

June 12, 2017

The Common Council met with Mayor William McKean for a regular meeting on Monday, June 12, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall according to the posted notice. Councilmen Gregg Sprunger, Curtis Wurster, Ron Dull, Mark Wynn and Philip Provost were present, along with Attorney Dave Baumgartner and Clerk-Treasurer Gwen Maller.

Boy Scout Trevor Wilson, Berne Troop 67, opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance and Mayor McKean gave the invocation.

Citizen Comments

Mrs. Kae Flueckiger, 875 Sprunger Street, came before Council to express her concerns about all the lawns and flower beds that are not being taken care of. She wanted to know why a citizen has to report a yard that needs mowing when the police and City workers are out and about and could report it. Mayor McKean stated that the properties that are not properly taken care of bothers him also. City Ordinance 351 addressing tall grass and weeds must be followed to get these properties cleaned up, but the process does take time. Per the ordinance, weeds and grass must be at least 9 inches tall when measured by a City of Berne police officer before a registered letter can be sent. The property owner has five working days from receipt to get the weeds/grass cleaned up. Ron Dull stated that he walks the City and sees properties that need mowed and he has reported this to Becky. Ron added that it is good when a citizen reports an eyesore, but anyone, including city employees, can report on the situation. Ron reassured Mrs. Flueckiger that everyone shares her concerns.

Kae's second request was for more police protection in the Parr Road/Sprunger Street area. She feels that there is too much traffic and the big trucks are going faster than the posted 35-mph speed limit. She is afraid that someone is going to get hurt.

Minutes

On a motion by Ron Dull and a second by Phil Provost, the minutes of the May 22, 2017 meeting were unanimously approved.

Claims

On a motion by Gregg Sprunger and a second by Curtis Wurster, the claims were unanimously approved for payment.

Council on Aging Request for 2018

Mrs. Sharon Tester, Adams County Council on Aging director, and Mr. Mike Bauserman, board member, came before the Council to make their request for the 2018 budget year. Mrs. Tester thanked the Council for their past support and requested a \$500.00 increase bringing the total requested to \$3,900.00. She said that the Niblick Foundation has supported Adams County Council on Aging in the past, but the assets in the foundation are being liquidated and that money cannot be counted on. She stated that some of the other organizations that support the Council on Aging are the Adams County Community Foundation, Adams Memorial Hospital,

First Bank of Berne, and Biggs, Inc. She stated that they also get a small donation from each person being transported. They provide over 6,500 rides to the elderly and disabled in Adams County and 1,100 rides were for Berne residents or Adams County residents coming to Berne. Ron Dull made a motion to approve the \$3,900.00 request for the 2018 budget year. Mark Wynn made the second and the motion was unanimously passed.

Lehman Park

Boy Scout Trevor Wilson reported to the Council on his Eagle Scout project at Lehman Park. The project was to install railroad ties and mulch around several pieces of playground equipment on the east side of the park, with the Park Board providing the materials. He stated that he had thirty-three (33) volunteers working on the project with a total of 175.25 man hours, including the time spent on planning. The cost for materials was a little over \$1,800.00 and was only \$5.00 over the original estimate because they needed one more railroad tie and 1 more rebar than anticipated. Mayor McKean and Council thanked Trevor for all his hard work on this project that will benefit the whole community.

Park Board President Curtis Wurster reported that after interviewing several applicants for the Lehman Park pavilion manger position, the Park Board is recommending to Council that Anthony and Sarah Dawson be hired. Ron Dull made a motion to accept the Park Board's recommendation of Anthony and Sarah Dawson as the managers of the Lehman Park Pavilion. Mark Wynn made the second and the motion was unanimously passed. The Contract will run from June 1st to the end of April.

Curtis Wurster also informed the Council that Kris Biberstein, the previous manager, agreed to stay on as the custodian until a replacement could be found. The Park Board is recommending that the salary be pro-rated for the time that she has filled in past the contract. Mark Wynn made a motion to pay Kris Biberstein, the pro-rated salary for the time she has served from the end of the contract period until the time that the new manager takes over. Ron Dull made the second and the motion was unanimously passed. Ron Dull wanted to go on record stating that Chad and Kris Biberstein did an outstanding job as Park Pavilion manager for the all the years that they served.

Ordinance #689

Ordinance #689 was presented to Council on its final reading. This ordinance was introduced at the last meeting and authorizes and regulates the disposal of solid waste at the City of Berne garage on Jefferson Street. Curtis Wurster made a motion to pass ordinance #689 on its final reading by short title. Phil Provost made the second and the motion was unanimously passed.

Ordinance #690

Ordinance #690 was presented to Council on its final reading. This ordinance was introduced at the last meeting and authorizes the City of Berne, Indiana to issue its economic development revenue bonds of 2017 (Smith Brothers project) and

approving other actions in respect thereto. Gregg Sprunger made a motion to pass ordinance #690 on it final reading by short title. Ron Dull made the second and the motion was unanimously passed.

Board of Zoning Appeals Hearing Report

Mayor McKean reported that a public meeting of the Board of Zoning Appeals was held earlier tonight with the Board hearing a request for a variance filed by Mike and Kirsten Hough, 266 Hilty Street (corner of Hilty and Van Buren Streets). The Hough's are planning on building an addition to their home on the Van Buren street side which will encroach on the ten (10) foot setback of the Right of Way on Van Buren Street. The BZA unanimously approved the variance.

Plan Commission Hearing Report

Gregg Sprunger reported that Lehman Feed Mill, 5111 S 000, (Berne's fringe area) submitted a development plan for a 10,428-square ft. office/retail/warehouse building on the site where the home used to sit and to the west of the current office. When the new building is finished, the current office building will be torn down. They are also connecting to the City's sewer system at their expense. The Plan Commission unanimously approved the development plan.

Clerk-Treasurer Comments

Gwen Maller reported that the Berne Redevelopment Commission met on June 6, 2017 and approved a letter required by IC 36-7-14-39(b)(4)(B)(the "Act") which was submitted to each Councilman. The letter is notification for taxing districts that the Commission has determined that there is no excess assessed value in the Allocation Area that may be released to the overlapping Taxing Units. The letter was mailed to the Adams County Auditor, Monroe and Wabash Townships, the Berne Library and South Adams Schools. The letter was also uploaded to the Gateway site.

Mayor Comments

Mayor McKean informed the Council that the City is going to apply for the Crossing grants for street infrastructure improvements. There is a lot of work that needs to be done before the application can go in on July 14, 2017. One of the items is an asset management plan where every street in the City needs measured and evaluated. Katie Armenta, Jodi Mawhorr, Alyssa Bluhm, Gwen Maller and myself have done the measuring. Kurt Dailey, Gary Nussbaum and Drew Dull will go to a class on June 22, 2017 to become certified to rate each street.

The City hired Baily McIntire as the new summer help along with returning summer employee Alyssa Bluhm. Both are doing an excellent job.

Councilmen Comments

Ron Dull publicly wanted to recognize the Dots in Blue Water team that left last week for Haiti and will be returning late Tuesday night. Ron stated that Mr. Michael Baehr and that team has done an outstanding job providing clean drinking water to

the people of Haiti. Mayor McKean also thanked everyone for the Community support the team has received.

There being no other business to come before the Council and upon a motion duly made to adjourn by Gregg Sprunger and seconded by Curtis Wurster, adjournment followed.

William F. McKean, Mayor

ATTEST:

Gwen Maller, Clerk-Treasurer