

July 23, 2018

The Common Council Met with Mayor William McKean for a regular meeting on Monday, July 23, 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.

Citizen's Comments

Mr. Landon Patterson, resident at 725 Hendricks Street, came before council stating that he received a certified letter in the mail notifying him of a public hearing at the August 13th Council meeting requesting the east/west alley next to his home be vacated. He stated he is not in favor of vacating the alley, and thinks it should be left the way it is. He stated that he has not noticed a high amount of traffic using the alley and he and his neighbors all have garages that open up onto the alley. Mayor McKean stated that the City still needs to determine if utility lines are in the alley. Attorney Dave Baumgartner stated that when a petition to vacate is submitted, certain procedures need to be followed, one of which needs to be a public hearing. Landon was asked to come to the public hearing on August 13th.

Minutes

On a motion by Ron Dull and a second by Phil Provost, the minutes of the July 9, 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.

City Wide Trick or Treat Night

The Berne Community Development Events committee set their annual Treats at the Tower event for October 30, 2018. The committee wondered if the City would like to have the City-Wide Trick or Treat night to coincide with their event. On a motion by Phil Provost and a second by Ron Dull, the Council unanimously designated October 30, 2018 as the City-Wide Trick or Treat night.

Disposal of Obsolete Fire Department Equipment

Attorney Dave Baumgartner reported that Fire Chief John Crider approached the Board of Public Works and Safety with an offer he received from a company wishing to purchase a twenty-year-old fire pumper that the fire department no longer uses. Dave reported that since the pumper is owned by the City, certain state statutes have to be followed when disposing of a piece of equipment, which include advertising for sealed bids or selling at an auction. John Crider stated at this point they are not ready to bring it before Council and no action was taken.

2019 Salary Ordinance for Appointed Officers and Employees

Ordinance #707 fixing salaries, compensation and benefit programs for 2019 for all appointed officers and employees of the City of Berne and establishing clothing allowances for the police department, police reserves and fire department was presented to the Council. Phil Provost made a motion to adopt Ordinance #707 on its final reading by short title. Mark Wynn made the second and the motion was unanimously passed.

2019 Salary Ordinance for Elected Officials

Ordinance #708 fixing salaries and benefit programs for 2019 of all elected officials of the City of Berne was presented to the Council for its final reading. Gregg Sprunger made a motion to adopt Ordinance #708 on its final reading by short title.

Curtis Wurster made the second and the motion passed on a vote of four yeas and one nay. Phil Provost cast the one nay vote.

Mayor Comments

Mayor McKean reported the Koorsen Fire and Security were here today and for the rest of the week installing the wiring for the new security system.

Mayor McKean also reported that the Parr Road project is finished and looks very nice.

Mayor McKean stated that he spoke with INDOT officials about the unfinished handicap corners at the intersection of US 27 and Highway 218 as well as the one at the clocktower and that they need to be completed before Swiss Days as a matter of public safety. As of last week, INDOT promised him they would come Friday weather permitting. Mayor McKean stated that they did come Friday as promised, but were rained out. They came back on Saturday and finished the corners. He stated that only a little amount of paving needs to be done before they are completed.

Mayor McKean wished everyone a good Swiss Days.

Councilmen Comments

Councilman Ron Dull asked about the problem with semi-trucks knocking over the signs at the corner of Jefferson and Highway 218. It was stated that INDOT takes care of the signs as it is a state highway and its not a City problem.

Ron Dull asked everyone to keep Gabe Morris in their thoughts and prayers. Gabe, an 8th grader from Norwell was in a farm accident and in critical condition.

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

William F. McKean, Mayor

ATTEST:

Gwen Maller, Clerk-Treasurer