

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, August 15, 2016

5:00 pm

Invocation was given by Becky Reeves.

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 thanked all who participated in the Ag Days Festival despite the rainy weather. Mayor Hudson also thanked the local media for reporting the facts relating to an incident at the festival as well as Wabash County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Lesley Hipsher and Wabash County Sheriff Derek Morgan for their factual news releases.

Mayor Hudson announced the Doggie Swim is tonight from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the city's swimming pool. A five dollar swim fee is charged with the proceeds going to the Wabash County Shelter Buddies. The swimming pool will be drained on Tuesday, August 16th and then closed for the season.

Mayor Hudson stated school has started and asked citizens to please drive carefully. Mayor Hudson thanked the Rotary Club for donating the new "School Zone Signs" which will be placed at the area schools. Mayor Hudson reported the new radar signs should also be delivered within the next two weeks and will be placed at the school zones, as well. Mayor Hudson asked citizens to please watch their speed while driving in the school zone areas, as the radar signs will check the speed of vehicles.

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, repaired and painted barricades, painted parking lot lines in the uptown area and at the schools, setup for Ag Days and cleaned up each day of festival, worked on filling ruts at the base of the levee, and repaired mowers after break downs. Commissioner Ikemire thanked Street Department Superintendent Dave Easter and his crew for all their hard work at the Ag Days Festival, as they put in a significant amount of time and effort.

Commissioner Ikemire stated there have been a few incidents when streets and alleys have been worked on but the work was not done properly by outside contractors. Commissioner Ikemire recommended the ordinance pertaining to that type of contractor work be amended to give the city more insight on the work that is being done and to avoid any further issues with streets and alleyways. Commissioner Ikemire stated he has asked Street Department Superintendent Dave Easter and City Inspector Mike Gidcumb to work on amending the wording of the ordinance.

COMMISSIONER JOE JUDGE – FINANCE AND SENIOR CITIZENS

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

Commissioner Judge stated the city's general fund is holding steady even though the expenditures exceeded the receipts. Commissioner Judge reported that from the opening of the swimming pool up to August 10th, the city has seen a 22.12% increase over last year's budget. The revenue results from general admission, pool parties, and concession stand sales show a positive amount of \$7235.72. Commissioner Judge reported last year the pool season ended at \$32,712.23 in revenue and so far this year the pool is over \$39,000.00 in revenue. Commissioner Judge stated hopefully once the swimming pool is closed out its budget will show a positive balance.

Commissioner Judge reported the golf course is “holding its own” despite all the rainy weather. Commissioner Judge stated the golf course crew is doing an outstanding job.

Commissioner Judge thanked the VFW and the VFW Ladies Auxiliary for hosting the bingo fundraiser for the Senior Citizens Center on Friday, August 12th. The Senior Citizens Center received a \$1000 donation from the event, which will be used to offset the costs of the new heating/air conditioning unit. Commissioner Judge also thanked everyone who attended and played bingo at the event. Commissioner Judge added the center is available for rent for \$60 to anyone who needs a place for an event.

Commissioner Judge reiterated in this fiscal year the garbage department was budgeted at a deficit; however there are funds available in the budget to cover the deficit. Commissioner Judge stated the garbage department cannot continue to run at a loss and if something devastating happens monies will have to be borrowed from the general fund to cover the expense. Commissioner Judge asked the council to consider increasing the garbage fee by one dollar to offset the cost of the vegetation/grass pick-up service and for the vegetation/grass dumpster provided by Republic Services located at the city dump. Commissioner Judge affirmed the fee increase does not pertain to the brush/tree limb pick-up service, only the grass clippings and vegetation. The council decided to take into consideration Commissioner Judge’s suggestion and to table a decision until a later date.

COMMISSIONER JUSTIN DULGAR – WATER AND SEWER

Commissioner Dulgar reported the water maintenance department flushed the pool filters, performed maintenance on the swimming pool slide motor, completed sewer locates; removed sprinkler system in the 400 block of Market Street and flushed hydrants on Market Street for the Ag Days Festival; and painted hydrants throughout the city that had been vandalized. The wastewater plant cleaned clarifiers one and two and placed them back in service as well as activating the Division Street flood station due to the heavy rains. Commissioner Dulgar reiterated the aeration project is still on target with the project advertisement slated for the end of August; the bid letting will be in September/October; and construction should begin late this fall.

Commissioner Dulgar reported he had located a bobcat, which would suit the needs of the wastewater plant and the street department. Commissioner Dulgar stated if the equipment is purchased it would be for multi-departmental use.

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

Commissioner Rodriguez reported in the last two weeks the fire department had eight runs. Commissioner Rodriguez stated ladder truck training was conducted at the fire department meeting.

Commissioner Rodriguez stated mosquito spraying has not been done in the last few days, due to the heavy rains. Commissioner Rodriguez asked residents to please drain or dump anything in their yards with “standing” water to help prevent with the mosquitoes. Commissioner Rodriguez reported the mosquito spraying will begin again as soon as the weather permits.

CITY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – RUDY WITSMAN

City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported within the Consent Agenda are Resolutions 627 and 628, which are resolutions approving the farm land lease contracts that were presented for approval at the last council meeting.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman reminded residents to please have their houses “numbered”, as it is very important especially in case of an emergency.

CITY ATTORNEY – TOM PRICE

City Attorney Price no report.

CITY INSPECTOR – MIKE GIDCUMB

City Inspector Gidcumb absent.

BUSINESS MOTIONS

Mayor Hudson and the Council approved the Consent Agenda, as presented in the agenda dated August 15th, 2016. The consent agenda consisted of approving the minutes for the council meeting held on August 1st, 2016; paying of all bills bearing the proper signatures; Resolution 627 and Resolution 628. All present voted Aye by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk