

October 10, 2017

The Common Council met with Mayor William McKean for a regular meeting on Tuesday, October 10, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall according to the posted notice. Councilmen Gregg Sprunger, Curtis Wurster, Ron Dull, and Philip Provost were present, along with Attorney Dave Baumgartner and Clerk-Treasurer Gwen Maller. Mark Wynn was absent.

Councilman Gregg Sprunger opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance and Mayor McKean gave the invocation.

Minutes

On a motion by Ron Dull and a second by Phil Provost, the minutes of the September 25, 2017 meeting were unanimously approved.

Claims

On a motion by Gregg Sprunger and a second by Curtis Wurster, the claims were unanimously approved for payment.

Firing Range Rules

Chief Taylor reported that the modifications to the firing range at the waste water treatment plant have been completed. He stated that the east side of the backstop has been raised approximately 6 ft. with cement blocks. Because the north side of the range could not accommodate the cement blocks due to soft soil, 3-4 feet of packed dirt was installed to raise the backstop. Chief Taylor stated that the Board of Works instructed him to create a list of rules regulating the use of the firing range that would need to be followed. In addition to the City of Berne police department, the County officers use the range as do City employees and their families. Chief Taylor stated that the rules are as follows:

Proposed City Employee Range Rules and Safety Guidelines

1. Range use limited to City Employees, their family members, and retired Law Enforcement.
2. Any person from (1) must complete a safety course organized and held by the Berne Police Department Firearms Instructor(s) before use.
3. All rules included in Berne Police Department Range Rules and Safety Guidelines must be followed.
4. No range use before 3:30 pm Monday-Friday
5. Contact on-duty Berne Police Officer prior to use and when finished
6. Advise on-duty officer of weapons, ammo being used. On-duty officer to log.
7. Any person violating rules or commits unsafe act refer to (11) of the Berne Police Department Range Rules and Safety Guidelines. If family is the involved party, then the employee will be held responsible.
8. Range use will comprise of 50 yards and closer.
9. Any exceptions to these rules must be approved by Berne Chief of Police or Firearms Instructor.

Ron Dull made a motion to approve the City of Berne employee range rules and safety guidelines as submitted, implement them immediately and include them in the City of Berne Employees handbook. Curtis Wurster made the second and the motion was unanimously passed.

2018 Pre-Adoption Public Hearing

The regular Council meeting was recessed for the public hearing as advertised in Gateway.

A pre-adoption public hearing for the 2018 budget was held at 7:45 p.m. The total of all funds for the budget is \$ 3,107,793 including the tax cap credit. The final adoption of the 2018 budget will be on October 23, after which it will be uploaded to the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) through the Gateway site within two (2) days after adoption. No objections from the general public were raised.

The public hearing was closed and the regular council meeting was reconvened.

Wayfinding Signage

Mayor McKean gave a brief recap of the events that led up to the new wayfinding sign being considered for industries along the Parr Road corridor. He stated that a several years ago he was talking to the different industries and asked if there was anything the City could do for them. FCC (Adams) asked for three things. 1. More lighting; 2. Parr Road widened due to employee/truck traffic; 3. A sign at the corner of Parr Road and US 27 to direct truck traffic to their plant. Mayor McKean stated that if the City was going to get involved with it, there should only be one sign with all companies in the Industrial Park listed. The Baldus Company, who designed the gateway signs leading in to Berne was contacted to create the same type of look for a Parr Road wayfinding sign. The proposed sign would cost \$10,780 with \$1,800 for the foundation. The sign would be located outside of the U.S. 27 right of way but in the Parr Road right of way. Mayor McKean stated that he knew there were questions at the last meeting about the businesses helping to pay for the sign, but he feels that they do a lot for the City through various donations to community projects and this is something we can do for them. Funding for the signage would come from the CEDIT fund, which is for economic development. Councilman Phil Provost stated that while he loved the idea and it would be beneficial, he feels an inquiry should be made to see if the businesses would partner with the City for the cost of the sign. Councilman Provost said he that if each industry would give \$895, the cost to the City would be recouped and not come from taxpayers. Mayor McKean disagreed and stated that CEDIT would be used and between all seven businesses there are more than 1,425 employees. Ron Dull stated that maybe a letter could be sent to the businesses to see if they would be willing to financially support the sign. When Mayor McKean asked who would write the letter, Phil Provost stated that he would. Gregg Sprunger made a motion to order the sign per the proposal. Curtis Wurster made the second and the motion passed on a vote of (3) three yeas and (1) one nay vote cast by Phil Provost.

Phil Provost made a motion to ask the businesses in the industrial park to give a donation for the sign. Ron Dull made the second and the vote was (2) two yeas and (2) nays. Due to the tie vote, Mayor McKean cast his vote as nay and the motion to ask the businesses to give a donation for the sign was defeated.

Attorney Comments

Attorney Baumgartner reported that he is working on the nuisance ordinance update and hopefully will be submitting a draft later this week for review.

Attorney Baumgartner also informed the Council that Geneva is holding another fire territory meeting on November 6, 2017, and letters went out today to invite City officials to the meeting.

Clerk-Treasurer Comments

Clerk-Treasurer Gwen Maller reported that there will be a meeting on October 17, 2017 with INDOT concerning the Community Crossings grant details.

Mayor Comments

Mayor McKean reported that the leaf pick-up route started last week and is going well.

Mayor McKean also thanked Councilman Curtis Wurster and the Park Board for all their work on the Lehman Park fall festival held this past Sunday.

Council Comments

Councilman Ron Dull asked if Chief Taylor and Kurt Dailey looked at the intersection of Dearborn and Fulton streets to consider changing the traffic signs there. Chief Taylor said that they had looked at it and both he and Kurt Dailey felt that no change was needed now. Looking to the future, there may be a City garage on the property and the signage at that intersection will be necessary. Ron stated that maybe there needs to be signage showing that it is a dead end now. Drivers who are unfamiliar may not realize Dearborn ends at Fulton Street. Chief Taylor stated that he will inform Kurt Daily about getting some reflectors.

Councilman Gregg Sprunger asked who reports street lights out. Gregg was instructed to call Jody Mawhorr at the Police Station and she will report it to I & M.

There being no other business to come before the Council and upon a motion duly made to adjourn by Gregg Sprunger and seconded by Ron Dull, adjournment followed.

William F. McKean, Mayor

ATTEST:

Gwen Maller, Clerk-Treasurer