

## **MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, July 06, 2015

5:00 pm

Invocation was given by Reverend Tony Hodgson.

Present on Roll Call: Mayor Bill Hudson Commissioners – Joe Judge, Rod Rodriguez,  
Justin Dulgar, Eric Ikemire

Also Present: City Administrative Assistant Rudy Witsman and City Attorney Tom Price

### **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

Mayor Hudson brought the city council meeting to order.

Mayor Hudson acknowledged Police Chief John Lockhart, who presented to 911 Dispatcher Mary Sweppy a service award for going above and beyond the call of duty during an emergency childbirth call on January 11, 2015. Whitney Carwile and her baby, Adalyn attended the meeting for the certificate presentation.

Mayor Hudson acknowledged Wabash County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Lesley Hipsher, who spoke to the council requesting that Market Street from Third Street to Fifth Street be closed during the upcoming Ag Days Festival. Ms. Hipsher asked if the council would allow the closure to begin on Tuesday, July 28<sup>th</sup> starting at 3:00 pm, as the festival will be held July 29<sup>th</sup> through August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mayor Hudson thanked everyone involved in the Fantastic Fourth Celebration. Mayor Hudson stated the celebration was one of the best events ever, from the July 4<sup>th</sup> breakfast, to the parade and the fireworks.

Mayor Hudson reported the number of individuals who shoot off their own fireworks is increasing and that the fireworks are also being shot off too late at night. Mayor Hudson stated this issue will need to be addressed prior to next year's celebration.

Mayor Hudson reported the city's cost for the fireworks was \$12,650.00 plus \$100.00 for insurance and the city received \$13,148.42 in donations. This is the first time the donation amount has exceeded the cost of the fireworks. Mayor Hudson stated the Fantastic Fourth Celebration is working and is keeping the community together. Mayor Hudson thanked all for their donations. Mayor Hudson also thanked the police department, the fire department, the street department, the Arnold's, Terry Beckerman and his committee, and all the public who attended the events.

Mayor Hudson stated 410 Outdoor is open for business with fishing and hunting equipment. The business is located on Outer West Ninth Street by the Dollar General Store and Shopko.

Mayor Hudson announced the city received a \$1000 anonymous donation to be used toward the purchase of three defibrillators for the police department's squad cars.

### **COMMISSIONER REPORTS:**

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

Commissioner Ikemire reported in the last two weeks the street department patched potholes; cleaned intakes; installed flood wall closure at the South Mulberry; ran arm mower; cleaned up from the recent storm; put out barricades for the parade, fireworks, Rotary Corn Day and Fourth of July festivities at the amphitheater; and hauled golf carts uptown for the parade. Commissioner Ikemire thanked Street Department Superintendent David Easter and his crew for all their work over the holiday weekend as well as the golf course for the use of the golf carts. Commissioner Ikemire thanked David Easter again for volunteering his time while assisting with the fireworks.

Commissioner Ikemire reminded residents to please not block the city sidewalks that run thru their driveways. Commissioner Ikemire reported there is a city ordinance stating that sidewalks are to be kept clear for walkers.

Commissioner Ikemire stated there are several of the old maroon and gold street signs left at the street department. Anyone interested in purchasing the signs in bulk to please submit their bid at city hall.

### **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 holding steady, however the expenditures are higher.

Commissioner Judge reiterated the \$1000 anonymous donation for the police department defibrillators is very much appreciated. Commissioner Judge announced the Senior Citizens Center also received an anonymous donation of \$10,000 to be used for the purchase of automatic entry doors. Commissioner Judge stated the doors are a very much needed upgrade for the center. The city is very excited and very appreciative of the donation.

Commissioner Judge reported the Senior Citizen Center will be going through some new improvements by teaming up with companies throughout the tristate, who will donate items such as bread, potato chips, and etc. The center will in turn do "handouts" to senior citizens and other individuals who qualify to receive the free items.

