



## COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS

Alderman Erbes opened the Community Relations Committee Meeting.

Brad Fager of the Friends of Murphysboro addressed the council regarding a Splash Pad Water project. Friends of Murphysboro, along with the Kiwanis, wish to put a splash pad in at Longfellow Park and are seeking the city's help with regard to the water. Mayor Stephens stated it is a plus development and we should discuss how we can help them afford water for the park. There were two plans distributed, one with a cost of \$77,000 and another with a cost of \$55,000. In addition to the cost of the pad there is also a cost of approximately \$15,000 for electric, sewer and water lines and sidewalk. Total cost is approximately \$99,000. The Park District has committed to pay for the maintenance once the pad is installed and they will pay for the power. The group wants the city to help out with the water. It would be open Memorial Day to Labor Day, essentially June, July and August. The water does not recirculate, that requires more in depth plans and more costs. It uses 54 gallons of water per minute when in use. Calculated at eight hours a day for 90 days at 54 gallons per minutes it would cost approximately \$60 per day to operate, and for 90 days that cost would be \$5400 per year. This would be if the pad was in use all eight hours which it will not be. It runs 10 minutes, then shuts off and the button has to be pushed again to start another 10 minutes. Hours will be from 11am to 7 pm.

**Motion: To approve furnishing water for the Friends of Murphysboro splash pad.**

Motion by Alderman McComb

Second by Alderman Campos

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

**Motion Carried**

Public comment: Don Gladden asked if the splash pad was for weekends and the response was yes. Alderman Curry-Witzman stated she opted they chose design A because B is too small for older kids. She thinks design A would attract a larger age group of kids.

Alderman Brown opened the Public Safety Committee Meeting.

It was determined to table the consideration of the ordinance amending the offense of fighting by agreement. Attorney Blake stated the reason is the proposed language he is getting from Chief Roberts.

Amy Mills addressed the council regarding an alley request. This is the north/south alley behind the old Blankenship Building at 1614 Walnut Street. They have purchased the building and are installing a barbeque sauce factory. They will be bottling their own sauce as well as co-packing for other barbeque enterprises. They also intend to have an area developed for serving breakfast, lunch and coffee. They will be employing approximately 15 employees. They want a drive through and that would be in the alley. Mayor Stephens inquired of Chief Roberts and Darrin Milles if that would cause a problem and both responded they see no issues.

**Motion: To approve making the alley behind the Blankenship building located at 1614 Walnut Street one way.**

Motion by Alderman McComb

Second by Alderman Bratton

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

**Motion Carried**

Mike Mills thanked the council for their help with this and all the years they have supported the barbeque contest. He stated they are the reason all this could be done and he is truly grateful for all their help.

No public comment.

Alderman Hughes opened the Personnel Committee Meeting.

Alderman Hughes gave an update on the position in the street department. We are advertising now as there were no applications from within. The advertised deadline is 12/18/17 and then we will begin interviews.

**Motion: To go into executive session at 6:40 pm to discuss matters related to related to 5ILCS 120/2(c)(2) regarding collective negotiating matters and the contract proposal between the city and its employees or their representatives and to review the executive session minutes.**

Motion by Alderman Bratton

Second by Alderman Erbes

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 7:15 pm.**

Motion by Alderman Bratton

Seconded by Alderman Campos

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 approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the FOP subject to final language approval.**

Motion by Alderman Bratton

Second by Alderman Brown

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

**Motion Carried**

**Motion: To approve the release of executive session minutes for 5/28/13, 7/22/13, 7/28/14, 5/26/15, 2/22/16, 11/9/16, 11/22/16, 2/28/17, and 7/25/17, and hold the executive session minutes of 3/17/14, 9/27/16, 5/23/17, 6/27/17, 8/15/17 and 11/14/17.**

Motion by Alderman Erbes

Second by Alderman Bratton

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

**Motion Carried**

Attorney Blake stated the ordinance prohibiting sexual harassment contains the items set forth by the legislature as required in an ordinance and the Illinois Municipal League has also had input as to the information in the ordinance.

**Motion: To approve the Ordinance Prohibiting Sexual Harassment.**

Motion by Alderman Bratton

Second by Alderman Voss

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

**Motion Carried**

No public comment.

Alderman Pittman opened the Budget & Finance Meeting.

Alderman Pittman stated that although he agrees we need the rate increase for water and sewer he doesn't want to sell it like it was due to Kinkaid's raised rates. Alderman Bratton stated we have to pay for that new line.

**Motion: To approve accepting the proposed new water and sewer rates.**

Motion by Alderman Bratton

Second by Alderman Hughes

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

**Motion Carried**

Line of Credit renewal at First Bank and Trust Company was discussed. Alderman Pittman abstained from the discussion. It is at 4.9% for \$500,000 and starts 1/10/18.

**Motion: To approve renewing the line of credit at First Bank & Trust Company.**

Motion by Alderman Bratton

Second by Alderman Campos

Yeas: Barb Hughes, Jance Curry-Witzman, Russell Brown, Herb Voss, Gary McComb, John Erbes, Danny Bratton, Mike Bastien, Gloria Campos

Abstain: W. J. Pittman

**Motion Carried**

Scott Evans presented the following budget reports: Schedule of Sales/HR Tax Receipts, Comparison of Budgeted vs. Actual Payroll, Schedule of State Income Tax Receipts Vouchered.

No public comment.



**Motion: To approve to make final payment in the amount of \$20,450.37, to the contractor for the wastewater treatment plant contingent upon completion.**

Motion by Alderman Voss

Second by Alderman McComb

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

**Motion Carried**

Alderman McComb inquired about the wheelchair issue. Harold stated if the city will fix it, Blankenship will pay for it.

The request from Tim Lee to carry over more vacation days than what the contract allows was discussed. You can hold over one week vacation by contract, he wants to hold over another four weeks' vacation due to his surgery. Alderman McComb stated he had talked to the Labors International Union and they agreed to an exemption. Per Alderman McComb they said it is not a violation of the contract and not setting a standard. They are willing to give him a one-time exemption. Discussion followed about allowing for one employee may set a precedent which we do not want to do, not all employees are of the standard of Tim Lee. Alderman Voss stated that we need a letter from the union stating their position. Alderman McComb will call the union for a letter to that effect. Alderman Erbes can talk to Mark Brittingham regarding this issue. Alderman Bratton said he would contact both the fire and police union to see if they would agree. We will hold until the next meeting.

**Motion Carried**

No public comment.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor had nothing to report on at this time.

**ALDERMEN ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS**

Barb Hughes            Nothing

Jance Curry-Witzman Nothing

Russell Brown        Asked Leander to have the code office check the building behind him, plywood has fallen off the building.

Herb Voss             Nothing

Gary McComb         Nothing

John Erbes            City looks great. Thanks to city staff and store owners for making the city look great.

Dan Bratton           Ditto

