

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, June 20, 2016

5:00 pm

Invocation was given by Becky Reeves.

Present on Roll Call: Mayor Bill Hudson Commissioners – Eric Ikemire, Joe Judge,
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 acknowledged Sheri Spruell, with the Wabash County Animal Shelter Buddies, who was seeking the council's approval for dog waste bag dispensers/receptacles to be placed along Oak Street and College Drive. Ms. Spruell stated the shelter would donate two of the dispensers/receptacles and the shelter volunteers would service them, as well. The shelter would also be willing to challenge other organizations to donate more dispensers/receptacles. Mayor Hudson stated he would like the new grass that was recently planted along College Drive, to be established before anything is placed there. Mayor Hudson also stated the city does not own a right of way along College Drive; the grassy areas along the sidewalk belong to the residents. The council decided to table a decision until a later date.

Mayor Hudson acknowledged Ed McPherson, who was seeking the council's approval for the placement of a billboard sign at 931 West Third Street. The council gave their approval for the sign placement. Mr. McPherson will now seek approval from the State of Illinois as West Third Street is a state highway.

Mayor Hudson announced the College Drive project should be completed soon. The intersection of Oak Street and College Drive will be closed for a few days for the project completion.

Mayor Hudson stated unfortunately a one hundred and thirty year old tree fell on two houses in the nine hundred block of Plum Street, however, fortunately no one was injured.

Mayor Hudson reported the Streetscape Grant application has submitted to the State of Illinois and hopefully the city will have a positive response by September.

Mayor Hudson announced plans for the Fantastic Fourth Celebration are coming together. The Wicked Wheels Event will be held at Wabash Valley College on Saturday, June 25th. The Wabash County Retail Merchants will be having specials the week of June 27th through July 4th, as well as the "Win What You Spend" promotion with winnings up to \$250.00. The Wabash County Democrats will be hosting the "Walk-Up Wednesday" on June 29th at the amphitheater. Borowiak's IGA will be having a rib dinner cookout to raise money for the City's Fireworks Display on July 4th. The golf course will be offering \$22.00 eighteen hole golf passes and cart rental on Friday, July 1st. Mayor Hudson also announced the Senior Citizens' Public Fish Fry will be on Friday, July 1st from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm; a free movie night will be held on Saturday, July 2nd at the amphitheater; the Rotary Corn day will be held on Sunday, July 3rd; and the "Sweet Land of Liberty" event will be at the amphitheater from 6:00 to 7:00 pm, in the case of inclement the event it will be held at Heartland Worship Center. On Monday, July 4th the Veterans Thank You Breakfast will be at the Senior Citizens Center from 7:30 to 9:30 am, the "Sweet Land of Liberty" Parade begins at 10:00 am, the Food Court will be held at the amphitheater from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm, the Veteran's Picnic lunch will be at the VFW beginning at 11:00 am, free swim will be available at the city pool from 1:00 to 4:00 pm and the fireworks display will be held at 9:00 pm.

Mayor Hudson acknowledged Dave Dallas with the Mount Carmel Elks Club, who presented to the council a donation for the fireworks display, in the amount of \$500.00. The council thanked Mr. Dallas and the Elks Club for their generous donation. Mayor Hudson announced today the city also received donations from the Lions Club and Short Cunningham Funeral Home.

Mayor Hudson stated positive changes are forthcoming in the city and hopefully those announcements will be made soon.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

COMMISSIONER ERIC IKEMIRE – STREETS, CEMETERIES AND PARKS

Commissioner Ikemire reported in the last two weeks the street department mowed ballparks, parks and city levee property; performed yard abatements; patched potholes; put up and then took down barricades for the Library's 5K Walk/Run; took down banners along Market Street; serviced and tuned up the bucket truck; and filled deep holes at the base of the levee between the bridges.

Commissioner Ikemire stated several months prior he had been contacted by Tru-Green in Evansville, Indiana, regarding the Emerald Ash Borer, which is killing ash trees throughout the United States. Tru-Green has developed an Adopt-An-Ash Tree Program, which accepts donations to be used for the preservation of the ash trees. The city has twelve ash trees, which could be affected by the ash borer. Commissioner Ikemire asked to the council to consider having the Tru-Green Representative speak at an upcoming council meeting regarding the program.

COMMISSIONER JOE JUDGE – FINANCE AND SENIOR CITIZENS

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

Commissioner Judge reported the city's finances are stable and stated the swimming pool is showing positive revenue compared to this time last year. Commissioner Judge reiterated the Senior Citizens Center is available to rent for \$60.00 to anyone that wishes to have an event there.

Commissioner Judge stated the next two weeks could be critical for the City of Mount Carmel if the State of Illinois does not implement a budget for last year. Commissioner Judge also expressed his concerns and prayers for the school districts throughout the state as they are in dire need of state funding to operate.

COMMISSIONER JUSTIN DULGAR – WATER AND SEWER

Commissioner Dulgar absent.

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

Commissioner Rodriguez reported had eleven runs in the last two weeks. Commissioner Rodriguez stated the birthday party for Luke Dill was a big success. Luke enjoyed having the police department, the sheriff's department and the fire department at his party.

Commissioner Rodriguez reported the mosquito spraying is going strong and so far he has not received any complaints.

Commissioner Rodriguez announced the Wicked Wheels Car Show will be held on Saturday, June 25th at Wabash Valley College. The fire department will be grilling and the proceeds going to the Shop with Cop/Fireman Event in December.

CITY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – RUDY WITSMAN

City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported a full time fireman will be off work for an extended period of time for health reasons. The city only has three full time firemen and work scheduling has been difficult, especially with vacation time. City Administrative Assistant Witsman recommended to the council that Josh Howard temporarily be hired until Terry McGuire is released to return to work as a full time employee. Josh Howard has been a volunteer fireman for ten years.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated he was approached by two individuals requesting permission to use metal detectors along city streets and right of ways and to then dig up their "finds". City Administrative Assistant Witsman recommended that the council not grant permission for liability reasons as well as rightful ownership of the "treasures" found. The council decided to not grant permission to the individuals.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman presented to the council a fundraising request from the fire department to collect funds for the MDA Boot Stop at the designated city intersections on Saturday, September 3rd. The council granted the request.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported he was notified by an individual who was interested in purchasing the city's vacant lot located between 502 and 510 North Market Street. The individual has recently purchased the property at 502 North Market Street. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated the individual was informed if the city decided to sell the property it would be by bid and he would be welcome to bid on it at that time. The council decided to put the lot up for sell at a later date.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported over the years several requests have been made for the city to accept credit card payments for water bills and/or other payments that are received at city hall. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated the city is close to being able to start that process, however the credit card fee imposed will be charged to the customer. The fees are \$1.75 for charges up to \$50.00 and 3.50% for charges over \$50.00.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman presented to the council for their approval, Ordinance 1058, the prevailing wage ordinance and the request for bids for the demolition of the former Hadley's Building. These are items are all part of the consent agenda. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated the demolition bids will be opened at the next council meeting, July 5th.

CITY ATTORNEY – TOM PRICE

City Attorney Price no report.

CITY INSPECTOR – MIKE GIDCUMB

City Inspector Gidcumb absent.

BUSINESS MOTIONS

Commissioner Judge motioned and Commissioner Ikemire seconded to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented in the agenda dated June 20th, 2016. The consent agenda consented of approving the minutes for the council meeting held on June 6th, 2016, paying of all bills bearing the proper signatures, Ordinance 1058, and the request for demolition bids for the former Hadley's building. All present voted Aye by roll call vote.

Commissioner Rodriguez approved and Commissioner Judge seconded to approve the temporary employment of Josh Howard as a full time fireman due to the health issues of a current full time fireman. All present voted Aye by roll call vote.

Commissioner Ikemire approved and Commissioner Judge seconded to approve this sign application from McPherson Outdoors at 931 West Third Street. All present voted Aye by roll call vote.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk