

**Murphysboro City Council Meeting
July 25, 2017**

The Murphysboro, Illinois, City Council met in regular session, pursuant to its ordinances, on the 25th day of July 2017. Mayor Stephens called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and 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 Cottonaro to call the roll. The roll was called with the following

Present: Barb Hughes, Jance Curry-Witzman, Russell Brown, Herb Voss, Gary McComb, John Erbes, Danny Bratton, Mike Bastien, Gloria Campos, W. J. Pittman

Absent:

Police Chief Roberts introduced new officers Aaron Beavers, Taylor Riggs and Brendan Mier to the council. Chief Roberts informed the council of the promotion of William Jacob Weber to the rank of Sergeant and requested his wife Alix Weber present his pin. Police Chief announced that Brian Brewer was hosting a retirement party on August 5th and again mentioned the retirements of Tim LeGere and Ed Reiman.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the July 11 2017 council meeting. All aldermen received a copy of the minutes, for their review, prior to the meeting.

Motion by Alderman McComb

Second by Alderman Brown

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

Motion Carried

Alderman McComb requested to hold the \$3800 check to Murphysboro Lawn & Garden until he talks to Tom.

Motion: To approve the accounts payable, register #690 and #691 with various checks pulled, through July 25, 2017, accounts receivable through July 25, 2017 and payroll through July 25, 2017. All aldermen received a copy of the accounts payable, accounts receivable and payroll for their review, prior to the meeting.

Motion by Alderman McComb

Second by Alderman Bratton

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

Motion Carried

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS

Alderman Pittman opened the Budget & Finance Meeting.

Mayor Stephens stated the meeting with Jackson County Mass Transit regarding the transportation needs of the Senior Citizens Center resulted in their willingness to dedicate a van so many days a week for seniors to use. However, Joe Balsano felt having their own van gives them more flexibility. Council thought that if they want a 5 day a week service we could give them the van and let them sell it and buy a different one more suitable for their use. Mr. Balsano thought that they would be willing to give up either the fuel or the maintenance dollars that we currently budget yearly. Attorney Blake advised that we could give them the van. Mayor Stephens stated we would look at it again in November. A suggestion was made to continue support for one year from now because they think they can get raise the money to purchase a different vehicle. We could give them one year to see if they can raise the money. Also this gives JCMT this year to clean up their act. We will hold this issue for one more meeting.

Public comment: need a van not mass transit.

Consideration of proposal for part-time grant writer. Attorney Blake stated we need to decide on options for payments if we got a large grant amount. Alderman Pittman has an issue with the percentage payment structure and also would like a lower maximum cap. Alderman Voss stated that if the percent is in line it is okay with him. Attorney Blake stated we need a termination clause so that the city or Brian can get out of the contract in so many days if it is not working. Mayor Stephens stated we should get the termination clause. Alderman Pittman will do research with regard to comparable rates. Alderman Pittman stated that since this is on a commission only basis he would like to see it open to multiple people since we aren't paying until we get grant dollars.

Smysor Trust has funded the landscaping and maintenance of Town Park Center and Smysor Plaza at \$9000; summer concerts at \$4500. The five concerts are held every Thursday in August.

They also gave the city \$65,000 to be used to initiate an awning program and if it can't be accomplished we are allowed to apply the funds toward a bucket truck. Our current bucket truck is out of service and we cannot do things we need to do. The

Park District is interested in the old bucket truck; perhaps we can work something out with them. Price of bucket truck is from \$48,000 up to \$65,000 for a 2013. Alderman Bastien stated we should get the truck and if we can get grant dollars then do awnings.

Smysor Trust Board also funded Murphysboro Main Street Committee Inc.

Financial reports presented by Scott Evans and discussed were as follows: Schedule of Operating Expenses by Department vs. Budget, Comparison of Budgeted vs. Actual Payroll, Schedule of Healthcare Costs, Schedule of State Income Tax Receipts Vouchered, Schedule of Sales/HR Tax Receipts, Schedule of Costs Related to WWTP Construction, Water/Sewer Fund.

No public comment.

Alderman McComb opened the Building and Grounds Meeting.

James Kimmel filed a complaint requesting \$15,000 for water damage. Alderman McComb stated that the water comes from the church parking lot and part goes in the drain and part runs across the neighbor's yard and then into Mr. Kimmel's property. Our insurance has denied this claim. There has been a water problem there for years. Alderman Erbes inquired if Mr. Kimmel had turned a claim into his insurance. Attorney Blake stated the insurance company said the city is not liable and they would handle any litigation. The drain is located in Mr. Kimmel's yard and he says it gets clogged up and we don't clear it out as we should. Darrin has rebuilt the drain so it should not happen again.

Motion: To deny paying the claim of James Kimmel.

Motion by Alderman McComb

Second by Alderman Brown

Ayes: Alderman Hughes, Alderman Curry-Witzman, Alderman Brown, Alderman Voss, Alderman McComb, Alderman Bastien, Alderman Campos, Alderman Pittman

Abstain: Alderman Erbes, Alderman Bratton,

Motion Carried

Public Comment: Look to see if Kimmel has already been paid by his insurance.

Alderman McComb gave an update on the cemetery. One more mowing, spent \$17,400 so far. Will probably mow twice, in August and September once in October. He thinks we should take out maintenance and our guys would drive out and check on it. We can do when we review the contract. Alderman Bratton asked about vines, grass in sidewalk if that was included in maintenance. Alderman McComb thinks we will be a few thousand under budget. Contact is up at the end of February.

Alderman Erbes opened the Community Relations Committee Meeting.

Motion: To approve the requests for street closures for the Murphysboro Apple Festival, Murphysboro BBQ Cook-off and on September 23rd for the Oak Street Art Fair.

Motion by Alderman Campos Second by Alderman Bastien

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

Motion Carried

No public comment.

Alderman Bastien opened the Public Improvement Committee Meeting.

Motion: To approve amendment to the yard sale ordinance.

Motion by Alderman Bratton Second by Alderman Campos

Ayes: Alderman Hughes, Alderman Curry-Witzman, Alderman Brown, Alderman Voss, Alderman Erbes, Alderman Bratton, Alderman Bastien, Alderman Campos, Alderman Pittman

Nays: Alderman McComb

Motion Carried

BLIP Networks, LLC will come back with their responses. Alderman Pittman stated they are working with an attorney to get their own contract. They and their attorney are on vacation now.

Public comment: A question about the change in the ordinance which the Mayor explained. There are still two per year allowed.

Alderman Bratton opened the Public Works Committee Meeting.

Osburn Street extension updated. Bishop and Elwell met with IDOT engineers and IDOT said there was no way to allow them to build on that site. There is the issue of additional traffic flow not at a signaled intersection. Elected officials to get involved to break IDOT rules.

Tim Lee is on vacation and still looking for bids on lining for sewer lines.

Discussion was held regarding the billboard request by Chris Grither. B2 zoning does not allow billboards. Alderman Bratton suggested we look at the map and ordinance and check it out. If we do allow one we have to do the same for everyone. It would allow a billboard every 500 feet. B2 zone is 14th Street, Industrial Park and river to Wal Mart. Amendment of text of zoning code goes to the zoning board.

Motion: To approve the Motor Fuel Resolution for the 2017 Oil & Chip Program in the amount of \$59,734.

Motion by Alderman McComb

Second by Alderman Bastien

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

Motion Carried

Discussion regarding the need for a water main on Degenhardt Road was discussed. Susan Anderson stated this was the family farm. Two people have built homes on the property. This is not inside the city limits. They have a bid from A&W Plumbing for \$22,000 for 4" main.

Motion: To approve to have the city install a 4" line and if they cannot do it then to accept A&W Plumbing bid in the amount of \$22,000 pending EPA approval.

Motion by Alderman McComb

Second by Alderman Voss

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

Motion Carried

Public comment: Can't you rezone North 7th Street? They want a speed bump.

Alderman Brown opened the Public Safety Committee Meeting.

No old or new business or public comment.

Alderman Hughes opened the Personnel Committee Meeting.

Alderman Hughes stated she talked with FOP Rep who met with our attorney and thinks we are getting pretty close.

No public comment.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor stated Chief Roberts received a \$1500 Wal Mart Grant for investigations, upgrades, technology.

ALDERMEN ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS

Barb Hughes Nothing

Jance Curry-Witzman Nothing

Russell Brown Somebody looking at house next door.

Herb Voss Nothing

Gary McComb Nothing

John Erbes Thanks to Smysor Trust Board for dollars.

Dan Bratton Smysor does a wonderful job. Thank board members personally. .

Mike Bastien Thanks to the Chief and Alderman Voss for meeting with me and two of my constituents regarding a problem in my ward, an issue at the park.

Gloria Campos What is 7th Street extension time line? Bill Center stated we are waiting on EPA and Natural Resources and that it's in process. What about the hotel? Mayor stated they are breaking ground in September and are using the construction company he used before. Also, she has been told we are illegal with the drone ordinance.

W. J. Pittman Nothing

DEPARTMENT HEAD ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS

Richard Blake Nothing.

Bill Center Nothing

Scott Evans Nothing

Steve Swafford Hydrant checking completed and we are starting medical response soon.

Chad Roberts Nothing.

Eric Kennedy Nothing

Jim Stewart Nothing

Mike Laughland Nothing

Motion: To go into executive session at 7:55 pm to discuss matters related to 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1) regarding the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or general counsel.

Motion by Alderman Bastien Second by Alderman McComb
Yeas: Alderman Hughes, Alderman Curry-Witzman, Alderman Brown, Alderman Voss, Alderman McComb, Alderman Erbes, Alderman Bratton, Alderman Bastien, Alderman Campos, Alderman Pittman

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Motion: To come out of executive session at 8:10 pm.

Motion by Alderman McComb Seconded by Alderman Voss

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried

No action taken.

Motion: To adjourn

Motion by Alderman Hughes Second by Alderman Bratton

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

Motion Carried