

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 26, 2016

5:00 pm

Invocation was given by Rebecca 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,
City Inspector Mike Gidcumb

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Hudson brought the city council meeting to order.

Mayor Hudson acknowledged Commissioner Dulgar, who reiterated on the prior meetings and discussions regarding the possibility of a regional water plant with the City of Albion, the City of Grayville, the Rural Wabash County Water District as well as the City of Mount Carmel.

Commissioner Dulgar introduced John Acree of Lamac Engineering, who was in attendance at the council meeting to discuss joining together with the Cities of Albion and Grayville to form an entity and in turn conducting a feasibility study for possible building of a new regional water plant. Mr. Acree clarified the Cities of Albion and Grayville water sources are non-filtered and in the near future the EPA could mandate they build filtration plants. Mr. Acree reiterated in the near future that the City of Mount Carmel will need to upgrade its water filtration facility as well. Mr. Acree stated by forming an entity the water is sold back to all that make up that entity but in a more efficient manner. Mr. Acree stressed the feasibility study is in the best interest of the City of Mount Carmel as well as the Cities of Albion and Grayville. Mr. Acree explained the study will show the alternatives, the best options and the costs for the “formed” entity as well as for the cities individually. Mr. Acree stated because the new entity would not have any assets it could apply for a search grant through Rural Development and the grant would fully fund the feasibility study. City Administrative Assistant Rudy Witsman reaffirmed what Mr. Acree had presented to the council by stating the three entities would create some type of intergovernmental agreement, form a “company”, and that company would then make application for the feasibility study. Mr. Acree added that seated council members cannot serve on the entity board, as federal law states it would be a conflict of interest and so a water commission should be established. Mr. Acree emphasized to the council to please at least consider forming the entity and having the study done. The council decided after much consideration to form the entity and then authorize the feasibility study.

Mayor Hudson stated the fall weather has been very nice and the homecoming activities held over the past weekend went very well. Mayor Hudson received many compliments from out of town alumni who were in attendance for homecoming celebration. Mayor Hudson thanked the local merchants for offering their “Homecoming Specials”.

Mayor Hudson announced Congressman Shimkus will be at city hall to meet with the public on Friday, October 7th from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm. Anyone wishing to make an appointment on that date with Congressman Shimkus may call 618-252-8271.

Mayor Hudson acknowledged City Administrative Assistant Witsman who announced that Butch Kingsbury has asked to resign from the Fireman’s Pension Board and Glen Markle, Jr. has agreed to serve in Mr. Kingsbury’s place, upon his appointment by Mayor Hudson.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

COMMISSIONER ERIC IKEMIRE – STREETS, CEMETERIES AND PARKS

Commissioner Ikemire reported in the last two weeks the street department continued to mow city properties; continued to paint parking lines and curbs throughout the city; assisted the water maintenance with the removal of the old water filter material and with the unloading of new filter material at the water treatment plant; patched potholes; repaired storm sewer in the 1000 block of Market Street; trimmed low lying tree limbs that were blocking stop signs; and continuing performing yard abatements.

COMMISSIONER JOE JUDGE – FINANCE AND SENIOR CITIZENS

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

Commissioner Judge reported the city received the sales tax receipts and the income tax receipts from the State of Illinois and those receipts are used to project how the budget will look for the coming year. Commissioner Judge stated based on those receipts the city is currently looking at negative amounts however, the city is only into the second quarter of its current fiscal year.

COMMISSIONER JUSTIN DULGAR – WATER AND SEWER

Commissioner Dulgar thanked the mayor and the council for their support regarding the feasibility study.

Commissioner Dulgar reported the water treatment plant performed its general maintenance including, cleaning and painting of equipment; cleaning filters two and three; removing the filter media as well as working on replacing the new media and filters, which should be operational in the next few days.

Commissioner Dulgar stated the water maintenance installed a bypass system for the wastewater plant lift station on College Drive; installed an inline shut-off valve at a house on Cedar Street that was being demolished; installed the plates for the drain hole for the two filter medias at the water treatment plant; repaired a fitting that was leaking in the chemical building at the water treatment plant; and flushed hydrants at various locations to improve water quality.

