

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, December 5, 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 acknowledged Don Price, who spoke to the council regarding Captain Bellenden S. Hutcheson, M.D. who was born in Mount Carmel on December 16, 1883 and received the British Victoria Cross, one of the highest honors, from the Canadian Military on September 2, 1918. Captain Hutcheson is buried at Rose Hill Cemetery and his monument is located in front of the Wabash County Courthouse. Mr. Price asked the council for their approval to declare December 16, 2016 and the following years as "Captain Bellenden S. Hutcheson" day.

Mayor Hudson acknowledged Sue Thompson, who spoke to the council regarding the proposed RV ordinance and asked if someone from the city could please go to someone's house first before sending a written notice when they have an RV parked in a wrong area. Mayor Hudson also acknowledged Patti Knox and Rhonda Briggs, who spoke to the council regarding residents at Lambert Drive that have an RV that someone is living in and about individuals at the same location parking in the street. Mayor Hudson stated the police department had been notified of the concerns. Mayor Hudson acknowledged Police Chief John Lockhart who stated the department has investigated the situation and at this time the department does not have valid proof that someone is actually living in the RV. Police Chief Lockhart further stated if residents see individuals parked in the street they should call the police department immediately and an officer will be dispatched to Lambert Drive. Mayor Hudson assured the concerned citizens the city and the police department will continue to monitor the situation.

Mayor Hudson thanked the Wabash County Retail Merchants for all their efforts with the Christmas Uptown Festival on Friday, December 2nd and stated the event was very well attended. Mayor Hudson thanked the Wabash County Chamber of Commerce for their efforts with the Christmas Parade, which was held on Saturday, December 3rd. Mayor Hudson stated there were lots of floats and participants in the parade. Mayor Hudson also thanked the city's street department for putting up the Christmas decorations on Market Street. Mayor Hudson thanked Bill Reed with the Water Maintenance Department for "cleaning up" after the ponies that were in attendance at the Friday evening festival. Mayor Hudson thanked Wabash Valley College for the very nice Christmas Concert that was held on Sunday, December 4th.

Mayor Hudson stated Charlie Randolph is retiring from the Library Board and thanked him for over twelve years of faithful service. Mayor Hudson announced the Library Board recommended Patrice Young to fulfill Mr. Randolph's position and the Council agreed by acclamation.

Mayor Hudson acknowledged Jeff Linson who expressed his concerns regarding the RV ordinances. Mr. Linson thanked the city for removing the tree that was blocking the alley on Plum Street and also thanked Bill Reed and the water maintenance department for helping the sewer back-up problem at Safe Haven.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

COMMISSIONER ERIC IKEMIRE – STREETS, CEMETERIES AND PARKS

Commissioner Ikemire reported in the last two weeks the street department has been busy with the leaf vac pick-up service; picked up and hauled off the bagged leaves; mulched leaves in the city parks; put up Christmas decorations on Market Street, as well as barricades and speed limit signs

for the Christmas Uptown Festival; replaced the red flashing light at College Drive and Thirteen Street; cleaned intakes during the recent rains; and received one hundred fifty tons of salt for this winter if the need arises.

Commissioner Ikemire stated the leaf vac pick-up service will continue for the rest of this week then that truck will be converted for snow removal. Commissioner Ikemire thanked citizens for their patience and thanked those who mulched or bagged their leaves.

COMMISSIONER JOE JUDGE – FINANCE AND SENIOR CITIZENS

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

Commissioner Judge thanked the Frank Orr Trust for awarding the \$2500 individual grants to the Fire Department, the Police Department, the City Swimming Pool, Public Safety, and the Senior Citizens Center. Commissioner Judge stated the city is very appreciative of the \$12,500 grant revenues from the Frank Orr Trust for those departments.

Commissioner Judge reminded that the Senior Citizens Center is a good place to get a hot meal and the center's director is available to assist the elderly with issues or concerns.

COMMISSIONER JUSTIN DULGAR – WATER AND SEWER

Commissioner Dulgar stated the water treatment plant has started their routine cleaning of the sediment basins and the clarifiers will be cleaned later this week. Commissioner Dulgar reported, over the past several months, Water Treatment Plant Lead Operator Keith Reed has been communicating with Hawkins Chemical regarding better ways to treat the city's water supply. Commissioner Dulgar stated the water maintenance department finished checking hydrants for winter; winterized the restrooms at the city swimming pool; tested the Pecan Avenue pump station; installed new water service and installed new running boards on the water maintenance truck. Commissioner Dulgar reported the wastewater plant has finished the necessary winterizing; is operating well and is ready for the new project to begin next year.

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

Commissioner Rodriguez stated in the last two weeks the fire department had six runs and Captain Mark Seaton is collecting donations for the Shop with a Cop/Fireman event.

Commissioner Rodriguez reported the fire department is seeking someone to volunteer to build a new sleigh and rain deer for the ladder truck because the current one is about to fall apart.

CITY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – RUDY WITSMAN

City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported this council meeting constitutes the first reading of the City Tax Levy. City Administrative Witsman stated the levy is a preliminary projection as the city is waiting on the actuarial report from the State of Illinois. The actuaries tell the city how much to levy for the police and fireman pension fund. The levy must be approved and provided to the Wabash County Clerk by the last Tuesday of December.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman presented to the council, as part of the consent agenda, the approval of Ordinance 1060 - definition of an RV according to the city's ordinances and Ordinance 1061 – prohibiting the RV parking on the streets and grass right of ways.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman presented to the council for their approval the 2017 council meeting dates/times and the city holiday schedule, which is also part of the consent agenda.

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 December 5th, 2016. The consent agenda consented of approving the minutes for the council meeting held on November 21st, 2016, paying of all bills bearing the proper signatures, Ordinance 1060, Ordinance 1061, and council meeting dates and city holidays for 2017.

Meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk