# Murphysboro City Council Meeting October 10, 2017

The Murphysboro, Illinois, City Council met in regular session, pursuant to its ordinances, on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2017. Mayor Pro Tem Erbes called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and invited Pastor Charlie Allen to lead the council in prayer. Following the invocation, Mayor Pro Tem Erbes led the council in the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Mayor Pro Tem Erbes then directed City Clerk Cottonaro to call the roll. The roll was called with the following

**Present:** Barb Hughes, Russell Brown, Herb Voss, Gary McComb, Danny

Bratton, Mike Bastien, W. J. Pittman

**Absent:** Jance Curry-Witzman, Gloria Campos

Motion: To approve the minutes of the September 26, 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 Bastien

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

**Motion Carried** 

Motion: To approve the accounts payable, register #701 through October 10 2017, accounts receivable through October 10, 2017 and payroll through October 10, 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 Bastien

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

**Motion Carried** 

### COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS

Alderman Pittman opened the Budget & Finance Meeting.

Alderman Pittman discussed the proposed contract for grant writing. He stated a copy had been sent to Mr. Hollo; however, at this time Mr. Hollo had not made a counter offer. He did know that Mr. Hollo was not happy with the percentages; he thinks they are low. Alderman Pittman stated there really were not any industry standards out there for comparison. He will try to contact Mr. Hollo this week to discuss the issue further. The issue of grant audits was raised by Chief Roberts. Chief Roberts stated this is a time consuming job and generally the grant writer should be the person who submits reports, not department heads who have nothing to say about the grant.

No public comment.

Alderman McComb opened the Building and Grounds Meeting.

Voluntary annex agreement was discussed. There is no additional information at this time so we will table until next time.

Railroad overpass construction project was discussed. There was a meeting held with Mayor Stephens, Attorney Heller and the railroad agent. The moving of the line is not as complicated as originally thought so the cost will not be as much. At this point we are waiting to hear back from the railroad.

This issue of sending Mark Tincher to drone school was discussed. He will need a commercial license to do the work we require. Chief Roberts informed the council that he cannot use drones in connection with law enforcement until case law is worked out. This is the recommendation per all police organization information. The school cost, which includes a commercial incense, is \$500. It consists of two days of classes. Until litigation is settled regarding using drones for police work we would be looking at roofs, ditch lines, etc. Recertification is every two-three years, no additional education is required. The recertification test cost is \$125 and Mark indicated he would continue recertification at his own cost. Chief Roberts stated he will be building the recertification fee into his budget.

Motion: To approve sending Mark Tincher to drone school at a cost of \$500.

Motion by Alderman Bratton Second by Alderman McComb

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

Motion Carried

No public comment.

Alderman Bastien opened the Public Improvement Committee Meeting.

The issue of the establishment of a downtown TIF District will be tabled as Alderman Bastien had not been able to talk to the mayor about it.

No public comment.

Mayor Pro Tem Erbes opened the Community Relations Committee Meeting.

The ordinance amending the liquor licensing code was discussed. Mayor Pro Tem Erbes inquired if video gaming was assured with the approval of this ordinance. Attorney Blake said they had contacted the gaming board legal department but they had not responded yet so he cannot say definitively it will be okay for video gaming. Mayor Pro Tem Erbes asked regarding signage. Since no signage is allowed for alcohol can he put up a sign about video gaming? Attorney Blake stated rules are governed by the video gaming act. The state has taken charge of this and we are very restrained because there has been very little litigation so we are not sure what we are able to do. Mayor Pro Tem Erbes stated he has issues with the wording "consumption on the premises to customers who have purchased a beauty salon and spa service". He thinks the wording is ambiguous and should state instead "while receiving services". The issues of only serving alcohol while receiving services and being 21 to enter the premises were discussed. Per Attorney Blake the liquor code requires that anyone entering the premises must be 21 or must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Alderman Hughes stated that the city license fee for beer and wine is \$525. She also wants to look at license fees again at budget time. Chief Roberts inquired if we can inspect as we do for other bars. He was told yes. Alderman Voss stated he would be in favor of \$525 for a license fee and with the provision that drinks could be served only while services are being received. Alderman Bratton stated perhaps we should hold the issue for a couple of weeks until Mr. Davis decides. The council determined that the creation of a Class S License was for the city and any interested business.

Motion: To approve the ordinance amending the liquor code to create a Class S License (beauty salon and spa) at a fee of \$525 with the revision of "while receiving services".

Motion by Alderman Voss Second by Alderman McComb Ayes: Barb Hughes, Russell Brown, Herb Voss, Gary McComb, Danny Bratton,

Mike Bastien, W. J. Pittman

Nays: Danny Bratton **Motion Carried** 

Alderman Hughes informed the council that Feed Team would be held on October 20, 2017, and she would need helpers there at 3 p.m. Habitat house ceremony is scheduled for October 21<sup>st</sup> and the house is on Division Street. She also wanted to praise Martin Schaldemose for installing the windows at the Old Depot.

No public comment.

Alderman Bratton opened the Public Works Committee Meeting.

Discussion was held regarding SPIN and their connecting to city sewer. Eric Kennedy stated he had done some research and the contractor had worked out a

deal with SPIN. The contractor says he should have the work done by the end of this year. Eric said they made a deal and sold some property in order to pay the contractor for the work.

Alderman Bratton stated we are cutting the ditch at the north end of the high school by the railroad tracks and it should be cleaned up all the way to 19<sup>th</sup>. Fire department will clean tracks, hose it off, etc. and we will be doing some other work on 19<sup>th</sup>. However, until we get access we will not be using the machine as it costs \$3,000 per week.

No public comment.

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Alderman Brown opened the Public Safety Committee Meeting.

Discussion was held regarding a request for a stop sign on North 19<sup>th</sup> Street. Alderman Bastien had the issue placed on the agenda. He stated that Alderman Campos had several phone calls and requests for this and she informed Alderman Bastien since it is in his ward. Alderman Bastien stated that Alderman McComb said the council had previously determined never to put a stop sign there. Alderman Bastien requested it be checked out to determine what the council had said. It is North 19<sup>th</sup> & Logan. Chief Roberts stated he will check it out like he did on Illinois Avenue. Alderman Bastien tabled the issue until next time.

No public comment.

Alderman Hughes opened the Personnel Committee Meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Erbes stated that Mark Brittingham wants to meet with Chief Roberts tomorrow.

No public comment.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Pro Tem Erbes stated that Mayor Stephens indicated he had no items for the mayor's report except that he is sure we are enjoying his absence but don't get used to it.

Mayor Pro Tem Erbes wanted to thank Sandra, Leslie, council members and city heads involved in Community Night Out. They did an excellent job, the event was well received and attended.

### **ALDERMEN ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS**

Barb Hughes Thanks for all involved in Community Night Out

Russell Brown Nothing

Herb Voss Nothing

Gary McComb Nothing

Dan Bratton Nothing

Mike Bastien Nothing

W. J. Pittman Nothing.

## **DEPARTMENT HEAD ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS**

Richard Blake Nothing.

Sandra Ripley Nothing

Harold Sheffer Nothing

Chad Roberts Applied for one automatic defibrillator (AED) and received a

grant for two automatic defibrillators (AED) for the police department. He is placing one at range and one at city hall.

Eric Kennedy Nothing

Darrin Mills Nothing

Jim Stewart He also thinks the sewer plant needs a defibrillator.

Alderman Bratton stated that the sewer plant is done except for some nickel and dime stuff to be completed. We have issued most of the check.

Motion: To adjourn

Motion by Alderman McComb Second by Alderman Bastien

Mayor Pro Tem Erbes called for a voice vote. All were in favor.

Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.