

COMMON COUNCIL  
NOVEMBER 2, 2015  
7:00 P.M.

Mayor Randy Strasser opened the meeting for business 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: Richard Traeger, Carolyn Pearson, Brian Garrison and John Bennett.

Minutes from the meeting held in October were presented for approval. Richard Traeger made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Second by Brian Garrison. Motion carried. (4-0).

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mayor Strasser announced on the 16<sup>th</sup> there would be a Stellar Update meeting at 6:00 at the City Building in the Council Room. He noted he would like all Council members present.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

2015-6 Elected Officials Wages – Carolyn Pearson made the motion to approve 2015-6 Elected Officials Wages on first reading. Second by Richard Traeger. Motion carried. (4-0)

Carolyn Pearson made the motion to suspend the rules on 2015-6. Richard Traeger second. Motion carried. (4-0) Carolyn Pearson made the motion to approve 2015-6 on second reading. Second by Richard Traeger. Motion carried. (4-0)

Ordinance 2015-7 Wages for Employees – Richard Traeger made the motion to approve 2015-7 on first reading. Second by Carolyn Pearson. Motion carried. (4-0) Richard Traeger made the motion to suspend the rules on 2015-7. Second by Carolyn Pearson. Motion carried. (4-0) Richard Traeger made the motion to approve 2015-7 Wages for Employees on second reading. Second by Carolyn Pearson. Motion carried. (4-0)

Mike Turchi from BF&S proceeded with their report on the flood gate project. He said this has been kind of in the works since 2001, but we have been working on this version since 2010. In 2014 we acquired land for the flood gate project. To maintain the area upside of the levee and protect so it does not require flood insurance is the main goal. The levee certification process has been started and needs to be done. Otherwise, people may have to buy flood insurance. There are steps to do contract documentation, permits have to be finalized and this is all going to take us from the middle to the end of November. \$173, 802 will be our funds. There were 3 bids and they were higher than anticipated. There is an additional \$410,000 needed to do the project. Brian Garrison questioned why it was higher. How did we come up with \$173,802?

Mike said that goes back to the 2014 budget. Brian Garrison questioned again how did we go from \$173 to \$410. Mike said that happens because over a period of time prices change and the bids were all higher than the estimates. Our ending cost in order to do this will be \$583,927. Brian questioned what are we getting out of this grant? Mike noted we are getting two new flap gates in the Wabash & Erie Canal. There will also be twin pipes carrying canal excess water under the levy. Main gates will be worked on. Platforms will be built around them. It will also include a pump station. Mayor Strasser noted the first time the grant ran out of time. Brian Garrison said he hasn't seen anything yet that the State says what we must do. Mayor Strasser explained FEMA is the driving force behind what we are required to do. Brian Garrison does not think FEMA is telling us what to do, and why do we have to do it by the 16<sup>th</sup>? The grant will expire and 1.6 million dollars is on the line. If we don't continue the grant even though we're paying a higher cost, we will have to pay for it all out of City funds so it makes sense to use the grant funds.

Dan McCain noted the flood protection takes care of the canal's buildings and operating the canal boat. When there has been flood water, they have lost the use of the canal boat and revenue. Steve Gray, who is the Treasurer of the Canal Association, noted it had made an economic pressure on the Canal. Carolyn Pearson questioned what savings Mike would possibly be able to get out of re-scoping his requirements for the project. Maybe \$75 to \$150,000, maybe 5 to 10%, but feels cuts can be made without affecting the total project. So our total costs would end up being \$583,927. Leanne questioned when we needed the money and when to release the funds and if the funds would be released in December. If so, we need a resolution and where the money is coming from. Brian Garrison questioned who this helped the most, the Canal area or the downtown? In 2008, Randy had said we would just need to replace the gates and now here we are with a 1.6 million dollar project. Mike Turchi told Brian he would get all the information he is wanting and have it to him at that special meeting. He will have it to him ahead of the meeting.

Richard Traeger proposed the Council allow him to act as the clearing point for the uses of the former Family Services Building. The State wants to sell it back to City and there are lots of people interested. Richard Traeger felt they could contact him and Council will entertain who would be the best fit for the building. Randy had contacted INDOT and there are some legal right of ways and federal highway easements involved. The Council agreed to let Richard Traeger act as the agent for the Family Services Building bringing final decision to Council for disposition of building.

#### DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Street – Aaron informed the Council the septic was installed at Riley Cabin, but the electric work needs done yet. The storm line was done. They have been working on leaves. Aaron had been contacted by the railroad and informed of the dates and times the railroad crossings would be closed other than Union, Indiana and Wilson.

Wastewater - Dick VanSickle reported F&K and Mr. Manhole had done seven manholes for him and leveling around them. Accu-Dig worked on the alley manhole behind the Opera House and the Rock Shop replaced old brick structure.

Police – Steve Mullin reported it had been standard patrol for the month. The SRO has had good results at school. They did an event with the State, County and City on emergency procedures and it had gone well.

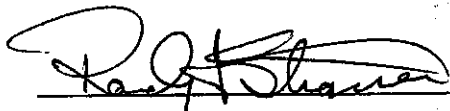
Water - Craig Myers had to replace two services lines. The base stations for the new readouts are installed and the antennas will be set in a couple of weeks. They will be set up with the Clerk's Office for the automatic reads.

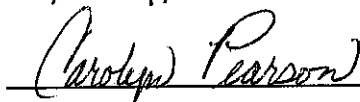
Community Development – Kevin Kologinsky explained on December 9<sup>th</sup> they would be letting the Interurban Trail. Owner Occupied Housing is still being cleaned up on Phase 1. We would like to do the selection on Phase 2 by the end of the year. Gateway 2 will be next year. Streetscapes will wrap up in a couple of weeks. Milestone will return in the early spring to do the final blacktopping.

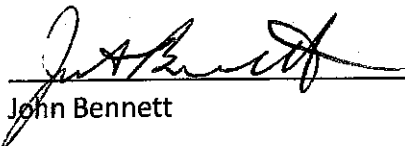
Fire Department – Darrell Sterrett noted Curtis Borden should receive recognition. He pursued a smoke detector grant and anyone in the community can call the Fire Department and they will install the fire detectors in their home at no cost. They have purchased their truck. They received funds from Redevelopment and it is in the bank. They will make a payment when the chassis is ready. They had a meeting with Tecton concerning the new building project and it looks very good.

Mayor Strasser noted that elections were tomorrow and wanted the Council to know he is continuing to work on his transition list because whoever is going to be driving the bus after the election must have the knowledge of what is actually going on in the City.


The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

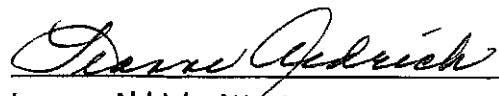
  
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Mayor Randy Strasser

  
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Carolyn Pearson

  
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John Bennett

  
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Richard Traeger, President

  
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Brian Garrison

  
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Leanne Aldrich, Attest