

CITY OF AMBOY
COUNCIL MEETING
November 18, 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

Dave Shaw

MINUTE'S APPROVED-The minutes from the October 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 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 Weidman 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 that the building will be discussed under new business.

DEPOT MUSEUM-Alderman Shaw reported that the committee had a meeting and the museum will be closing Dec 1st until February. You can make an appointment anytime to visit the museum.

E.S.D.A- Alderman Dewey reported that the Halloween parade was a success. Also they are collecting toys for the ESDA Christmas baskets. Also had a good training and turnout for weather spotting.

PARK-Alderman Schamberger – No Report.

LIBRARY-Alderman Weidman reported the board met on Nov 12th and the library will be open Dec 1st during the Christmas Walk from 1-3pm for crafts and refreshments.

FINANCE COMMITTEE-Alderman Hoy reported that during the finance meeting the committee reviewed the budget, discussed Blackhawk Dues, Dollar General, sidewalk repairs and water plant work needed done in spring.

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE- No Report.

POLICE COMMISSION- No Report.

MAINT. DEPT /STREETS-Mayor Nauman reported that the temporary water line is almost finished on Hawley Street.

WATER/SEWER DEPT-Alderman Stuckemeyer reported that the temporary water line on Hawley was supposed to be a quick approval for the permanent water lines from the EPA. However the EPA didn't have the paperwork approved so a temporary line was put in until spring. Also the filter plant somehow has lost its filtration sand and needs new sand to replace the lost sand. The replacement cost for the sand is \$8,500 however the sand does freeze. The other filter plant is taking care of the filtration needs for the winter and in the spring the sand will be replaced and the plant running again.

CONCERNS FROM THE AUDIENCE-Darlene Hinkle representing ACO asked everyone to join their group and volunteer. They give donations to the library and host the local blood drives within the community.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS-

APPROVE 2014 CAR SHOW SAME REQUESTS

GROUND/STAGE/STREETS/WORKERS- Hank Gerdes on behalf of the car show committee is asking for the same courtesys for 2014 car show. Motion to Approve the request for the car show made by Aldermen Hoy and Stuckemeyer. All Approved.

NEW BUSINESS-

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

Brian McWethy Pastor from Grace Fellowship Church spoke regarding renting the community building for its growing needs as a church. The church would be interested in renting the old extension office portion of the building and use the community building banquet side on Sundays for church. The office area would be used as office space, children's church, and a nursery area. On Sundays the church would use the large banquet area for services. They would also like 5 extra rental dates in the contract for workshops. The proposed rental price would be \$750.00 per month for use of the facilities. Pastor Brian wants the building to be available for use to everyone in the community and the church is not asking for exclusive rights of the building just use of the building when not rented. It can all be scheduled around the any rentals for the building. Building Manager Julie DeArmitt is concerned on storage for the building and where the tables and chairs would go. Also cleanup from a wedding can be a lot of work and not an easy process. Also some people like to wait until the next day to get things picked up. Next year's bookings are mostly Saturday night events. The church would start around 10am on Sundays for the services. Attorney Matt Keegan thinks that use of the old

extension office area is fine for the city however he will have to review the rules for the community building side and see what defines rentals with governmental entities and church groups. He is unsure if the city can even rent their building to any church group for use of church services. The building should be available for any citizen wanting to rent the facility for their own purpose. Mayor Nauman will not have the aldermen make a decision tonight as it needs further discussion and advisement on the rental for Grace Fellowship. Nancy Kelly is concerned that the city may lose rentals at the building if people believe it's a church and not a community building. Alderman Stuckemeyer has some concern of overtime with snowplowing for the building parking lot on Sundays. Alderman Hoy commented that the parks are for the community and the community building is for the community and we must keep that in mind when making a decision. The community building may not be making enough to pay all bills but needs to still be a community building available for everyone. Alderman Shaw commended Julie DeArmitt on all her hard work and the good job she does taking care of the building and all the parties. Mayor Nauman commented that the council will discuss things again at the December council meeting. The building already pays for all the utilities and maintenance on the building whether someone rents the office area or not. Julie DeArmitt explained that cleaning up the building is a lot of work and not an easy task with heavy tables and chairs being moved. Motion to table until the December council meeting made by Aldermen Dewey and Hoy. All Approved.

APPROVE CERTIFICATION RAISE .25 FOR POLICE OFFICER LISA HART-
Officer Lisa Hart attended a week long field certification class in Iowa and was awarded a certificate of completion from the class. Motion to Approve .25 Raise certification made by Aldermen Hoy and Stuckemeyer. All Approved.

DISCUSS & APPROVE RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO HIRE PART-TIME EMPLOYEES FOR THE MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT- Mayor Nauman had requested a resolution for hiring of part-time employees with certain wage and time restrictions. Attorney Matt Keegan explained that the current draft gives the Mayor authorization to hire part time employees with set wage and time limits from the council. He can only staff the maintenance dept. and not other departments without authorization from the city council. Hank Gerdes questioned why this was drafted an if it was passed then what is the purpose of the aldermen on the council. This is not in the best interest of the city and how it is run. Mayor Nauman explained that the draft is not correct and needs to have the department heads also on it for anyone to be hired as an employee of the city. Past practice of hiring part time help has not been done right and this does not correct the problem. Alderman Hoy feels that this is a bad idea and not sure why all six aldermen would give up their vote to have the Mayor hire someone. This goes against all city ordinances and structure for the city council. It gives the council no action and makes the Mayor the only vote. Mayor Nauman wanted this to be an effective plan for hiring part time help for mowing or maintenance or when it is needed in a situation. It is intended to be the Mayor and department head making that decision not just the Mayor. Alderman Hoy explained that this all started when the Mayor hired two part time employees without council approval. If an emergency would come up the city has two meetings a month and can vote on

hiring employees at that time. Mayor Nauman wanted to know what the city does if we have a need for an extra person if it snows or for an event. Alderman Weidman questioned Hank Gerdes how he would handle hiring employees if they were needed for a snow storm or an emergency. Hank Gerdes explained that in an emergency the Mayor does have the right to hire an employee to complete a job for a temporary amount of time. However mowing a property is not an emergency situation and if needed should be a council decision. It should be done properly with an ad and applications and then the council would make the final decision. Alderman Stuckemeyer explained that years ago when the city had a large snow storm and needed an extra employee that someone was brought in to run a backhoe and clear city streets. However then after that work was completed that person was then done working for the city. Mayor Nauman has no problem with how the application process is done and the resolution ordinance vote is up to the city council members. Alderman Hoy is concerned that if this ordinance is passed then the council will no longer be needed to make any decisions when a new employee is hired. Mayor Nauman explained this ordinance is only for part-time employees when needed and nothing more. Otherwise it takes a meeting to hire someone if it is needed within the city. Alderman Dewey explained that how the current ordinance reads each employee must be approved by the council. Alderman Weidman wants the council to make sure they all review the ordinance so the city council can make a good decision. Alderman Stuckemeyer explained that when the attorney explained the hiring process for the city involves everyone even a tree trimmer or electrician that it must be council approved before the work is done. However if an emergency arises then the Mayor can make the decision to hire the contractor needed per the emergency at that time. Attorney Matt Keegan will advise the council with a proper list of emergency situations. Tabled until December meeting.

DISCUSS VETERANS PARK/LEGION OWNERSHIP-Larry Leffelman Legion president spoke regarding the Veterans Park property they own. They currently pay property taxes on the cement parking lot area. The city owns the park property and they do not have any property tax for that parcel. The Legion runs on a very limited amount of revenue and would like to gift the lot to the city so they do not have to use their funds to pay for taxes when it could be used for other community projects. They currently use a storage area owned by the First National Bank for wheel chairs and other medical items. The members have some ideas for the future of the property but do not have the funding at this time to make any changes. They would like a memorial wall built with plaques in the future. Alderman Hoy questioned if taxes were not an issue would they still want to gift it to the city. Larry Leffelman responded that at this time they have no use for the empty lot. Attorney Matt Keegan explained that if the city took the property it would not cost the city since it is a cement parking area and used as a public purpose owned by the city. The city would only be responsible for a year and half of taxes with the exchange of ownership change. Doug Foster Legion member would still take care of the park property along with Don Schamberger as the park was recently redone with new sod and trees. Larry Leffelman thanked the city crew for helping take the tree down and installing the sod at the park. Alderman Weidman wanted the Legion to know that when the property is turned over to the city they are giving up rights to any decisions in the future. Discussion and Vote to be done at the December council meeting.

Building Inspectors Report-1 Garage Permit.

Animal Report- See Report.

ATTORNEY CONCERNS-Nothing.

COUNCIL CONCERNS-

Alderman Stuckemeyer-The maint/water dept. crew fixed a water main break and did an excellent job. With snow coming there will be some overtime for the departments.

Alderman Hoy- Nothing.

Alderman Shaw-Happy Thanksgiving to everyone.

Alderman Weidman-Welcomes everyone to join ACO -it's a great organization to belong to and benefits the Pankhurst Memorial Library.

Alderman Dewey-Make a donation to local children by donating toys for the ESDA Christmas baskets.

MAYOR CONCERNS-Mike Richetta from Chamlin will have the bids for the railing next week. A special meeting will be held to approve the bids. The Illinois Fire Store is taking a trailer down to Washington, IL to help the tornado victims. Any donation is appreciated. The senior dinner will be held on Saturday Dec 14th at 12:00pm. Everyone is invited.

With no further business to come before the council the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. There were 21 people present in the audience.

Submitted by

Melissa Eisenberg, RMC
City Clerk-City of Amboy