

Mt. Pulaski City Council Meeting
City Hall
Tuesday, June 13, 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: Sean McCormick, John Aylesworth, Joe Butler, Brad Davis, Kate Davis, and Randy Hagenbuch. Also present were Dee Howard and Matt Presswood. Chief Tony West was absent.

Mayor Bobell then led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Mayor Bobell welcomed Lynn and allowed her to speak. She assured them she was not there to complain nor say anything mean but to express her gratitude for all the town does. Lynn loves the leaf collection. Josh Poffenbarger and Chris Hagenbuch have gone out of their way to save animals encountered during tree removal. She suggested with all the trees that have been cut down that maybe homeowners could buy 10-15 trees to plant. Mayor Bobell said that would be nice, but the homeowner is not responsible for replacing them. Lynn then asked if the city could plant them. She thought it would go a long way for the community to see city guys plant trees to make the city look better.

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

Public Comments: None

Reports by Officers:

- **Police Chief Tony West:** Mayor Bobell reported for Chief West who was absent. He relayed the same people were still causing trouble with ordinance violations. He also reported the air was not working in the police office. Mayor advised him to get some bids to have it fixed. Michelle Hagenbuch wanted to express her thanks to Chief West for having extra manpower for 2nd Friday.
- **Director of Public Works Matt Presswood:** Matt reported there have been twenty-eight trees cut down from the fifty-eight on the list, with the city cutting twenty-three themselves. He is waiting on the library and the grade school to decide what they want done with theirs. They will be cleaning up the mess on Thursday and Friday. Matt is waiting to hear on the MFT he said they are heavily scrutinizing it. Mayor wanted to know why. Matt has not been told any specifics about it. John wanted to know what the normal response time was. Matt replied about 2 months, and it was submitted late February early March. Matt asked what the plan was to replace trees cut down. He thought maybe the Tree Committee would reimburse up to \$50.00. Not all homeowners may want a tree replanted. Kate asked if the city had watering capabilities and if

they could help with watering. Matt said they treat it like they do when a stump is taken out. They fill it, seed it, put straw down, and water it a few times. Kate suggested the homeowner possibly help water. Jordan thinks it would be a great project for the Boy Scouts or some other organization. Matt then mentioned the high-water bill at the shop. The bill is \$1,700.00. He said there are no leaks. Dunn Company would like to fill their trucks out front, but Matt said he does not have the manpower to keep coming and checking on them. The question was asked if we are able to buy and resale water. If not licensed, then American Water would have to do it. Mayor feels American Water would have said something by now.

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

New Business:

No one from the Tree Committee showed up for the meeting tonight.

Kate was contacted by a citizen concerned about the use of city owned property being used on private property. The citizen was a former alderman and said the equipment is more expensive now and was also concerned about insurance coverage. The mayor is still all right with the practice, and as far as the liability is concerned, it would be covered. The employee handbook states it is acceptable. He also said it very, very seldom happens. Matt Presswood added if something breaks while they are using it, they are responsible for repairing it. It is in the 2014 handbook. All the council is in favor, so policy remains as is.

The council wanted a more detailed report from Farnsworth on the demolition of the Vinegar Hill property. After a conference call with them last Thursday, the preliminary report is good. They recommend a structure engineer be on sight though. Brad wanted to know what they do. Mayor said just watch and make sure everything is going ok. Mayor stated now bids need put out. There will be a lean on the property, so it is a loss to the city. The cost of demolition is more than the property is worth. It cannot be sold for 80% less of value.

Phoenix Fire Department would like a donation for fireworks again this year. The city has donated \$3,000 for the past few years. The EDPB also gives them a donation.

Motion by Randy Hagenbuch, second by Sean McCormick, to approve Phoenix Fire Department Donation request in the amount of \$3,000. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Sean McCormick, Joe Butler, Brad Davis, Kate Davis, and Randy Hagenbuch. Present – John Aylesworth. No nay. Motion carried.

There will be no motion made tonight on the Conditional Use Permit for Front Line Ag, LLC. It was passed by the zoning committee, but they have not received the actual permit yet. Jordan will work with them, and it will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Mayor will be assigning the committees and will present it at the next meeting for approval. Joe wanted to know how often the committees meet. Matt explained they only meet on an as needed basis, but they cannot do anything without the council's approval.

Old Business: None

Other Business: The City is looking for a firm to help handle our TIF. Mayor Bobell has reached out to Bill Thomas and is waiting to hear back from him.

Jordan Klein recommended a firm, called Moran Economic Development. Paula called and spoke to Jake Zimbaldi, who works for them, and he said they bill \$125 per hour, on an "as needed" basis.

John asked Matt Presswood what happened to the bucket truck. Matt said they still have it. Joe wanted to know if there were any bids on the sidewalk going along Vine St. to Casey's. Matt said he has not. Jordan explained it costs companies to prepare bids. He thinks they should look at grants as there are some potential ones worth ½ million dollars. Milano & Grunloh Engineers will prepare one free of charge, but the engineering fee is on the city. Matt has worked with them before and says they do outstanding work. He also said the sidewalk needs to go all the way to BP to be fair. The city will stripe off Casey's for pedestrians and install signage.

Dee asked on behalf of the EDPB if the city wants money used for fencing or towards buildings. She said they have not used any of the \$50,000 and it can be added to next year. Council is good with adding it to next year.

Public Comments: July 2nd there will be four food trucks uptown, stage on Cooke St, Community Band, and a bicycle/golf cart parade around the square. Festivities will begin at 4:00pm with Community Band from 6:00-7:00pm. The Community Association is looking for a new stage that is more stable. If you can help them out, please contact Michelle Hagenbuch

Executive Session:

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

Anna Beckers – City Clerk