

MEETING MINUTES
Monday, March 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,
City Inspector Mike Gidcumb

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Hudson brought the city council meeting to order.

Mayor Hudson acknowledged Vikram Singh and George Anderson, who were requesting the council to reconsider Sunday Liquor Sales. Mr. Singh stated the possible sales would be beneficial for the local businesses as well as the City of Mount Carmel. Mr. Anderson presented to the council signed petitions by residents who were in favor of the Sunday Liquor Sales. Mayor Hudson reiterated the local churches had previously presented to the council signed petitions by residents, who were not in favor of the sales. Commissioner Ikemire suggested the city look into the sales because of the reduction of income tax and sales tax revenues from the city budget. Commissioner Ikemire emphasized the council needs to make a decision one way or the other regarding the issue. Commissioner Judge stated he would like to gather more actual revenue information before making a final decision. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated the council would need to decide the hours the businesses would be open for the Sunday sales and what liquor licenses would allow the sales before an ordinance can be developed for presentation at a council meeting. After much discussion, the council decided to table a decision until the April 10th meeting, as Commissioner Judge will be absent from the next council meeting. City Administrative Assistant Witsman emphasized in all fairness, to the community as well as Mr. Singh and Mr. Anderson, it is important that a date be set for a decision to be made.

Mayor Hudson congratulated the Mount High School Golden Aces on their second place finish at the Class 2A State Basketball finals. Mayor Hudson stated it was a history making event, as this was the first time in ninety years that the basketball team has participated in the state finals championship game. Mayor Hudson congratulated the players, the coaches and the fans that were all recognized and praised by that area's television commentators, as well as Scott Allen and Kyle Peach on an outstanding job announcing the game.

Mayor Hudson congratulated all schools in Wabash County who had teams that went on to compete in state tournaments or who participated in events on a state level this year.

Mayor Hudson thanked everyone who assisted with the Guns and Hoses fundraising event this past Sunday, March 12th.

Mayor Hudson thanked WSJD for all the pictures from the high school basketball tournament over the weekend; Kevin Madden for his efforts in reporting the games and events; and the Mount Carmel Register, specifically Haley Church, for the coverage of the tournament, as well.

Mayor Hudson wished the Wabash Valley College Lady Warriors good luck as they will be travelling to Texas to compete in the National Basketball Tournament.

Mayor Hudson reported the department heads are working on their individual budgets for the new budget year.

Mayor Hudson acknowledged Fire Chief Francis Speth, who emphasized there is a city ordinance, stating that burning is not allowed in the city unless it is actual firewood in a fire pit. Fire Chief Speth reported the fire department and the police department have received several calls concerning open burning.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

COMMISSIONER ERIC IKEMIRE – STREETS, CEMETERIES AND PARKS

Commissioner Ikemire congratulated the Mount Carmel Golden Aces Basketball team and all the other teams in Wabash County who have had success in the past few months.

Commissioner Ikemire reported in the last two weeks the street department cleaned intakes; picked up limbs and trash in the city parks; performed repairs on the street sweeper and finished cleaning the streets throughout the city; performed maintenance on the backhoe; took down the scoreboard at the girls' ballfield on West Fourth Street; straightened and painted the scoreboard poles in preparation for the newly donated scoreboard and performed storm sewer repair work on Cherry Street.

COMMISSIONER JOE JUDGE – FINANCE AND SENIOR CITIZENS

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

Commissioner Judge announced he had attended the 28th Annual Rural Community Economic Development Conference in Springfield. Commissioner Judge stated he had opportunity to discuss with Lieutenant Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti the city's situation of receiving lower income tax replacement and lower sales tax revenue. Commissioner Judge reported he also met with Governor Rauner, reminded him of the campaign promises that were made to the City of Mount Carmel and extended an invitation to the governor for a return visit to Mount Carmel. Commissioner Judge stated he also met with and discussed with Illinois Representative David Reis the appropriation grant that is currently being held-up in Springfield. Commissioner Judge stressed the importance of spending locally as the sales tax revenues are needed to the betterment of our community. The fire protection, police protection, and upkeep of roads really do depend on the citizens of this community buying locally.

Commissioner Judge reported the city has over \$300,000 in its revolving loan fund that is available, if the requirements are met, to assist new businesses in getting started or to assist current businesses with expansions.

COMMISSIONER JUSTIN DULGAR – WATER AND SEWER

Commissioner Dulgar congratulated the Golden Aces basketball team. Commissioner Dulgar attended the tournament in Peoria and stated by far Mount Carmel had the most fans in attendance. Commissioner Dulgar stated he is very proud of the basketball team and their second-place win is quite an honor.

Commissioner Dulgar reported the water maintenance department cleared locates; used the jet truck to inspect sewer main for a possible expansion; repaired a sink hole and met with the street department to determine the cause of the sink hole; and responded to a sewer backup issue. Commissioner Dulgar stated the Well #1 motor and pump has been repaired; and the water treatment plant is waiting on comparable costs for the water tower maintenance, as was reported in the previous council meeting. Commissioner Dulgar reported the waste water plant has starting performing its' routine spring maintenance. Commissioner Dulgar stated the departments have all been working on their budgets for the new budget year which begins May 1st.

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

Commissioner Rodriguez announced Fix-Up/Clean-Up Week is April 3rd through April 7th. Commissioner Rodriguez reminded residents that Republic Services will not pick up construction material, appliances, electronics, or paint unless it is dried up with sand and/or cat litter.

Commissioner Rodriguez reported in the last two weeks the fire department responded to five runs and had a refresher course in CPR/First Aid.

Commissioner Rodriguez stated the Guns and Hoses Fund Raising Event was a success and thanked everyone that helped. Commissioner Rodriguez announced the proceeds will be donated to the Wabash County Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Fund.

CITY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – RUDY WITSMAN

City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated he had received a request from a company wanting to put their “inflatables” in the city park for a birthday party. City Administrative Assistant Witsman asked for direction from the council as to whether they want to continue to allow “inflatables” at the city park for parties, etc. After council discussion of the issue, it was decided that City Administrative Assistant Witsman will compile a list of requirements and present those requirements at the next council meeting.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated he had recently received the report from the levee inspection that was performed in August, 2016. City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported one of the concerns in the report was regarding where the levee abuts both sides of the train trestle that had been replaced by Norfolk Southern. The Corp of Engineers was not satisfied that their requirements for compaction were met when the railroad contractor replaced the trestle/levee materials. Another concern regarded some of the relief wells along the levee that have not been maintained for many years. The Corp of Engineers requested the city invest in the maintenance of those relief wells. City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported those two items have resulted in the inspection of the city’s levee being unacceptable and the city needs to remediate the two problems. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated he has contacted a couple of water well maintenance companies for cost estimates to bring the wells up to satisfactory condition. City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported he has requested that the Corp of Engineers assist the city with getting Norfolk Southern to “the table” to assess the condition of the trestle/levee.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman presented Ordinance 1069, which is an ordinance dedicating a roadway on Empire Street. City Administrative Assistant Witsman acknowledged City Attorney Tom Price who stated the city retained eighty feet along the Empire Street roadway when the lots were sold to the two businesses. The part lying east of Moto-Rad was dedicated as roadway however the part east of B&D Independence was not dedicated as roadway even though the city does owe the property. The approval of the ordinance is included within the Consent Agenda.

CITY ATTORNEY – TOM PRICE

City Attorney Price no report.

CITY INSPECTOR – MIKE GIDCUMB

City Inspector Gidcumb thanked City Attorney Price for providing the information needed concerning the four houses that were discussed at the previous council meeting. City Inspector Gidcumb asked the council to review the information and then hopefully proceed further in the near future with getting those houses cleaned up or demolished.

BUSINESS MOTIONS

Mayor Hudson and the Council approved the Consent Agenda, as presented in the agenda dated March 13th, 2017. The consent agenda approved the minutes for the council meeting held on February 27th, 2017; approved paying all bills bearing the proper signatures; and approved Ordinance 1069 – An Ordinance Dedicating Roadway (Empire Street).

Meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk