

November 12, 2019

The Common Council met with Mayor William McKean for a regular meeting on Tuesday, November 12, 2019 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 Gregg Sprunger and a second by Mark Wynn, the minutes of the October 28, 2019 meeting were unanimously approved.

Claims

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

Ordinance #721

Ordinance #721 was submitted for Council consideration. This ordinance enacts and adopts a supplement to the Code of Ordinances for the City of Berne, Indiana as prepared by American Legal Publishing Corporation of Cincinnati, OH. On a motion by Ron Dull, Ordinance #721 was introduced by short title. Mark Wynn made a second and the motion was unanimously passed. Gregg Sprunger made a motion to waive the rules and procedures in order to adopt an ordinance at the meeting it is introduced. Ron Dull made the second and the motion was unanimously passed. Gregg Sprunger made a motion to adopt Ordinance # 721 on its final reading. Phil Provost made the second and the motion was unanimously passed.

Plan Commission Update

Gregg Sprunger gave an update on the Plan Commission meeting that was held prior to this meeting. There was a public hearing held for a request by Samuel Zuercher on behalf of John and Laurie Kaeser on his property at 805 Hendricks for a minor subdivision re-plat dividing his property in the 74th addition into two parcels. The Plan Commission approved the request and recommends to Council that the petition, dedication and replat of said subdivision and the covenants and restrictions be adopted. Mark Wynn made a motion to approve the replat of the 74th addition into 2 parcels. Curtis Wurster made the second and the motion was unanimously passed.

Attorney Comments

Attorney Dave Baumgartner reported that the Stormwater Board met at noon today in a public meeting to pass Declaratory Resolution SWMB2019-11-1, approving the construction and acquisition of certain storm water improvements and all matters related. In the resolution, the board also approved and adopted all plans, maps, specifications, drawings, details, and descriptions for the separation project with the estimate in the amount not to exceed \$7,100,000. Dennis Otten, Bose McKinney and Evans LLP, City of Berne bond counsel, was present to inform the Storm Water Board that the next step will be publishing a notice for a public hearing on December 4th. Following the public hearing, the board will be presented with a confirming resolution. Bid opening on option #1 of the project will be November 21, 2019 and opening of Option #2 will be December 5, 2019. The bids will be presented to the Council at their regular meeting on December 9, 2019. According to the timeline, Dennis stated that closing will be around January 7, 2020.

Clerk-Treasurer Comments

Clerk-Treasurer Gwen Maller presented the Council with the anti-nepotism certificates. Ordinance #629 states that each elected officer of the city is required to annually certify in writing that they have read, understood and complied with the terms and provisions of the ordinance. These certificates are then submitted to Mayor according to the ordinance.

Mayor Comments

Mayor McKean reported that the water department had a water leak today, and repairs were finished by 4:20 p.m. Mayor McKean thanked our employees for doing a great job in spite of the cold weather. He stated that the early snowfall came at a bad time, as the street department didn't have the snowplows on yet. Leaf vac pickup is continuing.

Councilmen Comments

Councilman Mark Wynn stated that he was not aware that the City does not provide health insurance coverage for our employees spouse or children. He stated that he thinks this should be looked into and there should be something provided for the younger families. He also stated that he has researched a plan that includes several municipalities in a group policy. Discussion was held. Gwen Maller explained that every year she looks into different options for health insurance, including the state plan, which is made up of several municipalities. Gwen stated that these options have been so expensive, the state wouldn't even offer a quote, and they advised the city to stay with the policy they currently have. Gwen further explained that the employee's cost for coverage is \$ 1.00 per year and that the city also contributes \$ 500 annually in each employees HSA account as well as \$ 1,500 annually in a medical reimbursement account, which can be used for out of pocket medical expenses and family insurance premiums. Most of the employees are happy with this arrangement.

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