

**Murphysboro City Council Meeting
October 24th, 2017**

The Murphysboro, Illinois, City Council met in regular session, pursuant to its ordinances, on the 24th day of October, 2017. Mayor Stephens called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and Pastor Allen 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 Deputy City Clerk Ripley 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, Mike Bastien, Dan Bratton, Gloria Campos, WJ Pittman

Absent:

Mayor Stephens requested to move the Mayor's Report to the beginning as we have a guest speaker.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The first item of discussion was the consideration of appointment of Dave Ardrey to the Airport Authority Board.

Motion: To approve the appointment of Dave Ardrey to the Airport Authority Board.

Motion by Alderman McComb

Second by Alderman Bratton

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

Motion Carried

Mayor Stephens then introduced Jamie Green who spoke on behalf of the Murphysboro Hometown Christmas Committee. Mrs. Green gave the background on how the committee was established and how they are now a committee under Murphysboro Main Street. She further described the various activities that were planned including an opening ceremony and tree lighting that will take place on Friday, December 1st at 6:00 p.m. at Town Center Park. Mrs. Green further outlined the other plans for decorating the downtown and requested permission for placement of trees, wreaths and lights at the Daum Administration Building, Smysor Plaza and Town Center Park. The committee is also working with other property

Mayor Stephens stated that Illinois Department of Transportation required a funding resolution to be approved for the proposed bike trail project.

Motion: To approve the proposed funding resolution for the IDOT Bike Trail box culvert project.

Motion by Alderman McComb

Second by Alderman Pittman

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

Motion Carried

Alderman Bratton asked where we were with the punch list of items for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Alderman McComb stated that the wheelchair ramp at the 20th and Commercial Street was broken and believed to have been done by the contractors for the Wastewater Treatment Plant new construction. Mayor Stephens asked for letter to be sent to the contractor with a complete list of remaining items.

There was no public comment on Budget and Finance related items.

Alderman McComb opened discussion for Building and Grounds related items. Under old business, Mayor Stephens stated that he did not have an update on the Voluntary Annexation Agreements. The council discussed the railroad overpass construction project whereas the railroad wants us to move the waterline. City Engineer Sheffer advised that it would be cheaper to cut and cap the existing line and create a dead end with a flush hydrant. He further indicated that the pressure in other areas would not be affected due to the new main that was recently constructed. Water Foreman, Tim Lee, agreed that his proposal would be the cheapest, but other options could be presented if the council so desired. Alderman McComb questioned whether or not our staff would be performing the work.

Motion: To approve cutting and capping the water line under the railroad with installation of a flush hydrant all to be performed by City staff.

Motion by Alderman Pittman

Second by Alderman Voss

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

Motion Carried

Mayor Stephens asked for an update on the issue with the residents on North 23rd Street and the Union Pacific Railroad. Attorney Blake informed the council that we have engineering records from 1991 for oil and chip maintenance and records from 2006 showing right-of-way maintenance. He talked more about prescriptive rights and stated that we would be asking the railroad for a permanent easement for the road prior to any legal filings.

There was no public comment on Building and Grounds related items.

Chairman Erbes opened discussion for Community Relations items. There was no old business or new business on the agenda. Alderman Erbes advised that for informational purposes the Sallie Logan Library had requested placement of a sign on the North side of their building as this is their main entrance. This is informational

There was no public comment on Public Improvement related items.

Alderman Bratton opened discussion for Public Works related items. There were no items old or new on the agenda for discussion.

There was no public comment on Public Works related items.

Alderman Brown opened discussion for Public Safety related items. Under old business the council discussed the request for a stop sign on North 19th Street. Alderman Brown asked Chief Roberts if he has performed any details along North 19th Street and had any update. Chief Roberts advised that he did in fact do a traffic detail as well as speaking with residents in that neighborhood. He noted that speeds were consistently high. He recommended that a sign be placed at either Wall or Clarke creating a 3-way stop due to the Curwood property being on the East side.

Motion: To approve installation of a stop sign on North 19th Street at Wall Street.

Motion by Alderman Campos

Second by Alderman Hughes

Mayor called for a roll call vote.

YES – Alderman Hughes, Curry-Witzman, Brown, Voss, Bastien, Campos

NO – Alderman McComb, Erbes, Bratton, Pittman

Motion Carried

The next item on the agenda was discussion regarding the new police chaplain program. Chief Roberts advised that with the cooperation of the Ministerial Alliance, the Police Chaplain Program was established. Chief Roberts introduced Pastor Rick Sutton who was head of the program. Pastor Sutton introduced the seven members of the program and went into depth on the various duties that they will be performing. He indicated that it has already been a success and that they were able to help relieve the officers on a couple of cases as well as assist with housing and other issues. Pastor Joe Hoem advised that they were auxiliary officers that have the authority to carry guns and that this program truly help with the relationship with our community. Alderman Bastien advised that there are resources available for victims of violent crimes and would be willing to get the information to them.

There was no public comment on Public Safety related items.

Alderman Hughes opened discussion for Personnel related items. There were no items, old or new, on the agenda for discussion. However, Alderman Hughes advised that work continues on the contract with the police department and we hope that it will be drawing to a close soon.

There was no public comments on Personnel related items.

ALDERMEN ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS

Barb Hughes	Nothing
Jance Curry-Witzman	Nothing
Russell Brown	Nothing
Herb Voss	Thanked the council for not being a rubber stamp on items. Really appreciated the consideration of various items and the thought process that took place.
Gary McComb	Nothing
John Erbes	Thanked Chief Roberts and the Chaplains on the new program.
Dan Bratton	Advised that the Pond Creek drainage clean-up was mostly done with only a small area left.
Mike Bastien	Nothing
Gloria Campos	Nothing
WJ Pittman	Nothing

DEPARTMENT HEAD ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS

Sandra Ripley	Nothing
Richard Blake	Nothing
Scott Evans	Nothing
Harold Sheffer	Nothing
Steve Swafford	Had applied for an AFR grant and was declined.
Chad Roberts	Nothing
Brian Manwaring	Nothing
Darrin Mills	Nothing
Tim Lee	Nothing
Jim Stewart	Nothing

Motion: To adjourn

Motion by Alderman Bratton

Second by Alderman Campos

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

Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.