

August 13, 2018

The Common Council met with Mayor William McKean for a regular meeting on Monday, August 13, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall according to the posted notice. Councilmen Gregg Sprunger, Curtis Wurster, Ron Dull, Mark Wynn and Philip Provost were present, along with City Attorney Dave Baumgartner and Clerk-Treasurer Gwen Maller.

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

Minutes

On a motion by Mark Wynn and a second by Ron Dull, the minutes of the July 23, 2018 meeting were unanimously approved.

Claims

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

Plan Commission Report

Gregg Sprunger, Plan Commission President, reported on the Plan Commission hearing held prior to this meeting. The Commission made a motion to recommend to Council that secondary plat approval be given to Bern Developers LLC for Villas of the Courtyard Lakes, Phase IV, located on Hahnemann Court. Primary Plat approval was given in November 2016 and Bern Developers requested that the Commission approve a change to their original design of duplex villas to single family villas and reduced the number of lots down from eight to six. They have installed the utility lines and finished the street and cul-de-sac. With the secondary plat approval, they will be able to begin selling lots. Ron Dull made a motion to approve secondary plat approval for Phase IV of the Villas of Courtyard Lakes addition. Phil Provost made the second and the motion was unanimously passed.

The regular Council meeting was recessed for a public hearing

Public Hearing for petition to vacate an Alley.

A public hearing was held at 7:40 pm as advertised to receive public comments on a petition to vacate an alley that runs east and west between Hendricks and Lehman Streets. Of the four adjacent property owners, those present were Doug Bixler, Heidi Lehman and Landon Patterson. Doug stated that he originally filed the petition to vacate the alley because so many people were using it and going thru at a high rate of speed. Heidi Lehman said that her concern was for all the children playing in the alley and that it really was a safety issue because they were afraid that they would hit a child as they were backing out of their garage. Landon Patterson was not in favor of vacating the alley as he didn't see that there was a problem, and felt this was a waste of the city's time and money.

It was stated that there are utility lines in the North/South alley which intersects the alley in question. The City or any other company with utility lines must be able to access those lines and that would involve access to the East/West alley. It was also

noted that the North/South alley is grassed. City personnel stated they are not in favor of vacating.

After all public comments were made, the hearing was closed.

The regular Council meeting was reconvened.

Ordinance #709 Vacating a portion of an alley, being a public way in the City of Berne

Discussion was held concerning Ordinance #709 which would vacate a portion of the alley. It was felt that the Council had three options: they could pass Ordinance #709, which vacates the alley; they could deny the request or they could take no action. Phil Provost made a motion to deny the vacation of the alley and not pass Ordinance #709. Ron Dull made the second and the motion was unanimously passed. When asked, it was stated that if the homeowners want to plant grass in the intersection of the alleys, they could do so, but they are not allowed to put up a fence or other type of barrier.

Clerk-Treasurer Comments

Clerk-Treasurer Gwen Maller informed the Council that the budget will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Gwen also reported that the City of Berne was awarded the USDA-RD grant for two new Dodge Durango. It will cover 55% of the cost.

Mayor Comments

Mayor McKean reported that the security system installation at City Hall is almost completed and a training session will be held in the next couple of weeks.

Mayor McKean informed the Council that Mr. Ramon Montes from Koorsen Fire and Security is coming to review the situation at the dumpster site on the east side of the garage. The current security camera is not picking up car license plates of people who are illegally dumping, making it impossible to enforce the ordinance.

Mayor McKean stated that he spoke with INDOT and they should be finishing up the line striping on U.S. 27 soon.

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

William F. McKean, Mayor

ATTEST:

Gwen Maller, Clerk-Treasurer