

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 27, 2023
4:00 pm

Mayor Judge brought the City Council meeting to order.

Present on Roll Call: Mayor Joe Judge Commissioners – Tom Meeks, Eric Ikemire,
Tyson Meador, Susan Zimmerman

Also, Present: City Administrative Assistant Ryan Turner, City Attorney Derek McCullough

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Judge requested a motion to approve the minutes of the last council meeting.

Commissioner Ikemire motioned and Commissioner Meador seconded to approve the minutes of the meeting held on November 13, 2023. All present voted by roll vote. Commissioner Meeks, Ikemire, Meador and Zimmerman voted Aye.

Commissioner Meeks motioned and Commissioner Ikemire seconded to approve the minutes from Executive Session held on October 16, 2023. All present voted by roll call vote. Commissioners Meeks, Ikemire, Meador and Zimmerman voted Aye.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Judge acknowledged City Administrative Assistant Turner, who spoke for Rick Andrews as he was unable to attend the meeting to discuss the "Easy Street" Subdivision roadway. City Administrative Assistant Turner stated he will present an ordinance, for approval, at the next council meeting incorporating the subdivision into the city's roadway maintenance program. City Administrative Assistant Turner gave a brief overview of the history of the city's involvement with subdivision roadway and stated, unfortunately, it was never incorporated into the program. City Administrative Assistant Turner reported on behalf of those residents, he is recommending the subdivision roadway be incorporated into the city as the roadway is in need of maintenance and the city already maintains the roadway.

Mayor Judge acknowledged Doug Hatchett, who addressed the council concerning an easement issue between the seven hundred blocks of West Fourth and West Fifth Streets. Mr. Hatchett stated, it was his understanding, the easement was used years ago by the coal trucks for deliveries as well as the city for trash pick-up and it is the only access that five residences in that block of West Fourth Street have to the rear portion of their properties. Mr. Hatchett inferred there are two neighbors that are denying access to the easement and asked the council for assistance regarding the issue. Mayor Judge acknowledged Dave Dallas, who gave an overview of the history of the easement and stated the city does not own it, therefore the council has no authority regarding the issue. Mr. Dallas advised Mr. Hatchett to contact the state's attorney as she could make a legal determination.

Mayor Judge reiterated Mr. Williams had asked the council to consider a senior citizens discount on the bicycle/golf cart/UTV stickers. Mr. Williams was in attendance this evening asking if a decision had been made. After discussing the request, the council denied the request. Mr. Williams asked the council for clarification on the different classes of bicycles as he has a Class One bicycle, and he has been told conflicting stories on whether he can ride his bicycle on the sidewalk. Police Chief McWilliams asked Mr. Williams to come to see him at the police department and he would help resolve the issue.

Mayor Judge stated the Small Business Event this past Saturday went very well and was a very enjoyable day.

Mayor Judge congratulated the Aces Football Team for placing second in the state playoff tournament and stated they had an incredible season. Mayor Judge thanked the coaches, the players, the band as well as the cheerleaders for all their hard work, as it is very much appreciated.

Mayor Judge reported the Christmas Uptown Event is this Friday and there will be lots of festivities for everyone.

Mayor Judge reminded 500 N. Market Street is up for bid until December 11th.

Mayor Judge opened and read the only submitted demolition bid for the property at 115 N. Chestnut Street, which was from Jeff Guisewite, Inc. in the amount of \$8380.00. The Mayor Judge presented the bid to the council for approval.

Mayor Judge stated he appreciated the two hundred twenty-three people who filled out the lead water service line survey. Mayor Judge asked Commissioner Meeks to pick a number between one and two hundred twenty-three as the number of that person will win the free water for a month. Commissioner Meeks picked two hundred twenty and the lucky winner was Lisa Hockgeiger.

Mayor Judge reported the Public Works Department used WEMA to assist with state highway brush clean-up after the storms this past summer with no cost to the city and he asked the council, as a good will gesture, to give WEMA a five hundred fuel gift card.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

COMMISSIONER TYSON MEADOR – STREETS, CEMETERIES AND PARKS

Commissioner Meador reported, over the last two weeks, the street department completed concrete work on Phase One of Division Street; assisted the brush crew with the leaf pick-up; put up the Christmas decorations along Market Street; prepped equipment for the snow and ice removal season; and performed general maintenance.

COMMISSIONER ERIC IKEMIRE – FINANCE AND SENIOR CITIZENS

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

Commissioner Ikemire reported, over the last two weeks, revenue totaled \$125,849.92 and expenses were \$146,707.00 with much of the revenue being from state income tax, utility tax, and state use tax.

COMMISSIONER TOM MEEKS – WATER AND SEWER

Commissioner Meeks congratulated the Golden Aces and stated second place in the state is a great feat.

Commissioner Meeks reported the water and sewer departments are running smoothly while performing general routine maintenance.

COMMISSIONER SUSAN ZIMMERMAN – FIRE, HEALTH & SAFETY, GARBAGE, CITY HALL AND CIVIL DEFENSE

Commissioner Zimmerman reported, over the past two weeks, the fire department had eleven events including escorting the high school football team, which was an honor; had hazmat training; and prepped the new rescue truck for service.

Commissioner Zimmerman stated the brush crew is still collecting leaves as well as running the normal brush route.

Commissioner Zimmerman reported the trash service route will be adjusted since Christmas Day is on a Monday.

CITY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – RYAN TURNER

City Administrative Assistant Turner reported it is time to put out the bids for the 2024 city cemetery mowing service as the contract ends at the end of this month and K & K Small Jobs previously had the bid. City Administrative Assistant Turner stated the portion of the contract verbiage needs to be changed to be more defined, which pertains to the frequency of mowing. City Administrative Assistant Turner reported his intent is to present the mowing bids at the January 8th, 2024, meeting for consideration by the council.

City Administrative Assistant Turner stated bids for the properties at 923 and 925 W. Third Street as well as 131 W. Second Street was advertised earlier than had been discussed at a prior council meeting. City Administrative Assistant Turner added the deadline date of December 11th can be extended if the council wishes, however there has been some interest in the properties.

City Administrative Assistant Turner reported bids will be going out at the next council meeting for Phase Two of Oak Meadows Subdivision Phase Two and letters will be mailed to the residents/property owners of that neighborhood showing what the plans are moving forward.

City Administrative Assistant Turner stated the City of Mount Carmel has nothing to do with real estate taxes and individuals should contact the Wabash County Courthouse. Mayor Judge interjected by stating work on the city's tax levy for the 2023/2024 tax year has begun and there is a projected \$400,000.00 excess, therefore he is anticipating a flat tax levy with December 22nd being the deadline to submit the tax levy to the county clerk's office.

City Administrative Assistant Turner reported if residents have not received their water bills. They should please call city hall, as a large portion of Mount Carmel did not receive their bills.

CITY ATTORNEY – DEREK MCCULLOUGH

City Attorney McCullough pointed out the property at 115 N. Chestnut Street was acquired and is now owned by the city with no liens on the property.

AIRPORT MANAGER – LUIS GARCIA

Airport Manager Garica stated he attended meetings in Springfield with Mayor Judge to discuss future projects for the airport.

POLICE CHIEF – MIKE MCWILLIAMS

Police Chief McWilliams reminded being at 6:00 am on Friday morning Market Street from the three-hundred block to the Sixth Street intersection will be closed for the Christmas Uptown Event and on Saturday, vehicles will have to be off of Market Street by late afternoon for the Christmas Parade, due to the Shriners participating in the parade.

Police Chief McWilliams reported the new officer is working out well; the department is in a good position staffing wise and he is looking forward to a good holiday season.

FIRE CHIEF – FRANCES SPETH

Fire Chief Speth absent.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR – MIKE GIDCUMB

Public Works Director Gidcumb reported the leaf crew is on the last section of the first round of the leaf pick-up service and should be starting all over again once that section is finished.

BUSINESS MOTIONS

Commissioner Meador motioned and Commissioner Ikemire seconded to accept the bid by Jeff Guisewite Inc. for \$8380.00. This is to demo the residence located at 115 N. Chestnut Street. All present voted by roll call vote. Commissioners Meeks, Ikemire, Meador and Zimmerman voted Aye.

Commissioner Ikemire motioned, and Commissioner Meeks seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. The consent agenda contained approval of the paying of all bills bearing the proper signatures. All present voted by roll call vote. Commissioners Meeks, Ikemire, Meador and Zimmerman voted Aye.

Commissioner Meeks motioned and Commissioner Ikemire seconded to move to Executive session. All present voted by roll call vote. Commissioners Meeks, Ikemire, Meador and Zimmerman voted Aye.

Regular session of the council meeting recessed at 4:37 pm for executive session.

Commissioner Ikemire motioned, and Commissioner Meador seconded to exit Executive Session. All present voted by roll vote. Commissioners Meeks, Ikemire, Meador and Zimmerman voted Aye.

The Executive session ended at 4:54 pm. Regular session resumed with all council members present.

Commissioner Meeks motioned and Commissioner Ikemire seconded to adjourn the meeting. All present voted Aye by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk