

Mt. Pulaski City Council Meeting
City Hall
Tuesday, May 23, 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: Randy Hagenbuch, Joe Butler, Brad Davis, and Kate Davis. Also present were Chief Tony West, and Dee Howard. Matt Presswood was absent.

Mayor Bobell then led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognition of Guests: Sandy Bowles, Michelle Hagenbuch, Chris Hagenbuch, and Josh Poffenbarger

Mayor Bobell entertained a motion to reappoint Joe Butler as Alderman for Ward 2. Motion by Randy Hagenbuch, second by Kate Davis to approve appointment of Joe Butler as Alderman for Ward 2. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Randy Hagenbuch, John Aylesworth, and Kate Davis. Answering nay: Brad Davis. Motion carried.

Mayor Bobell next entertained a motion to appoint Sean McCormick as Alderman for Ward 2. Motion by Brad Davis, second by John Aylesworth, to approve appointment of Sean McCormick as Alderman for Ward 2. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Randy Hagenbuch, John Aylesworth, Joe Butler, Brad Davis, and Kate Davis. No nay. Motion carried.

Mayor Bobell then entertained a motion to reappoint Dee Howard as City Treasurer. Motion by Kate Davis, second by John Aylesworth, to approve appointment of Dee Howard as City Treasurer. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Randy Hagenbuch, Sean McCormick, John Aylesworth, Joe Butler, Brad Davis, and Kate Davis. No nay. Motion carried.

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

Public Comments: None

Reports by Officers:

- **Police Chief Tony West:** Officer West reported he has a notice on ordinance violations every day last. Several were for tall grass, and one was a car violation. One violator still had not mowed his grass as of this evening. There has been someone parking in the alley on North & South Scott streets.
- **Director of Public Works Matt Presswood:** Josh gave a report for Matt this evening. They have replaced old flags with new ones. There is a light out at the ballpark that still didn't work when replaced with a new one. Dave Leinweber will be checking on it. Tuesday they will be starting to cut trees down. Josh said they have bids out to three companies for the bigger trees they aren't able to take down. Baker Trees had the cheapest bid at \$10,170.00. Josh said they

were going to pick the worst three for now. John said they need to take care of all of them now while they have the money. The council was all in agreement.

- **City Treasurer:** Dee Howard gave the Treasurer report.

New Business:

Officer West addressed the council's last meeting about raising the wages for part-time police employees. He feels an increase is needed to attract quality help and more help. The council along with Tony feel \$25.00 an hour should be good.

Motion by Joe Butler, second by Sean McCormick, to approve Police Department part-time wages to \$25 an hour. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Randy Hagenbuch, Sean McCormick, Joe Butler, Brad Davis, and Kate Davis. No nay. Motion carried.

It is time to renew the contract with Delta Dental. Paula sent out notices with the new rates: single - \$31.37, and family- \$81.29.

Motion by Kate Davis, second by Brad Davis, to approve Delta Dental renewal. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Randy Hagenbuch, Sean McCormick, John Aylesworth, Joe Butler, Brad Davis, and Kate Davis. No nay. Motion carried.

Streigel Knobloch and Company, LLC. Paula and Sandy Bowles helped get information together. Paula said they were only in the house one-day Mayor would like to continue with them here on out.

Motion by Brad Davis, second by Joe Butler, to approve SK & Co, LLC FY-23 Audit Contract – Not to exceed \$13,500. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Randy Hagenbuch, Sean McCormick, John Aylesworth, Joe Butler, Brad Davis, and Kate Davis. No nay. Motion carried.

The contract with JM Abbott & Associates is up for renewal. They have been with us since 2018 and have been easy to work with. Dee Howard agreed, and also stated they are quick to respond to you.

Motion by Joe Butler, second by Kate Davis to approve JM Abbott & Associates Engagement Letter (was \$1545 monthly, now \$1650 monthly). Roll call vote. Answering aye: Randy Hagenbuch, Sean McCormick, John Aylesworth, Joe Butler, Brad Davis, and Kate Davis. No nay. Motion carried.

Joe Butler brought to attention the need for a sidewalk on the stretch of Vine Street from Chestnut St. to Casey's at the last meeting. Jordan Klein was going to check on grants, but Joe feels they need to move forward and not wait on grants. Moms with strollers must walk on Vine Street, then they will have to push through the grass as well. Brad asked if Casey's would have to approve a sidewalk through the lot, and if the city would have to bid out the work. Mayor said yes to both questions.

Old Business:

Rise Broadband would like to use property at 113 S. Lafayette to house fiber optic equipment. This will be a twenty-year agreement with optional renewals, at a rate of \$700 a month will a 2% annual increase.

Motion by Kate Davis, second by Joe Butler, to approve Ordinance Authorizing Lease Agreement for Municipal Property. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Randy Hagenbuch, Sean McCormick, John Aylesworth, Joe Butler, Brad Davis, and Kate Davis. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Joe Butler, second by Brad Davis, to approve Lease Agreement with Rise Broadband. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Randy Hagenbuch, Sean McCormick, John Aylesworth, Joe Butler, Brad Davis, and Kate Davis. No nay. Motion carried.

Other Business: The Farnsworth Group has sent a report on the demolition of the property at 219 S. Washington. Joe didn't think the buildings were connected with a 6" gap between buildings, but Josh explained that years ago they ran floor joists across back then. He also said the roofing is over-lapped and will have to be cut. Mayor thinks more information from Farnsworth is needed, not just a 2-page report. We need to cover ourselves. The red house next to it needs to be added to the list of unsafe properties. Greg Maus will be contacted to check it out with Josh. Greg will then get a report to council who will then get Jordan working on it. The north wall is falling toward Vinegar Hill but there is no danger to pedestrians walking by on the sidewalk. Tony said there are properties that need to be gone. Mayor said we may be out of money before it's all done, but it needs to be done.

Public Comments: John commented on how quickly American Water got a crew out to fix the main break last Thursday. He said it didn't take them long to repair it.

Joe Butler gave a shout out to Chief West for making an appearance at the high school graduation. He was recognized in some of the speeches by the graduates as well.

Executive Session:

Adjourn: Motion by Kate Davis, second by John Aylesworth, to adjourn. Voice vote. All ayes. Motion carried.

Anna Beckers – City Clerk