

CITY OF AMBOY  
COUNCIL MEETING  
August 19, 2013

Mayor Nauman called the Regular meeting of the Amboy City Council to order and the council and audience stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

WARD 1: Deanne Hoy  
Brett Dewey-Absent  
WARD 2: John Schamberger  
Dennis Weidman  
WARD 3: Daryl Stuckemeyer  
Dave Shaw

MINUTE'S APPROVED-The minutes from the July regular city council meeting were presented and approved after a motion was made and seconded by Aldermen Hoy and Stuckemeyer. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT APPROVED- City Treasurer Nancy Neal submitted the financial report. Making a motion to approve the reports as presented was made and seconded by Aldermen Weidman and Hoy. Carried.

PAYMENT OF BILLS APPROVED- A list of outstanding bills, involving city accounts as prepared by the city clerk's office was submitted. Making a motion to approve the bills as presented was made and seconded by Aldermen Stuckemeyer and Weidman. Carried. \*A copy of the financial report is kept on file at the city hall and is available upon request.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COMMUNITY BUILDING-Mayor Nauman reported that the events are picking up for fall.

DEPOT MUSEUM-Alderman Shaw reported the second phase of bricks have been installed before Depot Days. Thank you to Ozella Singleton Family for the generous memorial donation. She was a former member of the Depot Museum. The school house will be open during Depot Days for ESDA to meet for instructions and supplies.

E.S.D.A- No Report.

PARK-Alderman Schamberger reported some shelters will need some new roofs. Shapiro and the Sports Park will need to be replaced in 2014. Also 12 picnic tables are missing from the shelters if anyone knows where they are please contact a park board member.

LIBRARY-Alderman Weidman reported the board met on August 13<sup>th</sup>. Thank you too many volunteers that helped clean up the library bushes and weeds. Teen Turf was also

part of the cleanup process and worked hard. The library also held an Ice Cream Social and had great support from the community.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE-**Alderman Hoy reported the finance committee met and reviewed the budget, also discussed sidewalk repairs, water billing and the purchase of a tar kettle. (No action taken on these items.)

**ORDINANCE COMMITTEE-** No Report.

**POLICE COMMISSION-** No Report.

**MAINT. DEPT /STREETS-**Alderman Schamberger reported the maintenance department is preparing for Depot Days painting the parking lines. Also depending on MFT bids Locust and Monroe Street will be resurfaced this fall.

**WATER/SEWER DEPT-**Alderman Stuckemeyer reported he has spoken with Carriage House Electric regarding the new generator location. It may be located behind the current building depending on the property negotiation with the owner.

**CONCERNS FROM THE AUDIENCE-** Darlene Hinkle complimented the council on the new microphones and thank you to the maintenance department for pressure washing the library steps and also for setting up for the ACO Blood Drive at the community building. Mike Koch talked about the sidewalks uptown and the process has had some bumps during the last few weeks. He has heard good compliments from many citizens about the new sidewalks.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS-**

**DISCUSS VACATING ALLEYS-MILTON/APPLETON/GILSON-** Teen Turf has the survey and a meeting with the Zoning Board will be setup before the next council meeting.

**DISCUSS WATER BILLING POLICY-**Alderman Hoy is reviewing every account to make sure everyone was billed for each month of service. This process will take a while to see how this affected our current water plant and what was not billed and why the service was exempt. Alderman Schamberger feels that most of the aldermen do not agree with going back and billing for months when no water was used at a residence. He asked to make a motion to not bill but according to the attorney no vote can be taken because it is a discussion item. Alderman Hoy questioned why the motion. Alderman Weidman has thought about the billing and the city has three options to the issue. Looking over the metered accounts and why they were not billed was a common practice that the city has gone with for many years. The city didn't send out bills and was not following the ordinance. However the city is now billing each household whether they are active or empty as long as the water is turned on to the property. If the city did not send the bills then the city cannot ask these residents for that money. The city has recognized it now and is now following its current ordinance. Alderman Hoy feels that if the aldermen choose to not bill those accounts then others will be paying the debt service fees because

others were not billed correctly. Alderman Schamberger made an example of if you purchased a property and never lived there you now owe a \$500.00 billing. Do you think people will really pay that billing when it was the city's fault for not billing them? Alderman Schamberger commended Alderman Hoy on her hard work and looking into the water billings. Randy Singleton expressed that Nicor still bills when they mess up and don't charge for therms used. More discussion next month.

**APPROVE CONTRACT LEGAL/COURT ACTION CITY VIOLATIONS**-Attorney Matt Keegan reviewed the contract with Peter Buh that would allow the firm to set court dates for any unpaid city violations. The contract explains the fees and services that the city would pay for the legal contract. The agreement can be terminated at will any time. Motion to Approve the Contract Legal/Court Action Agreement made by Aldermen Weidman and Hoy. All Approved.

Ashton Police Chief was in attendance of the city council meeting and is interested in purchasing the Police Expedition from the city including all the lights and cage. Ashton currently only has one vehicle and would use ours as an extra. Alderman Hoy explained that the plan when the new police truck was purchase was to sell the Expedition and deposit those funds in the squad car fund. Alderman Stuckemeyer would like to help Ashton by selling the vehicle to their police department. Alderman Shaw also agreed that would be the best option. Vote in September.

Building Inspectors Report-See Report. Eric McLaughlin explained that an appeals board needs to be setup before more action can be taken on properties.

Animal Report- See Report.

**ATTORNEY CONCERNS**-Nothing.

**COUNCIL CONCERNS**-

Alderman Shaw-Watch out for the kids crossing the streets going to school. Depot Days is here everyone enjoy the weekend and lots of sunshine.

Alderman Weidman- The new microphones are great for the council meetings. Would like to see a microphone for the audience concerns as well.

Alderman Hoy-Concerned about the sidewalk downtown and the cost to the city. The first-third of the job has been completed however no total is yet available. During the finance meeting discussion was about the project and requirements are if a job is more than \$20,000 it must be bid. With discussion of the job the Mayor hired the two cement laborers as city workers and this project is more than \$20,000. The engineering is still a bill that we have no clue what the cost is to the city. Everything is up in the air and the city now has two new workers that have been hired. Mike Koch questioned what the difference is between themselves and others that have been hired in the past. Alderman Hoy explained that the project policy is different in this matter. Mayor Nauman explained that in the past the City of Amboy has hired part time employees for sidewalk improvements. Alderman Hoy did not agree and questioned that the city did bid out the

East Avenue sidewalk project. Mayor Nauman talked about others that did sidewalks in the city the past few years. All bills for the project have been run thru the city accounts. Alderman Schamberger- Hopes everyone has a good Depot Days weekend and good luck to the 50/50 winner.

Alderman Stuckemeyer- We could use a little rain however we don't need it during Depot Days weekend. Get involved in the plans during the festival.

MAYOR CONCERNS-There will be a special meeting on August 21<sup>st</sup> at 4pm to discuss the part-time workers. The Aldermen need to check their wards for any property that is not in code. Meeting with the Park Board members at the bank today regarding the trust and what investments are paying versus cost to have it. Depot Days is approaching and it should be a good weekend for the community.

With no further business to come before the council the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. There were 22 people present in the audience.

Submitted by

Melissa Eisenberg, RMC  
City Clerk-City of Amboy