

COMMON COUNCIL
JANUARY 4, 2016
7:00 P.M.

Mayor Shane Evans opened the meeting and led members and guests in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Roll call was given and the following council members were present: Carolyn Pearson, Brian Garrison, Richard Traeger, Mike Shockley and Dale Seward.

Minutes from the meeting held on December 7, 2015 were presented for approval. Mayor Evans reminded Mike and Dale the need to abstain. Richard Traeger made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Second by Carolyn Pearson. Motion carried. (3-0)

Reports:

Board of Works. Mayor Evans gave a report on the issues handled during the first BOW meeting under his term.

Mayor Report: The present department heads will remain in their positions. Obear, Overholser will continue to represent the city. All other appointments will be completed by February 1, 2016. Former Mayor, Randy Strasser, appointed himself to the airport board but Mayor Evans eliminated that appointment. Mike Shockley, Dale Seward, Dick Bradshaw, Sam Diewert attended schooling for their new positions. Mayor Evans asked the council members to give thought to the position of code enforcer and be prepared for discussion at the next council meeting.

Clerk's Office: Leanne explained the additional appropriation in the amount of 1.7+million was approved by DLGF. Work is being done to close out the year. Financial reports will be due to Gateway by the end of February.

Police: Steve Mullin informed the board they have established a facebook page and Colin Deckard, one of our policeman, has been handling this. Sgt. Brook McCain may resign this year and applications are being taken online. At the present time, 8 officers are on board and this includes Steve and the SRO officer.

Fire: Darrell Sterrett reported 11 runs were made during the month of December. Darrell reminded the council members of the joint meeting with fire territory members on Wednesday night.

Street: Aaron reported they have finished with leaves and yard waste and now directing their attention to vehicle maintenance. Brian Garrison questioned if there was a time listed in the trash ordinance that would address when trash containers should be put away. Aaron will check into this issue.

Wastewater: Dick VanSickle reported the return of activated sludge pumps and thanked the water department for putting down stone. Yardberry Construction is done with the effluent line project except for a couple little punch items. Accu Dig worked on Water St. and the only issue was the debris in the lines and they cleaned the line out.

Water: Craig Myers reported 33,549,000 gallons of water was pumped in December. Two service lines have been replaced. Masonic Street line has been replaced. His department is working on vehicle maintenance.

Community Development: Kevin Kologinsky stated we are waiting on IDEM and the Corp of Engineers to give us reports and permits for the floodgate and levee projects. Construction should be this spring. Freedom Bridge has been closed out. Dead trees at the site have been replaced. Owner Occupied Housing is going to proceed and in the process of securing an administrator of the project. A package of requirements for the removal of the property on 315 N. Union is ready. Bids will be due in the clerk's office by the 18th of January. An extension is needed for this project.

Mayor Evans introduced McKenzie Martin, attorney at Obear & Overholser, and she will be the attorney representing the city.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Select President of the Council. Mike Shockley made the motion for Carolyn Pearson to serve as President. Second by Dale Seward. Motion carried. (5-0)
- B. Mayor Recommends Meeting Dates as usual other than July and September. Brian Garrison made the motion to accept the schedule proposed by Mayor Evans. Second by Mike Shockley. Motion carried. (5-0)
- C. Interlocal Boards. Mayor Evans requested time to research for Economic Development and Redevelopment Commission and will have the information available at the next meeting.
- D. Mayor Evans would like to repeal the ordinance concerning dates and times for the BOW meetings. His request is for the first and third Monday at 5:30 P.M. The BOW approved if council agreed to repeal. Dick Traeger made the motion to suspend the ordinance until the next meeting. Second by Dale Seward. Motion carries. (5-0)

MISC. BUSINESS:

- A. Status and future of Park and Recreation Board. This board has not been in place the last 3 years. Chris Neuman stated her perspective of the Park Board. Anita feels the combining of the Street and Park Department, led by Aaron Lyons, has been very successful. Chris feels the parks are in better shape and has confidence in Aaron and does not see a need for a Park board. Anita Force agreed with Chris but did feel a liaison might be a good way to represent the citizens. Aaron stated he feels great strides have been made. He considers it one department and work gets done by both groups. Aaron feels a summer rec program should be implemented but feels an individual could be found to be in charge. Brian Garrison said he respects Chris Neuman, Anita Force and Aaron and agrees with them. Carolyn Pearson knows the previous board accomplished a lot but uncertain if needed at this time.
Mike Shockley feels a board would give more people eyes on the park. Mayor Evans would like a motion to suspend the ordinance on having a park board. Brian Garrison made the motion to suspend the ordinance on park board. Second by Carolyn Pearson. Motion carried. (5-0)
- B. City Council Meeting Room. Mayor Evans would like to explore other options. Brian Garrison made a motion to allow Mayor Evans to seek options for sites for council meetings. Second by Dale Seward. Motion carried. (5-0)
- C. Packet Delivery. Mayor Evans asked for council members preference on council information done electronically or by paper. Paper reports were preferred by the council.

D. Written or Oral Reports. Carolyn Pearson stated she feels oral reports would be fine.


Brian Garrison welcomed the new members. Dale Seward felt this was a good packet of information. Mike Shockley stated he appreciated the good information in the packet. Richard Traeger noted he was impressed with the meeting set up. He also stated communication is the key and hopes it will be a good 4 years.

COMMENTS:

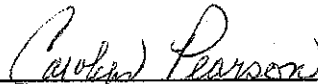
John Neuman questioned the Facebook page for police and wondered if this was an appropriate site for applications. Mr. Neuman feels applications is an issue that must be managed and controlled. Chief Mullin stated applications would be stamped and dated by the Clerk's office.

Jane Abbott expressed her concern regarding a park board. Jane served on the park board for four years and feels it is a great tool for communication between city and residents. Bob Burton questioned Craig Myers if water usage was the same. Craig noted it does go up a little more each year. Perrless will be doing a static report and Craig feels this will be shown in their report.

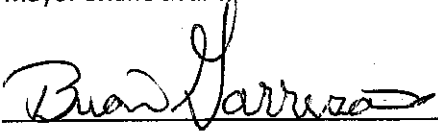
With no further business, Carolyn Pearson made the motion to adjourn. Second by Brian Garrison. Motion carried. (5-0)



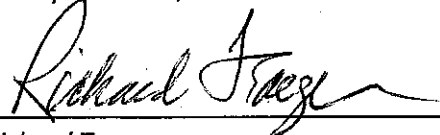
Mayor Shane Evans



Carolyn Pearson, President



Brian Garrison



Richard Traeger



Mike Shockley



Dale Seward