

**Murphysboro City Council Meeting
July 24th, 2018**

The Murphysboro, Illinois, City Council met in regular session, pursuant to its ordinances, on the 24th day of July, 2018. Mayor Stephens called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and Pastor Jerry Hickam 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 introduced Keith Moran from Moran Economic Development who gave a presentation on putting together a TIF district downtown. Mr. Moran outlined how TIF districts worked and how the incentives could entice prospective business owners to develop. Each agreement within the district could be different based on the specific business needs. Mr. Moran also explained that incentives from a TIF district and Enterprise Zone benefits could be used together. Clients of Moran Economic Development include the Cities of Herrin, Carterville, Sesser, Vienna and many more.

The council then reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the July 10, 2018 council meeting. All aldermen received a copy of the minutes, for their review, prior to the meeting.

Motion by Alderman McComb

Second by Alderman Bastien

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

Motion Carried

Mayor Stephens presented the accounts payable registers #692 and #693 for consideration. The payment to Advanced Industrial Controls Inc. was requested to be held as it appears to be a duplicate payment. Payments to Andrea Lindsey, Gary McComb and Taser International were all discussed.

agreement, however, no further contact has been made. It was suggested that we reach out to our local contact, Tina Gibbs, and request an update from her.

The council discussed a proposed Project Labor Agreement between Egyptian Building and Construction Trades Council and the City of Murphysboro. Mayor Stephens indicated that he had met with several representatives earlier in the day. There was much discussion on the agreement including the number of residents in Murphysboro and Jackson County that would benefit from this agreement. Other agencies that have Project Labor Agreements with the Egyptian Building and Construction Trades Council include Southern Illinois University, John A. Logan College, Rend Lake College and many others. Alderman Pittman pointed out the number of residents that this agreement would not benefit. Alderman Erbes suggested that we obtain a copy of the full agreement and allow the council an opportunity to review the document. Alderman Bratton agreed that our City Attorney should be allowed an opportunity to review the full document as well.

Motion: To approve the proposed project labor agreement between the City of Murphysboro and the Egyptian Building and Construction Trades Council.

Motion by Alderman McComb

Second by Alderman Bastien

Mayor called for a roll call vote.

Alderman Hughes – No; Alderman Curry-Witzman – No; Alderman Brown – Yes; Alderman Voss – Yes, Alderman McComb – Yes; Alderman Erbes – No; Alderman Bratton – No; Alderman Campos – No; Alderman Pittman - No

Motion Failed

There was no public comment on Community Relations related items.

Chairman Bastien opened discussion for Public Improvement related items. There was no old or new business on the agenda. The status of the barricades on Walnut Street for the Mills' property was discussed. It was stated that the sidewalk should be cleared prior to Apple Festival.

There was no public comment on Public Improvement related items.

Chairman Bratton opened discussion for Public Works related items. There was no old business on the agenda.

The condition of the property at 221 South 14th Street were reviewed. Alderman Bratton advised that Council that he had personally visited the property several times of the last couple of weeks and has witnessed repairs to everything that was requested to be done. It was agreed that code enforcement should continue to monitor the safety of the structure and the ongoing work inside.

Motion: To approve to vacate the demolition order for the structure located at 221 South 14th Street.

Motion by Alderman Voss

Second by Alderman McComb

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

Motion Carried

Audience member, Trudy Daly, expressed her concern with the number of abandoned houses in Murphysboro.

Chairman Brown opened discussion for Public Safety related items.

The drainage issues to the Ruble property and Pond Creek were listed on the agenda, however, Mayor Stephens had just received some paperwork that he requested time to be able to review. He requested that this item be included on the next council meeting agenda.

Under new business, the parking on North 15th Street was discussed. A copy of the ordinance and the map was distributed for reference. Chief Roberts described where parking is occurring. This item was on the agenda by request of citizen, James Kimmel. The council agreed that there is currently no issues with parking at this time and that the ordinances would remain as they are currently printed.

There was no public comment on Public Safety related items.

Alderman Hughes opened discussion for Personnel related items. There were no old items for discussion and no new items listed on the agenda.

There was no public comments on Personnel related items.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Stephens advised the council that he would like to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues and would like Chief Swafford and Chief Roberts to stay.

Motion: To go into executive session at 7:35 p.m. to discuss matters related to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) regarding the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or general counsel.

Motion by Alderman McComb

Second by Alderman Voss

Yeas: Alderman Hughes, Curry-Witzman, Brown, Voss, McComb, Erbes, Bratton, Bastien, Campos, Pittman

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Motion: To come out of executive session at 7:53 p.m.

Motion by Alderman Pittman

Second by Alderman Erbes

Yeas: Alderman Hughes, Curry-Witzman, Brown, Voss, McComb, Erbes, Bratton, Bastien, Campos, Pittman

Nays: None

Motion Carried

There was no action taken on executive session items.

Mayor Stephens then asked Attorney Heller if there was any update on the Brown Shoe Factory agreement. Attorney Heller advised that the property owner, Carol Hohlman, will be getting estimates for the knocking down of the walls on the property and installation of a fence around the property. The loan agreement with the City will be a 10 year mortgage at 2% interest. We do have the title work on the property showing ownership. We are only the lender on this agreement. This item will be held over to the next City Council agenda.

ALDERMEN ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS

Barb Hughes	Advised that Tim Lee is back to work
Jance Curry-Witzman	Nothing
Russell Brown	Nothing
Herb Voss	Nothing
Gary McComb	Stated that the Knights of Columbus are placing signs on the boulevards and advised that City Ordinance does not allow this. Chief Roberts will advised the KC's
John Erbes	Nothing
Dan Bratton	Advised the Council that Eric Kennedy is on vacation for two weeks. Also advised that there is another issue brewing between the Ryan's and the Marfio's. Mayor Stephens stated that they need to come to the City Council meeting so all could hear their complaint.
Mike Bastien	Nothing
Gloria Campos	Handed out a brochure from the City of Bluford and suggested that we consider some of the incentives that they offer.
WJ Pittman	Nothing

DEPARTMENT HEAD ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS

Ed Heller	Nothing
Harold Sheffer	Updated the council on the WWTP road project and the 7 th Street project. He also advised that the resolutions for the overlay projects would be ready for approval at the next meeting.

Scott Evans Nothing

Steve Swafford Advised that the hydrant testing is complete

Chad Roberts Advised that the Murphysboro Police Department was hosting a Cookout with Cops on August 3rd from 12p to 2p at the Bridgewood Community Center. All are invited to attend. He also advised that the Police Department budget was going to be over due to the contract signing earlier this year, an injury within the department as well as multiple employees being off on military leave.

Jim Stewart Wanted to thank his guys at the Wastewater Treatment Plant for all that they have done and are currently doing. The plant is out of site and out of mind, but they have transitioned very well to the new plant.

Sandra Ripley Happy early Birthday to Mayor Stephens

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 8:19 p.m.