

October 24, 2016

The Common Council met with Mayor William McKean for a regular meeting on Monday, October 24, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall according to the posted notice. Councilmen Gregg Sprunger, Curtis Wurster, Ron Dull, and Phil Provost were present, along with Attorney Dave Baumgartner and Katrina Armenta for Clerk-Treasurer Gwen Maller. Councilman Mark Wynn joined the meeting after the approval of minutes.

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 Curtis Wurster, the minutes of the October 11, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved. (4) yeas and zero (0) nays.

Claims

On a motion by Curtis Wurster and a second by Phil Provost, the claims were approved for payment. (5) yeas and zero (0) nays.

Introduction of Adams County Economic Development Director

Mayor McKean introduced Mr. Trevor Hobbs, who is the new director of the Adams County Economic Development Corporation, replacing Larry Macklin who recently retired from that position.

Mr. Hobbs shared with the council his journey that brought him to this job opportunity, including graduating from Vanderbilt University, going on to receive his law degree, practicing law and later earning his MBA degree from Indiana University. Having served in various positions, he made a career choice to stay in the field of economic development.

Mr. Hobbs stated that Adams County in general, and Berne in particular, is well positioned to attract new business ventures. Among his goals as director will be to retain jobs, prepare potential employees with skills necessary for employment and create a business atmosphere that will keep young people in the county workforce. Mr. Hobbs added that finding skilled dependable employees is the number one concern for employers already in the county and in attracting new business investments.

The Mayor and the council thanked Mr. Hobbs for sharing his vision with them and they are looking forward to working with him in the future.

Consideration of Ordinances

Attorney Dave Baumgartner presented Ordinance # 685 which sets out an ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Berne, Indiana amending and restating chapter 70, sections 70.70 through 70.83 of the Berne City Code, including provisions regarding the authorization and regulation of the use of golf carts and off-road vehicles on the streets and alleys of the City of Berne, Indiana. Attorney Baumgartner advised the board that the only changes to Ordinance 685 were recommended by the Board of Public Works and Safety and the Berne Police Department. The recommended changes are to remove the age limit for an occupant in a golf cart and off-road vehicle and to remove the reference to the carrying of firearms on golf carts and off-road vehicles. These changes will allow our Ordinance to reflect the state statute.

Before acting on Ordinance # 685 concerning golf carts, Mayor McKean recognized guest Roxanne Hawkins, 524 Hoosier Street, who was not present at the time allotted for citizen comments. He asked Ms. Hawkins if she had any concerns that she would like to share with the council. Ms. Hawkins stated that some of her neighbors were aware of the agenda for tonight concerning the use of golf carts in city alleys. Having had issues with one neighbor in the past, which has been discussed in previous council meetings, she was afraid that this ordinance was in response to her neighbor complaining about her using her golf cart in the alley between her property and his. Dave Baumgartner assured Ms. Hawkins that consideration of the golf cart

ordinance is due to the city reviewing and updating the ordinance to meet state statute and there has never been any complaint from her neighbor or anyone else. Mayor McKean thanked Ms. Hawkins for attending this meeting and for her cooperation in clearing the alley of the railroad ties and garden.

With no further discussion and on a motion by Ron Dull and a second by Mark Wynn, the council unanimously approved introducing Ordinance 685 on its first reading. (5) yeas and zero (0) nays.

Ron Dull made a motion to waive and suspend the rules and regulations in order to adopt the ordinance at the meeting it was introduced. Curtis Wurster made the second and the motion was unanimously passed. (5) yeas and zero (0) nays.

Mark Wynn made a motion to approve Ordinance # 685. Gregg Sprunger made the second, and by a show of hands, the motion was unanimously passed. (5) yeas and zero (0) nays.

Attorney Baumgartner presented Ordinance 686; an ordinance for the regulation of traffic within the City of Berne, Indiana and amending chapter 73, schedule ii of the Berne City Code by the addition of a stop intersection.

Mayor McKean reported that a concerned citizen approached him about Old Colonial Drive and Parkway Street where a new housing addition is under development. With the added traffic and no traffic signage in place, this has become a dangerous intersection. A stop sign was discussed at the Board of Public Works and Safety meeting, and Chief Taylor stated that he agreed that the current configuration of the intersection presents a potential safety hazard. The Board of Works unanimously recommended that a stop sign be erected heading south on Old Colonial Drive at the corner of Old Colonial Drive and Parkway Street.

With no further discussion and on a motion by Ron Dull and a second by Phil Provost, the council unanimously approved introducing Ordinance 686 on its first reading. (5) yeas and zero (0) nays.

Gregg Sprunger made a motion to waive and suspend the rules and regulations in order to adopt the ordinance at the meeting it was introduced. Phil Provost made the second and the motion was unanimously passed. (5) yeas and zero (0) nays.

Curtis Wurster made a motion to approve Ordinance # 686. Mark Wynn made the second and by a show of hands, the motion was unanimously passed. (5) yeas and zero (0) nays.

2017 City of Berne Holiday Schedule

The holiday schedule for 2017, which includes adding Presidents Day, was brought back to the council after being discussed at the October 11, 2016 meeting. Per the request of Ron Dull, the council packets for this meeting contained the holiday schedule for the City of Decatur and for the offices of Adams County. When asked why this is coming up now, Mayor McKean noted that the Clerk Treasurer spoke about adding Presidents Day to the schedule last year, but it was decided to wait until this year. Mayor McKean stated that this is a way to reward our workforce. Ron Dull noted that adding Presidents Day gives city employees the same 13 holidays off as Decatur, but less that what the county receives.

After additional discussion and on a motion by Gregg Sprunger to approve the 2017 Holiday Schedule, including the addition of President's Day, and on a second by Phil Provost, the motion was unanimously approved by a display of hands. (5) yeas and zero (0) nays.

Presidents Day	February 20th	Monday
Good Friday	April 14th	Friday
Memorial Day	May 29th	Monday
Ind. Day	July 4th	Tuesday
Labor Day	September 4th	Monday
Columbus Day	October 9th	Monday

Veterans Day	November 10th	Friday
Thanksgiving	November 23rd	Thursday
Thanksgiving	November 24th	Friday
Christmas Eve	December 22rd	Friday
Christmas	December 25th	Monday
New Year's Eve	December 29th	Friday
NY Day 2018	Jan. 1st	Monday

2017 City of Berne Council Meeting Schedule

Discussion was held about moving up the starting time up for the council meetings. Gregg stated he would be fine starting at 7:00 pm but would be okay leaving it the same.

After further discussion and on a motion by Phil Provost and a second by Ron Dull, the council, by a show of hands, unanimously approved meeting the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 7:30 pm except for Columbus Day where the meeting will be moved to Tuesday, October 10th at 7:30 pm. (5) yeas and zero (0) nays.

Attorney Comments

Attorney Dave Baumgartner informed the Council that he is working with Chief Taylor on an ordinance addressing abandoned bicycles. Chief Taylor will bring his recommendations about the ordinance back to Dave and then it will come before council for their consideration. The police department has a large collection of bicycles and no policy in place to dispose of them.

Mayor Comments

Mayor McKean welcomed Katie Armenta back from her vacation.

The Mayor stated that the Adams County Solid Waste hosted recycle site at Simon's Steps will keep their extended hours, but will open at 8:30 am and close at 5:30 pm through the winter months. Mayor McKean also reported that the water department installed 16 of 19 taps at the new housing development at Old Colonial and Parkway Streets. The paddles at the lagoon were pulled by NEXOM last Tuesday, sent to the factory to be permanently installed and were back in service on Friday. Mayor stated that he is very pleased with how they are working.

Councilmen Comments

Ron Dull recognized the accomplishments of South Adams athletes, including Bailey McIntyre for wining the IHSAA cross country semi-state and the women's volleyball team winning the IHSAA regional volleyball title.

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

William F. McKean, Mayor

ATTEST:

Gwen Maller, Clerk-Treasurer