

Mt. Pulaski City Council Meeting
City Hall
Tuesday, September 26, 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: Joe Butler, Brad Davis, Kate Davis, Randy Hagenbuch and Sean McCormick. Absent were John Aylesworth and Matt Presswood. Also present were Chief, Tony West, and Dee Howard

Mayor Bobell then led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognition of Guests: Mike Chandler, Chris Hagenbuch, Josh Poffenbarger, and Dylan

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

Public Comments: None

Reports by Officers

- **Police Chief Tony West:** Chief West reported he had to remove a subject from S. Marion Street. Thursday was a busy day with the rain flooding the via duct on 121, and a domestic violence arrest with a child. Both schools had their annual Crisis drill and they did good. Joe asked if there were any updates on the building uptown. Tony said she had court, but he didn't have to be there. Jordan expects it to be demolished.
- **Director of Public Works:** Matt reported they've been busy with several jobs. They have been grinding high spots going east and west so they are tremendously smoother now and putting up some of the new signs. He is going to have Applegate come with a camera to help find where the lines go. Once they find that out, they will rent a vacuum and clean them out themselves. Frazier Park will have the fencing going up soon. They have been winterizing things down there with the end of ball season. Matt is having a hard time finding someone to look at the roof on city hall. He has received a bid for \$52,000 to do all buildings but is waiting for one from Henson & Robinson. Mayor Bobell instructed Matt to go ahead and put out for bid. He said with the 10.5 inches of rain that fell in 24 hours there were some issues, but the water subsided quickly once it stopped. Sean asked about the signs for high school achievements. Matt said the insurance would only cover if this was normal routine work for them. He suggested they just put them up inside city limits. Mayor stated the council will have to be mindful of who gets signs. IDOT only did IESA and IHSA sports. FCCLA was granted permission for theirs. The council will move forward with the State Officer sign for FCCLA. Josh Poffenbarger said Latham had come to him asking that he fog for mosquitos. Latham will pay 0.61 per mile and \$100-150 for use of the equipment and pay for everything else needed. Mayor said some kind of rental agreement will have to be drawn up. Matt will work on the agreement and Josh can start next year.
- **City Treasurer:** Dee gave the treasurer's report.

Old Business: The bids on the demolition of Vinegar Hill were not accepted by council. Sean McCormick was in favor of opening it up for bids again. He will contact someone he knows to help put it

out there. The rest of the council agrees and wants it advertised in more places. Jay Burns will need to resubmit a bid if he is interested in it.

Motion by Joe Butler, second by Sean McCormick, to reject both bids for Vinegar Hill Demolition and open up for rebids. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Joe Butler, Brad Davis, Kate Davis, Randy Hagenbuch, and Sean McCormick. No nay. Motion carried.

New Business: The Town Square Renovation has been discussed in recent meetings. Dee Howard has been in contact with Massie Massie & Associates on landscaping the courthouse grounds. Mayor Bobell said they seem very eager to do it. Dee was with Green & Associates as she walked around the grounds and they didn't feel an architect was needed for just landscaping. Dee has the drawings and boards from what Dave Leonati had done in the safe. Mayor said there are some problems with the drawings that would not have worked out. Dee said \$18,500 has been paid for the work he had done with \$149.00 going toward the boards that were printed off. The EDPB and the city split the cost. Kate asked if Massie's could use the drawings and if there would be any repercussions going with another company. Mayor said there would not be any problems going with another company.

Motion by Brad Davis, second by Kate Davis, to accept contract from Massie Massie & Associates for Town Square Renovation for \$17,500.00. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Joe Butler, Brad Davis, Kate Davis, Randy Hagenbuch, and Sean McCormick. No nay. Motion carried.

Sally Turner has been gracious enough to work on the Tax Levy for 2023/24. A Truth and Taxation hearing was not necessary.

Motion by Kate Davis, second by Brad Davis, to approve Tax Levy 2023/24 Ordinance. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Joe Butler, Brad Davis, Kate Davis, Randy Hagenbuch, and Sean McCormick. No nay. Motion carried.

Other Business: Mayor Bobell attended a meeting for TIF. He stated there are no new projects. Inland Tool is talking about expanding again.

Jordan Klein was instructed to send a strong letter to RISE addressing problems left unresolved. Maroa gave a good reference for the company. Metro has also left holes after installing their lines as well.

Dee reported the EDPB has been working on the budget. She said they did well with Frazier Park. They also have \$10,000 for sidewalks. Brad Davis mentioned St. Thomas Aquinas Church's sidewalks are in bad shape. Kate Davis asked if the city owned the pond outside of town that the library is wanting to start a program of checking out items to use. She thought maybe they could have fishing poles to use at the pond. Kate added that the city was given \$5,000 and asked if some could be funneled to the pond. Mayor Bobell said the pond gets lots of moss in it making it hard to fish. Josh Poffenbarger said it needs to be dredged and pointed out there isn't a good way for kids to get to it without crossing 121 and going on 54.

Randy Hagenbuch asked that they introduce the new city employee. Matt Presswood introduced Dylan Hatala and spoke on how he is attentive and eager to learn.

Joe Butler addressed the council about communities having cameras coming in and going out of their towns and maybe they could look into it. Mayor said we used to have some, but the cost was getting to high. He also stated he only wants them on the streets, not getting personal property. These cameras would run through the police department. Matt Presswood and Officer West will look into it.

Public Comments: Mike Chandler addressed the council expanding on things he discussed at the last meeting.

Executive Session: Motion by Kate Davis, second by Joe Butler, to exit regular session and enter executive session for discussion of Personnel. Voice vote. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Randy Hagenbuch, second by Brad Davis, to exit executive session and re-enter regular session. Voice vote. All ayes. Motion carried.

No action taken tonight.

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

Anna Beckers – City Clerk