

COMMON COUNCIL
MARCH 2, 2015

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: Richard Traeger, Carolyn Pearson and Nelson Smith. Brian Garrison and John Bennett were not present.

Minutes from the meeting held on February 2, 2015 were presented for approval. Carolyn Pearson made the motion to approve the minutes. Second by Richard Traeger. Motion carried. (3-0)

OLD BUSINESS:

Kathy Mylet of Area Plan requested a change of zoning for 110 S. Market St., owner John and Claudanne Burke, presently zoned business and needs to be residential. Zoning must have same as use in order for owner to secure loans on the property. There are several homes in B-3 that could move to U-2. Area Plan has given a favorable recommendation on the rezoning of the Burke property. Richard Traeger made the motion to approve the rezoning of 110 S. Market from B-3 to U-2. Second by Carolyn Pearson. Motion carries. (3-0)

Mayor Strasser noted the scope of what needs to be done on zoning. We need to look at existing land use plan, have a public meeting and identify weakness and strengths of present plan as well as possible changes for a new zoning plan. We need to plan development implementation and have a public meeting. This entire process could take over a year but with what we have worked on we could finish in 8 to 9 months. Mayor Strasser stated he hopes to have a scope put together by the next council meeting. This scope would take the existing ordinances and updates to allow new districts.

Review of Dog Ordinance: Carolyn Pearson stated she feels we should take out the wordage of animal control and use police department. Richard Traeger noted he thought Brock Dawson, city attorney, would have a new draft drawn up. Mayor Strasser questioned the board members if an amendment or a new ordinance is wanted. Carolyn Pearson stated she felt it would be cleaner to do a new ordinance. Brock Dawson will send a draft of a new ordinance to the council members before the next meeting.

FEMA: The only issue stopping the levee from being accredited is the section of 39 From Dave's IGA to the RR tracks and within the next 2 months borings will be done. INDOT has done improvements on this section and now determined the improvements were not to present standards. Once we get the flood gates replaced we can then send in documentation to be accredited. At that time they will credit parts of levee that is certifiable and leave section with problems.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Strasser has been working with Nixel, communication software with links to facebook and twitter that would include weather alerts, scheduled messaging and tips. The Nixel Engage contract would cost \$2,050 for one year contract and would cover three years and would require an annual payment. Carolyn Pearson stated she feels a committee should look at this and wants more time to look into this issue. It was agreed to table this issue until the next month.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Chief Mullin reported the SRO officer passed all her classes for Indiana certification. Chief Mullin is working on the Dare program. Carolyn Pearson questioned what the response to the SRO officer. Chief Mullin stated he has had nothing but good reports on the officer. Richard Traeger questioned the financial status of the grant. Leanne stated within the next few weeks a meeting with the school will determine the status of the grant funds.

Dick VanSickle gave a written report to council members. He informed the council F&K and finished the tree clearing project. Dick is working on getting bids for lateral lines downtown.

Aaron Lyons reported lots of snow removal. Nelson Smith asked about the highway condition and Aaron responded that Stellar is holding up his work. Mayor Strasser stated it is set to repave in 2018. Aaron stated patching is all he can do at this point and that just won't hold for too long. Jack Wilson complemented the street department on their snow removal of the streets.

Craig Myers gave a written report. Craig noted his department assisted with snow removal. With the extreme cold there have been lots of frozen meters. Standard vehicle maintenance has also been performed.

Kevin Kologinsky also gave a written report. He reported there will be a celebration for Freedom Bridge on the 25th of April. The Lt. Governor will be here for the event. Streetscapes are over budget but we can use Gateway funds. Carolyn Pearson related the call she received concerning trash left at the site on Union St. where the home had been torn down. Kevin noted the final clean up and grading had not been completed due to weather issues.

Darrell Sterrett did not have a written report. Darrell stated they are working on a written truck bid. Darrell questioned Mayor Strasser on the status of the LaFrance truck. Mayor Strasser stated he is waiting on data from Leanne.

Mayor Strasser stated he had received notification of site closure for the 3 lots on N. Washington Street. This notification informs the city the land is clean and no restrictions for residential use. This was the former site of Loy Quinn.

Mayor Strasser reported he had included a letter from Vicki Snipes regarding parking. He did not expect action from the council. The copy of the letter was for information purpose.


John Gingrich of the airport reported they are doing lots of cleaning and addressing the unfinished work in the terminal building.

Leanne Aldrich reported the financial report along with others had been submitted on time.


Andy Royal, guest, questioned where the water is being directed in regard to the floodgate project.

Mayor Strasser stated into canal north of floodgates.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M.



Mayor Randy Strasser



Richard Traeger



Carolyn Pearson

Carolyn Pearson

Brian Garrison

Brian Garrison

Nelson Smith

John Bennett

John Bennett

Leanne Aldrich

Leanne Aldrich, Clerk Treasurer, Attest