

COMMON COUNCIL  
FEBRUARY 3, 2014  
7:00 P.M.

Mayor Randy Strasser called the meeting to order and led council members and guests in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

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

Minutes of the meeting held on January 17, 2014 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. SRO Officer: John Chapman reported the Sheriffs' office has declined working with the school for a resource officer. John informed the council that brings the issue back to the city. John noted the committee couldn't meet this last week but it is important they meet again. Mayor Strasser explained the committee needs to make the determination if it can happen and how. The committee then needs to report back to the council and school board. Nelson questioned why the Sheriff was not interested in participating. John Chapman feels they just don't want to do the project. John Chapman thinks the school has it all in line and thought out other than the need for a car.
- B. Façade Plan Resolution: Due to an advertising error the resolution passed in December of 2013 needs to be redone. Resolution 2014-1 would supersede 2013-8 passed on December 2, 2013. Carolyn Pearson made the motion to pass Resolution 2014-1. Second by Dick Traeger. Motion carried. (4-0)

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Zimpher Addition: Mark Zimpher was not present for the meeting. John Bennett announced Mark was at the area plan meeting and received a favorable pass. Mayor Strasser reported he had several calls from the public sector in regards to the need for sidewalks and curbs. Carolyn Pearson noted that was her feelings from the beginning. Aaron Lyons noted it would make snow removal a simple matter with curbs. John Bennett thinks an escrow account could be set up and they could do sidewalks and curbs as a phase sold. John Bennett reminded the council they had asked for many considerations but came back for a money amount and water, sewer hookups. Carolyn Pearson stated we've approved the financial support but what about other issues. Dick Traeger noted we left the last meeting knowing there would be more to discuss and settle.
- B. Ordinance 2014-1 Traffic Schedule for Speed Limits. Main Street from the stop light to the new highway is now city responsibility. The speed limits are now the responsibility of the city. This ordinance was approved on first reading. Dick Traeger made the motion to

approve Ordinance 2014-1 on second reading. Second by Carolyn Pearson,. Motion carried. (4-0) Abigail Diener, city attorney, noted we will advertise the ordinance and pass on third reading.

- C. Resignation of Chief Chapman: Mayor Strasser apologized for emails not going out due to problems with the server. Mayor Strasser publically thanked John, noting he was fun to work with and very successful. Mayor Strasser wished John well in his new endeavor. John explained he will be helping to start a mentoring program for our youth who need and want help. There will be an after school program incorporating school work as well as lessons on life skills. John hopes this becomes a year round program. Mayor Strasser thinks this a great opportunity for John and the community will benefit in countless ways. Mayor Strasser noted 3 people have shown an interest in the position of police chief and will initiate interviews in a couple weeks. Mayor Strasser would like direction on what council members would like in a new police chief.

D. Department Reports:

John Chapman has submitted a written report on police activity. Repeaters have started coming in and have been taken to Ray Com. The repeaters should be ready in 4 to 6 weeks. An investigation on the robbery at the Tobacco Store has resulted in arrests. County as well as State Police worked with the city.

Aaron Lyons reported signs have been installed in between snowfalls. Aaron explained he is almost out of salt and this will limit the streets he can address the rest of this winter.

Secondary streets will be plowed only. Dick Traeger complemented Aaron on the work during these winter storms.

Dick VanSickle had submitted a written report for the waste and water department. A gear box that had been repaired 3 times over the years had to be replaced. Dick also noted he had completed three reports that had to go out. With all the freezing weather, the water department had several bad leaks but is keeping things going.

Kevin Kologinsky reported there had been some movement on the Interurban Trail. HWC is working on INODT to reroute the trail around some of the buildings and that would make the project cheaper to complete. Bidding on opera house projects should be done in March. Owner Occupied Housing has not had a good turn out so far but Kevin informed the council members he will make more contacts. The main problem is they must qualify on what their income is and it cannot be rental property.

Darrell Sterrett noted they have not had a lot of activity and they have spent time making sure they are prepared for service in bad weather.

Mayor Strasser is working with the state on a couple of projects and conversations with property owners on the flood gates and well field are continuing. Mayor Strasser opened the floor to council members for questions and concerns. Nelson Smith brought up the issue with mass information as he has done in the past. Examples would be trash pickup or the traffic light that is out on Main Street. Mayor Strasser stated he thinks about this and his biggest concern is phone numbers constantly changing. More consideration needs to be given to this issue.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

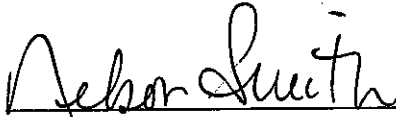
---

Mayor Randy Strasser



---

Carolyn Pearson



---

Nelson Smith



---

Leanne Aldrich, Clerk Treasurer



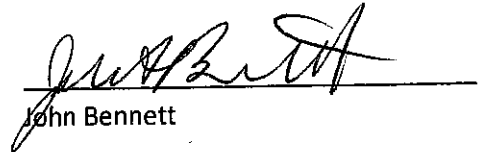
---

Dick Traeger, President



---

Brian Garrison



---

John Bennett