

CITY OF AMBOY
COUNCIL MEETING
March 17, 2014

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

Dennis Weidman

WARD 3: Daryl Stuckemeyer

Dave Shaw

MINUTE'S APPROVED-The minutes from the February regular city council meeting were presented and approved after a motion was made and seconded by Aldermen Schamberger 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 Dewey 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 Dewey and Stuckemeyer. 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 reported the building is busy with rentals.

DEPOT MUSEUM-Alderman Shaw reported March 10th was an early meeting regarding taking applications for someone to work 20 hours a week. Applications can be picked up at city hall. Also new water stains from the caps leaking are appearing on the upstairs ceiling. The Depot will be putting the work out for bids.

E.S.D.A- Alderman Dewey –Alderman Dewey reported ESDA had 5 members attend weather training. The sirens are being tested again and currently 2 have failed but will be fixed.

PARK-Alderman Schamberger reported the first meeting was held on March 6th and the park may not be able to repair shelters and maintenance on equipment since interest rates are low and they are not receiving as much interest income.

LIBRARY-Alderman Weidman reported the new computers have arrived but they are not setup yet. The library board met on March 11th with no new business.

FINANCE COMMITTEE-Alderman Hoy reported the finance committee met and reviewed the lease /refinance and 2014 MFT Street Projects.

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE- No Report.

POLICE COMMISSION- No Report.

MAINT. DEPT /STREETS-Alderman Schamberger reported that the city is looking for seasonal mowing applicants. Applications can be picked up at city hall. The guys are busy patching pot holes and please contact city hall with any in your area that need to be filled. The handrails will be installed downtown as soon as the weather warms up.

WATER/SEWER DEPT-Alderman Stuckemeyer reported the water plant is running well and with warmer weather approaching the will be getting more sand added to the filter system.

CONCERNS FROM THE AUDIENCE-Randy Singleton questioned if the handrails were here. Alderman Schamberger explained they are not here in town but are done and ready to be installed once the temperature reaches above 35 degrees. Don Schamberger spoke as a resident, former alderman, business owner. He has witnessed many changes in this town thru all the years. In the past year this group of council members are not working as a team. It is time to now work together and do things in the best interest of the city.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

DISCUSS 2014 MFT STREET PROJECTS-Mike Richetta from Chamlin will put together a listing of streets and alleys and let the council know pricing for the 2014 street project based on the list of streets from Al Stenzel. Mayor Nauman questioned which ones the aldermen felt were in need. Alderman Weidman has checked them and they all need replaced however the city needs to determine the MFT amount that will be spent. The priority list is important when reviewing the streets. Also there are a few alleys that must be done or they will be gravel again. Alderman Schamberger wants to get as many streets done for the best amount of money.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING & RATIFYING THE EXECUTION OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY GRANT AGREEMENT –MAINT. BLDG.-The city has been awarded a state grant for a new maintenance building. The total cost of the grant for the project is \$250,000.00 for all construction materials and work. Willett & Hoffman will be the engineers in charge of the project and all bidding for contract work. This resolution authorizes the city to accept the grant. Motion to Approve the Resolution Authorizing the Grant made by Aldermen Stuckemeyer and Schamberger. All Approved.

DISCUSS NEW MAINTENANCE BUILDING LOCATION (GRANT FUNDS)-The city has considered several locations for the new building such as American Automotive, the Palmer property or at the current location. The advantage to leaving it at the old site is that the parking lot, electricity, plumbing are already available without any extra setup fees or costs for the city. Alderman Schamberger thinks that leaving it at the current location would be the best idea. Alderman Dewey questioned which location had the most footage for building? Alderman Weidman also was in agreement. Alderman Hoy would have like to have seen it moved to the Palmer location due to improving the entrance of the city when people travel into town. But by leaving it at the current site it is a cost savings to the city for the project. Alderman Stuckemeyer thinks that we should be able to clean up the location with the new building holding more equipment. Approval next month.

DISCUSS TRANSFER OF VIDEO GAMING REVENUES TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT ACCT.-Mayor Nauman is recommending that the revenues from the state video gaming be deposited into a special account for capital improvements instead of just becoming general fund revenue. Alderman Schamberger questioned how this would work and what projects it could be spent on. Alderman Shaw also had no problem with the idea. Alderman Weidman also agreed that it would not be used in the budget but set aside for capital improvements. Steve Doege explained that the baseball building could use a donation if the city would be interested in using some funding for this project.

