

**Murphysboro City Council Meeting  
March 13, 2018**

The Murphysboro, Illinois, City Council met in regular session, pursuant to its ordinances, on the 13th day of March, 2018. Mayor Stephens called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and invited Pastor Rick Sutton 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 Hunziker to call the roll. The roll was called with the following:

**Present:** Barb Hughes, Jance Curry-Witzman, Russell Brown, Herb Voss, John Erbes, Mike Bastien, Gloria Campos, W. J. Pittman

**Absent:** Gary McComb, Dan Bratton.

Mayor Stephens stated an amendment to the Agenda, correct date of Council Minutes up for consideration is February 27<sup>th</sup> not 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Motion: To approve the minutes of the February 27, 2018 council meeting. All aldermen received a copy of the minutes, for their review, prior to the meeting.**

Motion by Alderman Hughes Second by Alderman Campos

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

**Motion Carried**

Alderman Campos inquired as to the bills for rock - it is two different suppliers. Also asked what the title search for three properties was for – title search for demolition.

Alderman Hughes inquired as to the street cleaner expense – motor was replaced. Also the two payments for Keeper systems – will check into.

**Motion: To approve the accounts payable, registers #657 & #658 through March 13, 2018 except the two Keeper Systems payments, account receivable through February 28, 2018, and payroll through February 28, 2018. All aldermen received a copy of the accounts payable, accounts receivable and payroll for their review, prior to the meeting.**

Motion by Alderman Voss Second by Alderman Brown

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

## **Motion Carried**

### **COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS**

Alderman Pittman opened discussion for Budget & Finance related items.

Alderman McComb has been very ill and therefore has not been able to meet to discuss the Senior Citizens Center repairs/contracts.

Consideration of Monthly Water Bills was brought up due to collections. Water Billing Manager Katharine Volle was invited to speak on this subject. After studying the issue, she concluded we would need more personnel, especially another meter reader and would incur more mailing costs. She felt the benefits would not outweigh the costs. The council agrees.

No public comment.

Mayor Stephens opened discussion for Building and Grounds related items.

Attorney Blake stated they are drafting the paperwork for the Mayor to sign concerning North 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and the Union Pacific Railroad. Alderman inquired if there had been any further contact – no.

Clover Roofing was awarded the contract to replace the Senior Citizens Center roof but has informed the City that there are new Federal requirements for insurance purposes that will increase the cost by approximately \$10,000. Per Attorney Blake there are two options: the job can be re-bid or the Council can waive the requirement for competitive bid by a 2/3 majority vote. Question raised as to whether the insurance provider would cover the increased cost? Sandra will check with the insurance company before the job is potentially rebid.

Darrin Mills and Street Department personnel are renovating the code off and entryway at the Public Works building to provide a more secure work environment. Cost was approximately \$600-800 and adds a look of professionalism.

Ameren and Commonwealth Edison are jointly working on clearing trees before tearing down the old building. They were hoping to start in May or June but the DNR has stated they cannot cut down any trees between April 1<sup>st</sup> and September due to a type of bird nesting in that area. Ameren and ComEd have hired a local contractor to immediately start cutting down the trees and are asking the city to pay for it and they would reimburse the city, due to the companies' payment process. Cost is approximately \$20,000. Council does not see any problem with that.

No public comment.

Alderman Erbes opened discussion for Community Relations Committee related items.

Request for consideration of street closure for the Southern Illinois Sports Resale Shop anniversary celebration on April 7<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm on N. 6<sup>th</sup> from Walnut to KFC exit.

**Motion: To approve the request by the Southern Illinois Sports Resale Shop for street closure on April 7<sup>th</sup>.**

Motion by Alderman Pittman    Second by Alderman Campos  
Alderman Erbes called for a voice vote. All were in favor.

**Motion Carried**

Request for consideration of request from Class of 2018 for outdoor Prom dinner on April 28<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am to 7:00 pm on the parking lot at 13<sup>th</sup> and South Street.

**Motion: To approve the request for use of the parking lot at 13<sup>th</sup> and South Street for the Class of 2018 Prom dinner on April 28<sup>th</sup>.**

Motion by Alderman Bastien    Second by Alderman Campos  
Alderman Erbes called for a voice vote. All were in favor.

**Motion Carried**

Request for consideration from Unique Shops of Murphysboro for use of Smysor Plaza on March 17<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm.

**Motion: To approve the request for Unique Shops of Murphysboro to use Smysor Plaza on March 17<sup>th</sup>.**

Motion by Alderman Bastien    Second by Alderman Brown  
Alderman Erbes called for a voice vote. All were in favor.

**Motion Carried**

No public comment.

Alderman Bastien opened discussion for Public Improvement related items.

Update on the fence issue on Division Street - a 30-day letter has been sent to the owner to comply and remove the fence. There is a hearing scheduled for April 28<sup>th</sup> concerning the ticket that was written. We are proceeding with the lawsuit.

No public comment.

Mayor Stephens opened discussion for Public Works related items.

Mr. Stewart has received four bids for the new truck for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The two lowest were the state bid and Absher Arnold. The State bid was for \$30,000, all inclusive, 2019 Ford F250 4X4. Absher Arnold was for \$25,000 but would need to install a different bed and lights.

**Motion: To approve the State bid of \$30,000 for purchase of a new truck for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.**

Motion by Alderman Hughes

Second by Alderman Voss

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

**Motion Carried**

Mr. Sheffer provided costs for three road projects. Scott Evans stated there is money in the Motor Fuel Tax fund to put towards road repairs/projects.

**Motion: To forego the Alley Oil & Chip Maintenance budget to do one or more street repair projects.**

Motion by Alderman Hughes

Second by Alderman Pittman

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

**Motion Carried**

No public comment.

Alderman Brown opened discussion for Public Safety related items.

Huck's is requesting video gaming. Will ask them to be present at the next meeting.  
Tabled.

Paula Craig spoke concerning the No Parking approved on North 10<sup>th</sup> and Locust Streets. She was concerned because she was not informed of the situation which directly affects her business. Requested that the current No Parking spot be converted into a handicap parking spot. She has a lot of elderly clients who are handicapped and in wheelchairs and would make use of a designated parking spot. Asked if the rest of the parking along North 10<sup>th</sup> Street could be lined for each space to help customers know what space there is per car. Mayor Stephens stated research needs to be done as to handicap parking. Alderman Bastien will check with the Attorney General who has a division on this and will let Darrin Mills know what is found out. Chief Roberts looked into the wrecks at that location and there are approximately 2 per year, which is 0.0078% of our wrecks total. Alderman Voss provided a recap of the information given at the last meeting concerning this issue. Ms. Crag also provided a petition that was signed by citizens concerning this issue. Council will look into the possibility of converting the spot into handicapped parking.

Alderman Bastien asked if 20<sup>th</sup> Street will be striped – waiting on the weather.

No public comment.

Alderman Hughes opened discussion for Personnel related items.

Workers Compensation Premiums have decreased greatly, in large part to Sandra holding safety meetings and the Self Safety audits. The Training Network Now site is free online and Sandra has been helping the supervisors keep up on this. Also needed is a Slip, Trip and Fall Policy. Alderman Hughes stated how much she appreciates the decrease in cost and being able to cut back on claims through

education. She also stated we currently only have two AED's and need to look into getting more for.

No public comment.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor stated the following:

Concerning the Curwood Property, we are waiting on Bemis.

Community Collaboration Committee – handed out a list of groups to be included. Will have the city attorney draft an ordinance to create the committee. Will add to the list: Tourism Bureau, Main Street, U of I Extension, Jackson Growth Alliance and Greater Egyptian.

The Mayor spoke to Keith Miley at IDOT concerning a crosswalk at 21<sup>st</sup> Street and Walnut Street. Mr. Miley stated there can be a cross guard stationed at the intersection who cannot stop traffic but can stop people from crossing until it is clear/safe. There can also be additional lighted signage there. Questions were asked as to the cost of the signage and if other communities can stop traffic why can't we. The Mayor will check into it.

The Mayor also reminded everyone of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, and invited the council to walk in the parade.

**ALDERMEN ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS**

Barb Hughes            Nothing

Jance Curry-Witzman Watson Road by The General has huge potholes.

Russell Brown        Nothing

Herb Voss            Would like to add to consideration of funds for re-surfacing to include the rest of Logan Street. The street signs left from construction on the railroad have been abandoned and knocked over. Wondering if we could remove them.

Gary McComb        Absent

John Erbes            Congratulations to Chief Roberts on becoming a certified Police Chief.

Dan Bratton           Absent

