

Mt. Pulaski City
Council Meeting
Tuesday, May 22, 2018
6:30pm

Present: Alderman Bobell, Knauer, Maxheimer, Neaville and Palmquist, City Treasurer Tricia Aylesworth, W/S Superintendent Matt Presswood, S/A Superintendent Bill Fricke, Police Chief Tony West

Absent: Alderman West

City Attorney, Jordan Klein swore in Matthew R. Bobell to the Mayor position.

Recognition of Guests: Evelyn Deverell, Casey Weston, Richard Volle

The City Council meeting was called to order, Mayor Matt Bobell presided.

Public Comments – Agenda Items Only: Evelyn Deverell Mayor of Harristown stated they are in need of a water plant and joining the United Regional Water coop is the best option for Harristown.

Casey Weston village trustee of Latham stated joining the Untied Regional Water Coop is the best option for Latham.

Richard Volle stated he is not against the water coop but this is a big decision for the City. A survey of only 40 people is not appropriate and at the last meeting it was requested to have an item put on the ballot. This may delay the implantation of it if it passes but every voter should be able to vote. There is an Alderman absent tonight, there should be a full council if a vote is taken.

Police: Nothing to Report

Water/ Sewer: Alderman Neaville stated he feels the City joining the United Regional Water Coop is the best option for the City. The forty year contract is a long time and is a big decision. Alderman Neaville is not opposed to putting an item on the ballot but if Mt. Pulaski doesn't make a decision, the coop will move on without us. If Mt. Pulaski doesn't join now and decides to later we will be paying a higher price for water and will not have a seat on the board. Mayor Bobell asked how firm the June dead line is. Casey Weston stated he could not speak for everyone but he feels the coop would wait until Mt. Pulaski's next council meeting. Alderman Knauer stated there are a lot of coops in the Dakota's, this is not anything new. Alderman Maxheimer stated she is rather reluctant and thinks we need more information. The coop hasn't proven itself yet. Forty years is a long time. Alderman Maxheimer feels there should not be a vote as all council members are not present. Alderman Palmquist stated he feels there should not be a vote tonight. He can see where the coop is good for everyone but the timing is off for Mt. Pulaski. A vote was made at the last meeting to wait. A lot of people think it should be put on a ballot.

Crystal Kern stated if we tell people what their water bill will be it might give them a better understanding of it. Richard Volle stated there were six (6) different options at the town hall meeting but now the coop is the only option being discussed. Mike Lakin stated he is having a lot of people contacting him stating they would like another town hall meeting but want to ask the questions without any input.

A motion was made by Alderman Palmquist and seconded by Alderman Neaville to not accept the coop rate at \$3.35 at this time. Alderman Knauer – present, Maxhiemer – yea, Palmquist – yea, Neaville – no, Mayor Bobell – abstain. The motion does not pass.

A motion was made by Alderman Neaville and seconded by Alderman Knauer to table this matter of business. All voting yea – the motion carried.

Matt Presswood stated the wind farm company has bought a large amount of bulk water. A close eye has been kept on the well field and it is in good shape. Some hydrant and valve work projects will be worked on throughout the summer. The sewer force main project is moving forward.

Streets/Alleys: Bill Fricke stated he has been in contact with The Logan County Title Company about the alley way/easement. The Title Company stated it is an alley way. The owner is wanting gravel put down so it can be used again. Alderman Neaville stated this matter of business needs to be discussed with the street/alley committee.

Bill Fricke stated there were two (2) separate problems with overweight trucks on Mt. Pulaski roads. One was with the wind farm. Tony West is working on getting more “no wind farm trucks” signs put up.

Bill Fricke stated after looking at the log book and permits of the other truck the state of Illinois made a mistake and let the truck travel through Mt. Pulaski. No fine was given to the truck driver. The road at German Ave and Illinois Ave was tore up. Sand has been put down to help with the tar. Bill stated the truck company is willing to provide the City with materials to get these roads fixed. They will purchase the materials and deliver them to town. Mayor Bobell stated for Bill to get this verbal agreement in writing.

Mayor Bobell asked Bill if he was on top of the truck traveling through town with no strap or harness. Bill stated he was, as he was putting the safety of the public first. Mayor Bobell stated he feels this is very unsafe and this will not happen again. Mayor Bobell stated Bill needs to wait until the proper authority arrives and let them handle getting the truck moved.

Financing: Deposits to date are \$51,851.67

City treasurer, Tricia Aylesworth stated the finance committee met to discuss the budget and it is not looking any better as there is still a deficit of \$60,000. Salaries and insurance went up this year. Alderman Neaville stated if we are over budget then we need to make cuts. Tricia Aylesworth stated the finance committee recommends the budget needs fine-tuned a little more.

Public Comments – Non Agenda Items:

Approval of Consent Agenda:

Approval of Bills: City Clerk, Kelly Cowan read the **bills** as presented.

Comcast franchise agreement: Mayor Bobell asked if the council had any questions on the **comcast franchise agreement.**

A motion was made by Alderman Palmquist and seconded by Alderman Neaville to approve the items listed above in the consent agenda. All voting yea – the motion carried.

The other three (3) items; **Employee raises, budget and make a decision on water co-op** listed on the agenda for the consent agenda have been tabled at this time.

Miscellaneous: Mayor Bobell stated he has been in contact with a few different accountants and asked if anyone had any recommendations for CPA's. Mayor Bobell stated maybe Crystal kern could train Tricia Aylesworth to do payroll until a **new accountant is hired**. Tricia stated she would be willing to learn payroll until a new accountant is hired. Crystal Kern stated the council will need to vote someone as IMRF agent. Crystal will train Tricia on how to do the monthly report also.

Mayor Bobell stated **road signs for MPGS** will be put up for Cassidy Clark winning state for shot put and 7th grade volley ball winning state. Matt Presswood stated in the past the City paid for the signs. The signs get hung for a year then are given to the person.

Mayor Bobell stated there a (4) four individuals interested in the **Ward 2 Alderman position**. Jeff Tobias, Mike Barger and Tim Emerick introduced themselves to the council. Mayor Bobell stated Matt Ohler is also interested but was unable to attend the meeting tonight. All participants will need to submit a letter of interest to each council member before June 12th.

Mayor Bobell stated the **Logan County Regional Planning Commission** request was given to each Alderman. Mayor Bobell is invite Will D'Andrea to the next council meeting to answer any questions.

Alderman Palmquist stated the council is in agreement to start **selling rock** again. A procedure was suggested to be put in place. Mayor Bobell would like the streets and alley committee to take on this matter of business.

Executive Session: A motion was made by Alderman Maxheimer and seconded by Alderman Neaville to exit regular session and enter into executive session to discuss personnel for 15 mins. All voting yea – the motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Neaville and seconded by Alderman Maxheimer to exit executive session and enter back into regular session. All voting yea – the motion carried.

Mayor Bobell stated no action was taken.

Mayor Bobell stated the meeting was adjourned.

Kelly Cowan- City Clerk