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

Commissioner Dulgar reported the water maintenance department installed a new water service on Golden Aces Way and assisted the Village of Allendale's crew clear a sewer main with the use the jet truck. Commissioner Dulgar stated the water treatment plant is looking into the water issues. There were some bad taste issues in the last few weeks, but that has cleared up. The city is attempting to eliminate the variables that affect water taste. Water samples will be collected at various locations and the sample results will be compared.

Commissioner Dulgar stated the Waller lift station required trouble shooting due to high water meter times; K & M Pump Supply will advise the City regarding a rehab project for the Mulberry Street lift station. This lift station handles approximately fifty percent of the sewer flow for the city and has had no major work done since the 1980's. Commissioner Dulgar reported the ammonia nitrate permit project is proceeding and all the paperwork has been submitted. The bid letting for the project will not begin however, until the city receives full approval.

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

Commissioner Rodriguez reported the fire department had cookouts at both the golf course and Wabash Valley College both on Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup>. The proceeds from the golf course outing were donated to ShoCap and the proceeds from the college event were donated to the Shop with a Cop/Fireman Christmas program.

Commissioner Rodriguez stated during the past two weeks the fire department had eight runs.

Commissioner Rodriguez reported the Little League will be hosting All Stars games beginning July 11<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Rodriguez encouraged everyone to attend the games in support of the All Stars.

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

City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported at the last council meeting a request was brought up for discussion regarding the Little League sodding the West Fourth Street ballpark infield. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated the Softball League was advised they will have to be off the field by September 1<sup>st</sup> and the Wabash County Youth in Action was also advised that the city will accommodate them as needed. The council approved the Little League's request for the sodding, which will be at no expense to the city.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated a decision needs to be made regarding the continuation of the leaf route pick-up service. If the service is to continue, the city will have to purchase a different truck as the current truck has a broken frame and is inoperable. The truck is used for both snow removal and leaf pick-up. City Administrative Assistant Witsman asked for direction on the matter and the council chose to table a decision until the next council meeting.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported the Mount Carmel Area Economic Alliance is asking that the city continue its commitment of contributing to the alliance, which will help offset the salary paid to Ben Ross, as well as the operations of the AEA. The request is in the amount of \$15,000 and was not included in the city's current fiscal budget.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman extended an invitation to the council from Dean Kieffer to attend the open house at Warrior Village on Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated he had received a letter from a grateful citizen, which he read to the council. The citizen thanked the fire department and the volunteers for their efforts and good work at a recent fire located at West Fourth and Poplar Streets.

#### **CITY ATTORNEY – TOM PRICE**

City Attorney Price no report.

#### **CITY INSPECTOR – MIKE GIDCUMB**

City Inspector Gidcumb reported the water customers who currently have a two month delinquent bill will be subject to disconnection on Wednesday, July 8<sup>th</sup>. The shut-off has been pushed back a day due to the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday.

City Inspector Gidcumb stated he has sent out several notices for high grass but the number that was sent this year is a lot less than prior years. City Inspector Gidcumb reported the majority of the notices are being abated by the property owners. The street department still has to maintain some of the properties that are in bankruptcy or foreclosure.

City Inspector Gidcumb reported several building projects are nearing completion such as Wabash General Hospital, B & D Independence, and MotoRad expansions, as well as the Warrior Village college dorms. Several construction projects are ongoing and a few new projects are scheduled to start in August.

City Inspector Gidcumb reported the accessory buildings in the nine hundred block of Mulberry Street have been demolished by the property owner and the house in the four hundred block of Poplar Street has been demolished as well.

City Inspector Gidcumb asked if in the near future the council would readdress the list of houses that are in dire need of attention and possibly demolition. City Inspector Gidcumb stated himself and City Attorney Price would first have to do a demolition petition through the court system and added that the process of demolition as a whole is very lengthy.

#### **BUSINESS MOTIONS**

Commissioner Judge motioned and Commissioner Dulgar seconded to approve the expenditure of \$15,000 in support of the Mount Carmel Area Economic Alliance (AEA). All present voted Aye by roll call vote.

Commissioner Judge motioned and Commissioner Ikemire seconded to approve the Minutes from regular meeting of City Council held on June 22, 2015. All present voted Aye by voice vote.

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk