor Hudson acknowledged City Administrative Assistant Witsman, who spoke for David Wiersum, who was unable to attend the council meeting. Mr. Wiersum coordinates the farmer's market and has a tentative location at Ninth and Market Streets, with the first date being May 8th, 2015.

Mayor Hudson acknowledged Commissioner Rod Rodriguez, who announced that several firefighters were eligible for recognition, as they had participated in various firefighter training courses. Fire Chief Frances Speth thanked and recognized Josh Howard, Josh Peach, and Wayne Hocking, who had taken an advanced ninety-hour firefighter course. Fire Chief Speth also recognized James Malone, Terry McGuire, Mark Seaton, Josh Howard, Wayne Hocking and himself, who had taken the Instructor One Course to be eligible to train the basic firefighters through the State Fire Marshall's office and the State of Illinois. The council congratulated the firemen on all their accomplishments.

Mayor Hudson stated the past two weeks have been rough due the weather conditions, however the weather is changing. This will help to lighten the load for the street department, the fire department, the police department, and the ambulance service.

Mayor Hudson congratulated Edward D. Jones and Tanya Bingham for the new facility at Ninth and Market Streets. Mayor Hudson announced the Conoco Station on Walnut Street is now open for business and Mayor Hudson congratulated that business, as well. The owners of the Conoco Station expressed their gratitude for the compliments they received from their "neighbors".

Mayor Hudson thanked the police department for their assistance with the Mardi Gras 5K/10K Walk/Run. Mayor Hudson stated the event was very well organized and very well attended even though the weather conditions weren't the best. Any activity/event held in the city brings in revenue and is very beneficial to the city. Mayor Hudson compliments and encourages anyone who organizes activities within the city.

Mayor Hudson congratulated the fire department, the first responders, and the ambulance service for their quick response on saving a life. Mayor Hudson stated those services are very much appreciated.

Mayor Hudson announced the Guns and Hose fund-raising event will be this Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at the Mount Carmel Middle School and the proceeds will benefit the Wabash County Youth in Action.

Mayor Hudson congratulated the Mount Carmel Middle School basketball boys for their State Championship and to Andrew Wise for his wrestling accomplishments.

## **COMMISSIONER REPORTS:**

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

Commissioner Shoaff reminded the department heads to turn their preliminary budgets in within three weeks. Commissioner Shoaff stated if the governor gets what he's proposing as far as budget cuts, it will be devastating to the City of Mount Carmel. State funds are the city's second largest source of revenue. Commissioner Shoaff stated the department heads have done a good job on their budgets and asked that they continue to be realistic.

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

Commissioner Judge reported in the last two weeks the street department has plowed and salted streets, did repairs to the snow plow, and did maintenance and repairs to street department equipment. Commissioner Judge stated the street department refurbished a city truck, which will be used for the brush route. The truck will make a nice addition to the street department's fleet. Commissioner Judge commended the department for their work and cost saving efforts.

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

Commissioner Rodriguez reported in the last two weeks the fire department had thirteen runs. Twenty-five people attended the CPR training. Commissioner Rodriguez stated he is very proud of the fire department and their accomplishments.

Commissioner Rodriguez announced the Guns and Hoses fundraising event will be Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at the Mount Carmel Middle School. The proceeds will go to the Wabash County Youth in Action.

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

Commissioner Brunson reported the water treatment plant has done general maintenance in and around the plant. The crew tested the check valves at the booster pump stations to ensure they are working properly. The water maintenance department has done general maintenance throughout the system; including repair work on the city's backhoe, cleaning sewer mains with the jet truck, and thawing frozen water lines. The wastewater plant is meeting their permit standards.

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

City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported he received a call a week ago Saturday that city hall had a major roof leak. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated he has been in contact with Jeff Linson and was informed the city hall roof has some major seam separations and several holes. Emergency repairs were made to the roof at this point in time. Mr. Linson will present to City Administrative Assistant Witsman a proposal to repair what the city has and/or to replace what the city has, in regards to the roof.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported the street department had to place stop signs on the north /south sides of the intersection at Fifth and Market Streets, as the flashing signal lights failed due to the cold weather conditions. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated replacing the traffic signal lights at the intersections of Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Market Streets had been discussed at various times, in the past. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated that a decision needs to be made now in regard to replacing the lights with some type of stop mechanisms. City Administrative Assistant asked the council's approval to approach a local engineering firm for a proposal for the traffic light replacement. City Administrative Assistant Witsman added MFT funds can be used for the project; however use of those funds requires engineered drawings for the replacement.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman presented to the council a copy of an email that he, as City Clerk was encouraged to send to Senator Righter, Representative Reis and the four legislative leaders, regarding the governor's proposed budget cuts. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated within the proposal is a proposal to reduce the amount of income tax monies that is returned back to the cities. The proposed amount will be reduced by fifty percent of what the city anticipates to be receiving. The state budget cuts are in negotiation at this time. The city is attempting to influence its representatives in Springfield. If the governor's proposed budget is approved, it estimated that the City of Mount Carmel would lose \$360,558 of revenue. This revenue is desperately needed to operate on a daily basis. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated it was suggested that the council approve a resolution, which urges the governor and the general assembly to protect full funding for local government distributive fund revenues. The proposed budget cuts would be a major loss to the City of Mount Carmel. The council voted to approve the resolution, which is Resolution R-614.

#### **CITY ATTORNEY – TOM PRICE**

City Attorney Price no report.

#### **CITY INSPECTOR – MIKE GIDCUMB**

City Inspector Gidcumb reported the software company has created the email billing form. The email bills will then be implemented with the next billing cycle. There are two different forms, one is a statement form, which is for accounts that have multiple bills and will include the total monthly amount due. The new software will have the capability of email and/or fax billing.

City Inspector Gidcumb stated the city's website now has information regarding Illinois Public Act 91, which is beneficial for contractors as well as consumers. Public Act 91 is a home repair and remodeling act. City Inspector Gidcumb encouraged area contractors and consumers to read the act. The information can be found under codes and enforcements on the website.

#### **BUSINESS MOTIONS**

Commissioner Shoaff motioned and Commissioner Judge seconded to approve the submittal of the Facilities Plan relating to the improvement at the Wastewater Plant. All present voted Aye by roll call vote.

Commissioner Shoaff motioned and Commissioner Judge seconded to approve Resolution R-614. All present voted Aye by roll call vote.

Commissioner Brunson motioned and Commissioner Judge seconded to approve the construction of a storage building by the Junior Football League. All present voted Aye by roll call vote.

Commissioner Brunson motioned and Commissioner Shoaff seconded to approve Ordinance 1030, an ordinance increasing sewer rates. All present voted Aye by roll call vote.

Commissioner Judge motioned and Commissioner Shoaff seconded to approve the Minutes from regular meeting of City Council held on February 16, 2015. All present voted Aye by voice vote.

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk