



## COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS

Alderman Pittman opened the Budget & Finance Meeting.

A part time grant writer was discussed. Alderman Pittman has comparison information showing median salary ranges: \$45,874, \$42,662 and a low of \$30,000. Alderman Hughes was not in favor of hiring a part time grant writer; she prefers paying someone if we get grant money. Alderman Bastien stated we should open up the position and request resumes. Alderman Bastien inquired as to how many grants former Chief Hollo had written. Chief Roberts replied that the last grant we received was Vest Partnership Grant and Sandra wrote the Range Grant. Mayor Stephens asked if he should meet in a small group and figure out what we want in the resume. Alderman Bratton wants to pay a percent commission and agrees with Alderman Hughes there be no part time, we got burned. Alderman Voss thinks we should find out what other grant writer's percentages are. Alderman Pittman thinks we should put a cap on it and use a smaller percentage basis with dollar amount of grants. Alderman Bastien stated that Brian Hollo's figures were negotiable. Alderman Bratton wants to hold on Hollo until we find out this information.

Scott Evans discussed the police pension and fire pension budgets. The police pension expenses over revenues are \$184,600 and fire pension expenses are \$91,500 under revenues. This increase in the police pension expenses is due to the fact that we have more in pay out of pension benefits since we have had several long time employees leave and that also means contributions are less; so to make up for this the pension will require higher rates. Solutions would be to raise our tax levy over 4.9 or agree to use our dollar share and decrease budget lines to pay it.

No public comment

Alderman McComb opened the Building and Grounds Meeting.

**Motion: To approve declaring 2002 GMC Yukon and 1995 Chevrolet GMT-400 bucket truck surplus.**

Motion by Alderman Bratton

Second by Alderman Campos

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

**Motion Carried**

No public comment.

Alderman Erbes opened the Community Relations Committee Meeting.

**Motion: To approve the request for street closure for the Church of the Nazarene of 6<sup>th</sup> Street from Walnut Street to Murphy Street, allowing for duplex for August 21<sup>st</sup> from 9-3 and use of city's boulevard.**

Motion by Alderman Bratton

Second by Alderman Hughes

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

**Motion Carried**

Alderman Campos discussed 16<sup>th</sup> Street and a stop sign request on Roberta Drive driving south from the high school and a stop sign at Grace and Illinois Avenue. Alderman Campos is to bring photos of where they want the signs. Alderman McComb suggested positioning plainclothes police and an unmarked car and see what's happening. Chief Roberts stated he has a traffic monitoring sign. Mayor Stephens suggested we monitor for 10 days and give tickets to everyone who doesn't stop. Police Chief Roberts will meet with Mr. Grode; we will put item on the agenda for next time.

Alderman Jance Curry-Witzman inquired if there were any restrictions if the 4<sup>th</sup> Street Church used their lot for parking for the eclipse. Their property is fenced. She was informed there would be no restrictions.

No public comment.

Alderman Bastien opened the Public Improvement Committee Meeting.

BLIP issue is on hold. Alderman Pittman asked if the council could have details on it prior to the next meeting. Attorney Heller stated that he and Steve Bost were working on the final draft of the contract; exclusivity is the only issue they are working on. Attorney Heller will get a draft to Sandra.

Signage request from Unique Shops was discussed. The request is from Theresa Blankenship. She would like to bring a representation of what they want to do to the council but she could not be here tonight. Alderman Bastien will work with her and see the proposals.

Alderman Hughes inquired of Scott Evans regarding trash receptacles needed on the east end of town. He stated they received funding from Main Street and they got a grant from Smysor and also applied for a \$2500 grant from Wal Mart.

Alderman Erbes stated that installation of windows at the old depot is supposed to be completed by Apple Festival per Martin Schaldemose.

Trudy Thompson inquired how to get into TIF district for 607 Walnut Street. Mayor Stephens stated she should set up a meeting with him.

No public comment.

Alderman Bratton opened the Public Works Committee Meeting.

Osburn Street extension update. Alderman Bratton asked why the city is handling instead of Elwell and Bishop. Harold Sheffer stated he had not heard anything yet. Harold said IDOT said they would have closed that off if they had known that when they put in the street lights.

Tim Lee discussed bids for lining sewer lines-6" & 8" pipe. Cannot do. A&W Plumbing gave a bid for pipe bursting-\$49,688 for 250', 10 taps for 10 houses. Bush Construction gave an estimate of \$25,000 for excavating. Alderman Pittman inquired if he could get a firmer bid and Alderman Bratton suggested a cost not to exceed amount. Attorney Heller stated we do not have to go out for bids.

We will hold the issue of the billboard request by Chris Grither which is against our ordinance.

Degenhardt Road was discussed. Alderman Bratton stated we should spend dollars on Roberta Drive and other places in town. We will be spending \$22,000 on an out of town project which we can use in town; do not do out of town until we get in town projects done. Alderman McComb asked how many taps they are needing as we could recoup money from that. He was told there are two houses there now but they said there would be four taps; that would be \$4800 in tap fees. Alderman Bratton stated we should set up a minimum of four taps. Tim was given a green light to proceed with a formal request from Kinkaid and ask EPA approval.

We received two bids for the 7<sup>th</sup> Street Lift Station: Municipal Equipment \$17,680 installed, Vandeventer Engineering \$17,130 installed.

**Motion: To approve the bid from Vandeventer Engineering in the amount of \$17,130 for 7<sup>th</sup> Street Lift Station.**

Motion by Alderman Erbes

Second by Alderman Voss

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

**Motion Carried**

Boot camp lift station done and ready.

Discussion was held regarding the purchase of two new Ford trucks with tow package and heating & air. They are being purchased for public works from Springfield, Illinois under the state program. We have general fund CD's coming due.

**Motion: To approve the purchase of up to \$21,000 each for two new Ford trucks.**

Motion by Alderman McComb

Second by Alderman Erbes

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

**Motion Carried**

Darrin discussed the tree removal on North 11<sup>th</sup> Street. It is in the alley west of the Rome Tavern. Robert Roach was the only bidder and he turned in a bid of \$1500.

**Motion: To approve the bid of \$1500 from Robert Roach for tree removal on North 11<sup>th</sup> Street.**

Motion by Alderman McComb

Second by Alderman Erbes

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

**Motion Carried**

**Motion: To approve Motor Fuel Resolution.**

Motion by Alderman McComb

Second by Alderman Erbes

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

**Motion Carried**

Public comment: Mike Austin congratulated Mayor Stephens on the Andrews Fellows appointment. He discussed the 16th Street issue. He stated he was a prior school board member and the problem was that there is only one way in and one way out. It is a safety issue. Mayor Stephens stated that the 7<sup>th</sup> Street work with retention ponds may help this problem. Alderman McComb will recheck on figures for equipment-costs for 30 day rental of equipment plus operator. We need a way to haul dirt out and we have to get permission to get on everyone's property. Harold will write construction easements. Where do we want them? We have some easements. Alderman McComb will get with Harold regarding easements. Alderman Erbes stated the township would be interested in helping us with dollars. Alderman Hughes suggested we approach the school board to see if they'd help us. Alderman Pittman will talk to Kevin Beavers. Alderman Campos suggested we set up a timeline for the job. Mayor Stephens suggested an afternoon meeting with Harold Sheffer, Mike Austin, Alderman Bratton and Alderman McComb. They need to get a map and get dollars needed and take information to township and school district.

Mayor Stephens opened the Public Safety Committee Meeting.

Alderman Campos stated she had been told by her constituents that the cards the police are leaving should state "we are checking on your building". Chief Roberts stated they now have a place to put their badge number and date.

No public comment.

Alderman Hughes opened the Personnel Committee Meeting.

Alderman Hughes stated the job at administration was advertised internally and Sunday went into the newspaper.

Alderman Erbes talked to Mark Brittingham and Mark thinks we are real close to a contract with police.

No public comment.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor gave update on eclipse preparations. Chief Roberts stated we have additional auxiliary officers and we will be supplementing the sheriff on the western end of the city.

Cathy Norton commented on the visitors from other countries at the farmer's market.

<b>ALDERMEN ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS</b>
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Barb Hughes	Nothing
Jance Curry-Witzman	Nothing
Herb Voss	Nothing
Gary McComb	Guy came into office and gripped about storage area stickers. Said he has a gun. Should we get a sign saying weapons not allowed on property; bar weapons-no conceal and carry.
John Erbes	Nothing.
Dan Bratton	Send Smysor thank you letter on city letterhead.
Mike Bastien	Nothing
Gloria Campos	Happy eclipse.
W. J. Pittman	Nothing

<b>DEPARTMENT HEAD ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS</b>
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Ed Heller	Nothing.
Harold Sheffer	Nothing
Steve Swafford	Reports on fire hydrants does not include low flow problems. Report of six months review of fire calls.
Chad Roberts	State contract renewed August 9 <sup>th</sup> so vehicles will cost the same dollars. Found grant for fencing on range. NRA requires 50% match of funds. This is for deterring stealing plus fencing is safety issue. Terrace Fence bid is \$4130; \$2065 appropriated. Alderman Bratton asked about equipment purchase for building of range. Chad will try to find out where equipment went, if it went to public works.
Scott Evans	Nothing
Tim Lee	Nothing
Darrin Mills	Nothing
Jim Stewart	Nothing

