

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 5, 2005
TIME: 6:00 P.M.

Present: Mayor Frank Manus, Gary Herbert, Larry Bower, Glenn Tebbe and Ken Dornich. Helen Gardner was out of state.

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes were approved.

Culpepper Cooper gave an update on the City's Health Insurance. Central Benefit has discontinued the sale of the shareholder product and because of this the stop loss was bided out and the cost of reinsurance was reduced by \$16,000. The stop loss will increase from \$25,000 to \$53,000 per person. The fixed cost did not go up and Central Benefit will still administer paying the bills. The new carrier will be Gerber Life Insurance Company. Mr. Cooper explained that the employees will not see any changes whatsoever.

Motion by Gary Herbert and seconded by Ken Dornich to recommend to the Board of Works approving this change. So passed.

Motion by Glenn Tebbe and seconded by Larry Bower to pass on 2nd reading Ordinance 2005-22. So passed.

Motion by Ken Dornich and seconded by Larry Bower to pass on 3rd reading Ordinance 2005-22. So passed.

Michael Williams of 1616 Nightingale Drive was present to voice his opinion of the no parking ordinance that was passed in November for the four cul-de-sacs in Sunset Acres. Mr. Williams had a petition against the ordinance with 37 signatures. Mr. Williams claims that the no parking ordinance creates a great inconvenience for everyone in Sunset Acres. He also stated that he had over 24 locations in the city where the right-of-way is less than 25 ft.

Glenn Tebbe questioned the statement of the inconvenience to everyone in Sunset Acres. Glenn would like to know the locations of the cul-de-sacs that are less than 25 ft.

Ken Dornich stated that Mr. Williams says he has five vehicles and his son owns two of them and when the son moves out the situation will be alleviated.

Gary Herbert told that he knows that right now the signs say no parking but feels that on Holidays and special occasions; you could probably work things out with the neighbors.

Larry Bower stated that this is a difficult situation and every thing was done legally.

Several residents spoke about the situation.

The Council agreed to review the situation.

Dax Norton and Greg Rust were present to give an update of accomplishments in 2005 and what on the agenda is to be done. Funding will be needed for 2006.

Dax showed pictures of the HottCity Logo and gave a statement of mission. They are trying to economically develop the downtown area. They are working with the Old YMCA, Decatur Hotel and old Red Cross building owners. The Main Street program needs to be a part of the revitalization.

Ken Dornich is impressed with what is being done.

Glenn Tebbe is very pleased with the good beginning.

Gary Herbert would not like to see HottCity fall short due to funds.

Larry Bower is also very happy with what has been done.

The Tax Abatement Resolution that ARA has prepared was **TABLED** for now until Council members can review it in more detail. Council members would like to see more specific guidelines for granting abatements along with the expansion of years from one to ten.

Mayor Manus will contact Eric Frey of ARA and see if he can come to the January Council Meeting.

Mayor Manus handed out a proposed employee Holiday List for Council to approve. **Council approved.**

Brian Messer, Airport Board President and Bob Dougherty were present. Brian had given the written answers to the questions that Glenn Tebbe had requested

at the last month meeting. Brian stated that the questions were answered by Gary Reagan of the FAA and Jim Keifer from INDOT. Brian told Council that he had gotten an e-mail from the FAA sternly requesting action or draw down of monies or the grant will be closed.

Mayor Manus stated that he had talked with Mr. Reagan and that his understanding is that something needs to be done in 2006 and wants to know what is going on and how the project stands.

Glenn Tebbe expressed his appreciation for the efforts of Mr. Keifer and Mr. Reagan responding to his questions. With the information given the airport has a role in Greensburg and Decatur County. Unless we abandon the airport we have a commitment either with the Federal program or going it alone. It doesn't seem feasible to buy the airport and then rebuild somewhere else in the short term. The critical questions are: Is the airport vitally important to Decatur County? What is the project cost of the runway in the next five-years without Federal program? What is the cost economically of not doing anything?

Glenn feels the City needs to pursue this and sit down with the County to determine their interest.

Ken Dornich stated that he believes not having an airport is an option. Can we exist with the current one? What would be the cost of replacing the airport? The airport is looked at as another avenue into the City. It sends a negative to prospected companies looking at coming to this area. The City should make a strong statement and the Mayor should send a letter to Mr. Reagan stating this. The City needs to sit down with the County.

Larry Bower feels the airport does have some value to the Community. His major concern is about the location and does not feel the City can go this alone. Definitely this does need to be pursued.

Gary Herbert stated he is concerned about the cost to the City and County taxpayers. It cost the City about \$10,000 a year now. Gary does feel that the airport is important and that the Federal program is a good deal and would not want to give up on this.

Bob Dougherty told the Council and the large crowd of concerned citizens that this is the best location in the state.

Marc Haston and several others voiced their concerns. Marc talked about the income of \$70,000 plus and how is the City and County going to come up with the rest of the money that will be needed to run the airport annually. Federal money can only be used for improvements.

Brian Messer told that Mr. Reagan of the FAA guarantees the budget would not run more than approximately \$50,000 a year to maintain the airport. The Government will pay 95% of the project and right now the local match would be \$130,000.

Motion by Glenn Tebbe and seconded by Ken Dornich to approve moving forward. So passed.

Tax abatement for Norman Schlemmer, Jr. was brought before Council. Mayor Manus stated that the tax abatement committee could not come up with a commitment.

Council members stated that if the tax abatement committee could not come up with a recommendation then they felt the issue was a dead issue.

Mr. Schlemmer stated to the Council that he was told and has a letter from the former Mayor Gary Bailey that he would get 5-year abatement on each phase of his LakePoint apartments. He would like to have what was promised to him and is planning on building more apartments now.

Glenn Tebbe recommended a new application with specific information be done.

Council requested Mr. Schlemmer to prepare a new SP-1.

Motion by Gary Herbert and seconded by Glenn Tebbe to approve 3-year abatement for Phase I of \$1,400,000 and adding an additional employee. So passed.

City Attorney Steve Taylor handed out a Resolution for take home vehicles and asked Council members to review and if they wanted anything added or deleted to get back to him in a couple of weeks.

Mayor Manus brought up the 5 mile limit that was brought up and discussed.

Don Schilling brought up the EDC request for funding for the year 2006 be the same as 2005.

Motion by Ken Dornich and seconded by Larry Bower to support the same funding for 2006 being \$50,000 from Edit funds. So passed.

Motion by Ken Dornich and seconded by Gary Herbert to pass on 3rd reading Ordinance 2005-18. So passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 P.M.

Presiding Officer: _____

Attest:

Clerk-Treasurer