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

Commissioner Rodriguez announced the fire department will be having its regular safety meeting this evening at the fire department with special guests Nathan, Lori, and Jona Fowler.

Commissioner Rodriguez stated the mosquito spraying is still ongoing and thanked “the sprayers” for doing a good job.

Commissioner Rodriguez reported in the last two weeks the fire department had thirteen runs.

Commissioner Rodriguez encouraged residents to please put their trash out the night before their pick-up day and to please be patient with Republic Services as they are trying to do a good job.

CITY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – RUDY WITSMAN

City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported there are still some issues with Republic Services as far as picking up some resident’s trash. However, a list is being compiled as residents call into city hall to report that their trash was missed. Republic Services has been checking in with city hall each afternoon. City Administrative Assistant Witsman advised residents to please put their trash out the night before if possible to avoid being missed. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated Republic Services is working with the city to resolve the trash pick-up issues.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated this council meeting constitutes the second reading of Ordinance 1059 - regarding cannabis offenses.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported he received and reviewed the agreement from Verizon for the cell tower site located at on the north side of golf course. City Administrative Assistant Witsman asked the council for their authorization allowing the mayor and himself to sign the agreement.

CITY ATTORNEY – TOM PRICE

City Attorney Price no report.

CITY INSPECTOR – MIKE GIDCUMB

City Inspector Gidcumb reported he has been working with Water Treatment Plant Lead Operator Keith Reed on topo maps and water well maps that needed for permits.

City Inspector Gidcumb presented to the council the amended excavation ordinance that City Administrative Assistant Rudy Witsman, Street Department Superintendent Dave Easter and himself had been working on. City Inspector Gidcumb stated upon council approval City Attorney Tom Price will put the paperwork into the ordinance format.

City Inspector Gidcumb stated Police Chief John Lockhart and he have been working on the school speed zone sign and are currently updating the sign's software with the school's holiday schedule and shortened school day hours.

City Inspector Gidcumb reported there are fifty-one inoperable vehicles on the eastside of the city that are in violation of the Inoperable Motor Vehicles – Section 16-26. City Inspector Gidcumb explained "inoperable" means no current tag or registration or a wrecked vehicle. City Inspector Gidcumb stated ten day notices will be sent out to individuals who are in violation and at the end of the ten days those who have not abated the notices will be forwarded to City Attorney Price for prosecution. City Inspector Gicumb suggested to the council the raising of the minimum penalty as the current penalty is only \$25.00.

City Inspector Gidcumb reported to the council on Section 15-116, which states no person or corporation shall park, leave or store any truck tractors, semi-trailers, commercial vehicles, refrigerated trucks, boats and/or boat trailers on the streets or right-of-ways of the city. City Inspector Gicumb asked the council to consider adding recreational vehicles to the ordinance and/or changing the verbiage of the ordinance. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated these types of activities have been brought to the city's attention by concerned residents, as well as, some council members. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated that situations arise that cause current ordinances to be reviewed and updated, if necessary, to address their shortcomings. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated City Inspector and himself will be working to bring this ordinance up to date to address the concerns that have been expressed.

BUSINESS MOTIONS

Commissioner Judge motioned and Commissioner Ikemire seconded to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the land lease agreement with Verizon for the cell tower at the north end of the golf course. All present voted Aye by roll call vote.

Commissioner Dulgar motioned and Commissioner Judge seconded to approve Ordinance 1059 – Regarding Cannabis Offenses. All present voted Aye by roll call vote.

Commissioner Rodriguez motioned and Commissioner Dulgar seconded to approve the appointment of Glen Markle to the Fireman's Pension Board to replace Butch Kingsbury who resigned. All present voted Aye by roll call vote.

Commissioner Dulgar motioned and Commissioner Ikemire seconded to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with Albion and Grayville to form an entity that will authorize a study of the feasibility of a regional water facility to provide water to Albion, Grayville, and Mount Carmel. All present voted Aye by roll call vote.

Mayor Hudson and the Council approved the Consent Agenda, as presented in the agenda dated September 26th, 2016. The consent agenda consented of approving the minutes for the council meeting held on September 12th, 2016 and paying of all bills bearing the proper signatures.

Meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk