

883

COMMON COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 7, 2011
7:00 P.M.

Mayor Randy Strasser opened the meeting and led council members and visitors in reciting The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Roll call was taken and the following council members were present: Carolyn Pearson, Brian Garrison, Nelson Smith, Hannah Germond and Dan Sterrett.

The minutes of October 3rd council meeting and minutes from the special meeting held on October 17th were presented for approval. Carolyn Pearson made the motion to approve the minutes from the council meeting on October 3, 2011. Second by Brian Garrison. Motion carried. Carolyn Pearson made the motion to approve the minutes from the special meeting held on October 17, 2011. Second by Hannah Germond. Motion carried.

Anita Werling presented a demonstration of the proposed changes to the web site for the City. One Technology is in the process of finishing connecting the links to other sites. Someone from the City will need to be responsible for updating information. This web site has the capability of mass emailing. Everyone agreed on the proposed web site.

John Neumann presented the recommendations from the committee in regards to downtown parking. The committee sees a need to turn 70 parking spaces into unlimited parking, add 2 more handicapped parking spaces as well as some minor improvements. Unlimited parking would not override 3 to 6 A.M. and that would allow street cleaning and snow removal. Handicap parking is unlimited as long as a license is visible. Vehicles cannot park in alleys – load and unload only. A parking diagram was presented for approval. Mayor Strasser questioned the council if they were ready to put the recommendations to vote. Nelson Smith commented he would like more time to look at the diagram. Hannah Germond voiced her agreement with Nelson Smith. Mayor Strasser tabled the issue and will address again during the December meeting.

Department Head Reports:

Clerk Treasurer Office: Leanne Aldrich informed the council members that we have four employees who are experiencing a financial burden due to the change in insurance carriers and the deductible amount. We are looking at a savings on our premiums around \$45,000. These 4

families are looking at additional medical bills of 3 to 5,000. A request for help with this issue had been given to Leanne from the employees. An increase in the budget for insurance cost or an additional appropriation would have prevented this from being an issue. Mrs. Deiner, our attorney expressed that giving assistance to these 4 employees would set a precedent. Mayor Strasser agreed with our attorney. The council feels more information is needed before any decision could be made. Leanne also informed the council that an ordinance was needed that would span January 1, 2011 thru December 31, 2011. The police department had been paid in the past for holiday pay in two installments. The amount equal to their holiday pay had been included in their hourly rate. An ordinance will be ready for the next council meeting.

Wastewater: Dick VanSickle will be attending the annual conference in two weeks. The numbers are good and in line. Dick feels we still need oxidizer to keep on track. There was a spike in gas consumption and this was due to use of vac truck to move liquids. Dick gave a written report on wastewater and water department activities.

Street: Aaron Lyons reported two unsafe trees had been removed and leaves are being picked up. Dan Sterrett asked about the salt storage situation. Aaron informed the council that he would be purchasing addition salt by the middle of December and it will be stored on the ground with a tarp cover. The new chipper is back in service. Repair was needed and the men in his department received personal training to guarantee this would not happen again. A written report was given to council members.

Parks: Anita Force, Park Superintendent issued a written report containing mowing record stats as well as maintenance. Chuck Foreman repaired the merry go round. Hannah Germond commented on the paving job done on the circle drive and noted how nice it looked.

Airport: Brian Stirm reported the pavement is done on the ramp refurbishing. This area will be painted after giving the new pavement a 2 week rest. This is a \$300,000 project and work is being done by Central Paving. Fuel sales are down. The trolley will be in the Christmas parade.

Area Plan: Nelson Smith did not attend the meeting.


Fire Territory: Darrell Sterrett, Fire Chief, reported there had been 28 runs during the month of October including 8 emergency calls. The ladder truck is being sent to Global for certification. Carolyn Pearson questioned how often the truck was used and Darrell responded there is no way to foresee the possible use of the ladder truck but when it is needed, it is a necessity. One example of the necessity of the ladder truck was during the Kerlin fire.

Community Development: Kevin Kologinsky report noted 7 meetings attended on flood grant, 3 meetings with INDOT for the safe routes to school grant and meeting concerning Freedom Bridge. Berea College has items for sale at the Opera House Art Gallery. An effort is still being made to entice youth engagement. It has been a busy and productive month.

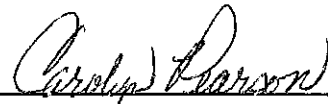
Mayor Strasser reported it's been a month of meetings-meetings-meetings. IPC is going to move forward with additional production. This is happening because the Commissioners have agreed to sell the adjoining property to IPC. Mayor Strasser noted this is very encouraging and more information will be available in another month.

Mayor Strasser asked if there were any questions or comments from council or guests. Carolyn Pearson mentioned that Norm Miller, a former teacher with DCSC offered extra credit to his students that attended council meetings. Perhaps this approach could be expanded. Students could record meetings for experience and interest. Hannah Germond mentioned that maybe Anita Werling could use the students to contribute to the web site.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 P.M.



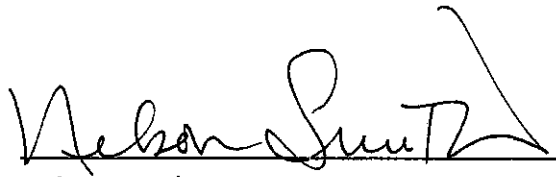
Mayor Randy Strasser



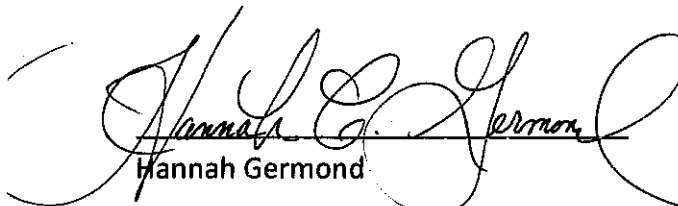
Carolyn Pearson, President



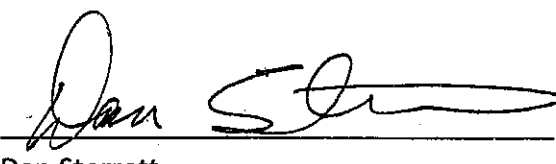
Brian Garrison



Nelson Smith



Hannah Germond



Dan Sterrett