

April 10, 2017

The Common Council met with Mayor William McKean for a regular meeting on Monday, April 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, 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 Mark Wynn, the minutes of the March 27, 2017 meeting were unanimously approved.

Claims

On a motion by Gregg Sprunger and a second by Phil Provost, the March 2017 manual claims, April 14, 2017 payroll and regular claims were unanimously approved for payment.

Smith Brothers Annual CF-1

Mr. Dave Burson, Smith Brothers of Berne representative, submitted six CF-1 forms for Council approval. The total personal property estimated on the SB-1 for the different projects was \$1,950,00.00 and \$7,819,800 was estimated for real estate. They have spent \$3,818,493 on personal property and \$ 8,332,289 for real estate improvements with all projects completed. They have gone from 193 employees in 2005 to 480 employees as of March 11, 2017. Dave thanked the Council for being a partner with Smith Brothers and working alongside them making it possible for the expansion of the company and employees. The Council thanked Dave and Smith Brothers for all that Smith Brothers has done for the community.

Gregg Sprunger made a motion to find Smith Brothers in substantial compliance with all six of the Forms CF-1. Ron Dull made the second and the motion was unanimously passed.

EP Graphics Annual CF-1

EP Graphics submitted two Annual CF-1 forms for Council approval. Mr. Tyler Kitt, EP Graphics representative, was present to answer any questions. He stated that the new printing press is running and they have gained almost 4 million dollars in new revenue because of it as well as retaining several customers. He stated that press is doing half of the work of the entire plant. Their payroll is down a little due to the efficiency of the press, but he did state that they still have a lot to learn in how to run it. The Council thanked them for their investment in the community and hope to continue to work with them.

Curtis Wurster made a motion to find EP Graphics in substantial compliance with the two Annual CF-1 forms. Mark Wynn made the second and the motion was unanimously passed.

Rails to Trails Project Update

Mr. Randy Lehman, President of Rails to Trails, came before Council to update them on the trail project. He stated that there is a 10-ft. wide paved path beginning at Rainbow Lake south to the Wabash river and then spurs off to the covered bridge making it about 2 miles in length. This part of the trail is now part of the Adams County Park system.

Rails to Trails is applying for a grant to put two iron trussed railroad bridges across the Wabash river and flood plain and then extending the trail to C.R. 850S.

He also informed the Council that the Rails to Trails committee is applying for a grant from the DNR to construct a 10-ft. paved trail that would start at the South Adams Senior Center and go south to C.R. 700S. The grant would be \$200,000 with a \$50,000 local match. The Adams County Community Foundation has already pledge \$10,000 towards the local match. The grant needs to be submitted by May 1st. He stated that there will be a public meeting on April 20th at the South Adams Senior Center at 6:00 p.m. Randy stated that the City of Berne is the owner of most the land with only one other land owner that would be involved.

He is requesting a letter of support for this project from the Council at this time. Eventually they will be asking the City for a 25-50-year easement for the trail.

Curtis Wurster made a motion to have Attorney Baumgartner draw up a letter in support of the project which can then be approved at the next council meeting. Ron Dull made the second, and the motion was approved on a vote of 4 yeas, 0 nays with Councilman Gregg Sprunger abstaining since he as the treasurer of the Rails to Trails committee.

Park Project

Boy Scout Trevor Wilson came before the Council to inform them of a project he would like to do in Lehman Park to complete his Eagle Scout badge. He stated that he would like to create a safe play area on the east side of the park for the children of Berne. His project would include: replacing all borders of the playground with railroad ties; remulch all three playground areas with 9" of playground wood mulch; weed and reseed any bald areas and dispose of all the older border beams. He is looking to do this project in late April or early May. He will manage the project with his Boy Scout troop doing the work. The estimated cost of the project is \$1,794.10. The Park Board approved the project and it will come out of their budget.

Attorney Comments

Attorney Dave Baumgartner stated that Smith Brothers is looking to begin another expansion project and more information will be forthcoming in the next month or two. They will be requesting a bond thru the Redevelopment Commission and if they receive approval, Smith Brothers will then come to Council.

Clerk-Treasurer Comments

Gwen Maller stated that according to I.C. code 36-7-14-13 version b section a, “not later than April 15th of each year, the Redevelopment commissioners or their designees shall file with the unit’s executive and fiscal body a report setting out their activities during the preceding calendar year”. Gwen Maller presented the report for 2016 as follows:

Commissioners:

Randy Beer, President
Marc Graber, Vice-President
Nancy Scott, Secretary
Gwen Maller, Treasurer
Matt Lehman, Member

Employees

None

Expenditures

Supplies	\$ 5,436.51
Contract Services	249,952.23
Total Expenditures	\$ 255,388.74

Revenue Received

Property Tax Received	\$ 443,495.31
Misc.	4,105.71
Interest	827.44
Total Revenue	\$ 448,428.46

Tax Revenue Fund Balance as of December 31, 2016 \$616,755.37

Outstanding Obligations Payable from the TIF District:

Redevelopment Dist. Taxable Revenue Bonds of 2003
Amount Outstanding as of December 31, 2016: \$0
Amount Paid in 2016: \$ 0

Clerk-Treasurer Maller also submitted the 2017 1st quarter financial statements for Council review.

Mayor Comments:

Mayor McKean stated that there is once again uncontrolled dumping on the east side of the Jefferson Street City garage with all kinds of trash, tires, paints, and carpet being stacking on top of the dumpsters and all over the ground. The Mayor shared pictures to show the Council the mess and stated that it will have to be discussed at the next Board of Works meeting.

Mayor McKean stated that the employees are getting ready for the mowing season.

Councilmen Comments:

Councilman Mark Wynn stated that there is a boycott in the Amish Community regarding the purchase of Amish buggy plates. According to Mark, last year Adams County sold 2,200 buggy plates and this year Mark said only 10 have been purchased. Because buggy plates are part of a county ordinance, the Sherriff's Department are the only law enforcement agency who have the authority to issue citations. Mark stated that our City of Berne officers should have the same authority to enforce the buggy plate ordinance as the Sherriff's Department as there are many Amish buggies that are in Berne. Dave Baumgartner said he will call Mark Burry, who is the attorney for the Adams County Commissioners to see what can be done. Dave stated if there is a change in the county buggy plate enforcement ordinance, it should be for all police departments in Adams County, not just for Berne.

Councilman Ron Dull reported that the Indiana Honor Run for the Fallen will be held this year on May 12-14, 2017. They will take the same route as in the previous years starting at the Fort Wayne Coliseum and ending at the Indianapolis Circle Center memorial.

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

William F. McKean, Mayor

ATTEST:

Gwen Maller, Clerk-Treasurer