

Mt. Pulaski City Council Meeting
City Hall
Tuesday, July 25, 2023
6:30 P.M.

The City Council Meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M., Mayor Bobell presided. Roll call was taken. Those present: Brad Davis, Kate Davis, Randy Hagenbuch, Sean McCormick, John Aylesworth, and Joe Butler. Also present were Chief, Tony West, Matt Presswood, and Dee Howard.

Mayor Bobell then led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognition of Guests: Sandy Bowles and Lyle Fout

Approval of Consent Agenda: Motion by Brad Davis, second by Sean McCormick, to approve the Consent Agenda Items: Claims, Accounts, May and July Executive Session Minutes. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Brad Davis, Kate Davis, Randy Hagenbuch, Sean McCormick, John Aylesworth, and Joe Butler. No nay. Motion carried.

Public Comments: None

Reports by Officers

- **Police Chief Tony West:** Chief West reported he's still working on ordinance violations. A 2x4 metal crate full of copper was stolen from Inland Tool. A white truck pulled into the loading area and a guy got out, went into the building and looked around. He then told one of the workers he needed the crate of copper. They loaded the crate into the truck and the guy drove off. He did not show any paperwork or ID to the worker. The estimated cost of the copper is \$10,000. Tony checked the camera footage but there was not any license plate on the front of the truck. He also checked the camera at the hardware store, but it was too blurry to read. Within an hour of posting someone called and said they saw the truck in their driveway, but it was gone before anyone got there. The case has been turned into the state.
- **Director of Public Works Matt Presswood:** Matt reported they are finished with the tree cleanup and will be grinding stumps and seeding grass. They will be working on the sidewalk at the high school as well as the storm drain on N. Lafayette this week. When they are finished with the storm drain, they'll move on to other ones. Matt will be having a conference with Farnsworth tomorrow about Vine St and sidewalks to BP. He would like to see options on both sides of the street. Joe asked about the flooding on Vine St. by the carwash. Matt said the culvert is extremely undersized. They'll be grinding down Vine St and try to recover the gutter.
- **City Treasurer:** Dee Howard gave the Treasurer report. She stated the auditor was there all day and everything seemed in order other than MFT. There has not been anything taken out of it. She explained that nothing was taken out last year to due things being in limbo. They suggested to her that 3rd party accounting is a good idea. Erin and Andy are the only ones on account with EDPB, so she isn't able to get information from the bank. Brad thinks she needs to be added to the account and Mayor Bobell agrees so he will talk to them.

New Business: Mayor Bobell would like to appoint Ben Butler to EDPB. Shea Campanella has moved out of town so there is an opening. Dee said he has come to one of the meetings already. Randy stated he has a church house, and they would like to volunteer with putting up tents at the Fall Festival.

Motion by Sean McCormick, second by Randy Hagenbuch, to approve appointment of Ben Butler to EDPB. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Brad Davis, Kate Davis, Randy Hagenbuch, Sean McCormick, and John Aylesworth. Present: Joe Butler. No nay. Motion carried.

Joe Butler would like money from the golf cart/atv permits to go toward things for the city. He suggested new signs for golf carts or signs at the parks to dress up the community. There are 49 permits now that generate over \$2,400 a year.

Joe Butler wants to see what can be done to help citizens with the cost of new sidewalks. Right now, the homeowner pays 60% and the city pays 40%. It was suggested maybe the EDPB could help and then split the cost into 3 ways. There would have to be a budget for the year. The city is allocated \$5,000 a year. Mayor thought maybe 6 blocks a year could be done. Dee suggested a program for sidewalks. If Matt finds any sidewalk to be unsafe, or is brick, then it needs to be replaced.

City square improvements was the next item on the agenda. Joe wants to get things going. Dee said there needs to be a committee to take charge of it. Joe would like to be on the committee. He said it looks nice around the new statue but the rest of the square needs work. The retaining wall is property of the state. Dee thought Kent Massey may be someone who could do the landscaping.

Old Business: None

Other Business: Paula said an employee inquired if the last raise was included in the yearly raise. In 2022 everyone got a raise.

The question was asked why they city can't mow Becky Gupton's yard, which is one of the violations Tony has been working on. The ordinance states you can't have anything above 3ft around corners.

Aaron Steinberg graduated from the academy and will be helping with the 2nd Friday in August.

Public Comments: None

Executive Session:

Adjourn:

Anna Beckers – City Clerk