

April 16, 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, and Curtis attending. Board members Jeffries and Higgins were not present. Others attending were Attorney Higgins; Supt. Gray; Supt. Givens; Chief Beloat; Chief Dixon; Comm. Dieterle; Larry Williams; Ed Adams; Nancy Sexton; Joe Goebel; Randy Adams; Brandi Jackson; Lois Gray – Posey County News; and Corey Woolsey – Mount Vernon Democrat.

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 Hoehn.

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.

Mayor Tucker requested action on the claims presented.

Board member Fuelling 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.

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

**Chairman Curtis** stated he has no report.

Supt. Gray stated he would like permission to send Henry Tison to Columbus, IN for training and CEU's, on April 19, returning on April 22.

Board member Curtis moved permission be given, along with use of the city credit card and city vehicle. 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 – absent.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried. He then asked if there were any other questions of Supt. Gray ?

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 asked if there were any Legals ?

There were none.

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 ?

Supt. Gray stated they need to replace the servers they have at the office. They need to get off of Windows XP and onto Windows 7. It is more secure. The server also needs replaced – it was UPGRADED to Windows 2003, that's how old it is. He would like to get Professional Windows 7 with lots of RAM.

Board member Curtis stated he should go ahead with that and upgrade. He asked if he had an estimate ? Supt. Gray replied around \$3,000.00 and less than \$1,000.00 each for the other office machines.

Board member Curtis moved Supt. Gray go on the open market to make the purchase to replace the old servers at a cost of approximately \$4,000.00. Seconded by Board member 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 Board voting as follows:

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

Curtis – yes; Higgins – absent.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried.

Supt. Gray then stated asked about the backhoe and how they need to proceed ?

Attorney Higgins replied for a single item over \$1,000.00 or a group over \$5,000.00 they can hold an auction, an internet auction, or public sale. There needs to be a notice on receiving bids, after the item is declared a surplus item. They can receive sealed bids at a regular meeting; or at the water department on a said day; or they can hire an auctioneer to hold an auction.

Board member Curtis stated that for one item it doesn't make sense to have an auction, rather sealed bids sounds like the best idea.

Board member Fuelling replied that has always worked well.

Supt. Gray asked if the should be sent to Clerk-Treasurer Sitzman ?

Attorney Higgins replied that is fine, or the water department, whichever.

Board member Curtis stated they have always just had them sent to Clerk-Treasurer Sitzman. He then stated the street department may be able to work out a deal with them on the dump truck, but that has not been finalized.

Board member Curtis moved the CAT backhoe be declared surplus and that Supt. Gray work with Council to advertise for sealed bids. Seconded by Board member Hoehn.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

Board member Hoehn asked if there should be a minimum bid required ?

Attorney Higgins replied they can do that, but they don't have to.

Board member Curtis stated it might not hurt.

Board member Fuelling added but they also want to move it.

Board member Curtis agreed and added no minimum bid required.

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 – absent.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried.

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 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 and adjourned the meeting.

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John Tucker, Mayor

ATTEST:

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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, and Curtis attending. Councilmember Higgins were not present. Others attending were Attorney Higgins; Supt. Gray; Supt. Givens; Chief Beloat; Chief Dixon; Comm. Dieterle; Larry Williams; Ed Adams; Nancy Sexton; Randy Adams; Joe Goebel; Brandi Jackson; Mary Esker; Lois Gray – Posey County News; Corey Woolsey – Mount Vernon Democrat; and arriving during the meeting, Councilman Jeffries.

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 Hoehn.

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.

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

**Street & Light Chairwoman Higgins** was not present.

Comm. Dieterle stated he has no report.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

**Police & Dog Chairman Jeffries** was not present.

Chief Beloat 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 asked if the Clerk-Treasurer had any Communications for the Council ?

Clerk-Treasurer Sitzman replied not at this time.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any Legals for consideration ?

There were none.

Mayor Tucker stated they are now ready for the Audience and asked if anyone in the Audience wished to address the Council ?

Joe Goebel approached and stated he would like to get some information on the East Side Gravity Flow Sewer Project. He continued by stating he owns a property on Leonard Road - Joe's Garage - which is out of business. It is basically a fun shop, a non-profit place. He recently received a letter from IDEM concerning the sewer and right now, they have a port-a-john. He wondered what the plans were for the sewer project as he hasn't seen any.

Councilman Hoehn stated he doesn't believe that the sewer line will touch his property, though directly across the street, there is sewer. It will be required for all landowners to be on sewer if they are within 300 feet of a main.

Mr. Goebel stated there is a lift station on my property, behind Josh Walden's shop.

Councilman Hoehn stated if that is the case, he appears to be home free. He added he is already tapped in there is a lift station on the property.

Supt. Givens stated the city owns that and it is referred to as the B & M Lift Station. He added the one Mr. Goebel is talking about Josh Walden owns and operates.

Mr. Goebel stated he is tied in to nothing.

Supt. Givens stated he is guessing that Mr. Walden would want to get rid of his lift station and tie to the gravity flow sewer. The minimum tap fee is \$2,500.00.

Mr. Goebel stated they are non-profit.

Attorney Higgins replied that the fees are all set by ordinance and they apply to everyone, regardless of non-profit status.

Mr. Goebel stated his building is only 40' x 24'. He stated the taxes are too damn high on it what with not receiving any services whatsoever.

Attorney Higgins stated in reference to the taxes, there are exemptions that he could look into, but the sewer tap is a flat amount. She added the plans will be here at city hall within the next week or so. Supt. Givens will also have them.

Supt. Givens asked if he running water ?

Mr. Goebel replied no. He then stated while he is here he would like to address something else that he feels would be an asset to Mount Vernon. Racing. He did one at Burdette Park one time and folks came from all around and he would like to have one here in Mount Vernon. He stated he will post the bonds and they would like to use the lower end of Main Street. The track is only 620'. Posey County is the Watermelon Capitol of the World. They would like to have it the first week in August and again, they would provide the insurance and the city would only need to provide police and fire - they would do the rest. It could be the Watermelon Fest and Hill Climb. The town looks great right now, best it has looked in years, and this would provide entertainment at no cost.

Councilman Curtis stated it sounds interesting. But there are businesses down there on lower Main. He added he wouldn't mind talking to Mr. Goebel more about this.

Mr. Goebel stated they have a good insurance company.

Attorney Higgins stated it sounds like a positive thing, and maybe he could put it all together and come back to the Board of Works, who would have to make the decision on the closing of the streets, as well as insurance requirements.

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

Mary Esker stated she is the owner of Waters Edge and they are having some parking issues down there in front of the restaurant. Mainly at Water and Main Streets, and mainly they are boaters. There are trucks with boat trailers parking in front of her business for hours at a time. Maybe if there was a time limit posted there it would help. There seems to be plenty of spaces at The Landing though they are also parking on the street.

Councilman Curtis stated he spoke the owner of Bliss today and they are having the same issue with the residents of The Landing parking on the street and with summer coming and the boaters, that will only get worse. He added the Council has discussed this before and at this point, it is just a matter of deciding if to do anything, and what to do. A two hour parking limit has been mentioned in the past.

Ms. Esker stated that may at least deter them.

Attorney Higgins also mentioned parking in the municipal lot behind Alles.

Mayor Tucker stated Comm. Dieterle has the pavers coming to look at these lots and get estimates on the College Ave lot and the lot behind Buds Hardware. The Landing will be paving where the old Armory was. There will be a notice sent to the residents informing them where to park. That will provide some relief.

Councilman Curtis stated unless there is a limit on the city streets, it can't be stopped. The limit would be for everybody.

Attorney Higgins asked who would enforce that – that is also a discussion we have had before.

Councilman Fuelling stated he knew they were needing to make a decision – especially with summer events down there adding to the issue.

Councilman Curtis stated if you post a time limit, and there are events down there, what if they go over the time limit then ?

Councilman Hoehn stated he believes the issue is boats, not cars and trucks particularly.

Councilman Curtis replied no, that too, cars and trucks.

Councilman Hoehn stated when they get permits to show it is for apartment parking, it appears they are using that as part of their permitting. When The Landing was built, so many parking spaces had to be included with that.

Nancy Sexton approached and stated there is parking for them on the north side of the lot. She then stated maybe instead of a time limit, how about NO BOATS, NO TRAILERS HERE. She then asked if there was an agreement at one time with the Mount Vernon Boat Club ?

Councilman Fuelling agreed that was an option.

Attorney Higgins replied there was a deal yes, during the construction.

Ms. Sexton with the businesses there now, how about no time limit, but just say NO PARKING in those areas.

Ms. Esker replied there could be signage at the ramp telling them where to park their trailers. The main problem is that people don't KNOW where to park.

Attorney Higgins stated along those lines they could put NO RESIDENTIAL parking in certain areas or retail parking only.

Councilman Fuelling stated they have three different lots to utilize.

Ms. Sexton added also that they just don't know WHERE to park.

Councilman Curtis stated they need to look at the lots they do have and what they can accommodate with those lots. That will determine how they proceed. He then stated this is the middle of April so the busy time is coming.

Councilman Fuelling agreed they should check those lots out first to see what they can accommodate and agreed with Ms. Sexton's idea.

Councilman Curtis stated they also have congestion at Sherburne Park - kids playing, boaters coming in and out ...Boat traffic is not designed right, they should be entering down by the water works, and they could probably have room for two boats to be ready to launch. He wondered if there would be difficulty there though with the incline.

Councilman Fuelling stated he believes all of this was discussed about five years ago.

Councilman Curtis stated he would like to pursue changing the direction of the traffic flow there.

Councilman Fuelling agreed and added it would flow better having them come up and go out right on to Main Street – it is worth pursuing.

Attorney Higgins stated to be sure she is following, they want to change the direction on Sherburne Drive ?

Council agreed.

Councilman Hoehn stated there could be more parking back that direction by the water works as well.

There are also no businesses west or on the south side of the street to interfere with. He added that would make for a lot of boat parking while not interfering with businesses.

Attorney Higgins stated she can draft the ordinance.

Councilman Fuelling stated he does not like the idea of a time limit.

Councilman Hoehn agreed and added it is not enforceable. They could also have parking for business customers only.

Councilman Curtis stated customer parking only could be an issue.

Councilman Fuelling stated no trailer parking would be better. It sounds like they are headed in the right direction, though it may still need some fine tuning. He then stated the street department needs to get the yellow paint off the curb down on the east and west sides of lower Main Street. Maybe paint them gray or something.

Councilman Jeffries arrived at the meeting.

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

Brandy Jackson approached and stated she is a boater as are some others in the audience, and they feel like they keep getting pushed back. There is no place for them to go. Only one boat at a time will fit at the dock and they have to park three or four blocks away. She then stated they are taxpayers too and they just keep getting pushed further back.

Councilman Curtis asked if she thought reversing the traffic flow would work ?

A gentleman in the audience stated it is clogged up down there all the time.

Ms. Jackson stated the Boat Club parking lot is always empty.

Councilman Fuelling added the Boat Club says they have plenty of parking, yes, but they need more landings as they can only launch one boat at a time.

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 ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any New Business ?

There was none.

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

**1<sup>st</sup> District Councilman Jeffries** stated downtown parking seems to be topical tonight.

**2<sup>nd</sup> District Councilman Fuelling** stated he has no report.

**3<sup>rd</sup> District Councilman Hoehn** stated he has no report.

**4<sup>th</sup> District Councilman Curtis** stated he has no report.

**Councilwoman-at-Large Higgins** was not present.

Mayor Tucker stated the City of Mount Vernon was just notified of an award. The Azalea Committee was notified that Mount Vernon has been designated an Azalea City. It is a big honor and the Azalea gals should be commended for their hard work. He added there will be a ceremony at the riverfront on April 27 at 10:30 am.

Attorney Higgins stated she was at Southwest Indiana Chamber meeting and someone from Petersburg said that the best place for the ceremony was at the Mount Vernon Riverfront because of all the work that has been done.

Councilman Fuelling added the Azalea Sale is this Saturday, at the riverfront.

Mayor Tucker then stated today at the Board of Works, they set the dates for the advertising and the bid opening on the East Side Gravity Flow Sewer Project and added this project is going to happen. Councilman Hoehn thanked the Board.

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

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

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John Tucker, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Cristi L Sitzman  
Clerk-Treasurer