

CITY OF AMBOY
COUNCIL MEETING
July 20, 2015

Mayor Tom 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: Brett Dewey

Eric McLaughlin

WARD 2: John Schamberger

Dennis Weidman

WARD 3: Daryl Stuckemeyer

Dave Shaw

MINUTE'S APPROVED-The minutes from the June regular city council meeting were presented. Motion to approve the minutes by Aldermen Dewey and Schamberger. 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 Stuckemeyer. 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 by Aldermen Schamberger and Dewey. 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 McLaughlin-No Report.

DEPOT MUSEUM-Alderman Shaw reported the depot held their June meeting. They are making plans for Depot Days.

E.S.D.A-Alderman Dewey reported June 2nd the warning sirens were tested and the group is getting ready for Depot Days and also assisted with the tornado efforts in Woodhaven.

PARK-Alderman Schamberger reported the park will be looking into replacing some of the trees in the city park. Update on the statue progress next month.

LIBRARY-Alderman Weidman reported the library board met on July 14th with nothing new but unfortunately Rex Hicks will be resigning from the library board after many years of dedication to the library.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING-Alderman Dewey reported the meeting reviewed the generator at the lift station and the city vacating the alley for Casey's.

POLICE COMMISSION-Alderman Stuckemeyer reported the police commission will be reviewing applications for police chief on August 4th.

MAINT/STREET DEPT-Alderman Schamberger reported the maintenance department will be doing ditch work and concrete work at the building will be poured tomorrow by Bruns Construction.

WATER/SEWER DEPT-Alderman Stuckemeyer reported the water tower valve needed replaced to drain the tank and the city had the new valve replaced at the cost of \$10,000.00 but TeCorp will be able to continue on time with the project.

CONCERNS FROM THE AUDIENCE-Hank Gerdes wanted to know why the Community Development Committee was not on the agenda for reporting. Alderman McLaughlin explained that the committee has not met and therefore has no report each month. Hank Gerdes questioned what money has been spent and what more the committee will be doing in the future. Alderman Schamberger will be contacting Diane regarding a meeting. Hank Gerdes is concerned about the downtown and why the committee is not doing anything to promote Amboy and fill the empty buildings downtown. The grocery store is dying and all we have is Sensient and Depot Days going for our town. Mayor Nauman has tried to work with the grocery store and there has been some interest in business coming to Amboy. Randy Singleton asked how the concrete will be paid for due to the state freezing the state grant funding. The city will have to use landfill funds until the state pays the city for the new building reimbursements. Nancy Kelly questioned the outdoor seating at the Amboy Family Restaurant and what concerns/policy the city has for this. She doesn't oppose the seating however does it comply with city guidelines. Mayor Nauman noted that the seats will not be permanent and will not be anchored to the city sidewalk. Sue Jones wanted to thank the city maintenance crew on the fast cleanup after the storm.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

DISCUSS/APPROVE OFFICE BUILDING PLANS FOR NEW MAINTENANCE

OFFICE BUILDING (202 W. Main Street)-Alderman Stuckemeyer reported that Bruns will be pouring the floor in the new building and the new office floor on Thursday.

NEW BUSINESS

UPDATE/DISCUSS DEPOT MUSEUM LEDGE REPAIRS- Mayor Nauman has been in contact with Jim from Chamlin & Associates and he will be working on the bid paperwork.

DISCUSS/APPROVE BILL SHAW PROPERTY AGREEMENT-Attorney Matt Keegan has been in contact with Mr. Shaw's attorney and is waiting on the final information and property description.

NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSS/APPROVE PAYMENT LEE COUNTY ENTERPRISE ZONE-Mayor Nauman discussed the dues have not been paid in many years and the city should make a payment due to all the hard work John Thompson has done for the Sensient expansion tax exemptions /abatements for the new project. The last estimated payment was \$4,165.00. Attorney Matt Keegan explained that the fee is based on the populations of the city. Mayor Nauman would recommend paying \$4,000.00 contingent on Sensient's building permit being paid. Motion to Approve \$4,000.00 payment to LCIDA contingent on Sensient's payment made by Aldermen Stuckemeyer and Schamberger. Voting Yes-Shaw, Weidman, McLaughlin, Schamberger and Stuckemeyer. Voting No-Dewey. Passed 5-1.

APPROVE 2015 PREVAILING WAGE-Discussion on the 2015 prevailing wage by Mayor Nauman and Aldermen. Mayor Nauman explained that the city cannot qualify for any grants or funding without passing prevailing wage each year. Motion to Approve the 2015 Prevailing Wage made by Aldermen Schamberger and Stuckemeyer. Voting Yes-McLaughlin, Weidman, Schamberger and Stuckemeyer. Voting No-Dewey and Shaw. Motion Passed 4-2.

DISCUSS/APPROVE 2015-2016 APPROPRIATIONS-Alderman Dewey reviewed the appropriations and the funding decrease for this year. The city aldermen had no changes at this time. Motion to Approve the 2015-2016 Appropriations made by Aldermen Dewey and Stuckemeyer. All Approved.

APPROVE ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A VARIANCE PURSUANT TO THE PETITION OF SEAN FISHER AND DANIELLE FISHER-The Zoning Board met to review the application for a zoning variance at 304 N. Jefferson Ave for a privacy fence. Aldermen Weidman explained that the fence company failed to apply for a variance before the installation. So the zoning board reviewed comments from the property owner and neighbors before making the recommendation for approval. The request will be for a variance on the west side and north side of the property. Motion to Approve the Ordinance Authorizing a Variance for Sean & Danielle Fisher made by Aldermen Schamberger and Weidman. All Approved.

DISCUSS/APPROVE TO PURCHASE USED TAR KETTLE- Mayor Nauman would like the council to decide on purchasing a used tar kettle from Steve Jenner. It would be used to fix cracks in the roads using hot oil and rocks for sealing. Alderman Stuckemeyer explained the use for the tar kettle and many road crews have them for repairing busy roads in the county area. Aldermen McLaughlin feels that the city crew is busy enough and doesn't have time for another project this year. Mayor Nauman explained the machine needs a new hose costing \$400.00 and then the city would have to purchase the oil and chips also. Alderman Schamberger commented that the guys need to know how to work the machine and how many repairs are needed before the city could use it. It could be something the city could hire done instead.

Motion to Purchase the Used Tar Kettle from Steve Jenner for \$3,000.00 made by Aldermen Stuckemeyer and Weidman. Voting Yes-Weidman, Dewey, Stuckemeyer Voting No-Shaw, McLaughlin, and Schamberger. Mayor –Yes. Passed 4-3.

DISCUSSION OF ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SPECIAL RESERVE FUND FOR THE REFUNDING OF ERRONEOUSLY COLLECTED TAXES (Refunding of real estate taxes collected from Water and Sewer Bond levy). Attorney Matt Keegan had an ordinance drafted for the tax levy revenues collected on the property taxes. This ordinance establishes for a new account to be setup for the refunds to the taxpayers and the guidelines for the refunds to the taxpayers. This will be done when the final listing is issued from the county after both installments have been paid in full. Aldermen Dewey felt there are too many requirements for the residents to collect their refunds. We need to simplify the refunding application. Corrine Powers had a concern about residents that are unaware of the refund and how that will be handled. Melissa Eisenberg explained that when the explanation letters are sent out the application will also be sent with the letter. Attorney Matt Keegan will create the application and have the council review it before approval at the August meeting.

DISCUSS STREET ESTIMATES-STREET RESURFACING-Washington Street/East Main Street/ Metcalf (Nauman Subdivision) Aldermen Stuckemeyer has been discussing some street repairs with the Sensient building permit income. Washington Street from Main to the gate will be resurfaced with some of those funds. Additional streets recommended were East Main Street and South East Ave to the highway. The estimates from Chamlin were given for the council to review. An estimate for Metcalf in Nauman Subdivision was also submitted however the Nauman family would be responsible for any cost of that street project. Motion to Authorize Chamlin & Associates to Seek Bids for Washington Street Project (\$36,000.00) made by Aldermen Stuckemeyer and Schamberger. All Approved.

Building Inspector- Issued a new home permit for a manufactured home from Wisconsin. Mayor Nauman and Ed will be meeting with the attorney on some properties that have not responded to letters.

Animal Report-See Report.

ATTORNEY CONCERNS-There is numerous properties within the city that are in need of repairs. The city and attorney have sent letters to property owners and the next step will be how the city council wants to proceed. Currently property owners have until July 25th to advise on their repair/demolition plans. The city has two options the first is monetary fines and court appearances for property owners. However many of the owners do not have the income to fix the properties let alone pay fines and court fees. Second option is have a judgement to demolish the property and the city can remove the dangerous conditions. Neither option is easy or fast but it is the only way to clean up the properties in town. The city has tried to work out things with the property owners, however many owners are not complying or responding. It will be very expensive for the city between court fees and demolition costs for cleanup. Nancy Kelly thinks the only

way to clean up the properties is to keep pushing forward and it's going to cost the city but these properties need to be demolished.

COUNCIL CONCERNS-

Alderman Shaw-Nothing.

Alderman Dewey-Nothing.

Alderman Weidman-Nothing.

Alderman McLaughlin-Nothing.

Alderman Schamberger-Nothing.

Alderman Stuckemeyer-Nothing.

MAYOR CONCERNS-The week the city had three resignations for ESDA, Library Board and Depot Museum. The city will be looking to fill these positions. The concrete will be poured this week at the new building.

With no further business to come before the council the meeting adjourned at 8:11p.m. There were 17 people present in the audience.

Submitted by

Melissa Eisenberg, RMC
City Clerk-City of Amboy