

COMMON COUNCIL

JANUARY 13, 2014

7:00 P.M.

Mayor Randy Strasser opened the meeting and led council members and guests in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Roll call was given and the following council members were present: Carolyn Pearson, Nelson Smith, Dick Traeger and John Bennett. Brian Garrison was absent and Mayor Strasser noted Brian had contacted him with notice he would not be able to attend the meeting.

Minutes from the council meeting of December 2, 2013 were presented for approval. Carolyn Pearson made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Second by Dick Traeger. Motion carried. (4-0)

OLD BUSINESS:

Council Election: Carolyn Pearson, presently serving as council president, offered to step aside. Carolyn explained she had served as president for many years and felt it was time for someone to fill the position. She noted the presidency requires additional time for meetings and gave one example as the need to meet with State Board of Accounts during exit interviews. Dick Traeger expressed his desire to serve and Carolyn Pearson nominated Dick Traeger to serve as President of the Common Council. Second by John Bennett. Motion carried. (4-0)

School Resource Officer: John Chapman met with Ross Striebeck and Ralph Walker and feels the school will explore other options. The state requires the school to have an officer with ties to a police department and must be a graduate of the academy. If the City of Delphi agreed to the offer from the school, the officer could be a part time reserve on the Delphi squad and could fill in on vacations. John Bennett explained John Chapman and other officers spend more and more time at the school and their support and help to the school is appreciated.

Employee Manual: Mayor Strasser explained the benefit section for the employees has changes. Nelson Smith questioned if the new policy had been approved. Mayor Strasser explained the changes to the manual had been approved by the BOW. He further explained two officers had been impacted by the changeover. Justin Wilson would lose vacation days with the new proposed plan. Chief Chapman had received 14 days of vacation time when hired and an additional day for each year served. Carolyn Pearson felt all employees were going to be the same and that was part of the purpose of making the change. Carolyn noted that Dick VanSickle loses days each year and does not come back to the BOW or council making him a loyal employee in her eyes. John Bennett feels the days given to John Chapman were part of his benefit package and therefore should not be taken away. If the days were capped for John, he would not receive additional vacation time until he worked 15 years for the city. Mayor Strasser questioned John Chapman for his thoughts on the matter. John was not sure how to respond. Nelson Smith feels John should be capped at 17 days (14 +3) until he reaches 15 years of service and all future chiefs will follow the city policy. John Bennett made the motion to cap John Chapman at 17 vacation days until he reaches 15 years of service and all future chiefs will follow

approved city policy. Justin Wilson will continue to receive his 18 days of vacation until he reaches the 15 year time. Second by Nelson Smith. Motion carried. (4-0)

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Mark Zimpher returned with a proposal for help from the city for the possible addition. When the addition by the High School was developed, the city helped with infrastructure in the amount of \$50,000. The road needs extended with a possible cost of \$12,000 and possible \$50,000 for infrastructure. A request to waive tap and sewer fees is part of their request. With this request comes the reality of increased income for the city with user fees and tax gains. John Bennett questioned the length of the road extension and was told it would be less and 100 feet. Carolyn questioned Aaron Lyons and Aaron explained he had not seen the prints. Carolyn asked about curbs and expressed her dislike of appearance without curbs. Aaron noted it becomes impossible for snow removal without curbs. Mark stated it cost about \$1,200 a unit to provide curbs but was open to discussion. Carolyn questioned if sidewalks would be part of the plan and was told no. Mark explained they have to look at benefits to additional maintenance as well as expense. John Bennett informed the council members the school must bus the children in an addition if there are no sidewalks. Carolyn questioned the loss of tap fees to the city and was told Zimpher would do the lateral installation to the site. We would only do the pit and meter for water. The developer is providing the infrastructure and that becomes an asset to the city. Mark explained it would not all be done at the same time, it would come with growth shown. Final approval could be as soon as the end of February. The condo plan would have a maintenance package, restrictions and association fees. Carolyn stated the addition is wanted but feels we must be responsible to cost. Nelson Smith questioned Mark for an amount. Mark Zimpher stated for the first two phases of the addition the cost would be \$62,000. Nelson stated we want the addition and we can have more discussions on curbs at a later time. Nelson Smith made the motion to approve the \$62,000 city participation in the addition. Second by Dick Traeger. Motion carried. (4-0) It was determined a resolution was not needed at this time but would be made before the money is issued and when determination of funds is made.

**Traffic Ordinance:** After discussion on Ordinance 2014-1, it was determined the speed limit should be for east and west bound traffic for the area from the stop light on Washington St. to the new highway. It can be approved on first reading tonight and then advertised. John Bennett questioned if we should clean up the speed limits now in place. Mayor Strasser stated without doing a traffic study it should remain the same. Carolyn Pearson made the motion to approve Ordinance 2014-1 on first reading. Second by John Bennett. Motion carried. (4-0)

**Truck Traffic:** An ordinance to establish a preferred route for trucks would keep truck traffic from using the section of Main St. from the stop light to the new highway. Mrs. Diener noted she can do a weight limit posting or a no multi axel. We can use an ordinance to establish and then signs can be placed. Mayor Strasser will work with Mrs. Diener and Aaron Lyons on a plan.

#### Department Reports:

Leanne explained the clerk's office is ready to do the W2's. A grant financial report was given to the council members.

John Chapman had submitted a written report and publicly thanked Aaron Lyons for his help on Samuel Milroy Road.

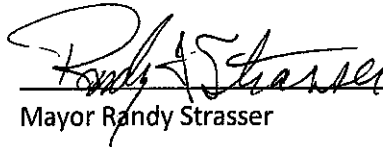
Aaron Lyons reported his department is working on yearly maintenance and had been really busy with snow removal. Aaron stressed his need for a salt barn. The last shipment had been delivered on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 2 weeks later what wasn't used was ruined. John Bennett questioned if Aaron has a solution. Aaron stated he needs a property to put a building. He has plans and prices for a 30 x 48 building, he just needs land. John Bennett asked if it would be possible to build behind Bradshaw's. That area flooded in 2003. All present agreed the need should be addressed.

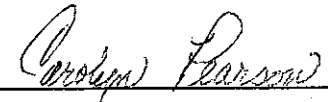
Utilities: Written reports for both water and wastewater were distributed to council members. Mayor Strasser noted the schedules for bond projects were in the packets.

Community Development: Kevin Kologinsky reminded the members a work shop would be held on the 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M. for Downtown Streetscapes. Owner occupied housing will soon be ready to start second phase. A spread sheet analysis of grants will be ready for the next meeting.

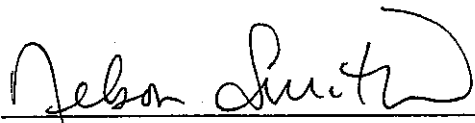
Mayor Strasser presented the committee appointments for the 2014 year. Mayor Strasser thanked all departments for their efforts during the last storm and also thanked the council for ensuring the departments have good equipment to handle stressful times.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 P.M.

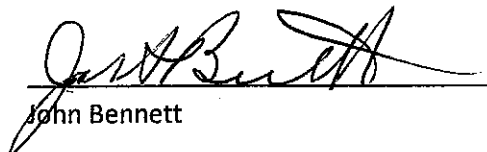
  
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Mayor Randy Strasser

  
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