

COMMON COUNCIL

APRIL 7, 2014

7:00 P.M.

Mayor Strasser opened the meeting and led council members and guest in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Roll Call was given and Dick Traeger, Brian Garrison, Carolyn Pearson, John Bennett and Nelson Smith were present.

Minutes from the meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March, 2014 were presented for approval. Dick Traeger made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Second by John Bennett. Motion carried. (5-0)

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. SRO: The school has not had any more communications with the Mayor. Brian Garrison talked to Kyle Treble and found he had been placed in charge with meetings. Nelson Smith noted he had received an email from Kyle.
- B. Truck restriction ordinance: Mayor Strasser reminded the council members this issue had been discussed several months ago. Carolyn Pearson stated she did not remember it being discussed, just mentioned by the mayor. Brian noticed there was no weight limit in the ordinance. Carolyn questioned when the ordinance would be in effect. Brock Dawson noted we could put up signs in the winter and take down when we wanted. Mayor Strasser and Brock Dawson stated The Andersons was in agreement. Carolyn asked for clarification – is it from stop light to new highway? Carolyn questioned the possibility of the signs going up and never coming down. John Bennett wanted to know if we needed a time line. Brock stated the construction of the ordinance allows the street department to put the signs up and to take down whenever. Mayor Strasser reported The Andersons agree to the frost time line. Mayor Strasser offered to bring back next month with desired council changes. Brian feels we could put the frost time line and weight limit in the ordinance. Brian feels the ordinance is too open the way it is presently written.
- C. Ordinance 2014-1 (Ordinance amending chapter 75: Traffic Speed) Carolyn Pearson made the motion to approve 2014-1 on 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading. Second by Dick Traeger. Motion carried. (5-0)

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Steve Mullin was presented to the council members. Steve was sworn in today as Chief of Police. Steve informed the council members he was looking forward to serving and improving the department. He hopes the council members will feel free to contact him if there are cares or concerns they want to address.
- B. Historic Home: Mayor Strasser is working with the preservation society. This home is a landmark and due to sell at auction. Mayor Strasser has been in touch with Joe Donnelly and Fannie Mae and as of now the home has been taken off the auction list. Mayor Strasser

hopes to get this home in the hands of someone who will keep and restore. There will be no commitment from the city. Dick Traeger informed the council members DPS is not interested in this property. Their hope is for a private party to purchase the property and restore. Hopefully grants could be found to help with the project.

- C. Interest: A lot of interest has been shown from individuals for the building formerly used by Family Services. INDOT is interested in saving the building and seeing it utilized. INDOT could possibly use part of the building for an area office. This building was in the construction right of way and the state bought the building. John Bennett wanted to know about the extra land and if it could be used to tie in to trails? Kevin Kologinsky stated INDOT was aware but this was not a good time.

John Bennett asked if we had a plan to address the rain water working against homes in the area of Water and Hamilton Streets. John would like for Dick to add the plan in his monthly report. Brian Garrison stated this was not the first time. Mayor Strasser explained we are only having this problem in one area due to a broken line by Andersons. F&K is still finalizing and should be done within the next couple months with sewer and water lines. Brian Garrison didn't understand why the explanation concerned the east end by Andersons instead of the area around Hamilton Street. This problem existed before HHH and at one time you said the problem came from the area by Save A Lot. Brock Dawson stated there is an ongoing tort claim and that stops us from discussing this issue. John Bennett asked Brock to explain what a tort claim was following the meeting. Rick Acheson questioned what are the main lines for where his home is located on Water Street. No more discussion was held.

#### DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Clerk: Leanne reported the lightning on the 3<sup>rd</sup> took out the new server recently installed in the city building. The auditors from SBOA are here and have started their federal audit of our financial records. We submitted our debt report on gateway before the deadline date and there are still cities and towns that have not submitted their reports.

Street: Aaron reported they are finally done with snow removal and have serviced and stored the equipment. Only one section of the city needs street signs. Aaron reminded everyone the curb side trash pickup will be this Saturday and to have it curbside by 7 AM. Nelson Smith stated he is happy it is back to curb pickup. John Bennett wanted to know what is happening with the CCRC truck. Aaron reported he had found a truck in Pennsylvania and will get with Joretta Tinsman to start the grant process. The truck is a new 2011 chassis and preomission and will save \$15,000.00.

Utilities: Dick VanSickle was ill and not present for the meeting.

Community Development: Kevin Kologinsky gave a written report and spoke on the issues.

The Interurban Train – INDOT has agreed to absorb costs for extras.

Freedom Bridge – 85% done – completion date is August.

Facades – The grant is not in place with funding and there are some buildings he is not sure if they will be worth doing.

Opera House – construction will begin soon.

Owner Occupied Housing – 65 owners had been solicited and so far only 5 applications back. One of these has financial issues so really down to 4. Another 12 applications are wanted for this cycle. Nelson

questioned if enough homes will be found. Mayor Strasser stated Shawn Cain had been in for a meeting and he feels we will find enough homes. Nelson wanted to know if this will be the last round. Kevin noted this will be the last with the stellar projects but the city could do this on their own at any time but it would not be 100% reimbursable. It would take involvement by the city and owners.

Fire: Darrell passed out a capital plan and noted a building and 2 trucks are needed. The fire department will be working with Umbaugh & Associates to look at the process. John Bennett wanted to know what Darrell could get a grant for the building. Mayor Strasser stated CDBG grants will have to be completed in Stellar before the Fire Territory would be eligible. Darrell noted without grants the department has two options. Option one would be a loan and option 2 would be a shell and finish as has funds. The building committee will be meeting again this month.

Airport: John Gingrich, President of the Airport Board and Lori Curless of NGC addressed the council members. A fly in will be held on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May and this will be in connection with the Transportation Festival. Current projects include working on the fence as well as painting things to make a better appearance. Due to weather there were no fuel sales in January and February. Sales are starting to pickup with the better weather. Lori explained they have advertised to work with banks to build a new hanger. Indiana Finance Authority allows several airports to group amount and share cost of fees. This capital plan is submitted to FAA each year as well as the city. Lori also explained the terminal is too close to the runway for safety issues and that is why a parallel runway is needed.


Area Plan: John Bennett reported the commissioners had a public meeting on a Saturday morning and 100 protested. It is assumed today would bring a veto by the commissioners on the new ordinance. John stated if anyone would like to serve he would entertain getting off the board. Six years ago the commissioners requested area plan members to write a document. Miriam Robeson volunteered to do for area plan. The commissioners gave a list of what they wanted and now the commissions stated they don't need the ordinance.


Rick Acheson wanted to know why the problem with flooding in the bottoms has not been solved. He also wanted to know how high the trail will be on the interurban bed. Will it raise the low spots and widen the bed and will it go to the railroad tracks. Mayor Strasser replied it would eventually extend that far but cautioned to keep in mind the bridge by the ballpark is too low.

Nancy Whitaker noted the DAR had dedicated the flag pole at Riley Park on 6-14-1932 and a rededication ceremony will be held on 6-13-2014. Todd Rokita will be donating a flag and attending the ceremony. Mayor Strasser noted he had given Mrs. Whitaker permission to plant the 6 urns at Riley Park as well as rejuvenate some of the flower beds.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

  
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Mayor Randy Strasser

  
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Dick Traeger, President

  
*Carolyn Pearson*  
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Carolyn Pearson

*Brian Garrison*  
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Brian Garrison

*Nelson Smith*  
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Nelson Smith

*John Bennett*  
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John Bennett