

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, August 10, 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 Wayne Walden with the Wabash County Retail Merchants, who was seeking the council's approval for the use of the City's Southgate Industrial Park for a circus event in April, 2016. Mr. Walden will provide the council with the actual event date, as soon as it has been confirmed with the circus company.

Mayor Hudson acknowledged John Acree of Lamac Engineering, who presented to the council an overview of the College Drive waterline/sidewalk project. Mr. Acree stated Kieffer Brothers Construction was the only firm to bid on the project. The project will include the replacement of all the water lines from Thirteenth Street to Park Road, as well as the installation of wider sidewalks. There will be limited access while the area is under construction, as semis and farm equipment will not be allowed to use the road during this time. Wabash General Hospital will have at least one entrance and one exit open during the project. Mr. Acree stated the project will definitely be an inconvenience. The project is slated to begin right after Labor Day and will hopefully be completed by April, 2016. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated the proximity of the current sewer lines and water lines created the necessity of the new water lines to be placed in the street. The State of Illinois Statutes mandates a separation of at least ten feet between water and sewer lines. City Administrative Assistant Witsman reiterated the city was in hopes of getting a \$200,000 grant from the State of Illinois to help offset some of the costs but because of state budget impasse, the city is not counting on getting any grant funds and instead the project will be funded through the City's TIF program. City Administrative Assistant Witsman presented to the council a worksheet showing the balance of the TIF fund by April 2016. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated the balance of the TIF fund is less than anticipated and this could limit other assistance/improvement in that TIF area. City Administrative Assistant Witsman added the College Drive project is in much need of being done for the residents who actually live in that area as well as for the community as a whole.

Mayor Hudson thanked the street department, the fire department, and the police department for their assistance during the Ag Days Festival.

Mayor Hudson gave condolences to the Merle Weems family. Mr. Weems was a long time council member and administrative assistant for the City of Mount Carmel.

Mayor Hudson reported the city swimming pool is closed as school is starting this week. The annual dog swim will be held tonight, which will end the 2015 swimming pool season.

Mayor Hudson stated the drive thru in front of city hall is to be used for drop box water bill payments only. Mayor Hudson reported he has received several complaints of people parking under the canopy in front of city hall and going inside to make their water bill payment. This action causes traffic to be backed up especially on the water bill due date. Mayor Hudson reiterated there is to be no parking please in the drive thru in front of city hall.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

COMMISSIONER ERIC IKEMIRE – STREETS, CEMETERIES AND PARKS

Commissioner Ikemire reported in the last two weeks the street department has patched holes in the city streets; cleaned intakes; removed the floodgate closure at South Mulberry Street; performed yard abatements; mowed city properties; cleaned up storm damage; did repairs on the chipper truck; and setup, tore down and cleaned up for the Ag Days Festival. Commissioner Ikemire thanked the street department crew for all their assistance and efforts with the Ag Days Festival. Commissioner Ikemire also thanked Commissioner Joe Judge and Street Department Superintendent Dave Easter for travelling to Fort Wayne, Indiana and picking up the city's new snow plow truck.

COMMISSIONER JOE JUDGE – FINANCE AND SENIOR CITIZENS

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

Commissioner Judge reported the city is paying its bills and overall the budget is looking good.

Commissioner Judge stated the Senior Citizens Center is operating well and anyone wanting a good meal should have lunch at the center.

COMMISSIONER JUSTIN DULGAR – WATER AND SEWER

Commissioner Dulgar reported the results from the water sample tests came back okay and stated there are no issues with the city's water at this time. The water treatment plant has established a baseline for future water testing and also has extra sample bottles on hand to help alleviate any future lost water samples at the testing lab. Commissioner Dulgar stated previously the water treatment plant rotated the water supply from wells one, two and three every few weeks, but the city has been using the water from well three for approximately two months. Commissioner Dulgar anticipates the city will continue to use well three for at least six months to help determine if there is a water issue with the other two wells.

Commissioner Dulgar stated the water maintenance department will be closing the city pool tomorrow as the dog swim is being held tonight and will end the pool season for this year. Commissioner Dulgar stated the city received its jet truck back last Friday from Springfield. The new jet unit was installed on our existing truck body, which resulted in considerable savings.

Commissioner Dulgar reported the ammonia/nitrate project at the wastewater plant is proceeding and the plant is waiting to hear back from the Illinois EPA. Commissioner Dulgar reiterated the wastewater plant's discharge pipeline will be replaced and the cost is being added to the State of Illinois Revolving Loan, as reported at a previous council meeting.

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

Commissioner Rodriguez thanked everyone who helped with the Ag Days Festival especially the volunteers who helped at the lemonade stand.

Commissioner Rodriguez reported the fire department had a house burn on August 8th with eight different fire departments participating and four trainers. Commissioner Rodriguez stated the "burn" was a very good training session for all who participated. Commissioner Rodriguez reported during the past two weeks the fire department had eight runs.

Commissioner Rodriguez acknowledged Greg Locke, who does the mosquito spraying for the city. Mr. Locke stated the city golf course pond and the East Fifth Street ditches are two of the problem areas and he has treated the areas with larvicide. Commissioner Ikemire stated the street department will be mowing the golf course pond with the arm mower once the mower is back in operation.

CITY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – RUDY WITSMAN

City Administrative Assistant Witsman announced the TIF consultant will attend the next council meeting. City Administrative Assistant stated TIF 1 will expire at the end of 2015 and the city anticipates letting it expire to allow the taxing bodies to recover and regain some of the monies that had been allotted to the TIF 1 Fund. The TIF consultant will explain to and advise the council the TIF program options.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman spoke for City Inspector Mike Gidcumb, who was absent, regarding several dilapidated houses and blighted areas in the community. The city is limited in the funding needed to tear down and/or cleanup these areas. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated there is a blight reduction grant program and the city will be making application to the program in hopes of getting some money to help offset some of the costs to clean up these areas.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman asked the council to please pause for a moment to recognize Merle Weems for his many years of service to the City of Mount Carmel as a businessman, a city councilman, and city clerk. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated Merle was a good friend who supported him as mayor and as city clerk and because of Merle’s support he now holds the position of city clerk. City Administrative Assistant Witsman added that his prayers go out to the Weems family.

CITY ATTORNEY – TOM PRICE

City Attorney Price no report.

CITY INSPECTOR – MIKE GIDCUMB

City Inspector Gidcumb absent.

BUSINESS MOTIONS

Commissioner Dulgar motioned and Commissioner Judge seconded to accept the bid of Kieffer Brothers Construction in the amount of \$1,416,047 for the installation of a new water line and sidewalk from Thirteenth Street to Park Road. 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 July 20, 2015. All present voted Aye by voice vote.

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk