

Mt. Pulaski City Council Meeting
The American Legion
Tuesday June 8, 2021
6:30pm

Present: Mayor Bobell, City Attorney Jordan Klein, Alderman Davis, Hagenbuch, and Phillips, Director of Public Works Matt Presswood, and Chief of Police Tony West

Absent: Alderman Emrick and Smock

Recognition of Guests: Tad Blacketer, Marla Blair, Brad Davis, Tom Martin, Donnie Neale, and Wyatt Waterkotte

The City Council meeting was called to order, Mayor Bobell presided. Mayor Bobell led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Consent Agenda: Motion by Alderman Phillips, second by Alderman Davis, to approve the Consent Agenda items, Minutes and Claims & Accounts. All ayes. Motion carries.

Public Comments: Donnie Neale reported there was not a stop sign on the corner of E. Cooke St. and Jefferson St.

Reports by Officers:

- **Police Chief Tony West:** Brady Thomas has graduated from the Police Academy. Tony is looking forward to getting him on the road.
-
- **Director of Public Works Matt Presswood:** Matt reported they were having some problems with well #6. He made some adjustments, and it seems to be working better.
- They have started patching roads. Matt would like to remind the community to slow down and be aware of the workers.
- The junk drive will be held June 25, 26, and 27. There has been a change in the location of the drop off. It will be at the street shed area.

- **City Treasurer:**

Old Business: Mayor Bobell will be meeting with Paula at City Hall this week regarding FY21-22. Tony West and Matt Presswood have finished with their budgets. Mayor Bobell would like to have all budgets ready by the last meeting in June. Paula is scheduling the audit for FY20-21. Appropriations are due in August.

Dave Leonatti was not able to make the meeting tonight. Tom Martin said he was having some problems getting things together. He should be ready the last part of July with answers to any questions.

Nothing new on the topic of recycling in the town. Alderman Phillips stated Alderman Smock has not heard back from anyone. Mayor Bobell said with no other options, the cost, and it being on the agenda for so long, he is making the decision for no recycling in town for the unforeseen future. The Aldermen are free to investigate having it restored at any time.

New Business: Donnie Neale had asked Mayor Bobell to check on stop signs around the school at the last meeting. Mayor Bobell feels there is enough signs around the school.

Tom Martin was present to discuss the possibility of a food processing plant, Farm-Fed CO-OP, in Mt. Pulaski. It will be its own entity. They are applying for grants to help get it going. Tom hopes to service hospitals and nursing homes as an example. Local small farmers could participate. It is a risk, but also a great opportunity for Mt. Pulaski.

Tom is stepping down from the EDPB. He thanked Mayor Bobell and the community. He said the Council and EDPB can accomplish a lot together.

Mayor Bobell would like to appoint Doug Johnson to take Tom Martin's place. Motion by Alderman Phillips, second by Alderman Davis, to appoint Doug Johnson as a replacement. All ayes. Motion carried.

Joe Alexander forwarded a letter with concerns of CN Railroad and KCS coming together and increasing rail traffic from Chicago to Kansas City. This increase of traffic out of Chicago to Kansas would mean more trains coming through small towns including Farmer City, Gibson City, Clinton, and Mt. Pulaski. Mayor Bobell is glad to have him as an advocate to help keep the railroad as is. He is asking that a letter be sent to Washington, D.C. on letterhead, opposing this move.

Alderman Emrich had concerns on an ordinance between The City Council and the Economic Advisory Board. Jordan Klein, the City Attorney made some changes to the ordinance for City Council to review. Mayor Bobell would like to table this until the next meeting in order that Alderman Emrich may be present.

Other Business: Mayor Bobell stated Greg Maus proposed one update regarding international 2012 solar codes. If any alderman would like to read over the updated code, it will be at City Hall. You may call Greg Maus with any questions.

Doug Johnson has opened the hardware store at the new location.

Mayor Bobell will be meeting with Superintendent Lamkey, Eric Cowan, and Doug Martin regarding the sidewalk work at the high school. He will report back at the next meeting.

Public Comments – Non-Agenda Items: Tad Blacketer addressed The City Council regarding the number of fireworks that were being shot off late into the evening hours. He was forced to call the police after several hours of listening to the booms and watching for ashes falling on roofs. He is not opposed to fireworks, if they are not aerial or loud booms in residential areas. According to state laws, those types of fireworks are not allowed in residential areas. Tad is afraid if this issue is not addressed now, it will spiral out of control.

Motion by Alderman Davis, second by Alderman Hagenbuch to adjourn the meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.

Executive Session:

Anna Beckers – City Clerk