

Alderman Brown opened discussion for Building & Grounds related items.

Attorney Blake gave an update on the franchise agreement with Ameren for gas and electric. The requested maps were given to Ameren and we are now waiting to hear back from them.

No public comment.

Alderman Bratton opened discussion for Community Relations related items.

Mayor Stephens advised the Council that Ms. Emily Burke was successful in submitting the Brownfield grant application. Now we must wait to see if the application is approved.

Public Comment came from Ms. Cathy Norton. She asked if the grant would cover the entire clean-up expense. It was indicated that the expense is expected to exceed the grant amount.

Alderman McComb opened discussion for Public Improvement related items.

Alderman McComb inquired of Harold Sheffer of the status of improvements to the road leading to the WWTP. Harold indicated that design work will be necessary to get a true cost estimate. Funding could not come directly from the WWTP loan, however, indirectly it could. This item will be tabled for further discussion.

Mayor Stephens discussed the contract with HeartLands Conservancy for completion of the city's comprehensive plan. At this point we are still waiting on their acceptance of our suggested attorneys revisions. This item will be tabled until our next meeting.

No public comment.

Mayor Stephens opened discussion for Public Works related items.

Mayor Stephens presented the packet of change orders for the Wastewater Treatment Plant construction contract with River City. Several items were discussed including the wheelchair ramp damaged at 20th and Commercial Street, electrical engineers error regarding the garage fire alarm resulting in a change order of \$1700 and the possibility of amending change order #33 to allow the City to haul the tree debris instead of the contractor. Engineer Sheffer stated that there will still be a couple more change orders to present.

Motion: To approve the change orders for the Wastewater Treatment Plant construction contract with River City.

Motion by Alderman McComb

Second by Alderman Brown

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

Motion carried.

Mayor Stephens presented the packet of change orders for the Lift Station upgrade contract with Midwest Petroleum. Engineer Sheffer indicated that we will need to extend the contract to December 31st to allow clean-up of the project and close-out

Motion: To approve the change orders as presented for the Lift Station upgrade contract with Midwest Petroleum and to extend the contract date to December 31st, 2016.

Motion by Alderman McComb

Second by Alderman Bratton

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

Motion carried.

Harold Sheffer outlined the overall breakdown of financing for the Wastewater Treatment Plant project. Engineer Sheffer stated that the City could be reimbursed for project expenses that were paid out of the City budget and then applied to the loan. However the loan payment would change. Budget Officer, Scott Evans, indicated that the loan payment would be increased by approximately \$37,000 per year if the additional expenses were added to the loan.

Mayor Stephens advised the Council that One Hot Cookie is requesting connection to the City sewer. The location of utility easements, sewer manholes and storm drains were discussed. Business Owner, Sarah Lavender-Brashear reiterated her request for connection to the sewer by way of the easement to the 2nd manhole. Her plumber is suggesting to bore from her property to the manhole. Neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Bateman and Mr. Robert Poole were present and gave their thoughts on the proposal. There was much discussion on whether the City should be involved, whether the easements actually existed and who bears the cost of expense for the connection. Mayor Stephens suggested that this item be tabled until such time as the documents can be provided to our City Attorney and reviewed.

No public comment.

Alderman Brown opened discussion for Public Safety related items.

The topic of trailers parked on City Streets was discussed. Chief Roberts stated that he has done some research online to see how other towns address the issue. Some cities do not allow them at all, while others allow a specific time frame such as 12 or 24 hours. Alderman McComb stated that our best option is to not allow them at all citing that it is hazardous and not esthetically pleasing. Other discussion included how to address the mowing companies and the overall safety concern.

Motion: To amend the existing ordinance relative to trailers parked on streets to no overnight parking.

Motion by Alderman McComb

Second by Alderman Brown

Mayor Stephens called for a roll call vote.

Yes – Alderman Porter-Smith, Brown, Voss, McComb, Erbes

No – Alderman Bratton

Motion carried.

Mayor Stephens indicated that an ordinance addressing cannabis was being proposed. Attorney Blake gave the update on how fines for cannabis are currently being handled and how it is being proposed. There was additional discussion on how the fine money should be allocated.

Motion: To adopt an ordinance for cannabis as proposed allotting \$80 of the fine to go to the City and \$100 of the fine to go to the Murphysboro Police Department.

Motion by Alderman McComb

Second by Alderman Voss

Mayor Stephens called for a voice vote.

Alderman Bratton opposed, all others were in favor.

Motion carried.

No public comment.

Mayor Stephens opened discussion for Personnel related items.

There were no items on the agenda for the Personnel Committee.

No public comment.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Stephens updated the Council regarding the proposal for a new city seal design. He indicated that he has requested Silkworm to have their design team draw up something using the Mayor's suggested items. This item will be brought back to the Council once a design is submitted by Silkworm.

ALDERMEN ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS

Linda Porter-Smith Nothing

Russell Brown Nothing

Herb Voss Happy New Year

Gary McComb Stated that he has some youth doing community service.

Danny Bratton Happy New Year

John Erbes Happy New Year

DEPARTMENT HEAD ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS

Richard Blake Nothing

Sandra Ripley Nothing

Harold Sheffer Nothing

Steve Swafford Inquired if Ryan Rawson will be burning the debris at the old Apple Tree Inn site. Mayor indicated that the property owner will be contacting the EPA directly and he will also be attending a meeting in January to present his construction proposal for the site

Chad Roberts Advised that he has been in contact with the Director of the Criminal Justice Program at SIU and he is willing to write grants and provide internships

Scott Evans Nothing

Tim Lee Nothing

Brian Manwaring Nothing

Jim Stewart Nothing

Motion: To adjourn

Motion by Alderman McComb

Second by Alderman Bratton

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

Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.