

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 7, 2005
TIME: 6:00 P.M.

Present: Mayor Frank Manus, Helen Gardner, Gary Herbert, Glenn Tebbe and Ken Dornich. Larry Bower was absent due to surgery.

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes were approved.

Mayor Manus had requested Culpepper Cooper to get comparisons and prices on the City's health insurance coverage. Mr. Cooper had comparisons and quotes from four other insurance companies and Central Benefits was the best all around in coverage and price. The administrative fees have been dropped by 47% for the year 2005. The insurance reserve fund is in real good shape and will look at this at the end of March to see if we can divert some of the money designated to go in there elsewhere.

Brian Long and Scott Miller of H.J. Umbaugh and Associates were present at the Board of Works meeting and recommended a rate study be done on the water and wastewater at least every two to three years, so rates can be adjusted at a smaller increase if needed rather than a huge all at once. It has been 1998 for the last rate study done on the wastewater and Jeff has several big projects that are in need of being done. The water was studied about three years ago, so it is time to be looked at again. The cost would be \$9500 to look at just one of the utilities, or \$7500 each to do the study for both at the same time.

Terri Blanton and Pat VanSelow came before the Council with information about Work One and how this benefits the City. When NTN closed, 250 people were without jobs and a lot of them were able to get their GED and retrain for other jobs.

Work One works along with the Chamber of Commerce, EDC and River Valley Resources. Mike Walker of the EDC is on their board as well.

They have received a grant recently that will help with the middle group of young people that will have no chance of receiving scholarships. They also were able to receive a grant for accessibility.

They invite everyone to come out and see their office. They are there for everyone, not just dislocated people.

Basic skills academy is another concept they do and started here in Decatur County.

Jean Johannigman and Jim Hawkins were present to ask permission to have the inside parking lane on the south side of the square closed off June 25th for a street dance. There will be an Antique Show and Fiddlefest on the Courthouse lawn that day. They have been given approval from the Commissioners to use the Courthouse lawn for this.

Council approved the closing of the south side square parking area for Saturday, June 25th.

Brad McCarter spoke to Council concerning having another car show on the last Saturday of July, being the 30th.

Council approved the July 30th for the Car Show.

Motion by Ken Dornich and seconded by Glenn Tebbe to pass Resolution 2005-4, Electronic Banking for the City, Water and Wastewater. So passed.

Motion by Gary Herbert and seconded by Helen Gardner to approve transferring insurance monies of \$244.22 from General to the Police Equipment Repair. So passed.

Motion by Glenn Tebbe and seconded by Helen Gardner to pass on 1st reading Ordinance 2005-2, adopting a supplement to the code of ordinances. So passed.

Motion by Helen Gardner and seconded by Ken Dornich to suspend the rules and regulations. So passed.

Motion by Gary Herbert and seconded by Glenn Tebbe to pass on 2nd reading Ordinance 2005-2. So passed.

Motion by Helen Gardner and seconded by Ken Dornich to pass on 3rd reading Ordinance 2005-2. So passed.

Bill Prange of the Tree City Gallery presented the Mayor and Council members with a letter and told the Council that they are closing their building and putting it up for sale. They are merging in with the ACCDC. They have between 70-80 paintings at all times on hand. They would like to make a proposal for the City to consider of hanging 20 – 30 paintings in the hallways of the new City Hall when the City moves into Billings School Building. They would take all responsibility of them and have them insured. They would also be in need of a classroom to teach classes.

Mayor Manus, Ken Dornich and Glenn Tebbe feel very favorable to this proposal. Helen Gardner stated that plans for the new City Hall needs to be looked at before any decisions can be made.

Mr. Prange stated he just wanted to put this out to the Mayor and Council early in the City's process of acquiring Billings School for City Hall.

A letter from Greensburg School Superintendent, Tom Hunter, stated the School Board member, Lynda Smith's term will be expiring on June 30th. They would like the candidate for this position is selected prior to the June 14th school board meeting, so they can swear them in.

Mayor Manus makes this appointment and asked for resumes to be sent to the Mayor at City Hall by anyone interested in being on the School Board. The candidate must be a Democrat. Mayor Manus will make his appointment at the June 6th Council meeting.

Mayor Manus told that they have sent all companies with tax abatements a letter outlining the process of their CF-1, Compliance with Statement of Benefits Requirements.

Bill Meyerrose reported on the traffic committee, and a resident in the 500 block of East North Street was requesting a residential parking sign. Bill has talked with the school and they are going to try and work this problem out.

Traffic Committee request a street light be installed at Maureen Road close to the Auburn Hills Addition. It is very dark in this area.

Motion by Helen Gardner and seconded by Glenn Tebbe to approve a street light for the area. So passed.

The grant for Lincoln Street was denied and the City is resubmitting their application. Darren Burkhart of HNTB has requested another meeting with INDOT. Mayor Manus has a meeting set up concerning this also.

Cleo Duncan is working on the I-74 and 421 exits to make this a full interchange.

Mayor Manus has replaced Bruce Tressler on the Tif Board with Doug Fry. Bruce has moved out of the County.

City Attorney, Steve Taylor said he has the revised contract to be signed for Billings School Building. The closing date will be prior to April 1st.

Mayor Manus told Council that he would like to keep the Billings building renovation locally and has asked Steve Barth to do this for the City. Council members were in agreeance.

Steve Barth was present and introduced by the Mayor and Steve introduced his son Drew. Steve would like to meet with everyone and get a feel for what their needs would be.

Mike Walker of the EDC thanked the Mayor, Terri Blanton and Pat VanSelow for attending the Ball State EDC training in Muncie.

Mayor Manus felt the week of schooling was well worth his time and effort.

Mike went over some issues that are important; with jobs being tops and the need for a comprehensive plan for the City and County in the planning area. Mike thanked Glenn Tebbe for his input and knowledge and implementing this.

Mike told they have eight new members and the progress report was in the handout packet that he had provided the Mayor and Council. He would like for the City to put their thoughts and ideas of what is important for them from the EDC.

Mayor Manus stated he is interested in JOBS.

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 P.M.

Presiding Officer: _____

Attest:

Clerk-Treasurer

