

Mt. Pulaski City Council Meeting
City Hall
September 28, 2021
6:30 P.M.

Mayor Bobell called the meeting to order, and roll call was taken.

Present: Brad Davis, Kate Davis, Tim Emrick, Randy Hagenbuch, Darin Phillips. Also present were, Chief of Police, Tony West, and Director of Public Works, Matt Presswood.

Absent: Dan Smock

Mayor Bobell then led the meeting in The Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognition of Guests: Eric Shangraw, Tom Martin, Donnie Neale, Greg Maus, Dee Howard, Scott Schaffenacher, Debra May, Jim Birge, Wyatt Waterkotte, Michelle Hagenbuch, and Kris Hagenbuch

Approval of Consent Agenda: Motion by Alderman Phillips, second by Kate Davis, to approve Consent Agenda Items Claims and Accounts. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Brad Davis, Kate Davis, Emrick, Hagenbuch, and Phillips. No nay. Motion carried.

Public Comments: Mr. Neale commented on members of the EDPB resigning due to the proposed ordinance change. He feels the planning board is doing a good job. He thinks there is too much pressure being put on them.

Reports by Officers:

- **Police Chief Tony West:** Office West is concerned with kids hanging out at the property of 218 S. Washington Street, the old Vinegar Hill. The building is in poor condition. He is concerned for their safety as the first floor is about to collapse into the basement. He said the kids have been getting inside and painting the walls and scattering things all around. Mayor Bobell suggested they board the building up so they can't get in. Mayor Bobell asked Greg Maus if they can get it inspected and recommend it to be condemned.
- **Director of Public Works Matt Presswood:**
- **Water/Sewer:** Matt has been busy with meetings concerning IAW transfer. He was originally not in support of selling the water but has changed his tune after this year and all the issues with the system. Jordan Klein then spoke on the parcels of land the city will want to keep control of.
- **Streets/Alleys:** Matt has bids out for the sidewalk work at the high school. He is waiting for the council to approve the lowest bid of \$65,292.00. He has been asked if the city could get some port-a-pots for Christmas on Vinegar Hill. They would like to place them on the north and west sides of the square. Matt expressed his concerns on the Vinegar Hill building collapsing and taking the building attached down with it. Tom Martin suggested they talk to Dave Leonatti.
- **City Treasurer:** Mayor Bobell reported on the deposits. The ARPA money has come in.

Old Business:

The ordinance proposal has been a hot topic over the past months. Mayor Bobell asked the Council if they have any questions, otherwise they need to move on it. Tim asked if everyone had gotten his write up. With no question asked, Mayor Bobell entertained a motion to approve the proposed ordinance change. Failure for a second motion the motion failed.

New Business:

Eric Shangraw, from Area Disposal, was present to talk about recycling for the city. He said Area Disposal is being bought out by GFL Environmental, but they will still operate as it is now. Eric said there is not as much money in recycling any more. They will not take glass, only paper and cardboard. They will provide a 95-gallon trash can with pick up once a week for regular garbage and recycle every other week. Alley or curbside service is available. A covered roll-off would be used for community recycling. Kate Davis said there will be another company coming at the October meeting to give a presentation as well. Jordan Klein recommended that the board wait until the third company has presented then bid it out.

Tom Martin approached the Council with concerns for the 104 S. Washington property. The EDC board has been working with David Leonatti since 2019 evaluating the historic buildings on the west side of the square. Debra May and Dee Howard are buying the old historic buildings and putting businesses in them. Debra May is at risk of losing her place due to the bad condition of the 104 properties. There is a vertical crack that runs through the 12-inch thickness of the three-wythe brick wall. The back end of the building is on the verge of collapsing. The back end of the building is on the verge of collapsing. Debra's insurance carrier has denied her further coverage. She has spoken to another company but until the fire escape that joins both buildings is repaired, they will not cover her. Dee Howard supplied pictures of the structural conditions of the building. The owner, Debbie Gilman has moved out of state. Dee said there are no trespassing signs on the building, but kids are not obeying. She is afraid they will fall through, and no one will know where they are to save them. Tom said Ms. Howard would like to buy the buildings but Debbie is asking to much for them. Mayor Bobell suggested abating the property. Jordan Klein will do a title search for the 104 S. Washington, 219 S. Washington, and 402 E. Jefferson properties.

Motion by Brad Davis, second by Randy Hagenbuch, to abate 104 S. Washington Street unfit structure. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Brad Davis, Kate Davis, Tim Emrick, Randy Hagenbuch, and Darin Phillips. No nay. Motion carried.

Mayor Bobell would like to appoint Tracy Pulliam as a member on the EDPB.

Motion by Darin Phillips, second by Kate Davis, to approve EDPB Appointment of Tracy Pulliam. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Brad Davis, Kate Davis, Tim Emrick, Randy Hagenbuch, and Darin Phillips. No nay. Motion carried.

Other Business: The tax levy is due by the end of October. Mayor Bobell asked the Council to look it over and bring any questions to the table.

Public Comments: Wyatt Waterkotte thanked the city and Paula for getting the sign installed for FCCLA State Officer, Lilly Hild. Mayor Bobell congratulated Wyatt on having had six students over the years selected as officers.

Executive Session: Motion by Randy Hagenbuch, second by Brad Davis, to exit Regular Session and enter Executive Session for discussion of Personnel for 20 Minutes. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Brad Davis, Kate Davis, Tim Emrick, Randy Hagenbuch, and Darin Phillips. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Darin Phillips, second by Brad Davis, to exit Executive Session. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Brad Davis, Kate Davis, Tim Emrick, Randy Hagenbuch, and Darin Phillips. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Darin Phillips, second by Randy Hagenbuch, to hire Brady Thomas full time Police Department with benefits and wages as discussed. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Brad Davis, Kate Davis, Tim Emrick, Randy Hagenbuch, and Darin Phillips. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Randy Hagenbuch, second by Brad Davis, to adjourn. Voice vote. All ayes. Motion carried.

Anna Beckers – City Clerk