

Murphysboro City Council Meeting
October 9, 2018

The Murphysboro, Illinois, City Council met in regular session, pursuant to its ordinances, on the 9th day of October, 2018. Mayor Stephens called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and Alderman Hughes led the council in prayer. Following the invocation, Mayor Stephens led the council in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Mayor Stephens then directed City Clerk Hunziker to call the roll. The roll was called with the following:

Present: Barb Hughes, Jance Curry-Witzman, Herb Voss, Gary McComb, John Erbes, Dan Bratton, Mike Bastien, W.J. Pittman

Absent: Russell Brown, Gloria Campos

Mayor Stephens swore in newly appointed Fire Chief Steve McBride and newly appointed Police Officer Brandon Bauer.

Presentation of Proclamation: Mayor Stephens proclaimed that October 27, 2018, would be known as Make A Difference Day and presented it to Jarod Starrick for his actions, his gift of life to Tim Lee.

The council then reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the September 25, 2018, council meeting. All aldermen received a copy of the minutes, for their review, prior to the meeting.

Motion by Alderman McComb

Second by Alderman Erbes

Mayor Stephens called for a voice vote. All were in favor.

Motion Carried

Alderman Hughes inquired as to:

#709 Cape Electrical Supply? Electric guys on Walnut Street for the holiday lights.

Alderman Bratton inquired as to:

#709 page 9 house on 9th Street burned, boarded it up
page 12 late fee for Sam's? check in the mail was late

Motion: To approve the accounts payable, register #708 & 709, through October 9, 2018, accounts receivable through September 30, 2018, and payroll through September 30, 2018. All aldermen received a copy of the accounts payable for their review, prior to the meeting.

Motion by Alderman McComb

Second by Alderman Hughes

Mayor Stephens called for a voice vote. All were in favor.

Motion Carried

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS

Alderman Pittman opened discussion for Budget & Finance related items.

Old Business: Nothing at this time.

New Business: Nothing at this time.

No public comment.

Alderman McComb opened discussion for Building & Grounds related items.

Old Business:

Painting of Fire Station #2: Chief McBride has received 3 bids, all for 29 guage metal with 20 and 40 year paint and windows to be boarded up. Alderman McComb stated they should be held and put in next year's budget. Alderman Bratton asked if they used prevailing wage? Yes. Then asked if the low bidder can be asked if they will hold their bid until mid-January. Alderman Erbes asked if the bids included a time frame? No, but they indicated it can be done pretty quickly, 1-2 weeks. Mayor Stephens asked if there is money in the Fire Department's general budget? No. Alderman Bratton asked if there are any funds in Buildings & Grounds? Mayor Stephens then asked if it should be held until mid-January, will probably have to re-bid. Alderman McComb stated it will be tabled until the next meeting and have Chief McBride ask the low bidder and have Mr. Evans see if there is money somewhere to pay for it this year.

Consideration of extending line of platted alley off of 23rd and Gartside Street: tabled.

New Business: Nothing at this time.

No public comment.

Alderman Erbes opened discussion for Community Relations Committee related items.

Old Business: Nothing at this time.

New Business: Nothing at this time.

No public comment.

Alderman Bastien opened discussion for Public Improvement related items.

Old business: Nothing at this time.

New business:

Downtown TIF District Presentation: Presented by Mayor Stephens, he explained that a TIF District is a reallocation of funds from property taxes to encourage investment in the district. The average daily traffic count on Walnut Street is 12,300. Have had some positive growth but there are still some vacant and aging buildings along with cracked sidewalks. Feedback from Mayors in other towns with TIF Districts is that it has created opportunity in their downtown. The Mayor has also received support from several local groups. A map with the proposed area highlighted was then shown. Funding to pay for the creation of the TIF District: \$10,000 from the Smysor Foundation and \$20,000 from the 2019 demo budget. This year's demo budget was \$35,000 so \$15,000 could be allocated in 2019 and use the difference to help fund the TIF District. The cost to create it would be no more than \$30,000. Alderman Bastien asked if it could include North 19th Street? Mayor Stephens stated he did not know how far to go on his map or a second TIF District could be created for that area. Alderman Erbes stated he supports the creation of a TIF District but would hate to drain funds from the demo budget. Alderman Bratton agrees – he would like to see the demo budget used for demolitions. He thinks the proposal is important but need to be good stewards and do what people expect, tear down buildings with those funds. Mr. Evans stated that there might be some funds freed up in next year's budget as we will not have to make another payment to Motorola, as the console if paid in full plus the street sweeper and backhoe are almost paid in full. Alderman Bratton stated he would like to see a large sum of money put aside for a vac machine as the one the city has is getting old and they are very expensive, even a good used one. Alderman Voss stated that the consensus is that we need to look at a TIF – the return on investment is very important to growth. Mayor Stephens stated he will get a copy of the presentation to everyone to review.

No public comment

Alderman Bratton opened discussion for Public Works related items.

Old business:

Consideration of Demolition Notice to 230 South 14th Street: Alderman Bratton stated that the owner has purchased a demo permit. If not done by the next meeting need to proceed. Alderman McComb stated that the demo permit is good for 30 days. Alderman Bratton asked Ms. Ripley to get a cost estimate for the demo order.

ask the county to put up a sign? Mayor Stephens stated he is not against putting up signs but does not think it will be effective. Alderman McComb stated possibly put signs on the doors coming out of the courthouse.

3. The first parking spot on North 11th Street just south of the entrance to the police department needs removed and painted as no parking. At times large vehicles park there and it causes a safety issue. Mayor Stephens asked if this can be done? Mr. Mills replied yes. Attorney Blake stated there needs to be an ordinance to do this. Mayor Stephens stated it will be on the agenda for the next meeting. Mr. Lee asked if it could be painted as a compact car space? Acting Chief Laughland stated there have been some close calls.

No public comment:

Alderman Hughes opened discussion for Personnel related items.

Old business:

Discussion regarding Family Ride-Along Policy: Ms. Ripley stated the insurance agent can be here at the next meeting. Attorney Blake stated the policy is not restrictive, is poorly written and the waivers are not worth much. Alderman Hughes stated the policy needs to be narrower in scope. Alderman Bratton asked if it was just for the police department? Agenda stated for all departments. He feels the policy should be gotten rid of as it is a liability issue. Chief McBride stated that the policy should be city-wide. Asked the council to consider that in the Apple Festival Parade family members ride on fire trucks and voiding the policy would not allow that. It would also affect the student work along program. Feels this policy is very beneficial. Mayor Stephens stated that there is risk in anything but should try to strike a balance. Alderman McComb stated it needs specific guidelines for each department. Alderman Hughes stated the insurance agent needs to look at the policy and the attorney need to draw up a policy. Mayor Stephens stated they need to consider the insurance agent's input, will table this issue until the next meeting.

New business:

Consideration of AETNA Health Insurance Policy: Mr. Evans stated nothing new from the last meeting, 6% increase from \$5000 to \$7150. Alderman Bratton asked if the employees has approved? The employees coverage stays the same.

Motion: To increase the City's portion of payment for the deductible from \$5000 to \$7150.

Motion by Alderman Bratton

Second by Alderman McComb

Alderman Hughes called for a voice vote. All were in favor.

Motion Carried

No public comment.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Sewer line/trunk line at the Route 13/127 intersection: It has collapsed and needs to be fixed. Have received 3 bids, the lowest from Dean Bush for \$79,500. Alderman Hughes asked if the city will be reimbursed from the excavators that caused the damage? Mayor Stephens stated that reimbursement needs to be an agenda item. Alderman McComb asked Mr. Lee to use the camera to take pictures to figure out what happened and who is responsible. Mayor Stephens stated he has spoke to Joe Koppeis concerning this. Alderman Bratton stated the city should approach the developer as he is responsible then he can go after the responsible party. Alderman McComb stated the amount of dirt should not bother it but if someone got close enough and bumped it that could be the cause of the damage. Mr. Lee stated that too much of a drop-off and too much weight on it might have squeezed it out. Mr. Stewart reminded everyone that there was 10" of rain in September. Alderman Hughes asked if we can make a motion not knowing who is responsible? Alderman McComb stated we have to as it is a health issue.

Motion: To accept the Dean Bush bid.

Motion by Alderman McComb

Second by Alderman Bratton

Mayor Stephens called for a voice vote. All were in favor.

Motion Carried

Consideration of Appointment of Jamie Ellermeyer as Police Chief: Mr. Ellermeyer stated he appreciates the city's support and is ready to get started. Mayor Stephens stated he would start October 22. Alderman Bratton stated he would like his input of the Ride Along Program at the next meeting.

Motion: To appoint Jamie Ellermeyer as the Police Chief.

Motion by Alderman McComb

Second by Alderman Hughes

Mayor Stephens called for a voice vote. All were in favor.

Motion Carried

Consideration of Settlement of Pending Complaint to make safe and secure Brown Shoe Factory property: Attorney Blake stated no progress, their attorney has not responded. Mayor Stephens asked if the city can pursue their own bids? Attorney Blake responded yes a court order can be pursued bur Mrs. Homan taking care of it would keep the city out of it and any possible liability. Mayor Stephens stated if we do not have an answer by the next meeting the city needs to take action on it. Alderman Pittman asked if that would give them incentive to get it done? Alderman McComb asked if the city can ask Rawson what his bid covered? Alderman Bratton stated once we start we are disturbing an existing structure and we could possibly become liable.

Update on Mobile Ranch Mobile Home Park: Mr. Kennedy stated he has walked the streets of the trailer court and has written up a report. Most need work, 15 need demolished. He has called the new owners in California and they are now taking him seriously. They have brought in gravel, started on demolitions and making repairs and

are mowing. He will continue to monitor their progress. There are some cars that will be pulled. Mayor Stephens stated he has asked the site manager to be at the next meeting.

Motion: To go into executive session at 7:40 pm to discuss matters related to 5ILCS 120/2(c)(5) regarding real estate purchase.

Motion by Alderman McComb Second by Alderman Bratton

Yeas: Alderman Hughes, Alderman Curry-Witzman, Alderman Voss, Alderman McComb, Alderman Erbes, Alderman Bratton, Alderman Bastien, Alderman Pittman

Nays: None

Absent: Alderman Brown, Alderman Campos

Motion Carried

Motion: To come out of executive session at 7:47 p.m.

Motion by Alderman Erbes Second by Alderman Bastien

Yeas: Alderman Hughes, Alderman Curry-Witzman, Alderman Voss, Alderman McComb, Alderman Erbes, Alderman Bratton, Alderman Bastien, Alderman Pittman

Nays: None

Absent: Alderman Brown, Alderman Campos

Motion Carried

ALDERMEN ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS
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Barb Hughes	Commended the city workers, council and Joe for helping with Community Night Out. Thanked Mayor Stephens for the Proclamation for Jarod. Reminded everyone that next Friday is Feed the Team and it starts at 3:20.
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Jance Curry-Witzman	Nothing
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Russell Brown	Absent
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Herb Voss	Asked that the department heads bring a report to the council meeting of employees that have gone above and beyond, challenges they are facing and excellence observed.
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Gary McComb	Thanked the council for the \$100 of scrap money for the Relay For Life golf scramble. They raised a good chunk of money.
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John Erbes	Update on Solar Alliance? Flying in to St. Louis on October 21. October 22 will be meeting with painters, roofers, parking lot sealers, etc. Investors from Australia will be with them. Have hired a manager who will also be there.
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