

August 22, 2016

The Common Council met with Mayor William McKean for a regular meeting on Monday, August 22, 2016 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 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 Ron Dull and a second by Gregg Sprunger, the minutes of the August 8, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved.

Claims

Clerk-Treasurer Gwen Maller informed the Council that due to new software and a learning curve, this meeting there are three batches of regular claims marked A, B and C for Council approval. The three batches of regular claims are in addition to the regular set of payroll claims and two sets of manual claims. On a motion by Gregg Sprunger and a second by Curtis Wurster, all sets of claims were unanimously approved for payment.

Connect to Careers Update

Mr. Ryan Noblett, executive director of Connect to Careers was present to give an update on the activities over the last several months of the Connect to Careers program. He stated that their mission is: to create opportunities for career advancement through a fully engaged and effectively prepared workforce. They just finished a nine week Co-Starters launching class to help new entrepreneurs turn new ideas into small business. Nine people participated representing seven business which Mr. Noblett felt was very successful.

Other programs that they are working on include: Workforce weekly a weekly email newsletter that notifies the public about job opportunities; Talent Growth Initiative which is a leadership skills development program that will meet every other week for twelve weeks; and First Fridays which is breakfast meetings before work located at different businesses.

They are getting ready to submit an application for an OCCRA community development grant along with Wells County for \$250,000. This grant would help provide certification classes and pay 80% of the tuition while the employer pays the other 20%.

Council Appointment to the Berne Library Board

Council President Gregg Sprunger informed the other councilmen that Kathryn Gerber, Berne Public Library Director, gave notice that Kate Uebersax appointment to the library board expires October 30, 2016. Mrs. Gerber stated by letter that Kate fulfilled Andrew Sommer/Michelle LeFever's term and has been an excellent, involved board member and is willing to serve another term if appointed by the Council. Ron Dull made a motion to approve the appointment of Kate Uebersax to the Berne Library Board for another term. Mark Wynn made the second and the motion was unanimously passed.

Ordinance #681 Final Approval

Ordinance #681 amending and restating Chapter 51 of the Berne City Code including provisions regarding the sewer system of the City of Berne was presented to Council for approval. This ordinance is the same as the one introduced at the last meeting with the exception of a few changes to paragraph 51.16 of the local limits which IDEM required. Dave Baumgartner informed the Council that IDEM approved the rest of the ordinance. Terry Kongar stated that the required lower limits were not a problem and we are already meeting the levels. Phil Provost made a motion to approve Ordinance #681. Curtis Wurster made the second and the motion was unanimously passed.

City of Berne Industrial Pretreatment Enforcement Response Plan

Dave Baumgartner stated that approving Ordinance #681 was one step toward the renewal of the NPDS permit that is due next year. Another requirement in the permit process is to have an Industrial Pretreatment Enforcement Response Plan in place. The one submitted by Commonwealth Engineers would replace the current one and is more detailed, easier to understand and meets IDEM's requirements. Gregg Sprunger made a motion to approve the Industrial Pretreatment Enforcement Response Plan. Ron Dull made the second and the motion was unanimously passed.

Square Credit Card Reader

Curtis Wurster, acting as Park Board President, requested permission to have the City get a "Square" Debit/Credit card reader. He stated that the Park Board would like to be able to accept Debit/Credit cards at the Lehman Fall Festival to appeal to younger people who seldom carry cash. There is a 3% fee on each transaction that is deducted from the total payment. Gwen Maller checked with the State Board of Accounts who said that as long as it was donated money and going into a donation fund that they would not have a problem with the City using it. It can't be used for utility payments through, because the City can't absorb the fees, it has to be added to the customer payment. So for any payments accepted by the City, Paygov or Invoice Cloud or similar processors who add the fee to the customer's payment should be used. Ron Dull made a motion to approve the purchase of a "Square" Debit/Credit card reader for the Park Board to use. Mark Wynn made the second and the motion was unanimously passed.

Board of Public Works and Safety Meeting Update

Mayor McKean reported that the Board of Works met on Wednesday, August 17, 2016. The golf cart ordinance was discussed at the meeting. Mayor McKean stated he didn't realize that if someone from another town wants to drive in Berne they need to get a permit in their City and get a certificate (at no charge) from the Berne Police Dept. Ron Dull added that the ordinance needs to be reviewed and will be discussed at the next meeting. Officer Jim Newbold would also like state statue language pertaining to firearms be added to the ordinance.

Mayor McKean reported that there were several complaints concerning the property at 262 Lehman Street. The Board instructed Attorney Dave Baumgartner to write a letter to the owner under the nuisance ordinance and then reference the unsafe building ordinance.

Attorney Comments

Dave Baumgartner reported that the second draft of the water ordinance is under review. He is working with Water Superintendent John Crider and Clerk-Treasurer Gwen Maller.

Clerk-Treasurer Comments

Gwen Maller reported that she met with the DLGF and got more information concerning the budget. The budget has been uploaded for publication on the Gateway website.

Gwen Maller also congratulated Mayor McKean for winning the Mayor's challenge at the Kekionga Festival in Decatur last Saturday.

Mayor Comments

Mayor McKean reported that today was the first day that the Adams County Solid Waste District had extended their hours to 6:00 p.m. at the recycle station south of town. This will be on a trial basis.

Mayor McKean also reported that the waste barrels in the downtown area were sandblasted and painted black.

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

William F. McKean, Mayor

ATTEST:

Gwen Maller, Clerk-Treasurer