

COMMON COUNCIL
Special Meeting of the Committee of the Whole
Saturday, May 12, 2018, 8:00 a.m.
EMS Building, 11 W Church Street

MINUTES

1. **Call to order.** The meeting was called to order by Mayor Bill Hurtley at 8:10 a.m.
2. **Roll Call.** Members present: Mayor Bill Hurtley, Alderpersons Jim Brooks, Larry Dobbs, Dianne Duggan, James Montgomery, Joy Morrison, and Erika Stuart. Alderpersons Rick Cole and Ben Ladick were absent. Others present: City Administrator/Finance Director Ian Rigg, City Clerk/Treasurer Judy Walton, City Attorney Mark Kopp, Community Development Director Jason Sergeant, Lieutenant Patrick Elliott Reese, Police Chief Scott McElroy, EMS Chief Jamie Kessenich, Municipal Services Director Chad Renly, Library Director Megan Kloeckner and Community Development Intern Holly Gullede (arrived at 8:32 a.m.).
3. **Approval of agenda.** Brooks made a motion, seconded by Montgomery to approve the agenda. Motion approved 6-0.
4. **Approval of minutes.** Motion to defer the reading of the minutes of the May 8th, 2018 regular minutes to the next regular meeting.
5. **Civility reminder.** Recognition of the commitment to civility and decorum at Council meetings.
6. **Citizen appearances.** None.

A 5 minute break was taken.
7. **Basics.**
 - a. Practical matters, location of restrooms and breaks times, were discussed and Lieutenant Elliott Reese volunteered to be timekeeper.
 - b. A-ha sheet for ideas that anyone might come up with to discuss at the end of the meeting.
 - c. Parking lot includes items that are brought up but not on the agenda so will be placed on the next agenda.
8. **Opening round.** Each attendee introduced themselves and shared something they have learned in the past year that has helped them in their city position.
 - Mark Kopp - the Municipal Judge has powers over his own staff and can set the bond schedule.
 - Jason Sergeant - learning the importance of words in an ordinance.
 - Jim Brooks - seeing the city through different eyes and recognizing barriers within the city.
 - Erika Stuart - feeling more confident in her role through trainings outside of the city.
 - James Montgomery - voices not being heard on the Fire District, not represented.
 - Judy Walton - utility data.
 - Jamie Kessenich - budget process, especially capital.
 - Scott McElroy - learning new video system and copier functions.

- Patrick Elliott Reese - learning a new position, its role, and keeping up with all the changes.
- Ian Rigg – being supportive of staff in their projects, understanding and dealing with staff tension, and finances (borrowings and TIF).
- Joy Morrison – new to Council and learning the inner workings of government and those that make it work.
- Megan Kloeckner – ALS Merger, and learning all the different aspects and coordination of construction.
- Larry Dobbs – impressed with the professionalism of city staff.
- Dianne Duggan – new to Council and learning city finances as her history is on the federal level.
- Chad Renly – new to the city and learning the cultural differences between state and local agencies.
- Bill Hurtle – appreciative of the knowledge he gains every day.
- Holly Gullidge – the work on the 5-Year Park Plan has been invaluable.

9. Parks and Recreation

- a. Rigg presented information on the purposes of parks that included: an attraction for economic development, create social equity, create sustainability and improved utility functions, and give a sense of history and community.
- b. Gullidge presented preliminary results of the park survey which had 662 participants.
- c. Discussion on current amenities of the parks, upgrades needed for playground equipment, possibility of dog parks, acquisition of additional parkland, additional signage for the parks, and trails from park to park.
- d. Sergeant identified the items that would be involved in the restoration of the Lake Leota/Leonard Park Facilities. He added the Dan Stephan has been a great resource.
- e. Rigg presented information on the significant impact of the pool restoration within the current capital improvement schedule. He added that fundraising could potentially be very successfully.
- f. Roundtable on Future of Parks
 - i. Sergeant presented information of the current section of the municipal code for dedications and reservations of land. The fee in lieu of parkland dedication needs to be reviewed and possibly set a formula to increase each year and close the gap between developed and undeveloped land.
 - ii. Rigg stated the fall safe infrastructure for the ADA swing at Brzezinski Park is quite expensive and there has been discussion to make that park all-inclusive since the infrastructure is already there versus adding accessible equipment at other parks.
 - iii. Open discussion included the need for artificial turf for the soccer fields at Westside Park and possibly a splash pad.

10. A 15 minute break was taken at 9:53 a.m.

11. Economic Development

- a. Sergeant gave an overview of the last 4 years, starting with the adoption of the Smart Growth Plan in 2015. Achievements include bringing the Building Inspector in-house, creating additional marketing material and creating a database with available sites in conjunction with the Chamber, and the creation of a marketing video.

- b. Rigg presented information on Tax Increment Financing (TIF) which allows cities to capture incremental property tax revenue from growth in a defined area and use that revenue to benefit that area.
- c. Rigg presented current financials for the TIF's in the city.
- d. Rigg presented information of future TIF Options in the city.
- e. Rigg and Sergeant presented maps showing current and future sewer and water service areas, natural features, and development challenges.
- f. Sergeant discussed the advantages of density – walkability, commercial economic impact, impact on cost of public works construction and maintenance, and housing affordability.
- g. Sergeant pointed out trends that are being noticed.
 - i. Taking advantage of vanpooling options and getting kids connected to employers early in order to address the work force deficit.
 - ii. Pursuing gold shovel ready sights to address the time crunch for new businesses and looking for available lots as businesses are now looking for improved and ready to move into properties.
 - iii. Chasing Smoke Stacks vs. Economic Gardening. Keeping our eyes open for large commercial businesses but also growing from within and encouraging a diverse mix of uses.
 - iv. Rigg explained the Dark Store Theory.
- h. Rigg explained the importance of infrastructure as part of Economic Development (substations, transmission rebuilds, wastewater treatment plant improvements, booster station).
- i. Other incentives.
 - i. Land Options – working with land owners to get an idea if they would be willing to sell and if so for how much.
 - ii. Revolving Loans – simplifying the application process.
 - iii. Building Improvement Grants – seeing more activity due to an easier application.

12. Check out.

- a. New parking lot items include dog parks, swimming pool options, fee in lieu of parkland dedication, and avoiding “white elephant” properties.
- b. Brooks would like to see an agenda item addressing IT concerns in the future.
- c. Hurlley would like to see a Facebook page that would feed information from the city to the public.

13. Adjournment. Dobbs made a motion, seconded by Brooks to adjourn at 12:08 p.m. Motion approved 6-0.

Judy Walton, City Clerk/Treasurer