

April 09, 2018
St. James Municipal Center
City Council Meeting

AGENDA ITEM: Call to Order

Mayor White called the meeting to order. Councilmembers Weatherly, Mitchell, Sachs, Huster, Anselm, Watkins and Smith were present for the meeting. City Clerk Wheeler, City Administrator Selby, Public Works Director Thomas, Street Superintendent Scheel, Police Chief Jones, were also in attendance. City Attorney Steven Lucas was present for the meeting via Skype.

Other attendees signed in and are attached to these minutes.

Councilman Hockersmith was absent.

AGENDA ITEM: Call to Order

Mayor White led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilman Watkins led in a word of prayer.

AGENDA ITEM: Agenda Approval

Councilwoman Weatherly made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilman Watkins seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted “aye”.

AGENDA ITEM: Minutes – March 12, 2018

Councilman Sachs made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 12, 2018 meeting. Councilman Watkins seconded the motion. All Councilmembers voted “aye”.

AGENDA ITEM: Bills

Councilman Huster made a motion to pay the monthly bills. Councilman Mitchell seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted “aye”.

AGENDA ITEM: Citizen Comments

Louis Lehmer requested to speak with the council. He mentioned the old derby gas station near his house and stated that it needed to be cleaned up. Mayor White assured him that it was on the city’s list but that we needed to follow the correct ordinances to accomplish the cleanup of the property. Mr. Lehmer was very understanding and glad to hear it was not being overlooked. Mr. Lehmer also mentioned two blocks east of his house the traffic was very bad in the morning time and afternoon with lots of speeders and he was worried someone might get hurt. Police Chief Jones mentioned that he would try and put an officer at that spot when he could to slow down traffic through there.

Rich and his wife from Camp Brimshire attended the meeting. They spoke to the council about their camp and how long they had been in business. They stated that they had put in their first pool this year and was excited to get it open for the kids this summer.

AGENDA ITEM: Resolution No. 18-270 – Westport Pools.

Clerk Wheeler read Bill No. 18-270 aloud for the first and only reading.

Administrator Selby mentioned that this was just to make everything legal for the bid that was approved last month. If the resolution is passed, Westport Pools would begin their work on the pool first thing in the morning.

Councilman Watkins made a motion to approve Resolution No. 18-270 as read. Councilman Smith seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the voting was as follows: Councilman Anselm “aye”; Councilwoman Weatherly “aye”; Councilman Smith “aye”; Councilman Huster “aye”; Councilman Sachs “aye”; Councilman Mitchell “aye”, Councilman Watkins “aye”.

AGENDA ITEM: Ordinance No. 18-1123 – Perkins No Parking Zone

Clerk Wheeler read Bill No. 18-1123 aloud for the first reading.

Councilman Watkins made a motion to amend and then approve the ordinance to read “Monday through Friday, 7:00 am to 5:00 pm” as agreed upon at the March meeting. Councilman Smith seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the voting was as follows: Councilman Anselm “aye”; Councilwoman Weatherly “aye”; Councilman Smith “aye”; Councilman Huster “aye”; Councilman Sachs “aye”; Councilman Mitchell “aye”, Councilman Watkins “aye”.

AGENDA ITEM: Ordinance No. 18-1124 – Fluoridation

Clerk Wheeler read Bill No. 18-1124 aloud for the first reading.

This ordinance would remove the section of the ordinance that states the city puts fluoride in the water, when in fact they have not done so in years.

Councilman Huster made a motion to approve the ordinance as read. Councilman Sachs seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the voting was as follows: Councilman Anselm “aye”; Councilwoman Weatherly “aye”; Councilman Smith “aye”; Councilman Huster “aye”; Councilman Sachs “aye”; Councilman Mitchell “aye”, Councilman Watkins “aye”.

AGENDA ITEM: Ordinance No. 18-1125 – Midwest Petroleum

Clerk Wheeler read Bill No. 18-1125 aloud for the first reading.

Administrator Selby mentioned that there would be a public hearing for this before the next regular meeting in May. This ordinance makes sure to pass along the cost to Midwest and leave no cost to the city. Midwest will provide a letter of credit before beginning any work.

Councilman Anselm made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 18-1125 as read. Councilwoman Weatherly seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the voting was as follows: Councilman Anselm “aye”; Councilwoman Weatherly “aye”; Councilman Smith “aye”; Councilman Huster “aye”; Councilman Sachs “aye”; Councilman Mitchell “aye”, Councilman Watkins “aye”.

AGENDA ITEM: Budget Discussion

Administrator Selby walked the council through the proposed budget and pointed out some key parts:

- ❖ Raises for all employees was included in the budget.
- ❖ POLICE
 - Money for a School Resource Officer was included in the Police Budget.
 - Money for new radio equipment to help the Police be able to do their job more efficiently.
- ❖ GENERAL
 - The city prosecutor was now included because per Senate Bill 5 the prosecutor can no longer be included in the court budge
- ❖ STREET
 - Stormwater – First payment for street sweeper will come out this budget.
 - Transportation – Asphaltting of at least \$150,000 this year but more put in budget.
 - Street – would like to purchase a skidloader
- ❖ PARK
 - Cannot sustain itself. We will have to look at including park/stormwater tax in budget for next year.
- ❖ LIBRARY
 - Maintain budget very well, they have a tax to help them out.

- ❖ **SANITATION**
 - Budget going up this year due to rate increase and salary increases.
 - Will be able to include about \$42,000 in reserves at the end of this budget year compared to the normal \$5-\$6,000.
 - ❖ **CEMETERY**
 - Looking into contracting out grass mowing.
 - Cemetery usually loses money
 - ❖ **ELECTRIC**
 - The cold weather this past year has helped bring revenues up some
 - ❖ **NATURAL GAS**
 - Money for equipment included in budget
 - ❖ **WATER**
 - \$120,000 included to go into reserves this year
 - ❖ **SEWER**
 - Gary with Alliance shared with the city the cost of repairs which will be around \$30,000 which has been included in this budget
 - ❖ **TOTAL Budget** is around thirteen million dollars.
 - ❖ Mayor White mentioned that we would have a special meeting two weeks from today on April 23rd to approve the budget and swear in the new councilmembers.
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AGENDA ITEM: Department Reports

Humane Society: Harold had not heard anything new or been able to talk to Councilman Hockersmith to let him know he was the new liaison for the Humane Society.

Schools: Councilman Smith mentioned that Dr. Johnson wanted to thank everyone for their support of the bond issue and that it passed by 70%. Also, that they would be discussing another SRO at their next board meeting.

Senior Center – Councilman Smith stated that the new building was moving along well, however, they did not think they would have enough money to finish their parking lot and that Councilman Smith had given him his word that he would vote to have the city support any grant they applied for next year to get the money to finish the project.

Police: Councilman Sachs reported that the Chief mentioned things were going well. He stated that he was very proud and that the council should be proud of the Chief we have and his staff and how well run the department is.

Alliance: Gary went over his report, stated that they had completed the wet test that had not been done last year and that he had given a list of items that needed to be fixed and that Harold had included that in the budget for the upcoming year so they could begin working on those items.

Public Works Director: Lyle mentioned that the city had a broken utility pole on March 27th and that it was fixed by March 30th. He also stated that in the 12 months of having the work order program, 2101 work orders had been opened and 1898 had been closed for the year. The program was working great and it was helping keep a good record of what was getting done around the city.

Street: Councilman Huster mentioned everything was running smoothly.

IDA: No meeting held this month.

Parks: Councilman Mitchell reported the pool was set to open on May 26th, and that the department was doing the best they could with ballgames, mowing, etc, but the rain was making it very difficult to get anything done.

Chamber – Councilwoman Weatherly reported several upcoming events for the Chamber including the Cruise-In, Harlem Globe Trotters and Sip and Savor. They would also begin collecting boxes for veterans at the end of April.

Sanitation – Councilman Watkins and Ron Fraser asked the council about their 40 hour work week. They requested clarification on if the council wanted them to work 40 hours or if the 40 hours had to be during the specific time of 7:30 am – 4:30 pm like all other employees. The department preferred to work 6:00 am – 3:00 pm to be able to get in and out of traffic easier and get to dumpsters before the school traffic came through. The council agreed to allow them to work their 40 hours from 6:00 am – 3:00 pm.

City Administrator: Administrator Selby said that he was waiting on Bob Wilson to get back in town and they would be calling an IDA meeting. They have not heard back from Prock after trying to contact him several times and were running out of time to apply for the grant to help pay for the utilities that he needed moved.

He also mentioned that a couple citizens had filed a complaint with the Attorney General stating that the city was raising their electric rates often when in fact bills were just higher due to the colder temperatures and that rates have not been raised since 2016. The city attorney had responded to the AG letter to let them know this and also sent supporting evidence.

Mayor: Mayor White presented Councilman Watkins and Mitchell with plaques and thanked them for their commitment to the council over the past 3 and 4 years.

AGENDA ITEM: Adjourn

With no further business to discuss, Councilman Sachs made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Huster seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted “aye”.

Jim W. White, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sarah Wheeler, City Clerk

Date