

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 11, 2019

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 Kelli Storckman

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Hudson brought the city council meeting to order.

Mayor Hudson read a Proclamation for Autism Awareness and proclaimed Tuesday, April 2nd, 2019 as National Autism Awareness Day in the City of Mount Carmel. Mayor Hudson encouraged the city's employees as well as its residents to participate in the National Autism Awareness month activities. Mayor Hudson stated this will help residents become better educated about autism and help create a better community for individuals with autism. Mayor Hudson presented the proclamation to Ms. Sue Thompson, who works at Wabash County School District #348 with autistic children and who was in attendance at the council meeting. Ms. Thompson thanked the mayor as well as the council and gave some information regarding autism. Ms. Thompson asked that residents please be aware of autistic children; to be patient and loving to the child as well as supportive. Ms. Thompson stated puzzle piece sun catchers will be available for display for autism awareness and she will be contacting area merchants about displaying them in their store windows.

Mayor Hudson acknowledged Wayne Walden, who was in attendance to ask permission to take over the mowing and lawn maintenance of the Merchants Park on Market Street. Mr. Walden also challenged the citizens of the City of Mount Carmel to look around their home or business or office to see if there are any little projects that they also can take care of themselves, which would be helpful to the city. Mayor Hudson and the Council gave their approval to Mr. Walden and extended their appreciation as well.

Mayor Hudson reported progress is ongoing at the Villas of Hollybrook Development Site despite the weather conditions.

Mayor Hudson congratulated the Wabash Valley College Lady Warriors Basketball Team on being ranked number one in the nation in their division. Mayor Hudson wished the Lady Warriors good luck as they travel to Texas next week to participate in the NJCCA Division 1 Tournament.

Mayor Hudson stated the Mount Carmel CEO Program Banquet, which was held on Saturday, March 9th at the Elks Club was a great success and thanked the student members for their participation.

Mayor Hudson congratulated "The Hoses" for winning the Guns and Hoses Fundraising Event, which was held on Sunday, March 10th.

Mayor Hudson stated with all the recent heavy rains, thankfully there were no flooding issues at the intersection of West Ninth and Poplar Streets.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

COMMISSIONER ERIC IKEMIRE – STREETS, CEMETERIES AND PARKS

Commissioner Ikemire reported in the last two weeks the street department cleaned intakes; patched pot holes in roadways; performed maintenance on the street sweeper; opened and closed a grave at Rose Hill Cemetery; hauled off logs and stumps from trees that were removed in conjunction with the storm sewer project on Poplar Street behind Pacific Press; cleaned up the building behind Rose Hill Cemetery that was torn down; prepared the snow plow truck in preparation for the snow storm, which fortunately did not happen; and worked on running new electrical supply in the shop building.

Commissioner Ikemire stated the street department is currently doing an inventory of all the yield signs throughout the city to determine if they need to be changed to a “stop sign” or if a sign is needed at all. Commissioner Ikemire reported the inventory report will be presented to the council once it is completed and an ordinance will need to be passed before any changes can be made.

COMMISSIONER JOE JUDGE – FINANCE AND SENIOR CITIZENS

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

Commissioner Judge reiterated department heads should have their individual budgets completed for consideration and approval by the next council meeting on March 25th.

Commissioner Judge reported he has submitted two grant applications to Walmart; one for \$2500.00 for the stop sticks for the Mount Carmel Police Department through the Walmart Distribution Center in Olney, IL and the second is through the Princeton, IN Walmart for funding for a computer for the new/used squad car that was recently purchased.

COMMISSIONER JUSTIN DULGAR – WATER AND SEWER

Commissioner Dulgar reported the water treatment plant will be performing the routine cleaning of the sediment basins as well as its standard maintenance. Commissioner Dulgar stated the EPA Report from the recent routine four-year inspection is currently being reviewed. Commissioner Dulgar reiterated this was a routine facility inspection and not a health/safety inspection.

Commissioner Dulgar stated as part of the ongoing maintenance of the sewer lines, sensors will be installed in the lines at various locations throughout the city. Commissioner Dulgar reported over the past few years different types of testing had been done such as smoke testing and video testing. Commissioner Dulgar stated the sensors will be placed in the sewer mains for approximately fourteen weeks with data being collected, which will hopefully assist with the infiltration/inflow issues in certain areas of the city.

Commissioner Dulgar reported the aeration project at the wastewater plant is nearing completion; the Mulberry Street Lift Station upgrade is complete; and the remaining digester work will begin as soon as the rest of the equipment arrives.

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

Commissioner Rodriguez reported in the last two weeks the fire department had ten runs; five area fire departments responded to a recent fire in Lancaster. Commissioner Rodriguez commended the Allendale Fire Department, West Salem Fire Department, Bone Gap Fire Department, Belmont Fire Department and the Mount Carmel Fire Department on working well together in response to the fire.

Commissioner Rodriguez stated CPR and First Aid Training was recently held with firefighters from the Belmont Fire Department and the Allendale Fire Department also attending.

Commissioner Rodriguez reminded residents April 1st through April 5th is Spring Fix-Up/Clean-Up Week. Commissioner Rodriguez stated Republic Services will not pick up refrigerators, electronics, televisions, paint unless it is dried up with cat litter or sand, construction lumber, microwaves, mattresses and box springs unless they are totally wrapped in plastic. Commissioner Rodriguez emphasized that if a resident puts out items that Republic Services will not pick up; it is the resident’s responsibility to remove the items and to not leave the items sitting out. Commissioner Rodriguez reported items should be set out on the regular trash day during the pick-up week and not before. Commissioner Rodriguez stated everyone’s cooperation is greatly appreciated and anyone who has questions and/or concerns should please call city hall for assistance.

Commissioner Rodriguez reported the Fifteenth Annual Guns and Hoses Event was a great success with all the proceeds being donated to the Guardian Center.

CITY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – RUDY WITSMAN

City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported over the past few weeks he had been approached about putting up “Children at Play Signs” in certain areas of the city. City Administrative Assistant Witsman acknowledged Street Department Superintendent Dave Easter, who read a letter he had received from the State of Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) in 2011 that advised

“Children Warning” signs should not be used as they encourage children to play in the streets and may also encourage parents to be less diligent as well as not providing proper guidance to motorists as to what would be a safe driving speed. Street Department Superintendent Easter stated IDOT advised that such signs have no legal bias for determining what a motorist should do and furthermore motorists should expect children to be at play in all residential areas while the lack of signage on different streets would indicate otherwise. Street Superintendent Easter summarized that such signs are not compliant with the State of Illinois and use of the signs puts the city at risk of being liable in the case of an accident. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated it is in the best interest of the city to not put the signs up because they are not backed by the Illinois Department of Transportation and use of the signs could create liability to the city.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated there were suggested changes made to Ordinance 2010 – Nepotism Policy by City Attorney Storckman, after it was presented at the last council meeting. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated, after concurring with City Attorney Storckman, the changes that were made include the allowing of the hiring of a family member upon approval by the council. City Administrative Assistant Witsman clarified the new policy affects only those employees hired after the date of enactment. City Administrative Assistant Witsman asked the council for direction on how to proceed with the ordinance. After council discussion of the policy, City Attorney Storckman was asked to make additional changes to the policy and to eliminate part time employment from the policy. City Administrative Assistant Witsman stated the next scheduled meeting with a full council in attendance will not be until the second meeting of April and asked if the council wished to table a decision until the revisions are made. The motion was made by the council to table a decision until the April 22nd council meeting.

City Administrative Assistant Witsman reported within the consent agenda is approval of Resolution 657, which is the approval of the TIF Agreement with Phillips Investment-Villas of Hollybrook. City Administrative Assistant Witsman reiterated last year an inducement agreement was approved because the TIF could not be established until after the new year; this resolution puts the TIF guidelines and agreements into effect that had previously been agreed upon.

CITY ATTORNEY – KELLI STORCKMAN

City Attorney Storckman no report.

CITY INSPECTOR – MIKE GIDCUMB

City Inspector Gidcumb absent.

STREET DEPARTMENT SUPERINTENDENT – DAVE EASTER

Street Department Superintendent Dave Easter no report.

FIRE CHIEF – FRANCES SPETH

Fire Chief Frances Speth no report.

BUSINESS MOTIONS

Commissioner Dulgar motioned and Commissioner Ikemire seconded to table Ordinance 2010 – Adopting an Anti-Nepotism Policy to allow for changes in the existing proposed ordinance. All present voted Aye by roll call vote.

Mayor Hudson and the Council approved the Consent Agenda, as presented in the agenda dated March 11, 2019. The consent agenda included approval of Resolution 657 – Approval of TIF Agreement with Phillips Investment – Villas of Hollybrook; approval of the minutes for the council meeting held on February 25th, 2019 and approval of paying all bills bearing the proper signatures.

Meeting adjourned 5:33 p.m.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk