

## **MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, April 10th, 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 Twilla Coon and Vicki Britton with the Library Foundation, who were seeking council approval for the Library's Eleventh Annual 5K Run/Walk Event on Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Hudson advised the Library Foundation to check with the police department regarding the race route. Ms. Coon and Ms. Britton thanked the council for all their support throughout the years for the event.

Mayor Hudson acknowledged Reverend Tony Hodgson, who along with several other Church members, were in attendance to address their concerns regarding the Sunday Liquor Sales. Reverend Hodgson stated one of the main concerns is individuals traveling from Indiana to Mount Carmel to purchase alcohol, especially along the road to and from Princeton. Reverend Hodgson presented to the council signed petitions asking the council to not allow the Sunday Liquor Sales. Reverend Hodgson stated his Church will continue to support the council in prayer regardless of its decision. Mayor Hudson acknowledged Vikram Singh of 8th Street Liquor Store, who was in attendance as a local business owner, expressing his support for the Sunday Liquor Sales. Mr. Singh stated, according to his calculations, his business and the city would definitely see increased revenues from the Sunday Liquor Sales, which would be beneficial to both. Commissioner Rodriguez, who stated information from traffic study reports shows during the week days 16.9% of accidents are alcohol related and during weekends 29.4% of accidents are alcohol related. Commissioner Rodriguez echoed Reverend Hodgson's concerns and expressed that he was not in favor of the Sunday Liquor Sales. Commissioner Ikemire stated approving or not approving the Sunday Liquor Sales is not an easy decision for the council to make and everyone's concerns will be taken into consideration, however, the city needs to find ways to bring in more revenue. Commissioner Judge reported the city currently has eight different classes of liquor licenses and four of those allow Sunday liquor sales. Commissioner Dulgar stated the city is looking at a huge budget deficit for the coming fiscal year and in turn is looking for ways to provide more revenue. Commissioner Dulgar emphasized the decision will be a tough one to make. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated after direction from the council and meeting with the City Attorney Tom Price, he has prepared an ordinance regarding the Sunday Liquor Sales for the council's consideration. The ordinance allows Sunday Liquor Sales for all classes of liquor licenses seven days a week. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated this meeting constitutes the first reading of the ordinance; however there is the opportunity for the council to make adjustments to the ordinance. City Administrative Assistant Witsman asked the council for feedback before for the next council so the prepared or amended ordinance can be presented for vote at that time. Mayor Hudson thanked all who attended the council regarding the Sunday Liquor Sales and stated all input/concerns would be taken into consideration.

Mayor Hudson extended sympathy to Fireman Mark Seaton and his family on the passing of his father, Leo Seaton.

Mayor Hudson thanked Rural King on its Appreciation Day and also thanked the thirty-five volunteers; including the girl scouts, the Rotary Club, and Nancy Marshall for helping pick up trash throughout the city last Saturday and also Toyota Manufacturing for donating supplies as well as refreshments. Mayor Hudson stated the city looks a lot better as two truckloads of trash was picked up. Mayor Hudson thanked the volunteers from Parkview Christian Church, also for painting playground equipment at the city park over the weekend.

Mayor Hudson announced there is an opening for the city swimming pool manager position as well as lifeguard positions. The employment application time for these positions has been extended to Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Hudson asked residents to please do not blow their grass clippings into the street when mowing their lawns. The grass clippings go into the storm sewers causing the drains to become clogged.

## **COMMISSIONER REPORTS:**

### **COMMISSIONER ERIC IKEMIRE – STREETS, CEMETERIES AND PARKS**

Commissioner Ikemire reported in the last two weeks the street department cleaned intakes; mowed ballparks and city parks; continued to get surplus equipment ready for the city auction on April 27<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm; worked with the city engineer for the summer street maintenance program; performed five-year levee inspection with the Corp of Engineers; started yard abatements; cut and cleaned up tree in the thirteen hundred block of Mulberry Street.

### **COMMISSIONER JOE JUDGE – FINANCE AND SENIOR CITIZENS**

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

Commissioner Judge reported all the departments are running very efficiently despite the fact the new fiscal year budget is showing a deficit. Commissioner Judge applauded all the supervisors in each department, the other commissioners, and City Administrative Assistant Witsman for their efforts in staying within each of the individual budgets. Commissioner Judge stated with the new budget year coming out each supervisor did an excellent job on their budgets however, there is still a deficit. Commissioner Judge reported the city's revenues are down mainly due to the fact that the state's income tax receipts are down, which is the city's biggest source of revenue. Commissioner Judge thanked the departments for their efforts on the new budget and stated he is very appreciative of everyone's hard work of trying to stay within each of their individual budgets for the prior budget year, as well.

### **COMMISSIONER JUSTIN DULGAR – WATER AND SEWER**

Commissioner Dulgar reported the maintenance department responded to a sewer backup issue, which was a private owner problem; used jet truck to clean chemical lines; cleaned shop area at the maintenance barn; turned water service on at the city park; and participated in the Corp of Engineer levee inspection.

