

June 11, 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 Beloat; Chief Dixon; St. Comm. Dieterle; Supt. Givens; Brandy Jackson; Troy Ricketts; representatives of Vectren; Nancy Sexton; Jeff Woodford; Ed 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 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 Jeffries moved the claims presented be allowed for payment. Seconded by Board member 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 report of the Water Chairman.

Chairman Curtis stated Supt. Gray has an update on the water project.

Supt. Gray stated the painting is done on the Keck Tower, and the new lights are working. He added the pilings are set for the new building and the construction trailer is there as well as some constructions materials. He continued his report by stating Lamella 1 is down for maintenance and they have noticed that it is corroded quite a bit, lots of rust. He added he may end up needing to get quotes on having it sandblasted and recoated.

Supt. Gray concluded his report by stating also on the Keck Tower, they have tightened the rods to help stabilize it, as it has been swaying.

Chairman Curtis asked if the geo work is done ?

Supt. Gray replied yes.

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 any Legals for consideration ?

There were none.

Mayor Tucker asked if anyone in the Audience wished to address the Water Utility 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 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.

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; St. Comm. Dieterle; Supt. Givens; Brandy Jackson; Troy Ricketts; representatives of Vectren; Nancy Sexton; Jeff Woodford; Ed Adams; Corey Woolsey – Mount Vernon Democrat; and arriving during the meeting, Larry Williams.

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 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 Chairman Higgins stated the Street Department will start spraying for mosquitoes in a few days.

Comm. Dieterle stated he has no report.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Police & Dog Chairman Jeffries stated he has no report.

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 now ready for the Legal portion of the Agenda, with the first item being the 3rd 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.

Councilman Hoehn stated he has looked at this and contemplated it and he feels they may want to table this, not amend it into something that can't be undone. He feels they should put together a committee comprised of business owners in the area, boaters, council members, etc. and bring back any ideas they may come up with. He added he does not want to overdo this and run the boaters out. The last thing they do before they go out is fill their gas tanks in excess of \$100, get ice, etc. They spend money here. Large sums of money. He added he wants them to stay here. Again, they should put together a group and look all this over and received recommendations.

Councilman Jeffries stated Councilman Hoehn is not the only one that thinks Council needs to do the minimum amount on this. He then moved they amend the ordinance to limit the area of prohibited parking for trailers to between Walnut and Mulberry.

Councilman Curtis stated he can see where they are going with this and he also agrees with Councilman Hoehn. If they go forward it may be overkill. He added he would also like to get folks together like Councilman Hoehn said, business owners, boaters, the Board Club, citizens, etc and get recommendations to then bring back to the Council.

Councilman Jeffries stated the goal is to come up with a graphic representation of place to park the trailers on the weekends.

Councilman Curtis stated something needs to be done this summer – immediately. There are activities scheduled at the riverfront and that also will need consideration as well as the ramping situation.

Councilman Jeffries added average people also enjoy the park.

Councilman Curtis stated last Saturday there were three boats from Main to Mulberry; eight to the left of the launch ramp and two at the Eagles and one on College, and that was it. He thinks they need to pull a group together as they need to have some control.

Councilman Hoehn agreed it needs to be a well organized group and after they meet they can come back to Council and let Council know what they decided. He added angle parking on E. Water, maybe in front of Waters Edge, may be the answer.

Councilwoman Higgins replied there are no curbs there, on the north side.

Councilman Hoehn stated that is not the end of the world. Council needs input from folks and get a true mix of everything to decide what is the most equitable. He also asked about a foreseeable timetable ? He concluded by stating he would feel comfortable with no boats on Main Street.

Larry Williams arrived at the meeting.

Councilman Fuelling stated he agrees, but not just about parking, the whole thing needs looked at. Stopping boats from parking on the south side on Water Street may be extreme, but he is in total agreement with the formation of a group to study this.

Councilman Curtis agreed they should put a group together, have them meet and get back with Council quickly so that they can implement something immediately.

Councilman Fuelling stated there are a whole lot of unknowns for Council, as well as the committee.

Councilman Jeffries stated he still has his motion on the floor to amend the ordinance. He added he would like to give a business owner protection right now.

Councilman Hoehn stated he does not see a large number of boaters parking in front of that business now.

Councilman Curtis stated if they choose that one block, get signs, and drill holes in the concrete for those signs....then a few weeks later Council may have to change that.

Councilman Jeffries stated there was no second to his motion.

Mayor Tucker stated therefore, the motion dies for lack of a second.

Councilman Hoehn moved the ordinance be tabled indefinitely in order to form a committee for recommendations. Seconded by Councilman Curtis.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

Councilman Curtis stated he will bring this up again soon.

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 Councilman Curtis head up the committee. Seconded by Board member Fuelling.

Council consented and Councilman Curtis agreed.

Councilman Hoehn stated he might suggest Mary Esker and Troy Ricketts for the committee.

Councilman Jeffries suggested John Gerton.

Councilwoman Higgins suggested someone from the Eagles.

Councilman Jeffries also suggested a member of the Park Board.

Councilman Curtis also asked a member of Council to volunteer.

Councilman Jeffries stated that is his district, he will volunteer.

Councilman Curtis stated as they are both members of the Board of Works, he will run that by Attorney Higgins.

Mayor Tucker stated the next item is the second reading of the Ordinance of Additional Appropriations, as amended May 14, with public hearing to be held June 25.

Councilman Hoehn moved the ordinance pass on second 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.

Mayor Tucker stated next is the first reading of the Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of One or More Series of Environmental Improvement Revenue Bonds. He added Attorney Higgins was mentioning this to Council at the last meeting and has to do with EDC pollution control bonds for SIGECO (Vectren). In 2008, the city was a conduit for this project, this is another phase of the project. A representative of Vectren stated they are trying to get approval to issue tax exempt bonds to finance the project. They need to reduce emissions as the EPA has added regulations requiring more mercury to be removed, a by product of production. He then stated the tax exempt bonds help them by lowering cost of financing, which will in turn help the consumer. He concluded by stating this will be phase 2 of the project.

Mayor Tucker stated second reading is scheduled for June 25, with public hearing June 30 and third reading July 9.

Councilman Hoehn moved the ordinance pass on first 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.

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

There was no response.

Mayor Tucker stated under Old Business is update on the light at 4th and Walnut. He continued by stating the engineer Councilman Hoehn had talked to, Damon Brown, is on his honeymoon, but he talked with Terry Bough and Lora Lewis. He stated he talked with INDOT and made the request from the last meeting, and they are willing to oblige the city, and there will be no study at this time. But, he added they will make the light a flashing light for six months, they will then monitor that, do a study, and once the study results are in, the city will voice their concerns. INDOT will then make a decision based on the city's recommendations and will remove that light if that is what the city wants.

Councilman Jeffries stated if is flashing there will be no protected pedestrian crossing there.

Mayor Tucker agreed.

Councilman Curtis asked the start date.

Mayor Tucker replied two days to a week. It will be quick.

Councilman Hoehn added that's good. Six months will give them information on school traffic that is involved. It will be a good test.

Mayor Tucker agreed added construction will begin on other things and that will be in there as well.

Supt. Givens asked if this is permanent, will there be signs up also ?

Mayor Tucker replied no, just the flashing lights. They will see what happens in that six months.

Councilman Curtis stated about a year ago they had some issues with nuisance properties – high calls to police, etc on W 9th Street area. Since that time, they have increased patrols and there has been about a 50% reduction in the number of calls over the same period from 2013-2015. Randy Adams and some others in the area have drafted a proposed ordinance and he would like see how we should proceed and possibly form a committee with representatives from landlords, to renters, etc. He added this has kind of slid to the wayside some and he would like to introduce the ordinance in the future. He believes any committee that is formed should have Mr. Adams on it for sure and asked how Council would like to proceed ?

Councilman Hoehn stated he would serve on the committee.

Councilman Jeffries stated he has met them and also read the ordinance and made some notes. He added he can be on it and possibly provide some legal advice.

Councilman Fuelling stated that all sounds good.

Councilman Jeffries stated he will chair the committee and report back after each meeting, as well as contact some landlords for their input.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any New Business ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker stated they are now ready for the reports of the Districts.

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 there has been a lot of truck traffic in Lawrence Addition, which they discussed at the Board of Works meeting today. Contacts have been made with the industries and they are willing to help. He added he spoke with Supt. Givens who was having a similar issue with GPS at the Sewage Plant. It took him over five years to get it fixed. He will get that information from Supt. Givens and see how far he can get. He then wondered if signs would help the situation.

Councilman Hoehn replied that may be the simplest solution.

Councilman Curtis stated the drivers listen to their GPS, and that is what it is telling them.

Councilwoman –at-Large Higgins stated she has no report.

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

Councilman Curtis moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Councilwoman Higgins.

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