

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 24, 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,
City Inspector Mike Gidcumb

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Hudson brought the city council meeting to order.

Mayor Hudson acknowledged Billy Cotner, who was representing the Wabash County Friends of Schools to encourage the community to vote on November 8th to increase the county sales tax rate by one percent, which would then make the rate 7.25%. Mr. Cotner stated the State of Illinois is behind \$2.4 million in funding for District #348 and by increasing the sales tax rate one penny will be added to every dollar that is spent in the county. Mr. Cotner explained the funds from the increased tax will be used only for maintaining, renovating, or upgrading the existing school system and possibly new construction in the future. Mr. Cotner emphasized revenues from the sales tax cannot be used for any other purposes; such as salaries, movable goods, buses and/or operating expenses. Mr. Cotner stated based on the prior year sales tax projection the school districts could have received over \$700,000 in revenues. Mr. Cotner reiterated the sales tax increase does not pertain to groceries and/or medications, which protects fixed income families. Mr. Cotner stated anyone coming to or traveling through Wabash County and spending money at restaurants, gas stations, and other businesses are contributing to the schools by paying sales tax on the items purchased. Mr. Cotner pointed out that Wabash County sales tax rate is the lowest in all the surrounding areas; which includes Edwards County, Lawrence County, and White County. Mr. Cotner emphasized the need for Wabash County to pass this sales tax increase.

Mayor Hudson acknowledged City of Mount Carmel Golf Course Greens Committeeman John White, who presented to the council for their approval the golf course fees for the 2017 year. Mr. White stated the committee recommends increasing the membership fees by \$10.00; offering a winter rate special being \$22.00 for 18 holes of golf and \$14.00 for nine holes and offering golf cart storage through the winter for \$25.00 a month or \$60.00 for 3 consecutive months. Mr. White thanked the private and public donations given this past year to the golf course, which in turn has greatly improved the facility. Mr. White stated the city has the best greens in the tristate on the lowest budget and he is very appreciative of the golf course employees' time and efforts.

Mayor Hudson thanked Susan Zimmerman and the Wabash Valley Youth in Action for the great fall festival that was held Sunday, October 23rd at the city park. The event was very well attended and fun was had by all.

Mayor Hudson thanked Project Success for putting out the red flags along Market Street in awareness of "Red Ribbon Week".

Mayor Hudson announced the high school football team will play Sesser this coming Saturday, October 29th in the first state playoff game. Mayor Hudson asked citizens to please make everyone from Sesser feel welcome.

Mayor Hudson thanked the police department and others for the prompt investigation and apprehension of the robber of the Family Video and Jumpin' Jimmy's Convenience Store.

Mayor Hudson reported the city had a water main break and sewer back-up issue.

Mayor Hudson asked citizens to please be careful driving in the city on Halloween next Monday, October 31st, as there will be several children out trick or treating. The trick or treating hours will be from 5:00pm to 8:00 pm and residents should have their porch lights on if they wish to receive trick or treaters.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

COMMISSIONER ERIC IKEMIRE – STREETS, CEMETERIES AND PARKS

Commissioner Ikemire stated in the last two weeks the street department continued to mow city properties, cleaned intakes, patched pot holes, made repairs to city trucks, trimmed low lying limbs over roadways, and dug out the ditch near the boat ramp parking lot.

Commissioner Ikemire announced the Kiwanis Pancake Day will be held on Thursday evening, October 27th at the VFW.

COMMISSIONER JOE JUDGE – FINANCE AND SENIOR CITIZENS

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

Commissioner Judge reiterated the city's finances continue to be stable.

Commissioner Judge stated he has written a total of five grants; one for the police department for body cameras; one for the fire department for air tanks; one for the city for disaster preparation software and an i-pad; one for the Senior Citizens Center for a kitchen upgrade; and one for upgrades for the city swimming pool.

