

**MEETING MINUTES**  
Monday, January 28, 2008

Invocation was given by Commissioner Norman Brunson

Present on Roll Call: Mayor Tom Meeks, Commissioners - Jack Emmons, Norman Brunson,  
C. Michael Witters, and William C. Hudson

Also Present: City Clerk Merle Weems, City Attorney Tom Price, City Inspector Don Price, Economic  
Development Director Brandi Stennett

Absent: None

**MAYORS COMMENTS**

Mayor Tom Meeks brought the city council meeting to order. One bid was received from West Berwick Golf Club, Incorporated, an Illinois non-profit corporation, to lease the premises at 420 Park Road, the old YMCA building. Attorney John Rhine attended the city council meeting, representing a local group of prominent professional and business leaders who may refurbish the building for a golf club.

**IN OTHER BUSINESS**

A motion was made by Mayor Meeks and seconded by Commissioner Emmons to take under consideration and forward the bid proposal pending review by City Attorney Tom Price for the old YMCA building to be leased by West Berwick Golf Club, Inc. All present voted Aye.

A motion was made by Mayor Meeks and seconded by Commissioner Brunson to approve Resolution # 548 Resolution of Support and Commitment of Funds, in regards to the membership in Greater Wabash Planning Commission for 2008 at a cost of \$2,058.00. Wabash County is a member of the seven-county coalition which serves as a clearinghouse for federal Economic Development Administration grants. All present voted Aye.

A motion was made by Commissioner Witters and seconded by Commissioner Brunson to approve the extension of the cemetery grounds maintenance contract with First Choice Lawn Care for the year 2008. All present voted Aye.

Mayor Meeks stated that Administrative Assistant Merle Weems and City Attorney Tom Price have been given the right to continue negotiation arbitration with the FOP.

A motion was made by Commissioner Emmons and seconded by Commissioner Brunson to appoint Ken Burkitt as Chief of Police effective January 20, 2008. Burkett, previously Assistant Chief, served as Interim Chief after Chief Tony Compton announced his retirement two months ago. All present voted Aye.

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS:**

**COMMISSIONER JACK EMMONS – FINANCE AND SENIOR CITIZENS 01/14/08 – 01/28/08**

Cash Investment Balance as of 01/28/08:	800,365.32
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Receipts:	275,605.51
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Expenditures:	224,800.81
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Cash Investment Balance 01/14/08:	749,560.62
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Recreation Fund:	10,373.91
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Receipts:	445.00
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Expenditures:	1,165.57
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Balance:	9,653.34
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Accounts Payable:	379.94
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Garbage Fund Account Beginning Balance:	143,912.48
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Receipts:	16,918.71
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Expenditures:	30,805.20
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Balance:	130,025.99
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Accounts Payable:	67.03
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Airport Fund:	(53,649.26)
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Receipts:	4,229.03
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Expenditures:	4,086.80
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Balance:	(53,507.03)
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Accounts Receivable:	2,965.71
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Accounts Payable:	431.14
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Water Fund Account Beginning Balance:	16,355.32
Receipts:	36,208.85
Expenditures:	25,635.07
Balance:	26,929.10
Accounts Payable:	22,941.70
Sewer Fund Account:	21,439.07
Receipts:	20,528.26
Expenditures:	17,000.65
Balance:	24,966.68
Accounts Payable:	10,203.95
Golf Course Fund:	(336,785.99)
Receipts:	2,687.00
Expenditures:	6,579.80
Balance:	(340,678.79)
Accounts Payable:	2,689.94

### **COMMISSIONER MIKE WITTERS – STREETS, CEMETERIES, AND PARKS**

Commissioner Witters reported that the extension of the cemetery grounds maintenance contract with First Choice Lawn Care needed to be renewed. Commissioner Witters commented that the Street Department is starting to prepare for the seasonal street and alley maintenance repairs and is taking suggestions from city residents for road repairs that may be needed.

### **COMMISSIONER NORMAN BRUNSON – FIRE, HEALTH & SAFETY, GARBAGE, CITY HALL, AND CIVIL DEFENSE**

Commissioner Brunson reported that Mt. Carmel Fire Department responded to 9 runs in the past two weeks, and all other departments are running smoothly.

### **COMMISSIONER BILL HUDSON – WATER AND SEWER**

Commissioner Hudson reported that the Wabash River levels have subsided and the Water Department has deactivated our levee pumps. The cold weather has caused some line breakage in the distribution system. Main breaks at Washington and Forio Streets were repaired by maintenance crews. Commissioner Hudson reported that during the past two weeks at the Sewer Plant regular duties have been performed as well as preventative maintenance orders. In addition to this, the speed reducer on the chlorine contact tank failed and was repaired, operators have been working at painting the digester building, and a coupling gear was causing a vibration in the belt press hydraulic system and has since been replaced and the unit is operating normally.

### **City Attorney Tom Price**

City Attorney Tom Price stated that the City now has the sheriff's deeds on the property located at 122 Market Street.

### **Administrative Assistant Merle Weems**

Administrative Assistant Merle Weems stated that donations are being accepted for a monument that will be placed at the City Park for the late Charlie Boss, in recognition of his many contributions to community development. Administrative Assistant Weems reported that we are working on getting a 1996 ladder truck. Mr. Weems stated that he and Mrs. Stennett will be meeting with the TIF council in St. Louis later this week to discuss the upcoming road project expected to link Highway 15 and State Route 1, as well as a few business incentive deals being considered. Administrative Assistant Merle Weems told councilmen that a new pump was put on the jet truck, which is about 15 years old, in the amount of \$6,000.00, otherwise sewers could not be flushed. Administrative Assistant Weems stated to the councilmen that the city owned properties at 122 Market Street and the parcel behind the Eagles Club need to be advertised for sale.

### **City Inspector Don Price**

No report given.

### **City Economic Development Director Brandi Stennett**

Mrs. Stennett reported that additional marketing material will be submitted through the State Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity office to select international clients that are seeking information about our area. We have the opportunity to submit information that will be included in a power point presentation to interested parties as a group Southern Illinois Regional effort. Mrs. Stennett also stated that we have had a few close calls with site selectors visiting our area recently. The good news is that we put together a presentation to motivate them to tour our area, the bad news is that they have decided to locate in another direction outside of Illinois. We will just continue the proposals flowing and keeping Mt. Carmel's name out there amongst the decision makers.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Mayor Meeks and seconded by Commissioner Emmons to go into Executive Session for discussion of litigation. All present voted Aye.

**BUSINESS MOTIONS**

A motion was made by Commissioner Witters and seconded by Commissioner Hudson to pay the bills. All present voted Aye.

A motion was made by Commissioner Emmons and seconded by Commissioner Brunson to accept the Minutes from the last regular meeting of the City Council January 14, 2008. All present voted Aye.

Meeting was adjourned.

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**Mayor**  
ATTEST:

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**City Clerk**

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