

CITY OF AMBOY  
COUNCIL MEETING  
December 16, 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

WARD 2: John Schamberger-Absent  
Dennis Weidman

WARD 3: Daryl Stuckemeyer-Absent  
Dave Shaw

MINUTE'S APPROVED-The minutes from the November regular city council meeting were presented and approved after a motion was made and seconded by Aldermen Weidman and Dewey. 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 Hoy and Weidman. 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 Dewey 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-Alderman Dewey had nothing new to report.

DEPOT MUSEUM-Alderman Shaw reported that chimney mortar is falling from the caps and they have been tarped to secure the pieces. The Depot is closed for winter but can be opened by appointment.

E.S.D.A- Alderman Dewey reported ESDA is still collecting toys for the Christmas baskets.

PARK-Alderman Schamberger reported (email)-The park is closed for the winter. Some trees will be cut down in the spring. The park board members work very hard and president Gary Wilhelm spends a lot of volunteer time on the city park. Many thanks to all the park board members for their dedication.

LIBRARY-Alderman Weidman reported they held the monthly board meeting on Dec 10<sup>th</sup> with no new business. They also had a successful cookie sale. Thank you to those that either donated or purchased cookies.

FINANCE COMMITTEE-Alderman Hoy reported that 6 items were discussed at the finance meeting which were a sewer rate increase of 4% suggested by the city auditor, reviewed MFT payment, reviewed the tax levy, discussed Grace Fellowship Church rental, discussed Mayor hiring part time employees and Dollar General.

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE- No Report.

POLICE COMMISSION- No Report.

MAINT. DEPT /STREETS-Mayor Nauman read Alderman Schamberger's email – The city council accepted a bid on the handrails for downtown. The maintenance crew will be plowing snow as needed so please park off the streets and not uptown during bad weather. Also do not push snow and leave it in the middle of the streets. The guys have done a great job with snow and have had a few water main breaks to deal with.

WATER/SEWER DEPT-Alderman Shaw would like to thank the employees for the repairs on the water main breaks during the cold weather.

CONCERNS FROM THE AUDIENCE-Henry Gerdes questioned the resolution regarding the hiring of part time employees and the status of that resolution. The attorney fees for that cost the tax payers around \$600.00 and now nothing will be done with it. Mayor Nauman explained that it was not going to work and will not be approved so the council will just have to call a special meeting to hire any emergency personnel.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS-**

##### **DISCUSS/APPROVE RENTAL OF GRACE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH/COMM BLDG-**

Attorney Matt Keegan explained that it is up to the council but it is freedom of speech and also church vs state on the other side. The general rule for the building rental is to treat each renter the same. However the office space on the other side can be rented monthly or yearly however the council decides per contract. But the main space is only rented by the hourly rate and first come first serve basis and cannot be held for one entity. Brian McWethy asked about signage and per the attorney no permanent signage on the roadway but can be installed however temporary signage that can be put up and down during building use is allowed. The office space area could have signage on the door of the rented office area. Pastor Brian was trying to figure out the rate if the church were to rent the main space on Sunday's. Also with snow removal would the parking lot be cleared or how does that work. Mayor Nauman explained that the crew if out will clear the lot as needed but would not just come out to clean the parking lot for the rental on a Sunday. Alderman Brett Dewey is still concerned on storage space and to make sure the building can accommodate the storage of the facility and the church needs also. Brian McWethy is willing to store their items on their side of the building when not in use and also help in cleaning of the building after a reception or event. Alderman Shaw is

concerned that after an event the time will not be enough for the manager to prepare for the Sunday service and that it should just remain the community building. Alderman Weidman would like to see the council look at the church as a customer that wants to use the building and needs to find a way to work things out. Alderman Hoy also has concerns on the use of the main area as cleanup and other things must be figured out. Brian McWethy is willing to have a crew come into the building and help Julie clean the building to get it ready for Sunday services. Attorney Matt Keegan explained that there is some liability when the building is being used and people are present. The church could do this to help Julie however it would be better to have building employees to clean rather than church staff. Alderman Hoy also wondered how the Sunday's would be reserved for the calendar year. Attorney Matt Keegan explained that the building could not be rented on Sunday's for the next five years of one group. Mayor Tom Nauman thinks more discussion would help before an agreement is made and still needs to be reviewed with the missing aldermen. Legally the city cannot refuse to rent the building to any religion or entity wanting to rent the community building. Some audience members were concerned with how the rental would affect the building availability for other community events. Another suggestion was the church located on 52 by Casey's owned by Ed Marshall from Chicago may be a possible rental location for the church to also take a look into renting. Motion to table until January council meeting made by Aldermen Hoy and Dewey. All Approved.

DISCUSS VETERANS PARK/LEGION OWNERSHIP-Don Schamberger representing the American Legion spoke regarding the Veterans Park lot. If the city would be able to get a grant so a building could be built for storage and a meeting room for the American Legion group. The American Legion would also like to build a memorial wall for veterans in the future planning. The program needs to have more things to honor our veterans and it's sad that more is not done for these men. The park needs upgraded but the Legion still wants to be involved in the decisions of the park property. Attorney Matt Keegan had a title search done and the city will have to pay the taxes from 2013-2014 but then can file an exemption for the property. The deed must be signed over before a council vote can be taken. Mayor Nauman explained that there are more grants available if the city owns the property vs the Legion owning the property. Alderman Hoy asked Mr. Schamberger if the American Legion will be okay with the city making the final decisions since the city will own the property. Attorney Linda Giesen will write up a proposal between the city and Legion to be approved. Motion to table until January council meeting made by Aldermen Hoy and Weidman. All Approved.

#### NEW BUSINESS

APPROVE TAX LEVY-The Levy was presented and does not exceed the 105% EAV. Motion to Approve the Tax Levy made by Aldermen Hoy and Weidman. All Approved.

APPROVE 4% SEWER RATE INCREASE-Mayor Nauman explained the auditor made a recommendation to the city council for a sewer rate increase since the cost to treat sewage has increase and some pumps have needed replaced. Alderman Hoy explained the sewer increase will be for all users and the rate has not been changed since 2006. Motion to Approve the 4% Sewer Increase made by Aldermen Hoy and Weidman. All Approved.

APPROVE SUPPLEMENT RESOLUTION FOR 2013 MFT PROJECT-Mike Richetta prepared an IDOT resolution to authorize the city to spend \$20,500.00 from MFT instead of using general funds to pay for the streets that were resurfaced for 2013. Motion to Approve the Supplement Resolution made by Aldermen Weidman and Hoy. All Approved.

APPROVE 2013 MFT CHANGE ORDER PAYMENT-UC PAVING-This paperwork finalizes the project and grants payment to the contractor for 2013 MFT. Final cost of the street project was \$ 66,209.33. Motion to Approve Payment made by Aldermen Dewey and Weidman. All Approved.

Building Inspectors Report-No Report.

Animal Report- See Report.

ATTORNEY CONCERNS-Nothing.

COUNCIL CONCERNS-

Alderman Hoy-Would like to commend the police dept. on the ordinance violations that have been written. Alderman Hoy, Attorney Matt Keegan and Sergant Jeff Blake rewrote the ordinances and per the new policy the city has collected \$4,825.00 that has been paid directly to the city. Merry Christmas to everyone.

Alderman Dewey-Nothing.

Alderman Weidman-Everyone have a good and safe holiday.

Alderman Shaw- Everyone please remember the odd/even parking when it snows.

MAYOR CONCERNS-The senior dinner was a great success with 85 people in attendance. Mayor Nauman asked Mike Richetta for an update on the handrails. Per Mike he will approve the drawings but has no projected date at this time for installation.

With no further business to come before the council the meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m. There were 24 people present in the audience.

Submitted by

Melissa Eisenberg, RMC  
City Clerk-City of Amboy