

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 11, 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
City Inspector Mike Gidcumb

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Hudson brought the city council meeting to order.

Mayor Hudson extended sympathy to the Robb Penwell family. Mayor Hudson stated Robb will be greatly missed by the city's street department as well as the whole city. Robb took care of the city parks, the amphitheater, city hall and more. Mayor Hudson praised Robb's knack for planting flowers and keeping the grass green. Mayor Hudson added that Robb was a friend to most, who said very little and who was also a very hard worker. Mayor Hudson announced Robb's funeral will be Tuesday, April 12 at 7:00 pm with the visitation prior from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

Mayor Hudson announced, weather permitting, the new sidewalks along College Drive will be completed soon.

Mayor Hudson stated WSJD was the first business to complete the façade grant and their new green overhang looks very nice.

Mayor Hudson asked residents to please be patient after a storm as the street department and Mount Carmel Public Utility work as fast as they can. Mayor Hudson complimented the street department on their quickness of clearing the streets of fallen trees after the recent storm.

Mayor Hudson reported several local citizens as well as visitors will be attending the various events being held on April 22nd through April 24th, those activities being the Ribberfest Event, the Downhill Derby, the Culpepper and Merriweather Circus, and the Mount Carmel High School Musical. Mayor Hudson asked residents to please support the events and make the visitors feel welcome.

Mayor Hudson announced April is Child Abuse Awareness Month.

Mayor Hudson reported the new swimming pool liner work is coming along.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

COMMISSIONER ERIC IKEMIRE – STREETS, CEMETERIES AND PARKS

Commissioner Ikemire echoed Mayor Hudson's condolences to the Robb Penwell family and stated that he will be greatly missed. Commissioner Ikemire gave thoughts and prayers to Robb's family and stated Robb was an exceptional street department employee.

Commissioner Ikemire reported in the last two weeks the street department cleaned intakes; cleared trees out of the roadways after the recent storms; loaded and hauled off brush from the storm; removed plow and salt spreader from the city truck; mowed parks and ballparks; and dragged and lined the Four Street ballfield for the high school games.

Commissioner Ikemire thanked Street Department Superintendent Dave Easter and his crew for doing a nice job this past year for staying within their budget.

COMMISSIONER JOE JUDGE – FINANCE AND SENIOR CITIZENS

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

Commissioner Judge gave condolences to the Robb Penwell family. Commissioner Judge stated Robb will be sorely missed as a city employee and as a friend.

Commissioner Judge reported the city's finances are still holding stable. Commissioner Judge thanked the department heads for getting their first round of budgetary numbers turned in. Commissioner Judge stated the projection of where the current budget year will end is with a surplus of \$155,050. Commissioner Judge emphasized the turning around of the city's budget and finishing with a surplus is a phenomenal feat by all the city employees. Commissioner Judge thanked everyone very much.

COMMISSIONER JUSTIN DULGAR – WATER AND SEWER

Commissioner Dulgar also conveyed his condolences to the Penwell family.

Commissioner Dulgar stated he met and discussed the 2016-2017 budget year with City Comptroller Mick Mollenhauer and Water Treatment Plant Lead Operator Keith Reed. The water treatment department performed their standard maintenance as well as cleaned the south basin and started getting ready to order the chemicals for the swimming pool before its opening. Commissioner Dulgar reported the plant's roof had been recently inspected for a cost estimate for repairing and patching of the roof.

Commissioner Dulgar reiterated the discussion regarding the engineering study for the water treatment plant. Commissioner Dulgar reported the city will be working with the Greater Wabash Planning Commission in anticipation of receiving a grant through the USDA to cover the expense of the study.

Commissioner Dulgar reported he also met with Wastewater Plant Lead Operator Josh Peach and City Comptroller Mick Mollenhauer regarding the department's 2016-2017 budget year and stated the Wastewater Plant is on target with its budget as well. Commissioner Dulgar thanked the departments for staying under budget this past year and for their efforts going into the next year's budget. In the last two weeks, the wastewater plant crew has been busy mowing and washing tanks as well as performing its standard maintenance. Commissioner Dulgar stated that the wastewater plant's improvement project should be ready to go to bid within the next thirty days and hopefully a bid opening can take place before the end of June. The outfall line project should be ready to bid by mid-summer. Commissioner Dulgar stated the wastewater plant has a long but good year ahead of it with all the improvements that will be happening.

Commissioner Dulgar reported the water maintenance department has been busy assisting with the College Drive project, finished their work at the swimming pool, assisted with cleaning the basin at the water treatment plant, assisted with the switching of water meters, and performed their standard maintenance.

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

Commissioner Rodriguez asked everyone to please keep the Robb Penwell family in their prayers and stated Robb will be missed.

Commissioner Rodriguez reported the fire department had nine runs in the last two weeks and cleaned up a four to five block long chemical spill on Park Road.

CITY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – RUDY WITSMAN

City Administrative Assistant Witsman announced a public hearing for the new budget is scheduled to be held at city hall on Monday, April 25th at 4:45 pm.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported the city has had several problems with people driving on the levee or on the property adjacent to the levee and stated tickets have been issued due to the damages done. City Administrative Assistant Witsman affirmed individuals need to have respect for other people's property and to stay off the levee. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated the city is required to maintain the levee and if it is torn up it requires more tax dollars to be spent to repair it. City Administrative Assistant Witsman reiterated to stay off the levee. City Administrative Assistant Witsman acknowledged City Police Chief John Lockhart who stated violators will be subject to being ticketed and/or arrested, if they are caught on the levee or the other city properties in question.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated the Home Kitchen Ordinance is ongoing and he has spoken with the health department, who provided him with some language they would like to see incorporated into the ordinance. City Administrative Assistant Witsman anticipates presenting the ordinance information at the next council meeting.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman acknowledged Commissioner Judge, who gave an overview of the 2016/2017 budget year. Commissioner Judge reported at this time with all the department's reporting, the budget is showing a deficit of \$248,400. Commissioner Judge stated he would like to meet with the individual department heads, City Administrative Assistant Witsman and City Comptroller Mick Mollenhauer on trying to get the budgets down before the next council meeting. City Administrative Assistant stated the preliminary budget is available to the public for viewing at city hall.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported a liquor control commission meeting will be held following the council meeting for a special event license for the Ribberfest event.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman presented to the council information regarding the current and the proposed different classes of liquor licenses. City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported he had consulted with City Attorney Tom Price and County Clerk Janet Will regarding the Sunday Liquor Sales Referendum. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated it was agreed by all if the city does has a referendum vote that the only way to change a decision in the future would again by referendum. City Administrative Assistant Witsman explained all future city councils would be required to have a referendum when it comes to Sunday liquor sales and would be giving up their right to make any decisions regarding those sales. The council chose to proceed with the referendum. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated he will prepare a resolution for the approval of the referendum and present it at the next council meeting.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman provided to the council the various liquor ordinance changes and stated the next council meeting, April 25th, will constitute the first reading of the new liquor ordinance. City Administrative Assistant Witsman gave an overview of the various liquor license classes and the fees for each license. City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported a Class G license was created to allow Sunday liquor sales at restaurants and a Class H license for video gaming.

CITY ATTORNEY – TOM PRICE

City Attorney Price no report.

CITY INSPECTOR – MIKE GIDCUMB

City Inspector Gidcumb no report.

BUSINESS MOTIONS

Commissioner Ikemire motioned and Commissioner Dulgar seconded to approve the Minutes from the regular meeting of City Council held on March 28, 2016. All present voted Aye by voice vote.

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk