

COMMON COUNCIL

AUGUST 6, 2012

7:00 P.M.

Mayor Randy Strasser opened the meeting and introduced members of a local Boy Scout troop. Mayor Strasser invited the troop to lead the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Roll call was given and the following council members were present for the meeting: Carolyn Pearson, Brian Garrison and John Bennett. Dick Traeger and Nelson Smith were absent. Quorum was established with the three members present.

Minutes were presented for approval from the July 2, 2012 meeting. Carolyn Pearson made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Second by John Bennett. Motion carried. (3-0)

OLD BUSINESS:

Stellar- Corey Whitesell and Cory Daly from HWC came before the council with information on the Stellar projects and request for two resolutions needed. A public hearing was held in the council room at 6:00 P.M. for the Opera House grant. At 6:15 P.M. a public hearing for downtown facades grant application was held. On August 21 at 5:00 to 6:00 P.M. a public hearing for all stellar projects will be held at the canal center. Mr. Whitesell informed the council members that each month an email will be sent to them and this report will give them a monthly status. A detailed report will be delivered to the council quarterly. A public open house and a presentation to the council will be held for each stellar project. Updates will be processed through our website, face book and newspaper.

Resolution 2012-4 authorizes Mayor Strasser to prepare and submit an application for grant funding for the Opera House Renovation and commit local funds. Carolyn Pearson made the motion to approve Resolution 2012-4. Brian Garrison noted the need to see documents prior to the meeting in order to review them as well as talk to the residents in their district. Second by Brian Garrison. Motion carried. (3-0)

Resolution 2012-5 declares a slum and blight area exists within the city and is needed in order to become eligible for funding. John Bennett made the motion to approve resolution 2012-5. Second by Carolyn Pearson. Motion carried. (3-0)

Parking: Mayor Strasser presented two ordinances addressing the parking issue. Ordinance 2012-4 chapter 71. John Bennett noted the enforcement of parking spaces should be Monday through Friday and the hours to be from 8:00 AM to 5 PM with Saturday enforcement being eliminated. Mr. Bennett also noted that the fine structure needs to be changed and he would like to see the amount of the fine to be set at \$35.00. Carolyn Pearson felt that was too high. Mayor Strasser felt the hours should remain 9 AM to 5 PM. Council agreed to the hours. Fine structure needs to be settled before the next council meeting. Carolyn Pearson made the motion to table 2012-4 until the next council meeting. Second by Brian Garrison. Motion carried. (3-0)

Ordinance 2012-5 Chapter 76. John Bennett offered to work directly with Mrs. Diener. He will work on constructing a map with parking spaces that will match a table to be inserted in the ordinance. He will email this to Mrs. Diener. John Bennett noted there were errors in the 2012-5 ordinance. Brian Garrison made the motion to table ordinance 2012-5 until the map and table are resolved. Mayor Strasser noted for the record that he will not sign this ordinance if not changed. John Bennett seconded the motion given by Brian Garrison. Motion carried. (3-0) Brian Garrison questioned why the Mayor will not sign. Brian noted the council was given the task of working on the parking situation. John Bennett noted the council had done what was requested and by the next meeting a map an ordinance would be ready.

Purchase Policy. Carolyn Pearson wanted to know what position the Fire Territory would fall in. The city is the provider unit for the Fire Territory. Darrell Sterrett, Fire Chief, questioned if it would be possible for the Fire Territory to establish their own purchase policy with their board and then bring to the BOW. John Bennett had questions on 2B and thought we had decided on two quotes. Carolyn Pearson moved we table this until information on Fire Territory and other specifics was satisfied. Second by John Bennett. Motion passed. (3-0)

NEW BUSINESS:

Alley abandonment on Crockett Street. Mrs. Diener recommended we give the alley to J.D.Young and allow building on the land. Carolyn moved to vacate the alley as proposed. Second by John Bennett. Motion carried. (3-0)

2013 Budget. Council decided to meet on the 13th of August at 6:00 P.M. to review and possibly make changes to the budgets submitted by department heads for the 2013 calendar year.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Wastewater-Dick VanSickle reported continued work with carbon source. F&K had to be called in to repair a sewer line that Frontier Communications had broken. Grade X was working on side of road and tore up a manhole. Both situations had been addressed. Mr. Bonty had been approved by the BOW and was hired for the position at the wastewater plant. Annual lab test had been submitted and were good. One test had been sent in late.

Street – Aaron Lyons noted lots of patching had been completed before the slurry work was done. Emphasis had been on the street surfaces this past month. John Bennett noted the work by the street department looked good.

Police-Police Chief John Chapman explained their department has started the hiring process for an officer. 42 applicants had been sorted down to 16. Bullet proof vests are in and ½ of the cost will be reimbursed by the Department of Justice. Emergency planning is being done with Dave McDowell for specific plans for the city.

Area Plan-John Bennett missed the meeting due to illness.

Fire Territory – Darrell Sterrett, Fire Chief, did not have a formal report and asked if council had any questions. None were presented.

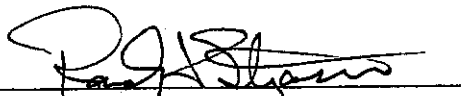
Community Development – Kevin Kologinsky reported rebidding will take place on the 21st of August for the Floodgate Project. Environmental work can't be completed and this is slowing up the Interurban Project. Safe Routes will see construction begin in March or April of 2013. Freedom Bridge is moving along and at this time INDOT has plans and will deliver specs for bids.

Mayor's Office – Mayor Strasser noted he is working with Laura Walls of EDC on applicants. Old Settler's will be arriving in town for the week end.

Mayor Strasser asked for questions, comments or concerns with no response.

Carolyn Pearson expressed her pleasure in welcoming the Boy Scouts and thanked the leaders that made it possible for them to attend the meeting. Carolyn noted it was good to see them exposed to the "hows" of running the city.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 A.M.



Mayor Randy Strasser



Carolyn Pearson



Brian Garrison



Nelson Smith



Dick Traeger



John Bennett