

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, December 11, 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 27, 2023. All present voted by roll vote. Commissioner Meeks, Ikemire, Meador and Zimmerman voted Aye.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Judge acknowledged Travis Thompson, who was in attendance regarding the possible purchase of the cul-de-sac area by the Jeff Thompson Oil Company Southgate Property from the city. Mayor Judge advised the council would take the request under consideration to determine the options of selling the property and would contact Mr. Thompson with a decision.

Mayor Judge stated he had applied for a \$15,000.00 grant from Norfolk Southern for the fire department for turn out gear and he received an award notice in the amount of \$5000.00. Mayor Judge thanked Steve Faulkner Automotive for the donation of an EV Disabler for the fire department, which is used to totally disable an electric vehicle in the event of an emergency.

Mayor Judge reported the city is working with the company, 120 Water and they will be sending out notices to the residents who have not responded to the lead service line survey. Mayor Judge reiterated the city did receive a \$40,000.00 grant, which will offset that expense of approximately \$21,615.00.

Mayor Judge stated, during a meeting in Springfield, it was brought to his attention, the city's ARPA and CHRSSA monies for the airport, which was initiated two years ago was never finalized, therefore some funds are still available for the airport. Mayor Judge reported he has requested the outstanding \$45,000.00 for the airport and will also be submitting reports to the FAA for partial reimbursement of fuel purchases over the last three years.

Mayor Judge reported he applied for a tourism grant in the amount of \$15,000.00 for the Eclipse in 2024.

Mayor Judge stated he was appointed to an advisory group with the Illinois Department of Transportation and he will be attending a meeting addressing how the state will spend money in our district for years 2024, 2025 and 2026.

Mayor Judge, happily, reported 115 N. Chestnut has been torn down and thanked City Administrative Assistant Turner, Public Works Director Gidcumb along with City Attorney McCullough for working together on getting that accomplished.

Mayor Judge stated anonymous letters have been left at city hall about leaves not being picked up and affirmed if leaves are piled by parked cars the workers cannot see them as well as making it too hard to get to the leaves; the workers will not pick up leaves with sticks or rose bushes in the piles because the sticks will tear up the leaf machine. Mayor Judge asked residents to please put leaves only in their piles for the leaf pickup crew and the sticks will be picked up by brush crew.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

COMMISSIONER TYSON MEADOR – STREETS, CEMETERIES AND PARKS

Commissioner Meador reported, over the last two weeks, the street department continued work on the Division Street sidewalk; performed maintenance on the trucks for the yearly inspections; assisted the brush department with the leaf pick-up; prepped equipment for the snow and ice removal season; filled potholes; and replaced a few stop signs.

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, revenues totaled \$170,061.00 and expenditures totaled \$19,394.00 with the majority of revenue coming from sales tax, utility tax along with replacement tax.

COMMISSIONER TOM MEEKS – WATER AND SEWER

Commissioner Meeks stated both plants are operating smoothly and the water maintenance repaired a water main break.

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

Commissioner Zimmerman reported, over the past two weeks, the fire department responded to several calls and participated in events to include escorting Santa into Mount Carmel last weekend; Captain Hadra attended the Library Children's Christmas Party; and the fire department celebrated with a Christmas dinner amongst their firefighters yesterday afternoon.

Commissioner Zimmerman stated the leaf pick-up route is still ongoing; the brush harbor/recycling center will be closed on Monday, December 25th as well as Monday, January 1st, however it will be open Friday and Saturday prior to those dates. Commissioner Zimmerman reminded garbage will be running one day late since December 25th and January 1st fall on Mondays, therefore trash will be picked up on Tuesday, December 26th and Tuesday, January 2nd.

CITY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – RYAN TURNER

City Administrative Assistant Turner presented the submitted demolition bids to Mayor Judge, who opened and read the bids as follows for 230 Hinde Street: Swanson Excavating bid \$6950.00 and Jeff Guisewite Inc. bid \$7800.00.

City Administrative Assistant Turner presented the submitted bids to Mayor Judge for 923/925 West Third Street, which is being sold together. Mayor Judge opened and read the bids as follows: Kieffer Brothers Construction bid \$1500.00; Ed McPherson bid \$500.00.

City Administrative Assistant Turner presented the submitted bids to Mayor Judge, who opened and the bids for 131 West Second Street as follows: David Dallas bid \$3200.00; Brandon Stewart bid \$400.00

City Administrative Assistant Turner stated this meeting constitutes the first reading of Ordinance 2099 – accepting Easy Street as a city-maintained roadway and to waive the second reading, as the ordinance had been discussed at the last council meeting.

City Administrative Assistant Turner reported the meeting, also constitutes the first reading of Ordinance 2100 – approval of the tax levy. City Administrative Assistant Turner acknowledged Mayor Judge, who gave an overview of the tax levy and stated the city is looking at 2.31% increase, which is a minimal amount.

City Administrative Assistant Turner stated this meeting constitutes the first reading of Ordinance 2101 – the State of Illinois mandating paid time off work for part-time employees and the passing of the ordinance will keep the city in compliance with new state labor laws.

City Administrative Assistant Turner reported the bids for the next year's mowing of the city cemeteries will be sent out tomorrow and advertised on WSJD with the added stipulations.

City Administrative Assistant Turner stated he will be meeting tomorrow with the residents of Oak Meadows II Subdivision regarding the landscaping project.

CITY ATTORNEY – DEREK MCCULLOUGH

City Attorney McCullough no report.

AIRPORT MANAGER – LUIS GARCIA

Airport Manager Garica reported the snow plows are ready to go in the event of snow.

POLICE CHIEF – MIKE MCWILLIAMS

Police Chief McWilliams reminded golf cart, UTV and motorized electric bike renewal stickers are now being sold at the police department. Police Chief McWilliams stated proof of insurance for golf carts and UTV's have to be provided when purchasing the renewal stickers.

Police Chief McWilliams gave a "shout out" to all the people that participate in the "Sights and Sounds of Christmas" fundraising event. Police Chief McWilliams reported \$2800.00 was raised with the donations going to the Shop with a Cop/Fireman event for area children.

FIRE CHIEF – FRANCIS SPETH

Fire Chief Speth cautioned citizens to please be extremely careful if they have a campfire going as the outside conditions are still very dry.

Fire Chief Speth reported he met with Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission regarding a small equipment grant for the fire department

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR – MIKE GIDCUMB

Public Works Director Gidcumb stated he has met with City Attorney McCullough regarding properties the city is trying to acquire or properties that need cleaned up.

Public Works Director Gidcumb reported the 2024 Liquor License Renewals as well as the 2024 Contractor Registration Renewal letters have been sent out.

WABASH COUNTY E.M.A.

Wabash County E.M.A. Representative Rhonda Banks stated the E.M.A. will be providing a storm training class and anyone who is interested, who please contact the E.M.A. base. Ms. Banks reported progress is being made on the emergency trailer. Ms. Banks thanked the city on behalf of E.M.A. for using their services and they appreciate being able to serve the community. Ms. Banks wished the council a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

BUSINESS MOTIONS

Commissioner Meeks motioned and Commissioner Ikemire seconded to accept bid of \$6950.00 for demolition of 230 Hinde Street. Bid by Swanson Excavating was accepted. All present voted by roll call vote. Commissioner Meeks, Ikemire, Meador and Zimmerman voted Aye.

Commissioner Meador motioned and Commissioner Zimmerman seconded to accept bid of \$1500.00 for property at 923 and 925 W. Third Street. Bid by Kieffer Brothers Construction was accepted. All present voted by roll call vote. Commissioners Meeks, Ikemire, Meador and Zimmerman voted Aye.

Commissioner Ikemire Motioned and Commissioner Zimmerman seconded to accept bid of \$3200.00 for property located at 131 W. Second Street. Bid by David Dallas was accepted. All present voted by roll call vote. Commissioners Meeks, Ikemire, Meador and Zimmerman voted Aye

Commissioner Ikemire motioned and Commissioner Meeks seconded to accept Easy Street as a city-maintained roadway. Waive second reading. All present voted by roll call vote. Commissioners Meeks, Ikemire, Meador, and Zimmerman voted Aye.

Commissioner Meador motioned and Commissioner Ikemire seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. The consent agenda contained approval of the holiday schedule along with the council meeting dates and 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 Meador seconded to adjourn the meeting. All present voted Aye by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 4:31 pm

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk