

May 28, 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 Attorney Higgins; Supt. Gray; Chief Beloit; Chief Dixon; Asst. St. Comm. Miller; Anna Hargis and Jordan Beach – Big Brothers/Big Sisters; Ed Adams; Larry Williams; Nancy Sexton; Jeff Woodford; Randy Adams; 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 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 requested action on the claims presented.

Board member Higgins 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 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 Board ?

Clerk-Treasurer Sitzman replied not at this time.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were Legals ?

Attorney Higgins replied none for the Water.

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 ?

Board member Curtis reported construction is proceeding.

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

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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 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 Attorney Higgins; Supt. Gray; Chief Beloat; Chief Dixon; Asst. St. Comm. Miller; Anna Hargis and Jordan Beach – Big Brothers/Big Sisters; Ed Adams; Larry Williams; Nancy Sexton; Jeff Woodford; Randy Adams; 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.

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

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.

Asst. St. Comm. Miller stated he has no report.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

**Police & Dog Chairman Jeffries** stated school is out and asked that everyone be mindful of pedestrians, especially children. He then stated he has a list of 14 street lights that are non-functioning and it has been forwarded to Vectren

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.

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

Attorney Higgins stated they are reading for the second reading of the Ordinance to Amend the City of Mt Vernon Code of Ordinances, Title VII: Traffic Code, Chapter 75: Parking Schedules, Schedule X – Single Space Parking Zones Only, as amended on first reading at their last 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 an amendment to a traffic ordinance they passed earlier in the year, 15-4, concerning weight restrictions to traffic on Kimball Street. She stated the Mayor contacted her and recommended this amendment. Ordinance 15-4 lists no exceptions, which is important, but the city has one business (IMI) that is affected. The exception is needed so that IMI can get back and forth to their business. This does not affect any other ordinances where weight restrictions are in place. She asked if there were any questions and added that they need to get his fixed for IMI.

Councilman Hoehn moved the Ordinance to Amend Ordinance 2015-04, An Ordinance Concerning The City of Mt Vernon Code of Ordinances, Title VII-Traffic Code, Chapter 74-Traffic Schedules – Schedule VII ( C ) –Weight Regulations be passed on first reading. Seconded by Councilman Curtis.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

Councilman Jeffries asked if they are sure only one business is affected ?

Attorney Higgins replied yes, but they are no actual business names in the ordinance.

Councilman Hoehn asked if this is for all streets, if this stipulation on other streets, or are they regulated in other ways ?

Attorney Higgins replied they are regulated by vehicle and weight on other streets. IMI has no other route to their business. She added the city is also excepted as well.

Councilman Hoehn asked if the total picture has been looked at and this is the only one that needs addressed ?

Attorney Higgins replied yes.

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.

Councilman Curtis moved the rules be suspended. 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 – yes; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – yes;

Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Curtis 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 – yes; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – yes;

Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Curtis moved the rules be suspended. 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.

Councilman Hoehn moved the ordinance pass on final 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.

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

Attorney Higgins stated the next item is an Ordinance of Additional Appropriations in the General, COIT, EDIT, and MVHF Funds. She added they have discussed most of these items but if there are any questions, she would be glad to answer them.

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 they will have a public hearing as well as two more readings.

Attorney Higgins stated she would like to give the Council a heads up on an issue. Back in 2008 Sigeco made some improvements at the A B Brown plant, through EDC Bonds. The project was in three phases and she has been notified by their bond counsel that they are ready to move forward with another phase. They will want to come back thru the City of Mount Vernon EDC for this as well and will probably be attending a June meeting to discuss their project. In going through the City's EDC

they will be paying the City a \$10,000 EDC fee. She added she just wanted to give them a heads up that this will be forthcoming.

Mayor Tucker stated they are now ready for the Audience, and on the Agenda is Big Brothers and Big Sisters.

Anna Hargis stated she and Jordan Beach are indeed with Big Brothers and Big Sisters and they have been in the Posey County area for four to five years now. They started in the North Posey School Corp mentoring students and they have now expanded to Mount Vernon and find they are being quite successful. They want kids to be successful and they can help them achieve that by developing relationships with the. Many kids do not have relationships with trusted adults. Mentoring changes lives. They are always looking for mentors and actually, it does not require much time at all – three to four hours per month.

Jordan Beach stated they also have a waiting list that has been sitting still. There are currently 10 kids on the waiting list – six are boys that have been on the waiting list for at least six months. Most of them are being raised by single mothers or grandmothers, and they need a trusted adult role model. They have also noticed that there are more women volunteers than men. She stated just to hang out with them is all they want. The process is very simple. Just fill out an application, attend an orientation program, interview and undergo a background check, and a reference check and training process. Once that is done, they would be matched with their “little”. It is a pretty fast process really. Ms. Hargis again stated they believe that mentoring changes lives. Their program is relationship based, so it does take to build that relationship. She would ask that Council please consider being a volunteer or at least tell someone within about the program with 72 hours. They can also search their website or visit their local office at Trinity Church.

Councilman Curtis asked what are the ages of the kids ?

Ms. Beach replied between five (Kindergarten) and 12. She added they also find that they older kids are harder to match.

They then thanked Council for their time.

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

There was no response.

Mayor Tucker stated under Old Business is discussion of the stop light at 4<sup>th</sup> and Walnut.

Councilman Hoehn stated this was first discussed a year ago. INDOT had sent a letter stating that the light did not meet criteria to justify a stop light intersection at that location. They would like to remove the light. He added he has called INDOT and they indicated they will not move forward without direction from the Mayor or the Council. It will not be removed without that. He then stated he would like to have a 90 traffic count with a flashing light, then make the decision on removal based on how that trial goes. He then moved they move forward and alert INDOT to pursue the removal of the light and request a 90 day flashing light period.

Mayor Tucker stated that yes, this was indeed brought up in March 2014. He added INDOT studied the intersection and concluded that it did not warrant a stop light being there. But, they (INDOT) also told the city that there is a lot going on in our city with many state and local projects, construction at SABIC, expansion at Countrymark, and the fertilizer plant coming, etc. They indicated we may want to hold off and see how all of that impacts us. He then stated when they voted a year ago, the Council was divided with Councilmen Hoehn and Fuelling wanting to remove the light and Councilman Curtis and Jeffries wanting to keep it. Councilwoman Higgins indicated that if the western bypass was to come to fruition, then she would be in favor of its removal, if not, she wanted to keep it. He continued by stating Chief Beloat was also in favor of keeping it, and at that time, Council decided to keep it in place and wait to see what happens. He spoke with Lora Lewis at INDOT on Wednesday and they once again said the same thing that we should wait and see what happens. She also stated INDOT

would be rehabbing State Route 62 from County Line Road all the way through town in a couple of years and with that and the State Street and Main Street projects, we may want to hold off. She indicated they would do whatever the city wished, but recommended the city hold off on removal. He added they can do a count. Although, a year ago, a stop light there was no warranted. Councilman Fuelling stated it is always to take one out than it is to have one put it. He further stated that he agrees with Councilman Hoehn that they should get the ball rolling to see what their options are.

Councilman Curtis seconded Councilman Hoehn's motion and indicated they can now "discuss". Councilman Jeffries stated he lives in the area and grew up there as well. After school the pedestrian traffic really picks up and this crossing at 4<sup>th</sup> is the only safe place to cross. There are a few hours during the day where the traffic is heavier and taking that light out, would make 4<sup>th</sup> Street like an expressway. Back ups happen and it is hard to pull out and head west. State Street had a low count as well, but it is being utilized by the port. Council just needs to be careful before making a decision. He then stated once all the trucks are off of 4<sup>th</sup> Street, if they get a bypass, that could all totally change. That would change the amount and type of traffic, and at that time, he would be open to removing the light. He is reluctant to do that now. He further stated that Mount Vernon is a walkable community.

Councilwoman Higgins added the Azalea Trail also goes right through the intersection.

Councilman Curtis stated it really is a simple thing. He added he sees a problem with the light; however he sees more of a problem if they take it out right now. He added between 3:00 and 5:00 pm the cars start backing up way down the line. It could be because of the light, he doesn't know.

Councilwoman Higgins stated they need a way to get traffic from one side of town to the other.

Councilman Hoehn stated there are two painted pedestrian crosswalks, one at Mulberry and one two block down. He added he doesn't see pedestrian traffic at this intersection – they are going to College or 4<sup>th</sup> and Main. Making a left turn onto Walnut from 4<sup>th</sup> going west, the light does no good with that. The light is not doing anything but congesting and confusing. He stated they need to move forward and see what happens.

Councilman Curtis stated he wants to be certain the city would have the final say.

Councilman Hoehn replied the state won't remove it if the city doesn't tell them to. The city can also put stipulations on it. There will be no next step without signing off on it. He suggest a flashing light for 90 days.

Councilman Jeffries stated that isn't very long. It could be 90 days to realize it is even flashing,

Councilman Hoehn stated the city can stipulate how long they want the flashing light, but they need a real world test.

Councilman Curtis stated he wants to be assured the city has final say, in writing, and if they can get that, he is willing to try it.

Councilman Fuelling stated he feels just the opposite – people avoid that light.

Councilwoman Higgins stated and she feels just the opposite of that.

Councilman Curtis stated he is more concerned about the 1500 to 2000 construction workers that are going to converge on the city coming and going everyday. That will be for a three year period. If they get the bypass then this is just a mute discussion.

Councilwoman Higgins asked how long that light has been there ?

Councilman Hoehn stated he is not really sure but the state said they did not want it there.

Councilman Curtis replied he is not sure, but he has heard the urban legend.

Mayor Tucker stated today's criteria would not warrant it either.

Councilman Fuelling stated he just avoids it and he really doesn't care either way.

Councilman Hoehn stated he would like to see them take action and get it in writing that the city will get the final trigger pull. He reiterated they could go with a flashing light for 90 days and then either Mayor Tucker and/or Council would sign off on the final decision made by the city.

Larry Williams asked if there will be public hearings on this ? He added that is a serious question.

Mayor Tucker replied not on that, no.

Mr. Williams added he wants the light left in, at least during the three year construction period.

Nancy Sexton stated there are two lights one block apart.

Mayor Tucker stated they will now have a roll call vote.

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

Jeffries – no; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn - yes;

Curtis – yes; Higgins – no.

Mayor Tucker stated he will start the ball rolling tomorrow.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any other Old Business ?

Councilman Curtis stated he just wants to be clear that if the city's stipulations are not met, the state will go no further ?

Mayor Tucker replied that is correct, but he will get that in writing.

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 he has no report.

**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** stated the forms for the torch relay are out and she has them. She added deceased folks can even be nominated. This is a county-wide thing and applications will be accepted through December 31, 2015. After the deadline, she will submit them to Indianapolis. The winners will be notified on June 1, 2016. The number of torch carriers is determined by county population. This is going to be a big event and Posey County has two stops. She added the applications can be picked up at Printcrafters and so far, they have had a great response. This is a great honor. Also, the torch will be here during River Days.

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

Councilman Jeffries 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 unanimously and adjourned the meeting.

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John Tucker, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Cristi L. Sitzman  
Clerk-Treasurer