Commissioner Dulgar reported the wastewater plant replaced the Wallar Addition lift station control panel; replaced the faulty sensaphones at College Drive, Wallar Addition, Pecan Avenue and Church of Christ lift stations; and modified monitoring capabilities to include pump overloads. Commissioner Dulgar thanked the wastewater department for staying within their budget, as they had a \$22,000 surplus this year.

Commissioner Dulgar stated the water treatment department performed its usual mowing and landscaping around the plant; conducted water sampling; and performed routine equipment maintenance.

Commissioner Dulgar reiterated he is still working on the water rate increases and should have an ordinance with the proposed increases available for consideration at the next council meeting. Commissioner Dulgar emphasized the rate increase is due in part to multiple projects that need to be completed. Commissioner Dulgar stated the two water towers need approximately 1 million dollars in maintenance; two of the three water supply wells need cleaning and maintenance; there are waterline projects that need to be completed; and overall standard water plant maintenance.

Commissioner Dulgar reported a softball tournament was held in the City of Mount Carmel over the past weekend with eighteen teams from surrounding areas participating. Commissioner Dulgar stated the tournament was very well hosted and thanked everyone who helped make the event a success.

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

Commissioner Rodriguez reported in the last two weeks the fire department had seven runs and Firefighter Aaron Brown attended training in Champaign, Illinois.

Commissioner Rodriguez stated the city hall building had some much-needed repair work done on the front canopy.

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

City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported he has been approached by several businesses regarding the Façade Grant Program. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated eight different businesses completed their façade grant agreements last year by making improvements to their buildings. City Administrative Assistant Witsman recommended that the council set up the same program this year and set aside \$10,000 from the TIF fund to support another façade grant program. City Administrative Assistant Witsman explained the city will match up to \$1000 from the grant program for each approved applicant to make improvements to their businesses. City Administrative Assistant Witsman presented the Façade Grant Program to the council for their approval.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated at the last council meeting the possibility of parking at the former Hadley's building lot was investigated. City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported Commissioner Rodriguez and the fire department gave the okay for the parking, as far as not being a fire hazard. City Administrative Assistant Witsman emphasized the parking area is not reserved parking and is available for parking to anyone until the lot is sold.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman reiterated the city's levee has been inspected several times by the Corp of Engineers and the CORP has strongly requested the city address issues they identified after those inspections. City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported one of the issues involves the drainage piping along East Fifth Street that feeds through the levee to the river and the slip line repair cost would be approximately \$120,000; another issue regards the relief wells on the land side of the levee requiring maintenance, which would bring them up to serviceability and the approximate cost is \$230,000. City Administrative Assistant Witsman acknowledged Commissioner Judge, who stated he had contacted the Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission on the availability of any grants and unfortunately there are none for this type of project. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated he is seeking council authorization to proceed with the two projects by applying for a loan from one of the local lending institutions. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stressed if the city does not maintain the levee, the Corp of Engineers will decertify the levee, which would then no longer protect any resident that is within that flood plain zone area and so in turn they would not be eligible for flood plain insurance.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman announced city hall will be closed Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup> in observance of Good Friday.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported he was approached by a representative from Safe Haven seeking permission to collect donations in the designated intersections. City Administrative Assistant advised Safe Haven that the State of Illinois does not allow the collecting of donations on any state highways that run through the city unless the organization is registered with the State of Illinois. After discussing the request, the council decided to allow Safe Haven to collect funds at intersections that are not state highways, such as the intersections of Fifth and Cherry Streets and Thirteenth Street and College Drive.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated this meeting constitutes the first reading of the new budget, which will then be presented at the next council meeting after any adjustments that may need to be made and for the anticipated passage of the budget. The new budget has to be approved and passed by May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported Ed McPherson had requested a zoning change through the zoning board for 1231 N. Cherry Street. Mr. McPherson asked the present zoning be changed from R-2 Zoning and be reclassified as a B-1 Zoning.

**CITY ATTORNEY – TOM PRICE**

City Attorney Price no report.

**CITY INSPECTOR – MIKE GIDCUMB**

City Inspector Gidcumb reported Water Maintenance Employee Don Banks and himself have spent the last month replacing the registers in eighty water meters, which are still under warranty. City Inspector Gidcumb stated the meters are still reading correctly but signals are weak due to batteries issues.

**BUSINESS MOTIONS**

Commissioner Dulgar motioned and Commissioner Ikemire seconded to approve Façade Grant Program funded by \$10,000 from TIF. All present voted Aye by roll call vote.

Commissioner Dulgar motioned and Commissioner Ikemire seconded to approve the recommendation of the Zoning Board. Commissioners Judge, Rodriguez, Dulgar, Ikemire voted yes and Mayor Hudson voted no by roll call vote.

Commissioner Judge motioned and Commissioner Dulgar seconded to approve a loan from a local institution to fund the following levee works: up to \$120,000 for slip lining and \$230,000 for relief for well rehabilitation. All present voted Aye by roll call vote.

Mayor Hudson and the Council approved the Consent Agenda, as presented in the agenda dated April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The consent agenda approved the minutes for the council meeting held on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and approved paying all bills bearing the proper signatures.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk