

COMMON COUNCIL

OCTOBER 7, 2013

7:00 P.M.

Mayor Randy Strasser opened the meeting and led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Roll call was given and the following council members were present for the meeting: Carolyn Pearson, Dick Traeger, Nelson Smith and John Bennett. Brian Garrison was absent.

Minutes from the September 3, 2013 meeting 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:

- A. ADA Transition Plan. Mayor Strasser explained this transition plan is a working document. Our facilities with public access have been identified and are part of the compliance plan. VS Engineering has helped with the compliance plan. This document will give us a master list of projects, procedures for grievances as well as requests from the public for access. 2016 is the date of improvements and it does not mean we have to begin immediately. We need to show a plan to work on this. John Bennett questioned if each infraction needs a date to be fixed. Mayor Strasser noted it is not to be called infractions but called barriers or deficiencies. The total for all the barriers comes to \$500,000+ and we must prioritize and then include the work in our budget. John questioned if the consultants worked on dates and the Mayor stated the dates are up to the council. John Bennett feels we have to know the plan and dates in order to approve anything. John also wanted to know the liabilities in approving the plan as presented. Mayor Strasser stated you have to understand a transition plan. It is looking at barriers, identifying them and addressing what needs to be done and finally updating the plan. Nelson Smith replied there was a lot of reading in order to approve the plan. Mayor Strasser reminded the council the plan is on the web site and was supposed to be approved by 10-1-2013. Mayor Strasser decided the transition plan will be tabled until the next council meeting. Mrs. Diener reminded the council members a plan must be on record to keep the city safe.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Public Hearing on Community Plan. A neighborhood meeting was held at the canal park concerning the downtown housing. The state has requirements for downtown housing. Loft apartments would be part of the plan for the downtown. This would fall under low income housing with tax abatements and incentives. These plans would work well with the stellar plans for revitalization of the downtown. These plans would have a positive effect on tourism. Jobs could be created. Trails will connect living in the downtown with other areas. The developer will need a resolution showing support from the city. Application will be made shortly with the state for these projects. Mayor Strasser read the resolution to the council members. Mayor Strasser asked for questions or comments and with none the

hearing was closed. Carolyn Pearson made the motion to approve the resolution to show support of the downtown housing projects 2013-6. Second by John Bennett. Motion carried. (4-0)

- B. Kelier Development explained the tax abatement. Low income housing will be on a set rate and this will allow the firm to set back money for taxes. It is a sliding scale and averages 50% the first 10 years. This does not affect the building or the first floor. The project amount is \$7,000,000. The tax caps make it cost the city \$10,000 a year. The taxes are not based on zoning but are based on use. The developer noted they are not asking for tax abatement tonight. They need to apply by February 27<sup>th</sup>. Dick Traeger made the motion to approve the 10 year tax abatement on loft apartments. Second by Carolyn Pearson. Motion carried. (4-0)
- C. 2014 BUDGET Ordinance 2013-6. Mayor Strasser noted this Form 3 contains the budget approved by council, submitted for publication and noted public hearings held. Carolyn Pearson made the motion to approve the 2013-6 Ordinance on first reading. Second by Nelson Smith. Motion carried. (4-0)  
Carolyn Pearson made the motion to suspend the rules and pass 2013-6 on second ruling. Second by Nelson Smith. Motion carried. (4-0)  
Carolyn Pearson made the motion to approve Ordinance 2013-6 for budget for 2014 on second reading. Second by Nelson Smith. Motion carried. (4-0)
- D. Ordinance 2013-4 Salaries for City Employees  
Carolyn Pearson made the motion to approve 2013-4 Salaries for City Employees on first reading. Second by John Bennett. Motion carried. (4-0)  
Carolyn Pearson made the motion to suspend the rules and pass 2013-4 on second reading. Second by Dick Traeger. Motion carried. (4-0)  
Carolyn Pearson made the motion to approve ordinance 2013-4 on second reading. Second by Dick Traeger. Motion carried. (4-0)
- E. Ordinance 2013-5 Salaries of Elected Officials.  
Carolyn Pearson made the motion to approve 2013-5 on first reading. Second by John Bennett. Motion carried. (4-0)  
Carolyn Pearson made the motion to suspend the rules and pass 2013-5 on second reading. Second by Dick Traeger. Motion carried. (4-0)  
Carolyn Pearson made the motion to pass Ordinance 2013-5 on second reading. Second by John Bennett. Motion carried. (4-0)
- F. Old E. Main – Samuel Milroy Rd. Hoosier Heartland opens by 23<sup>rd</sup>. Aaron Lyons, John Chapman, Vickie of 911 and the Post Office are working on the change of addresses, The stretch of road from Red Pressler's building to Main Street will be Samuel Milroy Road. When all the roads involved with HHH are completed, the signs will go up.
- G. Trick or Treat. After a discussion by council members, Carolyn Pearson made the motion to allow the 31<sup>st</sup> of October from 6 to 8:30 P.M. for trick or treat time. Second by Dick Traeger. Motion carried. (4-0)

Carolyn Pearson questioned if we are doing something special or if arrangements have been made for the celebration of the opening of HHH to Logansport. Mayor Strasser noted nothing has been planned and each council member is on their own.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Fire:** Darrell Sterrett informed the council fire prevention week started today. Darrell also noted our city attorney had approved the resolution for billing. Now they will work on a fee schedule and bring that to council for approval. Nelson Smith wanted Darrell to know the children really take it all in when they do their safety shows. Nelson feels the fire department does a great job.

**Street:** Aaron Lyons reported three had participated in the 50/50 sidewalk program. Carolyn Pearson told Aaron it looks good in the area around the school. Kevin Kologinsky wanted to know about leaf pick up and Aaron replied there is no set date on the calendar. The weather dictates when leaves fall and they will schedule their work around that. Rake leaves to the street and the men will pick up.

**Utilities:** Dick VanSickle told the members Camden had sent a thank you for work his department had helped with. A work plan for gateway trail has been completed.


**Community Development:** Kevin Kologinsky had sent council members a written report and asked if there were any questions on his report. Kevin noted the floodgate grant is in limbo until issues with properties can be cleared up. These issues have been taken back to OCRA to change wordage.

**Interurban Trail** will need an increase in funding and might have to reroute. There are environmental issues. Freedom Bridge is now being worked on. Discussions are being held on getting plaza done. There will be a brick and limestone wall with stories of early settlers, etc. Kevin will make a trip to Indianapolis and maybe find funds through DNR. Kevin is looking for creative ways to fund our projects. Mayor Strasser wanted to know if there were any questions on Stellar or the opera house. Construction should begin on the opera house after the first of the year. One or two participants might drop off the facades project.

Mayor Strasser informed the council of an issue brought to the BOW today. John Chapman related the issues with communications. Repeaters had been used on a trial basis and solved the problems for the officers. Carolyn Pearson declined from proceeding further on the issue due to the absence of John Chapman. John Bennett and Nelson Smith feel we need to keep our policemen safe. Mayor Strasser noted work has been done on this issue for 2 years. Mayor Strasser noted we need commitment and set amount approved to set it in motion. The issue would be taken back to BOW with council approval. John Bennett asked if we are compliant with purchase policy. Mayor Strasser stated that was not up to us. The police department is wanting funding and a maximum amount to spend. The council members need to understand what their duties are. The question was then presented as how can the council do that without knowing what or if a 2<sup>nd</sup> bid has been taken. Discussion came to a stop with no motions forthcoming.

Mayor Strasser informed the council and guest Celebrate Arts Festival will be October 19<sup>th</sup> and the Bicentennial train will be at the canal center October 17<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned.



*Randy Strasser*

Mayor Randy Strasser

*Carolyn Pearson*

Carolyn Pearson

*John Bennett*

John Bennett

*Nelson Smith*

Nelson Smith

*Dick Træger*

Dick Træger