

**Murphysboro City Council Meeting
December 19, 2017**

The Murphysboro, Illinois, City Council met in regular session, pursuant to its ordinances, on the 19th day of December, 2017. Mayor Stephens called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and invited Pastor Jerry Hickam to lead 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, Russell Brown, Herb Voss, Gary McComb, John Erbes, Danny Bratton, Mike Bastien, Gloria Campos, W. J. Pittman

Absent: Jance Curry-Witzman

A public hearing was held from 5:00 p.m. to 5:10 p.m. to review and consider the proposed Fiscal Year 2018 Budget. There were no comments.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the December 12, 2017 council meeting and the November 21, 2017 and November 27, 2017 budget meetings. All aldermen received a copy of the minutes, for their review, prior to the meeting.

Motion by Alderman Bratton

Second by Alderman Brown

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

Motion Carried

Motion: To approve the accounts payable, register #648 through December 19, 2017, accounts receivable through December 19, 2017 and payroll through December 19, 2017. All aldermen received a copy of the accounts payable, accounts receivable and payroll for their review, prior to the meeting.

Motion by Alderman Bastien

Second by Alderman McComb

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

Motion Carried

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS

Alderman Pittman opened the Budget & Finance Meeting.

Motion: To approve hiring a full time employee in the street department effective July 1, 2018.

Motion by Alderman Bratton

Second by Alderman Bastien

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

Motion Carried

Alderman Pittman stated he was not in favor of increases in city license fees.

Motion: To approve an increase in city license fees as recommended effective May 1, 2018.

Motion by Alderman Hughes

Second by Alderman Voss

Yeas: Alderman Hughes, Alderman Brown, Alderman Voss, Alderman McComb, Alderman Erbes, Alderman Bratton, Alderman Bastien, Alderman Campos

Nays: Alderman Pittman

Motion Carried

Motion: To approve a 15 percent salary increase for the position of chieftain for Chief Swafford from 1/1/18 to 12/31/18.

Motion by Alderman Erbes

Second by Alderman Bratton

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

Motion Carried

Motion: To approve a two percent salary increase for non-union department heads beginning 1/1/2018.

Motion by Alderman Hughes

Second by Alderman Campos

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

Motion Carried

Alderman Pittman inquired about budgeting for retro pay for the police and Mr. Hollo's contract. We did not take that into account. Approximately \$60,000 in back pay. Mayor Stephens stated we also have the Tina Drive issue to be considered. Mayor stated we are aware of it and we will have to look at our sales tax receipts as they come in and we may need to make some hard decisions later on. Alderman Hughes stated we approved a two percent pay increase last year and then didn't settle with the police. Alderman Bratton stated the budget is guide line.

Motion: To approve the Proposed 2018 Fiscal Year Budget.

Motion by Alderman Voss

Second by Alderman Bratton

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

Motion Carried

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor stated the following:

1. He met with Ameren, Tim Lee, Darrin Mills and Eric Kennedy. In February Ameren is tearing down the plant by the Big Muddy River and the Ameren building across the street from Kentucky Fried Chicken.
2. Met with Illini asphalt at J. T. Blankenship and expressed our displeasure on the surfacing. Mayor said the guy agreed to take the issue back to his boss about adjusting the bill. Not sure about fixing the problem but if they do fix it it won't be until spring.

Alderman Erbes asked if there were any plans for the Ameren Walnut Street building and Mayor Stephens stated that the clean-up is much more extensive at that building than the one by the river as there is so much more contamination.

ALDERMEN ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS

Barb Hughes	Have a nice holiday
Russell Brown	Informed Eric that the brick building behind him has no roof and someone took the plywood from the door and kids are playing in there. He ran them off but it is a safety issue.
Herb Voss	Safe travels and Merry Christmas
Gary McComb	Nothing
John Erbes	Thanks for holiday party. Very good.
Dan Bratton	Party was nice, we enjoyed it. He would like for Mr. Hollo to give an update report every two months about what he's doing on grants. Alderman Hughes inquired when did Mr. Hollo's contract start. No one was sure of start date.
Mike Bastien	Meat tray from Ozburn Insurance Agency for council's enjoyment. Tray came from Jack's Meat Market.
Gloria Campos	Broken windows update. Chief Roberts stated they used marbles and a slingshot. There was no physical evidence, no witnesses and the cameras caught nothing. Wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
W. J. Pittman	Nothing

DEPARTMENT HEAD ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS

Edward Heller	Resumed talks with Carl Homan's attorney regarding the shoe factory walls. The issue is if Carl is mentally able to make a contract to take down the walls. If he is okay all is okay, if not mentally okay it will take more maneuvers.
Sandra Ripley	Nothing
Scott Evans	Nothing
Steve Swafford	Merry Christmas
Chad Roberts	January 16 th at 6:30 p.m. at the Senior Center there will be a banquet and awards for the police. He wants to make this an annual event. It will be catered and is funded by local donations. The council is invited. The new cars are equipped and rolled out.
Eric Kennedy	Nothing
Darrin Mills	Nothing
Jim Stewart	Nothing

Motion: To adjourn

Motion by Alderman Bratton

Second by Alderman Hughes

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

Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.