

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, July 18, 2016

5:00 pm

Invocation was given by Terry Beckerman.

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

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Hudson brought the city council meeting to order.

Mayor Hudson acknowledged Wabash County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Lesley Hipsher, who was seeking council approval for the closure of Market Street from Third Street to Fifth Street for the Ag Days Festival. Ms. Hipsher asked if the council would approve the closure to begin on Tuesday, August 9th at 3:00 pm to allow for the setup, as the festival will be held on Wednesday, August 10th through Saturday, August 13th. Ms. Hipsher reminded citizens, on behalf of the Wabash County Chamber of Commerce and Mayor Hudson, that for the safety of the public; bicycles, skateboards and dogs/pets are not allowed at the Ag Days Festival.

Mayor Hudson acknowledged Dave Dallas, who asked the council's approval for the Elks Club to have a membership drive in the Elks Club parking lot on Saturday, August 13th.

Mayor Hudson thanked Sandy Keneipp for organizing the prayer vigil at the Wabash County Courthouse on Friday, July 15th, in support of the local and national police departments. Mayor Hudson stated our community, as well as all communities need to come together in support of our police force.

Mayor Hudson announced the last date for night swim will be Thursday, July 28th as the remaining dates are booked for private parties.

Mayor Hudson thanked the Fantastic Fourth Parade Committee and the VFW Honor Guard for their fireworks' display donation.

Mayor Hudson reported in the next few months residents will be seeing some positive changes in the downtown area of the city. Mayor Hudson announced on Monday, July 25th, the former Hadley's Café building will be torn down. The demolition project should take a total of five days to complete, weather permitting.

Mayor Hudson announced this week is the Wabash County 4-H Fair Week and encouraged everyone to attend the activities in support of the Wabash County Youth.

Mayor Hudson asked residents to please check out the new golf course cart paths, which were made available by a private donation.

Mayor Hudson thanked the Rotary Club for donating a new ticket booth awning at the swimming pool.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

COMMISSIONER ERIC IKEMIRE – STREETS, CEMETERIES AND PARKS

Commissioner Ikemire reported in the last two weeks the street department mowed city properties, performed yard abatements, patched potholes, cleaned up debris from the fireworks display, tore out two bad spots in the street on Park Road and poured new concrete in those same areas, fixed two storm sewer intakes on Lisa Lane, and began painting parking stall lines in the uptown area.

Commissioner Ikemire reiterated at a previous council meeting he had been contacted by Tru-Green regarding the Emerald Ash-Borer, which is killing Ash trees. The Tru-Green representative identified twenty Ash trees on city properties, with the majority being at the golf course and city park area. Commissioner Ikemire stated he is working with City Administrative Assistant Rudy Witsman on scheduling a council meeting date for the Tru-Green representative to give a presentation regarding the Adopt-An-Ash-Tree 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 continuing to hold stable.

Commissioner Judge announced the city is accepting cash rent farming bids for the farm ground located at the city airport.

Commissioner Judge reported the golf course income is running low but it is still operating well for this time of the year. Commissioner Judge stated the golf course crew is doing a great job and the golf course looks very good. Commissioner Judge reiterated the new cart paths were donated by several individuals and stated the city is very appreciative of the donations.

Commissioner Judge reported the swimming pool is running a 33.77% above budget, which is very positive for the pool. Commissioner Judge stated Molly Wood and her crew is doing a great job at the pool, as well.

COMMISSIONER JUSTIN DULGAR – WATER AND SEWER

Commissioner Dulgar reported the water maintenance department has been keeping the swimming pool in working order, used the jet truck for routine maintenance around the city, repaired a sewer line leak, helped to locate buried water meters as well as all their standard maintenance.

Commissioner Dulgar stated a walk thru was conducted at the water treatment facility and a checklist was made for all the items that need to be repaired or replaced in the future. The facility crew will be cleaning the clarifiers and basins next week, which is regularly being done every two months. Commissioner Dulgar reported the city is looking for a contractor to clean and paint the water tower on West Third Street.

Commissioner Dulgar reported the wastewater plant is operating satisfactorily and has been performing its standard maintenance as well as lawn maintenance. Commissioner Dulgar announced the advertising for the aeration/outfall project will be in August and the bid letting will be in September. The construction will begin this fall and will continue through the winter.

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

Commissioner Rodriguez reported in the last two weeks the fire department had three runs and conducted their regular safety meeting. Commissioner Rodriguez stated mosquito spraying is still ongoing.

Commissioner Rodriguez announced he will be attending a tourism meeting on July 27th.

CITY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – RUDY WITSMAN

City Administrative Assistant Witsman announced the city is now accepting credit cards for water bill payments. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated residents may log-on to the city's website and "click on the link" to pay their water bill.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported the Knights of Columbus are requesting the council's approval for a fundraising event at the designated intersections for its annual "Tootsie Roll Fundraising Event". The request is included in the consent agenda.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman reiterated the city has two tracts of farm land, one being at the airport and other at the North end of Empire Street, which is due for the farming bids. The bidding will be held on Monday, August 1st at 4:00 pm, prior to the council meeting.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman reaffirmed the former Hadley's building will be torn down on Monday, July 25th, weather permitting. City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported the city is in the process of taking the necessary steps to obtain the Warren building and in turn will demolish it, as well. City Administrative Assistant Witsman asked residents to please be patient, as the legalities involved are very time consuming.

CITY ATTORNEY – TOM PRICE

City Attorney Price no report.

CITY INSPECTOR – MIKE GIDCUMB

City Inspector Gidcumb absent.

BUSINESS MOTIONS

Commissioner Judge motioned and Commissioner Dulgar seconded to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented in the agenda dated July 18th, 2016. The consent agenda consented of approving the minutes for the council meeting held on July 5th, 2016, paying of all bills bearing the proper signatures and the fundraising event request from the Knights of Columbus. All present voted Aye by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk