

February 5, 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 Fuelling, Hoehn, Curtis, and Higgins attending. Board member Jeffries was not present. Others attending were Chief Beloit; Chief Dixon; Attorney Higgins; Tom Hogan – Johnson Controls, Inc.; Supt. Harshbarger; Ron Bennett; Kelly Cox; Nancy Sexton; Jeff Woodford; Ed Adams; and Lois Gray – Posey County News.

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 Curtis moved the reading of the minutes be waived and they be approved as presented. 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 requested action on the claims presented.

Board member Higgins moved the claims presented be allowed for payment. 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 stated they will now hear the report of the Water Chairman.

Chairman Curtis stated Supt. Gray is at training for underground digging this evening. They have the training scheduled for the new credit card payment system and their target date for implementation is the end of March. Everything else is going about as well as can be expected.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

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 now ready for the Legal portion of the Agenda.

Attorney Higgins stated they have the proposed rate ordinance for the water project, and the Water Utility Board will need to make a recommendation to the Council.

Board member Curtis moved the Board recommend approval of the ordinance to the Council. 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 – absent; 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 Curtis moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Board member Fuelling.
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 Fuelling, Hoehn, Curtis, and Higgins attending. Councilman Jeffries was not present. Others attending were Chief Beloit; Chief Dixon; Attorney Higgins; Tom Hogan – Johnson Controls, Inc.; Supt. Harshbarger; Ron Bennett; Kelly Cox; Nancy Sexton; Jeff Woodford; Ed Adams; Lois Gray – Posey County News; and arriving during the meeting, Linc and Bill Baro.

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 Hoehn moved the reading of the minutes be waived and they be approved as presented.
Seconded by Councilman 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 stated they will now hear the reports of the Standing Committees.

Street & Light Chairwoman Higgins she has talked with Comm. Dieterle about signage around the new police and fire safety building, in particular alerting drivers to the fact that there are fire trucks in the area.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Police & Dog Chairman Jeffries was not present.

Chief Beloit stated he has no report.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Fire Chairman Hoehn stated he had walk through of the new police and fire safety building, as well as a guided tour by Chief Dixon. He added he is very impressed with the completed building, as well as the location. He stated he feels this was a good move by the city and that it will help a lot.

Chief Dixon added he would like to echo what Councilman Hoehn just said and that he is very thankful for the new facility. He stated it is a real boost to the City of Mount Vernon. He then invited everyone to come down and check it out.

Mayor Tucker agreed and added they refurbished an old downtown building, as they would like others to do. They led the way on that. He then asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Sewer Chairman Fuelling stated Supt. Givens, along with the Lochmueller Group, are getting very good mapping of the sewers in town. He added when they are done, he believes they will have high accuracy on the location of the lines.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Mayor Tucker stated they have the Financial Report before them and any questions should 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 the Agenda.

Attorney Higgins stated the first item is the 2nd Reading of the proposed Ordinance to Amend the City of Mt. Vernon Code of Ordinances, Title VII-Traffic Code, Chapter 74-Traffic Schedules-Schedule VII (C)-Weight Regulations. She added after first reading at the last meeting, she forwarded a copy of the ordinance to the port.

Councilman Hoehn moved the ordinance pass on second reading. Seconded by Councilman Fuelling.

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 – absent; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – yes

Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Hoehn moved the rules be suspended. Seconded by Councilman Fuelling.

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 – absent; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – yes

Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Hoehn moved the ordinance pass on final reading. Seconded by Councilman Fuelling.

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 – absent; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – yes

Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried unanimously.

Clerk-Treasurer Sitzman added it will be numbered 15-4.

Attorney Higgins stated the next item is a Public Hearing on the Ordinance of Additional Appropriations in the COIT Fund to help the employees out with the insurance premiums. This ordinance passed first reading at the last meeting.

Mayor Tucker opened the Public Hearing and asked if anyone in the Audience wished to address the Council on this ordinance ?

There was no response.

Mayor Tucker then closed the Public Hearing.

Councilman Hoehn moved the 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 – absent; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – yes

Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried unanimously.

Attorney Higgins stated the next item is the first reading of the proposed Ordinance to Amend the City of Mt. Vernon Code of Ordinances, Title VII-Traffic Code, Chapter 74-Traffic Schedules, Schedules I (A)-Stop Intersections and I(B)-Multi-Stop Intersections. She added this is addressing the traffic issue they were having at 9th and James.

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

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

Councilwoman Higgins stated she heard about this issue today on the WIKY as well as Channel 14 News.

Councilman Curtis added it was nice to hear that the Council was making collaborative efforts with the school system.

Mayor Tucker requested a roll call vote.

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

Jeffries – absent; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – yes

Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried unanimously.

Attorney Higgins stated the next item is the proposed Ordinance Amending the Schedule of Rates and Charges to be Collected by the City of Mount Vernon, Indiana from the Customers Served by the

Municipal Water Utility of the City of Mount Vernon, Indiana. She added this comes to Council as a recommendation for passage by the Water Utility Board. She then stated this is for the Johnson Controls/Lochmueller Group proposed water project. If the ordinance passes first reading, notices will be sent to those out of town customers and a public hearing will be set.

Councilman Curtis moved the ordinance pass on first reading. Seconded by Councilman 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 Council voting as follows:

Jeffries – absent; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – yes

Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker stated they are ready for the Audience portion of the Agenda, and listed is Supt. Harshbarger and Ron Bennett.

Supt. Harshbarger approached and stated a few months ago they met and discussed their budget and how the circuit breaker has affected that. He added they are looking to cut \$40,000 worth of spending out of their 2015 budget. By doing so, they will take their shortfall of \$62,000 down to \$22,000.

Hopefully they can continue this trend to help make up for the circuit breaker trend.

Linc and Bill Baro arrived at the meeting.

Supt. Harshbarger continued by stating when they had a study done by Umbaugh late last year and it was suggested that the Park receive a loan from the City every year. He added they would like \$100,000 now, which they will pay back at the end of the year. Hopefully they can cut \$40,000 out of their 2015 budget; and then approve on that as well the following year.

Attorney Higgins stated she put the figures together on the sheet that they have before them and she would be happy to answer any questions they may have. She stated their approved budget doesn't take into account the circuit breaker, which takes \$71,500 out of the Park income. She then stated Park under spent their budget last year, but they are using up their cash balance. A loan gives them operating money, it does not increase their budget.

Councilman Curtis stated this is a fact of life for park departments. They pay most of their expenses till May getting the pool ready, and at that rate, they can't make it. When the city has loaned them money in the past, they have paid it back. That \$100,000 they are requesting may not even be enough. Doing a loan now makes sense, they need to pay their bills.

Councilman Fuelling stated he agrees.

Councilman Curtis stated in the past he asked about plans for cuts and that is what they have done.

Supt. Harshbarger replied their main cut was in capital outlays. They will try to avoid any capital purchases if they can.

Councilman Curtis added he may also need to stretch his employees.

Councilman Hoehn asked how much they are requesting ?

Supt. Harshbarger replied \$100,000.00.

Councilman Hoehn questioned the amount of the shortfall ?

Supt. Harshbarger replied \$22,000, with the loan.

Councilman Fuelling added this all boils down to the timing of when they get their money.

Supt. Harshbarger agreed and added spending during the summer season is very high.

Attorney Higgins stated they can see on the sheet where the shortfall is coming from – their cash balance.

Councilman Fuelling stated he feels they need to proceed with Attorney Higgins preparing a resolution for the loan.

Councilman Curtis agreed.

Councilman Hoehn stated he doesn't see how the city will get paid back.

Supt. Harshbarger stated they get paid two times a year, in June and December. In June they have a lot of expenditures with the pool and summer help, they will pay the city back in December when their expenditures are not as high.

Councilman Curtis stated the city loaned them money last year, and they paid it back. They will have a \$62,000 shortfall without the loan. If the plan works out and the city loans them the money, they will only have a \$22,000 shortfall. There is actually a better chance of getting the payback now than last year.

Councilman Hoehn added they are not solving the problem, they are only kicking the can. This has been a vicious circle for years and years.

Councilman Curtis replied that the park is making plans and yes, it is a risk.

Supt. Harshbarger stated they are trying to reduce the hole of five years of circuit breaker. They are going to spend less and keep cutting, though they may still need a loan to increase their cash balance. Attorney Higgins agreed that a loan gives them cash, as they need a much higher cash balance.

Councilman Curtis agreed with Councilman Hoehn that this isn't solving the problem, and they will have another request next year.

Attorney Higgins added that is true, the city is an interest free loan to the Park & Rec.

Councilwoman Higgins asked when it will be paid back ?

Supt. Harshbarger replied at the end of the year.

Councilman Curtis stated also along those lines, their revenues need to be increased as well. They need to look at new revenue sources.

Attorney Higgins stated communication between this body and the Park & Rec and Park Board has improved over the past year and this needs to continue.

Councilman Fuelling stated he doesn't understand the shortfall of \$22,000.00.

Attorney Higgins replied that actually comes from their cash balances.

Councilman Fuelling stated he just wanted to be clear on that.

Attorney Higgins stated they will never break the cycle until they can substantially build up their cash balance.

Councilman Hoehn stated they can't sustain themselves can they, including capital items.

Councilman Fuelling added that is the risk factor.

Councilman Curtis stated lots of things need looked at. The pool is old. This loan is not a solution, he doesn't know what it. But this loan is a better solution to him.

Councilman Hoehn stated he sees what is going on.....they are kicking the can. There is no 10 or five year plan to fix anything.

Councilwoman Higgins stated basically instead of three loans over a period of a year, they are getting one big one.

Councilman Hoehn stated he would like to see a five or 10 year plan. Their operation is go to the Council, make a presentation for a loan....They need to look at other cities' departments and fees, etc. They also need to do a head count, a serious head count.

Councilman Curtis stated he is saying the same thing. They need to look at a lot of things in their operation over the next year. He added not only do they cut out bid equipment purchases, but they should be cutting everywhere.

Councilman Hoehn stated he agrees and added he would like to see a five year plan, seriously.

Councilwoman Higgins added that plan needs to come from the Park Board, not the Council.

Councilman Hoehn agreed.

Supt. Harshbarger stated they are looking at that – cutting the pool staff by about \$5,000 this year.

They are looking at a plan.

Councilman Curtis stated he would like know what their five year plan is. While they work on that, it makes sense to make one loan versus several.

Councilman Hoehn stated as their lender, he would like to see a written five year plan. They need to put some thought in it, some serious thought. This is going to have to happen as the city may not always be able to loan the money.

Councilman Curtis stated at this rate, within five years, they will be broke. The Council doesn't want to build their five year plan.

Councilman Hoehn stated the Council is always trying to sell the city. Part of that is that they desperately have to have a Park & Rec. But it has to be viable to keep people here.

Councilman Curtis stated a five year plan is necessary – a plan is known and therefore gives them something to judge the operation by. The plan needs to be a narrative.

Councilman Fuelling asked Supt. Harshbarger if they were going to make five year plan, and if they would share that with Council ?

Supt. Harshbarger replied yes, by budget time in July. He will get Council a plan as soon as they would like one.

Councilman Fuelling stated let what they have done so far be their guide.

Councilman Curtis stated that is good enough for him.

Council consented for Attorney Higgins to move forward with a resolution for loan.

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

There was no response.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any Old Business ?

Councilman Fuelling stated he would like to proudly announce that the cameras are in at the riverfront. Chief Beloat is looking at the view and the images are very clear, both during the day and at night. The entire riverfront is visible.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any New Business ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker stated they will now hear the reports of the Districts.

1st District Councilman Jeffries was not present.

2nd District Councilman Fuelling stated he has no report.

3rd District Councilman Hoehn stated he has no report.

4th District Councilman Curtis stated he has no report.

Councilwoman-at-Large Higgins stated Thank You Blue Week went very well. They ran out of bulbs in town and they will be doing it again in 2016.

Chief Beloat stated he has heard a lot of positive feedback and there is a potential for growth with the program.

Councilwoman Higgins stated next week is the first Bicentennial meeting of the year. It will be held at the new police and fire station at 6:00 pm on February 10. They will be planning monthly events at this meeting.

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

Councilman Curtis moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Councilman Hoehn.

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