

January 8, 2015

The Common Council met as the Water Utility Board at 7:00 pm on the above date in the Meeting Room at City Hall Annex with Mayor Tucker presiding and members Jeffries, Fuelling, Hoehn, Curtis, and Higgins attending. Others attending were Supt. Gray; Chief Beloit; Chief Dixon; Comm. Dieterle; Supt. Givens; Ed Adams; Jo Harle; Steve Sheffer; Loren Evans – MSD of Mount Vernon; Jeff Woodford; Anna Stillwagoner; James Elliott; Jennifer Harrison; Larry Williams; Lois Gray – Posey County News; and arriving during the meeting, Attorney Higgins.

Mayor Tucker called the meeting to order by stating members were either mailed or hand carried copies of the minutes of their previous meeting and by asking if there were any corrections or additions. He added if not, he entertains a motion to waive their reading and to approve the minutes as presented.

Board member Higgins moved the reading of the minutes be waived and they be approved as presented. Seconded by Board member Curtis.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker requested action on the claims.

Board member Curtis moved the claims presented be allowed for payment. Seconded by Board member Fuelling.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker stated they will now hear the report of the Water Chairman.

Water Chairman Curtis stated he has no report.

Supt. Gray stated at the last meeting he was told to get the Board numbers on the backhoe they had been discussing. He gave the Board a quote from ERB Equipment Company for a John Deere 310 SK Backhoe Loader for \$83,314.00.

Board member Curtis moved they proceed with the purchase. Seconded by Board member Hoehn.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

Board member Higgins asked if there is any waiting period ?

Supt. Gray replied they have it now and are using it on a trial basis. The employees really like it and this is the one they want.

Board member Jeffries asked if they want that specific one ?

Supt. Gray replied yes, it is on site now and they like it.

Board member Hoehn asked what they are going to do with the old one ?

Supt. Gray replied sell it.

Board member Hoehn asked if he has any idea how much he will get for it ?

Supt. Gray replied he isn't sure. He will need to get it appraised first, or they could do sealed bids and sell to the highest bidder.

Board member Hoehn stated in other words, it will be disposed of.

Supt. Gray replied yet and added they also took delivery of the new dump truck and they plan on selling the old dump truck as well.

Mayor Tucker requested a roll call vote on the purchase of the backhoe.

Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Board voting as follows;

Jeffries – yes; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – yes;

Curtis – yes; Higgins –yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried unanimously.

Supt. Gray then brought up deep well pumps. He stated they had an extra one for rotation, just in case one went down, and he would like to pick up another one. Unfortunately if they order it now, it will not arrive until the middle of May.

Attorney Higgins arrived at the meeting.

Board member Curtis stated this is normal procedure, there will be a long wait until it gets here.....they have done this in the past.

Supt. Gray stated this is the same price he was quoted two years ago, same company. These pumps are huge, they require a crane to pull them.

Board member Curtis moved they proceed with the purchase from S & K Equipment for a new pump at a cost of \$33,604.00. Seconded by Board member Hoehn.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker requested a roll call vote.

Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Board voting as follows:

Jeffries – yes; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – yes;

Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried unanimously. He then asked if there were any questions of Supt. Gray or Chairman Curtis ?

There were none.

Mayor Tucker asked if the Clerk-Treasurer had any Communications for the Board ?

Clerk-Treasurer Sitzman replied not at this time.

Mayor Tucker stated they are ready for the Legal portion of the Agenda.

Attorney Higgins stated they need to designate a newspaper for Utility Board publications for 2015.

She added they have to go by the United States Postal Service address – it must be in the locality of the governing body, which means they will be required to use the Mount Vernon Democrat.

Board member Curtis moved they designate the Mount Vernon Democrat. Seconded by Board member Jeffries.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker requested a roll call vote.

Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Board voting as follows:

Jeffries – yes; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – yes;

Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker stated the next item is acceptance by the Utility Board of the chemical bids for 2015.

Supt. Gray USALCO only bid the Delpac, other chemicals are Brenntag.

Board member Curtis moved they accept the bids of Brenntag and USALCO, as presented and reviewed. Seconded by Board member Hoehn.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker requested a roll call vote.

Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Board voting as follows:

Jeffries – yes; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – yes;

Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker asked if anyone in the Audience wished to address the Board ?

There was no response.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any Old Business ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any New Business ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker stated if there was no further business, he entertains a motion to adjourn.

Board member Higgins moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Board member Curtis.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously and adjourned the meeting.

John Tucker, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cristi L. Sitzman
Clerk-Treasurer

The Common Council met immediately following the Water Utility Board on the above date in the Meeting Room at City Hall Annex with Mayor Tucker presiding and members Jeffries, Fuelling, Hoehn, Curtis, and Higgins attending. Others attending were Supt. Gray; Chief Beloit; Chief Dixon; Comm. Dieterle; Supt. Givens; Ed Adams; Jo Harle; Steve Sheffer; Loren Evans – MSD of Mount Vernon; Jeff Woodford; Anna Stillwagoner; James Elliott; Jennifer Harrison; Larry Williams; Lois Gray – Posey County News; and Attorney Higgins.

Mayor Tucker called the meeting to order by stating members were either mailed or hand carried copies of the minutes of their previous meeting and by asking if there were any corrections or additions. He added if not, he entertains a motion to waive their reading and to approve the minutes as presented.

Councilman Fuelling moved the reading of the minutes be waived and they be approved as presented. Seconded by Councilman Jeffries.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker stated they will now hear the reports of the Standing Committees.

Street & Light Chairwoman Higgins stated she has no report.

Comm. Dieterle stated he has no report.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Police & Dog Chairman Jeffries stated January 25 – 31 is being designated as Thank You Blue Week to show appreciation for law enforcement. They are partnering with Posey County Co-Op, IGA, and the Mount Vernon Democrat to provide one blue light bulb to display at residences. This is complimentary and can be picked up at the participating businesses. Also, January 30 is Wear Blue to Work/School Day.

Councilwoman Higgins stated the Facebook page is up and running already.

Councilman Jeffries added this will be an annual event and they should have more activities next year.

Chief Beloit stated he has no report.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Fire Chairman Hoehn stated he has no report.

Chief Dixon stated he has no report.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Sewer Chairman Fuelling stated he has no report.

Supt. Givens stated he has no report.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Mayor Tucker stated they have the Financial Report before them and any questions could be directed to Clerk-Treasurer Sitzman.

Mayor Tucker asked if the Clerk-Treasurer had any Communications for the Council ?

Clerk-Treasurer Sitzman replied not at this time.

Mayor Tucker stated they are ready for the Legal portion of Agenda.

Attorney Higgins stated the first item is the second reading of the Ordinance to Amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Mount Vernon, The Town of Cynthiana, the Town of Poseyville and Unincorporated Posey County Chapter 153.181 – Purpose Section 153.183(J) – Parking Surface, and Section 153.245 – Variances. She added this passed first reading at their last meeting, and unanimously by the Area Plan Commission.

Councilman Hoehn moved ordinance pass on second reading. Seconded by Councilman Curtis.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker requested a roll call vote.

Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Council voting as follows:

Jeffries – yes; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – yes;

Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried unanimously.

Attorney Higgins stated the next item is an Ordinance of Additional Appropriations in the COIT Fund for \$50,000 insurance. She added this was discussed at their last meeting and prepared for this meeting.

Councilman Hoehn moved the ordinance pass on first reading. Seconded by Councilman Jeffries.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker requested a roll call vote.

Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Council voting as follows:

Jeffries – yes; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – yes;

Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried unanimously.

Attorney Higgins stated the next item is designating a newspaper for Council publications for 2015.

Councilwoman Higgins moved they use the Mount Vernon Democrat. Seconded by Councilman Jeffries.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker requested a roll call vote.

Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Council voting as follows:

Jeffries – yes; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – yes;

Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker stated they are now ready for the Audience portion of the Agenda and Jo Harle has asked to be listed.

Mrs. Harle approached and stated she lives at 322 W 9th Street and she understands the school wants NO PARKING on W. 9th Street, in front of her house. She added that is her only parking and wondered where her family would park when they came to visit. If this is only during school hours, that is also an issue, as her son-in-law comes over during the week to do work at her house, where is he supposed to park ? Two blocks away ? This all started when she had company for two weeks and the bus driver complained about not being able to make the turn at Lower New Harmony and 9th. There are alternatives to the current route. 9th Street is a very narrow street and it should be a one-way street to begin with. She added the bus has stopped picking up on her street now anyway.

Steve Sheffer stated there are a lot of other alternatives. This is one city block. The bus can go to 8th and James for pick up. He added Mrs. Harle has lived there for going on 50 years, and now there is an issue ?

Councilman Curtis stated Mr. Evans and he rode the route and made the trip. It is a tough turn, very tight; at the other end too.

Mr. Sheffer stated that street should be one way and no trucks.

Councilman Curtis stated there are around 20 kids that get on at that stop. He added he understands the schools position, but parents also need to observe their kids. He stated now they are going down Lower New Harmony to 8th and James. He asked Mr. Evans for his suggestions and added they wanted some input and ideas before they proceed.

Mrs. Harle stated it really need to be a one way street, that traffic is terrible.

Mr. Sheffer added the route can be changed, there are many other routes.

Mrs. Harle stated she is a taxpayer and as such, she should have a right to park in front of her own house.

Mr. Evans stated they can take a look at this as they want to get the best stop that they can. He added they are now stopping at 8th and James in order to avoid 9th Street. But again, there are anywhere from five to 20 students at that stop every day.

Mr. Sheffer asked if they have to use the big bus, isn't there a smaller one that could be used ?

Mr. Evans replied those are the special needs buses. The big bus is an 84 passenger bus and a smaller one would be packed. He added a stop is better suited at 9th and James, but they could maybe re-work that. He added he also doesn't want Mrs. Harle's yard torn up. He then stated her corner is not the only tight corner.

Councilman Curtis stated it is a lot easier to turn off James onto 9th, and the tail of the bus won't hit the concrete wall.

Mrs. Harle just asked that they look at alternatives before making a decision.

Councilman Curtis stated they meet again in two weeks and we will see what we do then.

Mrs. Harle asked that she be kept informed.

Mayor Tucker asked if anyone else in the Audience wished to address Council ?

Anna Stillwagoner stated she has three kids at that bus stop. The safety of the kids at 8th and James is a real concern. The County heavy equipment comes down that street first thing in the morning, there is a hill they have to walk down that can become icy. It is dangerous. She added she would be up for reversing the route, as those two blocks are dangerous for the kids.

Councilwoman Higgins agreed and added she travels that route quite a bit and the County Highway does go that way every morning, lots of traffic.

James Elliott stated he has three kids at the stop as well and suggested a School Zone Speed Limit be posted. Maybe that would slow people down and also reverse the route.

Jennifer Harrison stated her daughter has a shunt in her head and her concern is the hill from 9th to 8th on James. If she would fall she would really hurt herself. She feels reversing the route is a good idea. Councilman Hoehn asked Councilman Curtis where they go from here ?

Councilman Curtis replied he will follow up with Mr. Evans and Mrs. Harle and present a solution in two weeks.

Councilman Fuelling questioned making a stop at Lower New Harmony and 9th ?

Councilman Curtis replied that is a bad idea that is where the 5-way stop is.

Councilman Jeffries agreed.

Mayor Tucker thanked everyone for coming and they will work on this and they are all welcome to come back in two weeks.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any Old Business ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any New Business ?

Councilman Hoehn stated now that the road behind Arbys is open and working, he would like to get truck traffic off Kimball.

Councilman Jeffries stated he didn't believe it was open.

Councilman Hoehn stated they have been using it.

Mayor Tucker stated they have been using it for two to three weeks now, but the word isn't out yet.

Councilwoman Higgins asked if INDOT is repairing State Street ?

Mayor Tucker replied that is the city's and it will be addressed with grant money.

Councilwoman Higgins stated it is not built for truck traffic.

Councilman Hoehn stated he would like to see them move forward with making Kimball a residential street again.

Councilwoman Higgins asked semi drivers wanting to go to McDonalds. What will they do, ticket the truck drivers ?

Councilman Hoehn suggested a warning.

Councilman Jeffries suggested signs be put in place.

Councilman Curtis stated it isn't easy to get the word out.

Councilman Jeffries stated they would have to post something very obvious and if it is still an issue, they would have to enforce it.

Councilman Hoehn stated they could go with 30 days, two weeks maybe worth of warnings.

Mayor Tucker questioned possible weight limits ?

Councilman Hoehn stated he is asking for the usual restriction for any other street.

Councilman Jeffries asked about a time frame ?

Mayor Tucker stated he has already contact the Port and they are to be making contact with industry and business on their end to encourage the new route.

Attorney Higgins stated the ordinance will need an effective date.

Councilman Hoehn suggested March 1.

Councilman Curtis agreed it should be before warm weather hits and the parks get busy with kids.

Attorney Higgins stated this will also have to be published in the paper and therefore she would suggest April 1.

Councilman Hoehn agreed.

Mayor Tucker stated they are now ready for District Reports.

1st District Councilman Jeffries stated he has no report.

2nd District Councilman Fuelling stated he has no report.

3rd District Councilman Hoehn stated he has no report.

4th District Councilman Curtis stated they are working on the issue at 9th and James.

Councilwoman-at-Large Higgins stated she has two complaints about Smith and O'Donnell – the 3-way Stop. She wondered if there could be a better solution.

Mayor Tucker stated the reason it is the way it is is because of weather and the hill on O'Donnell.

Councilwoman Higgins asked if a 2-way Stop would be better?

Councilman Fuelling stated he has had concerns about that intersection as well.

Mayor Tucker asked that Councilwoman Higgins gets with Comm. Dieterle on that.

Mayor Tucker stated year end reports will be due to him on February 18 – eight copies. They will present them at the February 19 meeting. He then stated a film crew will be in town on Tuesday in the 200 block of Main Street. There will be a very busy day the next day as Earth Services will be here to take those buildings down.

Mayor Tucker stated if there was no further business, he entertains a motion to adjourn.

Councilman Fuelling moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Councilman Jeffries.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously and adjourned the meeting.

John Tucker
Mayor

ATTEST:

Cristi L. Sitzman
Clerk-Treasurer