

## **MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, September 14, 2015

5:00 pm

Invocation was given by Assistant Fire Chief Fred McGee.

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

Also Present: City Administrative Assistant Rudy Witsman, City Attorney Tom Price,  
City Inspector Mike Gidcumb

### **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

Mayor Hudson brought the city council meeting to order.

Mayor Hudson reminded citizens to take extra time when driving on College Drive, as that project now is underway.

Mayor Hudson read a note from the Illinois Auxiliary – Wives Behind the Badge, announcing the “National Thank a Police Officer Day”, which is being recognized this Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. The effort is being made to bring much needed appreciation to the men and women of law enforcement. In honor of our police officers, the auxiliary is asking cities throughout the State of Illinois to “paint the town blue”. Mayor Hudson asked the community to please display something on Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> with the color of blue; ribbons, flags, and/or lights, etc. to thank the officers for their services.

Mayor Hudson announced this week is the Mount Carmel High School Homecoming Week and asked the community to please enjoy all the festivities.

### **COMMISSIONER REPORTS:**

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

Commissioner Ikemire reported in the last two weeks the street department performed yard abatements; mowed city properties; patched and swept streets in preparation for chip and seal in various areas of the city; replaced the water pump on the street sweeper sprayer system; serviced mowers and trucks.

Commissioner Ikemire stated the city park playground equipment that had been “disassembled” is being repaired. Commissioner Ikemire asked residents to please contact the police department if they see anyone destructing city property.

Commissioner Ikemire acknowledged Street Department Superintendent Dave Easter, who reported Vine Street from West Seventh to West Third, Daniel Street, West Second Street from Daniel to Elm, Chestnut Street between Second and Third, Miskell Road, St Joseph, Marian, Greenview, Hillcrest Avenue, and all of Cherry Hills Subdivision are on the chip and seal schedule, which will begin this Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup>.

#### **COMMISSIONER JOE JUDGE – FINANCE AND SENIOR CITIZENS**

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

Commissioner Judge stated the city's finances are holding steady and the city is still waiting on the State of Illinois' budget decisions.

Commissioner Judge announced on October 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm at Wabash Valley College's Red Café, the USDA is holding a public civic forum on “Stronger Economies Together”. Commissioner Judge encouraged citizens to attend the forum and voice their opinions regarding important opportunities and economic development in the community. The SET program covers a seven county region, which is focusing on creating a stronger economic area.

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

Commissioner Dulgar reiterated the city has been using well #3 for its water supply for approximately three months because of past water issues. Commissioner Dulgar reported the water treatment plant has now switched the water supply to well #1, which is the next step in trying to solve the prior water issues. The water treatment plant will be draining and cleaning the clarifiers at the end of this month, which is part of the standard maintenance. The water maintenance department has been doing its standard maintenance and helping with the College Drive project. The wastewater plant is still looking for a truck, as the motor blew up on one of their trucks. The wastewater plant's ammonia nitrate project is proceeding and is waiting on final approval. Commissioner Dulgar added the timeline for that project is controlled by the EPA. Commissioner Dulgar reiterated the replacement of wastewater plant's outfall line is ongoing. One of the final steps of that project is making sure there are no mussels in that area of the river and divers will be here this week to check the river. Commissioner Dulgar added once the city passes all the needed requirements, the outfall project can then be started next year.

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

Commissioner Rodriguez reported in the last two weeks in the fire department had twelve runs. Commissioner Rodriguez stated the fire department's regular meeting tonight will feature Dr. Slater as its speaker.

Commissioner Rodriguez announced the Wabash County Merchants will be having a cookout from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm on Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup> for the homecoming celebration.

Commissioner Rodriguez acknowledged Assistant Fire Chief Fred McGee, who presented to Firefighters Tyler Kruse and Dru Faulkner their Basic Firefighter Certification, which was accomplished by taking over three hundred hours of training. Firefighter Aaron Brown also completed his Basic Fire Prevention Officer Certification, but was unable to attend the council meeting. Assistant Fire Chief Fred McGee stated the firefighters' efforts and time is greatly appreciated, as a great part of what they do goes unrecognized.

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

City Administrative Assistant Witsman reiterated on the discussion at a previous council regarding the improvements at the Fourth Street ball park. Those improvements will start this week with the new sprinkler system being installed and then the latter part of the week the sod will be installed. City Administrative Assistant Witsman asks everyone to respect the time and money that is being put into the ball field by staying off the field.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported the city has been working on the development of the new TIF area. Letters have been sent to property owners that are close to the TIF, as required by State of Illinois statues and certified letters will be also be going out to property owners closer to the end of the month. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated the letters are advising property owners of the fact that it is being asked for the TIF to be created in that area and also advising them of the public hearing to be held on October 26<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm at city hall.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported some of the playground equipment in the Lion's Park is in need of paint and stated the city would welcome any interested individuals or companies who would like to take on the project. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated the city receives many compliments on the park and it receives a lot of play and use. City Administrative Assistant Witsman asked anyone interested in taking on that improvement to please contact him.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated City Attorney Price had prepared a resolution regarding the four way stop at Sixth and Market Streets. City Administrative Assistant Witsman reiterated at the last council meeting, it was discussed about taking down the traffic lights at that intersection and going to a two-way intersection with the stop signs would be installed on the Sixth Street sides. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated interested individuals had voiced their concerns about removing the signs off of Market Street and he asked for direction from the council regarding the matter. The council decided to table a decision until the next council meeting and each commissioner will conduct their own individual "traffic studies" at that intersection.

**CITY ATTORNEY – TOM PRICE**

City Attorney Price no report.

**CITY INSPECTOR – MIKE GIDCUMB**

City Inspector Gidcumb reported the zoning board held a meeting with Terry and Mike Blair, who were requesting a mobile home be placed on the site they currently own. The Blair’s had a fire at 631 West First Street and it is their intent to tear down the burned house. The zoning board voted to recommend the special use permit for the mobile home be sent to the council for approval.

**BUSINESS MOTIONS**

Commissioner Judge motioned and Commissioner Ikemire seconded to approve the Special Use Permit for the placement of a mobile home for a dwelling at 631 West First Street. The applicant Michael and Teresa Blair will live in the mobile home. The application was approved by the Zoning Board. All present voted Aye by roll call vote.

Commissioner Ikemire motioned and Commissioner Dulgar seconded to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held on September 3, 2015. All present voted Aye by voice vote.

Commissioner Dulgar motioned and Commissioner Rodriguez seconded to approve the Minutes from regular meeting of City Council held on August 31, 2015. All present voted Aye by voice vote.

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk