

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 28, 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

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Hudson brought the city council meeting to order.

Mayor Hudson announced some Market Street business owners have turned in their façade grant applications. Mayor Hudson stated this program, which was made available through TIF funds, will be a great change for downtown Mount Carmel.

Mayor Hudson reported the College Drive project is coming along and asked residents to please be careful while driving in that area. Mayor Hudson stated the crews are currently working on residential water line hook-ups.

Mayor Hudson announced applications for swimming pool employment are now available and may be picked up at city hall between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

COMMISSIONER ERIC IKEMIRE – STREETS, CEMETERIES AND PARKS

Commissioner Ikemire reported in the last two weeks the street department has patched holes in streets; cleaned intakes; ran the street sweeper throughout the city streets; mowed ballparks and city parks; jetted out storm sewer at Fourth and Vine Streets; cleaned and washed down the shelter house at the city park; and repaired golf course mower. Commissioner Ikemire thanked Street Department Superintendent Dave Easter for doing a good job and holding to his budget so far this past year.

COMMISSIONER JOE JUDGE – FINANCE AND SENIOR CITIZENS

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

Commissioner Judge reported the city's expenditures are a little higher than its receipts, however the budget is still holding stable. Commissioner Judge asked department heads to please get their budgets turned in to City Comptroller Mick Mollenhauer, within the next two weeks.

Commissioner Judge stated he had spoken with County Commissioner Rob Dean regarding the "Cupcake Law", which is a State of Illinois statute. Commissioner Judge recommended the city meet with the county board and the health department to discuss possible home kitchen/bakery sales, which could hopefully be beneficial to the best interests of the local residents.

COMMISSIONER JUSTIN DULGAR – WATER AND SEWER

Commissioner Dulgar reported the wastewater plant had to have the Pecan Avenue lift station pumped out as it shut down due to a malfunction and repairs have been made to the lift station pump. The water maintenance department has been busy due to the warm weather and has also been performing its standard maintenance as well as continuing to assist with the College Drive project. Commissioner Dulgar stated the crew has put in countless hours and done an outstanding job working on the College Drive project.

Commissioner Dulgar stated he will be meeting with Wastewater Plant Josh Peach to discuss the new budget year. The plant's outfall project is on schedule for this year as a summer project and the bid letting should be starting within the next few months.

Commissioner Dulgar reported the water treatment plant cleaned and disinfected the clarifier in the north settlement basin. The south basin will be cleaned next week. A construction crew poured concrete around the clarifier that was cracked and repaired steps.

Commissioner Dulgar announced the Annual Consumer Confidence Report is being finalized and will be available for viewing on the city's website soon. This report is EPA required and is an annual assessment of the city's water quality. Commissioner Dulgar reiterated the topic of a water engineering study needs to be readdressed at a council meeting in the near future.

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

Commissioner Rodriguez reported the fire department had six runs in the last two weeks with a total of eighteen for the month.

Commissioner Rodriguez thanked the United States of America Military Veterans for donating a flag to the fire department. The flag will be hooked onto the ladder truck during any type of celebration. Commissioner Rodriguez stated the VFW is still need of donations to assist in the replacement of the flags in the cemeteries in Wabash County. Gary Arnold with the VFW is in charge of collecting the donations.

Commissioner Rodriguez stated the fire department is conducting a meeting tonight on extrication on two vehicles that were donated.

CITY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – RUDY WITSMAN

City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported on a public notice that has been published in the local newspaper, regarding mining operations Southwest and Northeast of the city. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated the mining operations will not be underneath the City of Mount Carmel. City Administrative Assistant Witsman added he has requested, through the mayor, that a public meeting be held by the Illinois Department of Public Energy of Natural Resources to address any questions or concerns by the general public. A meeting date has not been set at this time.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated the city has been receiving complaints regarding the blockage of an alley through a drive-thru window at the location of Rub-'Em-Right Barbeque. The restaurant installed a drive-up window with the only access being through the alley. Their customers are blocking the alley so in turn residents and business owners cannot get through. City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported the owner of Rub-'Em-Right had been previously notified of the issue and it was requested that he help alleviate the problem. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated as of now he still is continuing to receive complaints and therefor the police department has been notified to make the owner aware of the city's concern and of the continued complaints. City Administrative Assistant Witsman suggested to the council that Rub-'Em-Right Barbeque have their drive-thru customers pull forward, park by the restaurant building and their employees can hand deliver the food order, this will keep the alleyway readily accessible.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman reiterated the façade grant program is progressing very well and he is pleased with the application response.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman acknowledged Fire Chief Francis Speth, who presented a memorandum between the Federal Department of Natural Resources and the State of Illinois Department of Natural of Resources stating the city can submit an application to use, free of charge, any excess equipment the departments may have. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated the council will need to give authorization for the five year memorandum agreement.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman reiterated the possible liquor ordinance changes that had been discussed at previous council meetings. City Administrative Assistant Witsman presented to the council, for discussion, items that need to be decided upon, regarding those proposed changes for the preparation of the new liquor ordinance. The first item on the agenda was to allow convenience stores to sell packaged liquor and/or beer and wine. Buehlers, Shopko, and CVS currently sell beer and wine. After, each commissioner had voiced their opinions and discussed the options; it was decided to not allow convenience stores to sell alcohol. The next item presented for discussion was the allowance of Sunday sales at locations other than the clubs that currently sell alcohol on Sunday. The council chose to allow the sale of alcohol on Sunday at restaurants. City Administrative Assistant Witsman asked the council to discuss the Sunday sale of alcohol at package liquor stores, grocery stores, Shopko and/or CVS. Commissioner Ikemire recommended to

the council that a referendum be placed on the 2016 November Election ballot to allow the voters to make the final decision on Sunday package liquor sales. The council decided to allow those sales be put on the November Election ballot. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated the correct "verbiage" for the referendum vote can be determined prior to the election and he will meet with County Clerk Janet Will regarding the referendum. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated he and City Attorney Price will prepare a new ordinance containing the previously discussed language changes and the changes regarding Sunday sales of alcohol at restaurants. The ordinance will be presented for the first reading at the next council meeting.

CITY ATTORNEY – TOM PRICE

City Attorney Price no report.

CITY INSPECTOR – MIKE GIDCUMB

City Inspector Gidcumb absent.

BUSINESS MOTIONS

Commissioner Dulgar motioned and Commissioner Ikemire seconded to approve a cooperative agreement between the City of Mount Carmel and the State of Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forest Resources to allow the State Department to donate the use of equipment and resources to the City. All present voted Aye by roll call vote.

Commissioner Ikemire motioned and Commissioner Judge seconded to approve the Minutes from the regular meeting of City Council held on March 14, 2016. All present voted Aye by voice vote.

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk