

Mt. Pulaski City Council Meeting
City Hall
Tuesday, October 24 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: Brad Davis, Kate Davis, Randy Hagenbuch, Sean McCormick, John Aylesworth, and Joe Butler. Also present were Chief, Tony West, Matt Presswood, and Dee Howard

Mayor Bobell then led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognition of Guests: None

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

Public Comments: None

Reports by Officers

- **Police Chief Tony West:** Chief West reports Aaron Steinberg has been very helpful. He took care of an accident the other night. He checked out a suspicious person on Vine and Morgan Street but turned out to be nothing. Aaron stopped someone speeding who was driving without a driver's license. Tony has talked to the bank who owns the property at 221 S. Washinton St. She told him they will be getting inside the property in early November to get it cleaned up and put on the market. Sean asked if the property is marked condemned to which Mayor Bobell said yes. Officer West is looking at more academics for the person he is wanting to hire full time. The council will have to approve a contract.

- **Director of Public Works:** Matt reports the stumps have been cleaned up and reseeded. They have rented the lift again and will be doing more tree trimming. He has been training the guys for leaf collection. When asked about the west side of the square he responded the repaired the sidewalk before Fall Festival. He was then asked about the sidewalk from Chestnut Street to Casey's. Farnsworth is working on it.

- **Treasurers Report:** Dee gave the treasurer's report. She talked about Illinois Funds and how they have a higher interest rate. You can also take money out at any time.

Old Business: Massie Massie & Associates was on the agenda for the last meeting but there were some things that needed to be clarified.

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

New Business: 4CL Investments, LLC has put in for a grant from the EDPB for reimbursement of a garage door that was installed at his business. Mayor Bobell asked that he come to the meeting to clarify things for them. They questioned why he installed the garage door and then asked for the grant. Andy said the receipts were turned in with the application. Sean McCormick asked if he could get a grant as he's spent over \$38,000 on his property. Brad thinks since they bring businesses to town, they should help them. Andy's goal is to open more hours once harvest is done. He stated he has made enough to stay in town. He needed a bigger door to get tractors inside. He is asking for \$5,000 in grant money to help offset the cost of it. John Aylesworth said it's better to have a building in use rather than just to sit and deteriorate. Kate Davis is glad to see someone fixing their place up on their own accord rather than the city telling them to do it. She just wants to see a set way to go about the grant procedure. Brad said they might need the money right away instead of waiting for them to approve it.

Motion by Sean McCormick, second by John Aylesworth, to approve Grant for 4CL Investments, LLC in the amount of \$5,000. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Brad Davis, Kate Davis, Randy Hagenbuch, Sean McCormick, John Aylesworth, and Joe Butler. No nay. Motion carried.

The city was beginning the procedure to demolish the property of 221 S. Washington Street but that can't be done now that it is owned by a bank out of town. Jordan advises council to wait and see if someone wants to buy it. There is a house in town that was condemned but someone bought it, fixed it up, and is living in it now. Joe Butler asked Tony to reach out to let them know what's going on. Tony said they can't move in until it is completely done.

The city is selling the old police car. It will be opened for bids.

Motion by John Aylesworth, second by Joe Butler, to approve Resolution to Sale of Personal Property Owned by the city of Mt. Pulaski. Roll call vote. Answering aye: Brad Davis, Kate Davis, Randy Hagenbuch, Sean McCormick, John Aylesworth, and Joe Butler. No nay. Motion carried.

The resolution for the sale of equipment was tabled for the November 14th meeting.

Bids were opened for the demolition of Vinegar Hill. There were only two bids submitted and they were both from the same companies as before. All Industrial Group, LLC had a bid of \$87,725 with no asbestos removal or abatement included. Byrne's Backhoe & Excavating submitted a bid of \$194,550 that does include asbestos removal and abatement. Jay was present for the opening of the bids. He answered questions asked by the council. The city will do the asbestos testing and then put bids out again. Mayor will be in contact with Farnsworth.

Matt Presswood has been working on getting bids for the city buildings. There were 3 bids submitted. Mayor Bobell opened the envelopes, Design Roofing Systems, Top Quality Roofing Co., and Top Roofing. The bids are as follows: Design Roofing - \$140,437, Top Quality Roofing Co - \$65,100 (does not include any masonry work), and Top Roofing - \$98,400. Mayor Bobell would like references before approving. Matt wants all bids to have references provided moving forward.

It's time to renew the Comcast agreement. After some discussion no decision has been made tonight.

Other Business: Permission has been granted to demolish 104 S. Washington. There is a lien on it. Farnsworth will be going inside to see what needs to be done.

Randy Hagenbuch stated the Carriage House hasn't been touched in 3 months. Tony will let them know council will pursue demolition if they don't do something soon.

Officer West has been working with the residents at 211 N. Vine Street. He walked the property and showed them things that needed fixed. He made an agreement that it must be done by November 15th. Jordan said if they don't comply then they'll be given citations again.

Brad Davis inquired about possibly borrowing money to fix Vine Street. He said interest rates are going up. Mayor will check on bonds.

Public Comments: None

Executive Session:

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

Anna Beckers – City Clerk