

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 30, 2015

5:00 pm

Invocation was given by Reverend Tony Hodgson.

Present on Roll Call: Mayor Bill Hudson Commissioners – Dick Shoaff, Norm Brunson,
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 Terry Beckerman, who announced the annual Ribberfest event, which will be held on April 24th and 25th. Mr. Beckerman asked the council's approval to close Market Street from the intersection of Third and Market up to the intersection of Sixth and Market. The Kiwanis' Soap Box Derby Event will also be held on April 25th during Ribberfest.

Mayor Hudson announced the Kiwanis' Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 4th.

Mayor Hudson stated the dump and brush harbor will be closed on Friday, April 3rd and Saturday, April 4th for the Easter Holiday. However, the sites will be opened on Thursday, April 2nd in lieu of the holiday.

Mayor Hudson thanked Becky Reeves and everyone who donated towards the plaque of the city's founding fathers, which was placed at the amphitheater. Mayor Hudson also gave Street Department Superintendent David Easter a "big thank you" for the stand that the plaque is displayed on.

Mayor Hudson reported the downtown area of the city is starting to take shape as far as property owners cleaning up the area buildings.

Mayor Hudson announced swimming pool applications for summer employment at the city pool are available for pick-up at city hall, during regular business hours.

Mayor Hudson stated the new construction projects that began in the fall are all starting to take shape, as finish touches are being made.

Mayor Hudson reminded to citizens to please vote on Tuesday, April 7th and to have a Happy Easter.

Mayor Hudson acknowledged Dan Schonert, who was seeking the council's approval to close East Third Street from Market to Cherry for the Kiwanis' Down Hill Derby event on Saturday, April 25th. The derby will be held during the Ribberfest event.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

COMMISSIONER DICK SHOAFF – FINANCE AND SENIOR CITIZENS

Commissioner Shoaff reported work on the preliminary budget has been done and the general fund is showing a deficit of \$139,000. Commissioner Shoaff asked department heads to please go back over their individual budgets to see if they go any lower. The deficit does not include the wastewater or water departments. The general fund is made up of the fire, police, and street departments that use tax monies to operate. Commissioner Shoaff stated the city should wait and see what happens with the State of Illinois and its budget cuts before any final decisions are made. Commissioner Shoaff reported the first reading of the new budget will be at the next council meeting, April 13th.

COMMISSIONER JOE JUDGE – STREETS, CEMETERIES AND PARKS

Commissioner Judge was absent.

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

Commissioner Rodriguez reported in the last two weeks the fire department had fourteen runs, with a total of twenty-eight for the month.

Commissioner Rodriguez thanked Allendale, Belmont, Keensburg, and the Mount Carmel Departments, who responded to the rescue two weeks ago.

Commissioner Rodriguez announced Clean-Up/Fix-Up Week is April 6th through April 10th. Commissioner Rodriguez stated that refrigerators, microwaves, electronics, computers, paint, chemicals, tires, construction material, and batteries cannot be put out for pick-up by the trash company.

COMMISSIONER NORMAN BRUNSON – WATER AND SEWER

Commissioner Brunson reported the wastewater plant is operating well. During the last two weeks, the regular duties have been performed as well as preventative maintenance orders. Aerators # One, Four, and Eight are down, while the plant is waiting for the diffuser system to be installed later this summer. The speed reducer on the grit collector motor failed, however a replacement is on order. The Division Street pump station has been deactivated as the water is receding and the lawn mowing equipment has been repaired and is now ready for the mowing season. The water treatment plant has done its general maintenance in and around the plant. The media was removed from filter number one as part of the investigation in trying to resolve the water issues. The water maintenance department performed sixteen locates, including using the jet truck and root saw to assist in sewer main flow.

CITY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – RUDY WITSMAN

City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported the cost for fireworks for this year's July 4th celebration will be \$12,650 and that the city received \$9700 last year in fireworks contributions. City Administrative Assistant Witsman asked the council's consensus regarding the purchase of fireworks again this year. The council agreed to the purchase, as it is an honor and privilege to celebrate on July 4th.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported residents have been questioning the survey type flags along College Drive. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated the flags are markers identifying the water and sewer lines for the engineering drawings being done for the anticipated replacement of those lines, as well as for the widening of the sidewalks.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman announced city hall will be closed this Friday, April 3rd in observance of Good Friday. However, the city dump and brush harbor will be opened this Thursday.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported he was contacted via email by the State of Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity stating that all expiring Enterprise Zones will be granted a six month extension if requested. The current Enterprise Zone would then expire July 2016. City Administrative Assistant Witsman and the City's Enterprise Zone Consultant are in the process of preparing an intergovernmental agreement with Wabash County, which would extend the Enterprise Zone for another six months. The paperwork has been provided to the Wabash County Government for their review and action at their next board meeting on April 13th, 2015.

CITY ATTORNEY – TOM PRICE

City Attorney Price no report.

CITY INSPECTOR – MIKE GIDCUMB

City Inspector Gidcumb reported he has started mailing out the nuisance violation letters.

City Inspector Gidcumb stated the email bill notices were sent out with the last billing cycle. City Inspector Gidcumb acknowledged City Administrative Assistant Witsman who stated several comments as well as "thank yous" have been made regarding the email billing. City Administrative Assistant Witsman added he is pleased with the initial billing that city just went through.

BUSINESS MOTIONS

Commissioner Brunson motioned and Commissioner Shoaff seconded to approve Resolution R-616 authorizing a loan from the Revolving Loan Fund to Brushfire Creative. All present voted Aye by roll call vote.

Commissioner Shoaff motioned and Commissioner Rodriguez seconded to approve the assignment of the tax increment financing benefit from Marutee, Inc. to Shriji Maharaj Hospitality, LLC. (Super 8 Motel). All present voted Aye by roll call vote.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk