

October 27, 2016

The Common Council met as the Water Utility Board at 9:00 am on the above date in the Meeting Room at City Hall Annex with Mayor Curtis presiding and members Pharr, Williams; Hoehn; Johnson, and Higgins attending. Others attending were Attorney Higgins; Supt. Gray; Chief Dixon; Chief Alldredge; Comm. Dieterle; Nancy Sexton; Ken Rudibaugh; Seth Brown; Rachel Christian – Mount Vernon Democrat; and Pam Robinson – Posey County News.

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

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

Mayor Curtis asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

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

Mayor Curtis requested action on the claims presented.

Board member Johnson moved the claims presented be allowed for payment. Seconded by Board member Hoehn.

Mayor Curtis asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

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

Mayor Curtis stated they will now hear the report of the Water Superintendent.

Supt. Gray stated they are ready to wrap up work on E. 10th Street. They will be leaving the gravel as is through the winter and pave in the spring.

Water Chairwoman Johnson stated she has no report.

Mayor Curtis asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

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

Clerk-Treasurer Sitzman replied not at this time.

Mayor Curtis asked if there were any Legals for consideration ?

Attorney Higgins stated they have a request for water service outside of the city limits for Seth Brown, at 7110 Upton Road. She stated the request is for one residential tap. Mr. Brown has talked with Supt. Gray, and completed all necessary paperwork.

Supt. Gray added he has no issues with the request. After Mr. Brown pays the tap fee, they will be ready for hook up.

Mayor Curtis asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Board member Williams moved the request be approved. Seconded by Board member Hoehn.

Mayor Curtis asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

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

Mayor Curtis asked if anyone in the Audience wished to address the Board ?
There was no response.

Mayor Curtis asked if there was any Old Business ?
There was none.

Mayor Curtis stated under New Business is a decision on the Thanksgiving night meeting.
Board member Williams moved the meeting be canceled. Seconded by Board member Hoehn.
Mayor Curtis asked if there was any discussion ?
There was none.

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

Mayor Curtis stated if there was no further business, he entertains a motion to adjourn.
Board member Hoehn moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Board member Johnson.
Mayor Curtis 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.

Bill Curtis, 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 Curtis presiding and members Pharr, Williams; Hoehn; Johnson, and Higgins attending. Others attending were Attorney Higgins; Supt. Gray; Chief Dixon; Chief Alldredge; Comm. Dieterle; Nancy Sexton; Ken Rudibaugh; Seth Brown; Rachel Christian – Mount Vernon Democrat; and Pam Robinson – Posey County News.

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

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

Mayor Curtis asked if there was any discussion ?
There was none.

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

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

Comm. Dieterle stated he has no report.

Street & Light Chairwoman Higgins stated she has no report.

Mayor Curtis asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Chief Alldredge stated he has no report.

Police & Dog Chairman Pharr stated he has no report.

Mayor Curtis asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Chief Dixon stated he has some good news. The fire, water, and dispatch had an insurance audit over the summer and they have been upgraded one whole class – to a 4. He added he is very proud, and because of this, the citizens of Mount Vernon may be rewarded with lower homeowner’s insurance premiums. He then stated he would like to the Supt. Gray and his department for their diligence is flushing and maintaining the lines, as well as adding capacity. Again, he added he is very proud and thankful for a job well done.

Councilman Williams asked the difference between a class 5 and a class 4 ?

Chief Dixon replied quite a bit. They used to be audited every ten years, now it will be every five years and he hopes they can continue to improve. He stated he sees it very likely that they can get upgraded to a class 3 or 2 in the next five to 10 years.

Councilman Williams agreed, good job.

Mayor Curtis thanked them as well for a job well done.

Fire Chairman Hoehn added he would like to give them a commendation for definitely a job well done as well as having a goal in mind and meeting that goal. They should be very proud.

Mayor Curtis asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Supt. Gray stated he has no report for the Sewer.

Sewer Chairman Williams stated he has no report.

Mayor Curtis asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

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

Clerk-Treasurer Sitzman replied not at this time.

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

Attorney Higgins stated the first item is the final ready of the proposed Ordinance Establishing Appropriations and Tax Rates for the City of Mount Vernon, IN for the Year Ending December 31, 2017.

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

Mayor Curtis asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Curtis requested a roll call vote.

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

Pharr – yes; Williams – yes; Hoehn – yes;

Johnson – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Curtis stated the motion carried unanimously.

Clerk-Treasurer Sitzman added it will be numbered 16-20.

Attorney Higgins stated the next item is the final reading of the proposed Ordinance Establishing Salaries and Wages for the Appointed Officers and Employees for the City of Mount Vernon, IN for the Year Ending December 31, 2017.

Attorney Higgins stated she would like to add, before final action, that there are still some questions and concerns on some of these positions due to the new FLSA regulations. She further stated it is not the city's intention to lower anyone's pay and they will have to rely on department heads to stay on top of this. She added they may need to fine tune the ordinance at a later date, after the transition of some employees. She added they want to ensure fair compensation, but she would also ask that Council consider a change at a later date if need be.

Councilman Williams stated the department heads will really need to keep an eye on overtime, as it can get out of hand quickly.

Councilman Hoehn moved the ordinance pass on final reading. Seconded by Councilwoman Johnson. Mayor Curtis asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Curtis requested a roll call vote.

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

Pharr – yes; Williams – yes; Hoehn – yes;

Johnson – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Curtis stated the motion carried unanimously.

Clerk-Treasurer Sitzman added it will be numbered 16-21.

Attorney Higgins stated the next item is the second reading of the alley vacation ordinance for Dollar General.

Councilman Williams stated he will remove himself from the discussion and vote on this ordinance, as it is a conflict.

Councilman Hoehn moved the Ordinance Vacating the South Half of a North/South Alley Beginning at 4th Street and Extending North to the South Edge of the East/West Alley Connecting Vine and Pearl Streets Within the City of Mount Vernon, Indiana pass on second reading. Seconded by Councilwoman Johnson.

Mayor Curtis asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Curtis requested a roll call vote.

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

Pharr – yes; Williams – abstain; Hoehn – yes;

Johnson – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Curtis stated the motion carried.

Attorney Higgins stated the final item is the first reading of the proposed Ordinance to Amend the City of Mt. Vernon Code of Ordinances, Title VII-Traffic Code, Chapter 75-Parking Schedules, Schedule I – No Parking.

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

Mayor Curtis asked if there was any discussion ?

Councilman Williams stated he has been looking at this since their last meeting, and he is wondering if they should include the entire north side of the street. He added there is congestion there and would ask that Council take a look at it.

Councilwoman Johnson asked if anyone has mentioned this to the library ?

Councilman Williams replied he spoke with Marissa Priddis when this first came up and they had no problem with it, but he will get with them again.

Councilman Hoehn stated they could vote this down and revamp it.

Attorney Higgins replied they could pass it and amend as well.

Councilman Williams again stated he would like to see the entire north side of the street have parking removed.

Mayor Curtis stated if there was no further discussion, he will request a roll call vote.

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

Pharr – yes; Williams – yes; Hoehn – yes;

Johnson – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Curtis stated the motion carried unanimously.

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

There was no response.

Mayor Curtis stated under New Business is a decision on the Thanksgiving night meeting.

Councilman Williams moved the meeting be canceled. Seconded by Councilman Hoehn.

Mayor Curtis asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

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

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

1st District Councilman Pharr stated he has no report.

2nd District Councilman Williams stated he has no report.

3rd District Councilman Hoehn stated they are still having a problem in Lawrence Addition with semis. Especially at Jefferson and Vista. One gentleman that lives in the area has a truck with a camper hooked to it parked on the street, and he has actually had a semi driver come and ask him to move his camper so he can make the turn. It is a mess and there are really some tight turns there.

Mayor Curtis stated it seems to be more of an issue with the empty trucks leaving GAF. He added he has talked to GAF and they are supposed to help by informing the drivers of an easier way out, which is an easier fix than the incoming trucks. They really need some exit signs for when they are coming out fully loaded at Givens Road and Lower New Harmony.

Councilman Hoehn added that part of the problem is that drivers differ and they are using Wal-Mart automotive GPS devices. He added they may need to start imposing fines to get it stopped.

Councilwoman Johnson stated she has contacted GAF herself as well as the county highway department. She wondered if it would be possible to contact the GPS manufacturers to see if they could change their tracking.

Councilman Williams added that is done by satellite.

Councilwoman Higgins also added they have tried that before with the sewer plant having Sabic trucks pull into the plant. It didn't work.

Councilwoman Johnson stated she is open to suggestions.

Councilwoman Higgins wondered about a big blinking sign that is also written in different languages.

Councilman Williams stated they need to start writing tickets for violations. Word will get out that way.

Mayor Curtis agreed with Councilman Hoehn that there are many different drivers, in that case, it may not help.

Councilman Hoehn agreed that word could get out, especially on the CB side of things. They could add NO TRUCKS signs, bigger ones. The one they have now no one can see.

Mayor Curtis agreed that the sign at the edge of town needs to be bigger. He wondered if they tilt the signs they could see them better. He also suggested the police department step up enforcement. He stated he is concerned for the safety of the city's residents when these trucks are on the side streets as well as he is concerned about the financial end of things, as the city has just spent hundred of thousands of dollars on paving.

Councilman Hoehn stated it isn't a problem on all streets, just certain streets – mainly Jefferson, it is very tight there.

Mayor Curtis stated Vista is one, as well as Lincoln. Again, he suggested they tilt the signs on Vista and Lincoln and look into getting larger signs. He then stated he is always open to suggestions that anyone else has.

Councilman Hoehn asked the fine for violating the ordinance on this ?

Attorney Higgins replied she is not sure.

Councilman Hoehn questioned Chief Alldredge.

Chief Alldredge replied he does not know.

Attorney Higgins added the fine is set by the judge on OV violations. There is a fine as well as court costs. The fine would be up to \$500 and court costs are at least \$126. It would be enough to get their attention.

Councilman Hoehn suggested the police sit a car down there for a day or two. They could also lay a counter down to see how many trucks they are actually talking about.

4th District Councilwoman Johnson stated she has no report.

Councilwoman-at-Large Higgins stated tonight there is another market at the riverfront, and the Mount Vernon Bicentennial Committee is bringing entertainment – the Hunter Smith Band. She added she hopes to see everyone there.

Mayor Curtis stated there is a gentleman from True Green out in the community looking at ash trees, at no cost. He is counting the ones on city property and once he is done, he will bring the information back to Council, probably in the spring. At that time they can decide where they want to go from there. The spread of the Emerald Ash Beetle in Indiana is killing the trees. Some towns have had significant financial impacts, due to having to remove the dead trees. Hopefully if they are identified in time, they can be saved. Once there is a number on how many are affected, Council can decide if the cost of treatment is justified. He did state there are several ash trees at Brittlebank Park.

Councilman Williams reminded everyone that Monday is Halloween. There will be trick or treating at the police and fire station. He asked that everyone mindful of the kids in the streets.

Mayor Curtis added that though they have no ordinance for this, he would hope they are off the streets by dark. He concluded by stating there will also be a haunted house this year at the police and fire station.

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

Councilwoman Johnson moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Councilman Williams.

Mayor Curtis 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.

Bill Curtis, Mayo

ATTEST:

Cristi L. Sitzman
Clerk-Treasurer