APPROVE CITY INVESTMENT POLICY –INVESTMENT OF MUNICIPAL FUNDS-Attorney Matt Keegan explained that this policy is recommended by the Illinois Public Investments Act. The city has park funds from a trust which it plans to invest to earn interest per the trust agreement. The city will approve all investments for the park trust. Motion to Approve City Investment Policy made by Aldermen Stuckemeyer and Dewey. All Approved.

DISCUSS/AUTHORIZE CLERK TO ACCEPT BIDS FOR CHIMNEY REPAIR/DEMOLITION (Depot Museum)- Alderman Shaw explained that the chimney caps have been falling off and are need of repair. They now are leaking inside the museum. The Depot is seeking people to repair the brick work. Alderman Hoy wanted to make sure that the city council does approve the bids and not the Depot museum. The city will be making the final decision on contract bids per the council approval. Motion to Authorize the Clerk to Accept Bids made by Aldermen Hoy and Schamberger. All Approved.

DISCUSS/ APPROVE BERNARDI SECURITIES –REFINANCE LEASE WATER PLANT- Attorney Matt Keegan reviewed a proposal from Bernardi Securities and will be speaking with the bonding firm to review rates and obligations for the city. With this bonding process the city will also have to hire a bonding attorney for the process. More information to follow next month.

APPROVE .25 CERTIFICATION RAISE LISA HART/STATE JUVENILE OFFICER CERTIFICATION-Motion to Approve made by Alderman Hoy and Stuckemeyer. All Approved.

DISCUSS FROZEN WATER LINES-BEEF HUT-Alderman Hoy wanted to discuss the frozen water lines and what happened during the process. On February 22nd Mike Therriault contacted Alderman Hoy regarding him not having water service due to frozen water lines. He explained that he had not had running water for two weeks. Then while having lunch at the Depot she overheard Luke Eisenberg telling someone that his mother had not had water in almost two weeks. Luke Eisenberg was told by the Mayor that his mother would have to wait til spring for the line to thaw and the city was not doing anything to fix it. Alderman Hoy felt that this was wrong and also was told that the homeowner was responsible from the home to the main. In 2001 the ordinance was changed from the home to the buffalo box and Alderman Nauman felt that it could be devastating for a homeowner to pay for any repairs with the ordinance written like that. In 2008 Hank Gerdes wanted to change it back from the home to the main and it was voted down by 5-1 council vote. Alderman Nauman again felt it would be devastating again to change the ordinance. So currently the homeowner or business owner is only responsible from their home to the buffalo box which was not what the homeowners were told in this situation. Alderman Hoy contacted Mayor Nauman regarding the frozen residential properties and he told alderman Hoy that the city was not going to do anything for the homeowners and they would have to wait until the spring thaw. Alderman Hoy felt that was not right and that she or Mayor Nauman would never sit without water for two weeks and there must be something that could be done. Mayor Nauman asked her to call the water department council members and when she contacted Alderman Shaw he thought they could connect to the neighbors next door until their line was unfrozen as a temporary fix. When she contacted alderman Stuckemeyer he thought there must be a solution to get water to the homes that were frozen. Alderman Hoy went into city hall Monday, February 24th and contacted Al Stenzel and Dale Simpson to work out a solution. We worked on ways to get these homeowners water and the solution was to contact Schmitt Plumbing to see if they could unfreeze the lines. They had purchased a hot jetter and were able to unfreeze water lines to other homes in the area. Dale Simpson contacted Schmitt Plumbing and they were able to come to Amboy on Tuesday. They went to Mike Therriaults home and worked for several hours but were unable to open the line with the hot jetter. The next stop was Ev Eisenbergs home where they worked for a few hours and did have success and she now had water after 3 weeks. She had already had another plumber try to open her lines and once the city hired Schmitt it only took 3 hours to open the line. Next was State Farm and the line could not be unfrozen and they reached well under Rt. 52 into the city service line. Then Beef Hut was next in line Schmitt worked for several hours and also could not open the water line. The plumber went out over 100 feet and still had no water and these people have been without water for weeks. Beef Hut's business had been without water for weeks and they still had no cooperation from the city to resolve the problem. It is the mayor's responsibility to fix the problem and not the water department or the public works director. They were told it was not the city's problem. The homeowner at least deserves the city to try to find a solution to their problem. The article in the paper came from the homeowners and business

owners being upset and having no help from the city. However after the meeting with Dale Simpson and Al Stenzel on Monday, February 24th it was decided that alderman Hoy would be the contact for the residents regarding the updates and scheduled plumber. When the paper ran the article regarding the frozen water lines several residents were upset by the article and alderman Hoy met with Beef Hut owner Sam Taormino regarding his frozen line, after that alderman Hoy went to her car while the maintenance department met with the mayor to discuss solutions to get water service to their business. Mayor Nauman and alderman Hoy then discussed options with Sam Taormino and alderman Hoy was struck twice by the Mayor during the discussion. It is completely unacceptable and no one else would allow this to their mother, daughter or anyone. It is a problem and there were witnesses to this happening. Mayor Nauman explained that when he talked to Ev Eisenberg he told her that the city did not have any equipment to unfreeze her water line. Her best bet was to contact a plumber to get it unfrozen. It was the coldest winter in years and residents should have let their water drip. Alderman Shaw made the statement in his comments at the February council meeting. Several towns and villages also had frozen water lines and it was on the television stations to let your water drip to prevent freezing. When Mayor Nauman talked to the water department they had been in contact with other municipalities and they also were not going onto properties to unfreeze service lines. The city was not going into homes and not going to dig up streets to resolve problems. On February 23rd the mayor was in the hospital with shoulder surgery and when he arrived home he spoke with Al Stenzel regarding the frozen water lines and the residents were on a list with Schmitt plumbing and had to wait until they got to their name on the list. As for the maintenance/water department they checked several times at the Beef Hut keeping them up to date with the process. The city then asked the Vet clinic to hook up the Beef Hut so they had water to operate their business and per the health department and the city a temporary water line was setup. Mike Therriault was told by his plumber that he did not need a new service line and he chose to install a new line. We are lucky that we only had 6 services frozen as many other towns had many more than we did frozen. Before the mayor went to the hospital he had talked to alderman Stuckemeyer and they had a plan in place for Monday morning. Alderman Hoy disagreed that was not the information that she was told and she and alderman Stuckemeyer made decisions on Sunday and she met with Dale and Al on morning at city hall to finalize them. The homeowners were sitting with no water for weeks and nothing was going to be done until she called him. There were no previous decisions before that Monday morning to help the homeowners. Alderman Stuckemeyer and Hoy disagreed on how the plans were set in place. Alderman Stuckemeyer explained that even with the plan in place on Monday the residents had to be on Schmitt's list for their services and the city requested Schmitt to also service State Farm and Beef Hut since they were in town. State Farm did not open up and Hartco had to bear a line for service for both Mike Therriault and State Farm because their lines were still frozen. Mike Therriault was very upset that he was told that the city would not do anything to open the line. Kelly Dicaro had left water running and her business was affected and that they would have to wait until spring. Molly Meusel cannot open her ice cream business because of her not having enough water pressure to run her machines. She certainly hopes that the city is making it's best effort to correct the situation and not just waiting it out. Ev Eisenberg spoke regarding her situation and she had called the mayor and asked what could be done and he told her that they did not have

the equipment and it would be costly for the city. So after talking to the mayor with no solution she visited city hall and spoke with Daryl Stuckemeyer and he had no idea what to do. Then once alderman Hoy found out about the problem things started into motion and Schmitt plumbing was scheduled. She was already on the list with the plumber however until the city requested the service she had no timeline for them to arrive at her home. She carried water for days and her knee is swollen from carrying water. It was a huge inconvenience for weeks.

Building Inspectors Report-No Report.

Animal Report- See Report.

ATTORNEY CONCERNS-Nothing.

COUNCIL CONCERNS-

Alderman Stuckemeyer-Nothing.

Alderman Schamberger –Everyone is invited to the American Legion dinner at the Long branch on March 18th at 6pm. A buffet dinner will be served. Come support a great group.

Alderman Hoy-This water issue has been a nightmare for all of us but the way the city handled the problem is a complete embarrassment. Citizens were not dealt with and things were not followed properly. I do believe that Mayor Nauman should step down as mayor. We all need to be more aware of how we run the city and be more proactive instead of sitting and waiting for a solution to things. The city has had many issues in the last year.

Alderman Shaw-Nothing.

Alderman Weidman-Before I got on the city council I was aware of the many problems and wanted to help. I am on this council because I care about the city and it's hard to make decisions and we all need to work together.

Alderman Dewey-Nothing.

MAYOR CONCERNS-This winter has been a tough one and we are lucky that only 6 people were without water. We did not get things fixed quickly however we did not have the equipment and neither did the plumber before he came to work on the resident's water lines. The plumber took care of the problems and the city will be responsible for the bills. Normally running water will not freeze but make sure to leave your water run when it is cold. The city has never had to deal with this type of problem and we need to be more active on these types of situations. Sue England questioned the mayor and alderman concerning Mayor Nauman laying his hands on a woman and that it should have never happened. Mayor Nauman said that was her opinion.

With no further business to come before the council the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.
There were 84 people present in the audience.

Submitted by

Melissa Eisenberg, RMC
City Clerk-City of Amboy