COMMISSIONER JUSTIN DULGAR – WATER AND SEWER

Commissioner Dulgar reported there was a water main break near the city's tennis courts today and a boil order has been implemented for residents in that area. Commissioner Dulgar announced hydrant flushing was postponed and will begin throughout the city on Tuesday, October 25th. Commissioner Dulgar stated the wastewater plant has been performing its standard maintenance; has preparing for the aeration project and is in the process of switching the phone/internet service. Commissioner Dulgar reported the water treatment plant received and is reviewing the inspection report from Pittsburgh Tank regarding the Third Street water tower. Commissioner Dulgar stated the tower is actually in good shape and can possibly be "rehabbed".

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

Commissioner Rodriguez stated in the last two weeks the fire department had five runs. Commissioner Rodriguez reported fire drills were conducted at all the District #348 Schools and Saint Mary's School. The fire safety trailer was set up at South School for the kindergarten students.

Commissioner Rodriguez reminded citizens that it is time to check smoke detectors/carbon monoxide alarms; if anyone burns firewood to please check their chimneys; and have furnaces and central air units checked, as well. Commissioner Rodriguez recommended that citizens change their detectors/alarms batteries every six months and stated a good reminder would be when the time changes twice a year.

CITY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – RUDY WITSMAN

City Administrative Assistant Witsman reiterated a boil order is in affect due to a water main break and the news media has been notified. City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported the boil order area pertains to outer College Drive from Risley Avenue to Asbury Chapel, which includes the residents along that road as well as the residents in Wahler Addition.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman asked the council to table Ordinance 1060 and 1061 regarding "RV's" and RV parking/ storage, as some questions pertaining to the ordinances need clarification. City Administrative Assistant Witsman will present the ordinances at the next council meeting.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman reiterated the council will need to adopt the Wabash Valley Water Commission, as Commissioner Dulgar had briefed the council on the endeavor that involves the City of Mount Carmel along with the City of Albion, the City of Grayville and the Village of Keensburg. The commission will be set up to generate a study for the feasibility of having a combined water works system involving the four communities. City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported the city will commit \$10,000 toward the study if the commission does not receive

a grant. City Administrative Assistant Witsman presented to the council for their approval Ordinance 1062, which creates the commission to conduct the study and obligate the monies for the study. City Administrative Assistant Witsman clarified within the ordinance, per state statute, there is a requirement that a water system be established; however the city is under no obligation because within the ordinance the city is obligating zero dollars to a water system. The second reading of Ordinance 1062 was waived. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated once the commission is created the council is obligated to provide a member to serve on that commission and Commissioner Dulgar has expressed an interest to serve as that member. City Administrative Assistant Witsman recommended that the council appoint Commissioner Dulgar to serve in that capacity.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported this meeting constitutes the first reading of the ordinance that addresses the issue with contractors that dig into a street and/or alleyways to replace water lines or sewer lines and the repairing of those streets and/or alleyways.

CITY ATTORNEY – TOM PRICE

City Attorney Price no report.

CITY INSPECTOR – MIKE GIDCUMB

City Inspector Gidcumb no report.

BUSINESS MOTIONS

Commissioner Ikemire motioned and Commissioner Dulgar seconded to approve Ordinance 1062 to join the Wabash Valley Water Commission and commit funds up to \$10,000 to fund a feasibility study. Waive second reading. All present voted Aye by roll call vote.

Commissioner Judge motioned and Commissioner Dulgar seconded to accept the Greens Committee's recommendation for the 2017 golf course fees. All present voted Aye by roll call vote.

Commissioner Ikemire motioned and Commissioner Judge seconded to appoint Justin Dulgar as the City of Mount Carmel representative to the Wabash Valley Water Commission. All present voted Aye by roll call vote.

Mayor Hudson and the Council approved the Consent Agenda, as presented in the agenda dated October 24th, 2016. The consent agenda consented of approving the minutes for the council meeting held on October 10th, 2016 and paying of all bills bearing the proper signatures.

Meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk