

**Murphysboro City Council Meeting
May 15, 2018**

The Murphysboro, Illinois, City Council met in regular session, pursuant to its ordinances, on the 15th day of May, 2018. Mayor Stephens called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and invited Pastor Jim Frye 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, Russell Brown, Gary McComb, John Erbes, Dan Bratton, Mike Bastien, W. J. Pittman.

Absent: Jance Curry-Witzman, Herb Voss, Gloria Campos

Motion: To approve the minutes of the April 24, 2018 council meeting. All aldermen received a copy of the minutes, for their review, prior to the meeting.

Motion by Alderman Bastien

Second by Alderman Brown

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

Motion Carried

Alderman Bratton inquired as to:

#667 page 2 – weedeater attachments – for water and sewer

#667 page 2 - James Weber Jr – lawsuit by arrestee and dismissed, city had to pay insurance company attorney fee deductible

#668 page 2 – Boundtree Medical – for Fire Department breathing apparatus

#668 page 3 – Core & Main LLP – for the water department. Approved but ask Tim.

#668 page 4 – Dean Bush – Sewer repair when sewer line collapsed

#668 page 8 – Key Equipment & Supply – for the street sweeper

#668 page 17 – Voss service call – voided due to incorrect service charge amount

#673 page 1 – Voss – corrected invoice

Alderman Erbes inquired as to:

#668 page 3 – Senior Citizens roof, insurance money came in last year

Motion: To approve the accounts payable, registers #667, 668 & 673 through May 15, 2018, accounts receivable through April 30, 2018, and payroll through April 30, 2018. 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 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.

Old Business:

Senior Citizens Center Repairs/Contract: Mayor Stephens met with Joe Balsano and went over the Treasurer's report. He also created a list of everything that they pay. Had previously discussed the City taking the building contents onto our insurance but it would make more sense for them to continue paying that bill as it lowers their liability. Would like to consider at the next meeting reimbursing them for the annual cost of the insurance, which is approximately \$2000.00. Alderman Bratton stated that since the city provides maintenance for the outside of the building and for the freezers, etc. suggested the city budget a maximum amount for maintenance and the inside insurance cost. Mayor Stephens stated Joe would like a clearer picture of what he can spend and on what. Would like the council to give him some direction. Alderman McComb stated they are responsible for the cost of the van, gas, insurance and the driver. Alderman Bratton asked if they have a council and a club? Yes. Alderman McComb stated the council is the governing body. There has recently been an issue over funds between the council and the club and all but one club member has quit. Mayor Stephens will bring back something more formal to the next meeting.

Review of grant writing job description and advertisements: nothing at this time.

Presentation by Cary Minnis – GERPDC: has been asked to speak regarding grant writing they do at the Greater Egypt Regional Planning and Development Commission. They use the funds they receive to leverage State and Federal Funds. Grants they receive also allow them to help communities write and implement grants for various projects. They have experience writing a wide variety of grants but they need to know what the city is wanting to do. If the city has a grant writer, they will provide assistance if needed. Mayor Stephens stated the city is looking at hiring a part-time grant writer. Have received a lot of feedback on Facebook regarding sidewalk repair. Mr. Minnis stated he can help with that but a lot will depend on where the sidewalk is located, such as by a school or on a route to school or to improve the downtown area. Alderman Erbes asked regarding the installation of sidewalks on the East side of town? Mr. Minnis stated he can help with that and will get with the council concerning a time frame. Alderman Bratton inquired if he could

help with the old Brown Shoe Factory. Mayor Stephens stated that a grant has been written for that, was denied but with notes for re-applying. Applied again, denied again but with more notes and suggestions so will be writing it again. Mr. Minnis stated that there are also requirements once you obtain a grant which can be very time consuming. Some grants are matching and you have to keep track. Sometimes the grant writer becomes the grand administrator.

New Business: Nothing at this time.

No public comment.

Alderman McComb opened discussion for Building & Grounds related items.

Old Business: Nothing at this time.

New Business:

Update on Roof at Senior Citizens Center & Air Conditioner Issue: Alderman Bratton stated he has received 3 bids for the air conditioner work – Voss \$11,875; Heartland \$10,800; Jason Spears \$8500, which did not include the electrical shut off work needed. It will cost \$4500 to repair the old unit. If it is replaced, the old unit can be used as parts for the unit at the Youth & Rec Center. Alderman McComb stated that the roof cannot be finished until the air conditioner work is done.

Motion: To accept the bid from Jason Spears of \$8500.00 to replace the air conditioning unit.

Motion by Alderman Bratton

Second by Alderman Hughes

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

Motion Carried

Alderman Bratton will let Jason Spears know that his bid has been accepted. Jason had stated that he will need ½ down to purchase the unit. Alderman McComb asked Darrin if he has a trailer the old unit can be stored on, Darrin replied yes.

No public comment.

Alderman Erbes opened discussion for Community Relations Committee related items.

Old Business:

Alderman Hughes forwarded a thank you from the Bald Knob Cross committee for sponsoring a hole at their fundraiser.

New Business:

Consideration of Request for Street closure: Monday, May 21st, 2018, from 5:30 to 6:30 pm on Locust Street from 10th to 11th. It is the location of the first mass held by

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

Motion Carried

Consideration of moving the Street Department new hire from July 1 to June 4: due to being down one person in the Street Department.

Motion: To move the Street Department new hire date from July 1 to June 4.

Motion by Alderman McComb

Second by Alderman Erbes

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

Motion Carried

No public comment.

Alderman Brown opened discussion for Public Safety related items.

Old business: Nothing at this time.

New business:

Discussion regarding Notice of State Award – car and body cameras: Police Chief Roberts wrote the grant and has received \$34,500.00. Consideration of Quote for Equipment: \$34,499.95. This will provide a camera for each car & officer. Consideration of Quote for Installation: \$4050.00. This will cover all installation and a one year warranty. Chief Roberts is requesting approval to accept the grant and order cameras and approval for installation by Bill Myers for a maximum cost of \$4050.00. Alderman Bratton asked if Chief Roberts will be the grant administrator and he replied yes.

Motion: To accept the grant for car and body cameras, order the cameras and approve installation by Bill Myers for a maximum cost of \$4050.00.

Motion by Alderman Hughes

Second by Alderman Erbes

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

Motion Carried

Discussion regarding the annual Siren Maintenance report:

1. Federal Thunderbolt on N. 19th Street: vegetation is growing up around it, Darrin will spray it.
2. Federal Thunderbolt at Jackson Square: the blower is locked up. Quotes are included in the packet. Mr. Manwaring recommends replacing the blower and he will install it.
3. Federal 2001 Siren on Lucier Street: the cabinet has experienced some water issues and is badly rusted. Have done some maintenance work to it and is working properly at this time. Recommends not doing anything at this time.

Motion: To buy a new blower for the siren at Jackson Square and install it ourselves.

Motion by Alderman Pittman

Second by Alderman Bastien

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

Motion Carried

No public comment.

Alderman Hughes opened discussion for Personnel related items.

Old business:

Alderman Hughes stated that two employees will be off for an extended amount of time due to surgery, we need to keep them in our prayers. Chris McRoy will be the acting foreman while Tim is off.

Alderman Erbes stated that he has spoken to Mark and the grievance proposal has been accepted.

Police Chief Roberts stated that Officer Wunderlich has been released back to active duty.

New business: Nothing at this time.

No public comment.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Recycling Station/Dumpster: Republic has bid \$150/month for two 8-yd's. Burris has bid \$40 per month plus \$70 per pick-up charge for one 15-yd. There are 2 recycling stations available to citizens, one at the Health Department and one at the U of I Extension Building. Feels we should do better at communicating what is already available within proximity of the city. Will remove from the agenda and take a look at the potential of providing this service next year.

The custodian reached out to the Mayor concerning the purchase of the latex gloves. The quantity purchased should last him a year and saved money by purchasing in bulk.

Asked Sandra about the part-time hire for the water office. Laura Cates-Duncan has been hired and started Monday. She is doing a great job so far.

ALDERMEN ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS

Barb Hughes

Nothing

Jance Curry-Witzman Absent

Russell Brown Church on 4th & Division St – per Eric is on demo list. Per Attorney Blake everyone has to be notified and the title situation is convoluted. Also the Costas house is up for auction.

Herb Voss Absent

Gary McComb Where are we on the road to the sewer plant? Per Mr. Sheffer they are dealing with the Engineer Corps.

John Erbes Status of the Comprehensive Planning Commission? Mayor Stephens told the consultant to finish the whole product and then will review it. Should be in pretty soon.

Dan Bratton Where are we at regarding 7th Street? Are we waiting until July 1st? Mr. Sheffer stated he will send the contracts to IDOT and will wait to get them back, then get appraisals. Will hopefully be able to start at the end of 2018. Mayor Stephens requested that Mr. Sheffer let him know when the paperwork has been submitted and to whom. Also asked Eric if Blaine has been down 7th Street? Eric is not sure but will have him inspect that area.

Mike Bastien Asked Mr. Sheffer about striping 20th Street. He has told them to get pricing for that. Mayor Stephens added that there is water standing, Mr. Sheffer will contact them regarding that.

Gloria Campos Absent

W. J. Pittman Nothing

DEPARTMENT HEAD ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS

Richard Blake Nothing

Sandra Ripley Nothing

Harold Sheffer Met with Andrew Erbes regarding the bike route. They are working with Greater Egypt, waiting for a grant to open up.

Chad Roberts Making progress on the burglaries, arrests have been made.

Scott Evans Passed out Sales Tax and Healthcare Costs report. Sales tax is the best monthly average since he started tracking it. Healthcare is running under budget.

Eric Kennedy Nothing

Brian Manwaring Nothing

Darrin Mills Nothing

Motion: To adjourn

Motion by Alderman Bastien

Second by Alderman Bratton

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

Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.