

February 24, 2020

The Common Council met with Mayor Gregg Sprunger for a regular meeting on Monday, February 24, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall according to the posted notice. Council members Curtis Wurster, Ron Dull, Kelly Amstutz, Rod Mason and John Wanner were present, along with City Attorney Dave Baumgartner and Katie Armenta for Clerk Treasurer Gwen Maller who was not present.

Council President Curtis Wurster opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance and Mayor Gregg Sprunger gave the invocation.

Minutes

On a motion by Rod Mason and a second by Curtis Wurster, the minutes of the February 10, 2020 meeting were unanimously approved.

Claims

On a motion by Ron Dull and a second by John Wanner, the claims were unanimously approved for payment.

Council Appointment to the BZA

Mayor Sprunger informed the council that they need to appoint a member of the Berne Plan Commission to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Linda Steury currently serves in that position and indicated she would serve on the BZA should the council appoint her. On a motion by Ron Dull and a second by Kelly Amstutz, the council unanimously approved reappointing Linda Steury to serve on the BZA as discussed.

Attorney Comments

Dave Baumgartner reported that Josh Oswalt has filed a petition for annexation that will come before the council at the March 9th meeting. Poseidon Barge is planning a sizeable expansion to their plant and have filed for a tax abatement for that project. Dave further explained the procedures for the council in issuing tax abatements, which the council will be asked to consider over the next several meetings for local businesses who will be applying.

Clerk-Treasurer Comments

None

Mayor Comments

Mayor Sprunger reported on the recent pre-construction meeting of February 11th for the Water Street-Main Street storm water separation projects. The bond closing was February 18th. A letter to impacted residents and business along the Water Street and Main Street projects was sent on Friday.

The Mayor also reported on the Board of Public Works and Safety meeting held last Wednesday. Jennifer Lehman came before the board to ask for street closures for the annual Swiss Village 5K run which will be held in April. She also asked for Harrison Street to be closed at Main and Harrison for the Clock Tower concert series, Swiss Days and Treats at the Tower. The board gave their approval to both requests.

The city is still researching an IT company for cyber security, IT issues and networking. Another company assessed the city building last Wednesday and we are waiting on their quote.

Council Comments

Ron Dull added to the Board of Works report that work on the Village Way project will start after school is out. Ron thanked the Berne Witness for their continued investment in doing webcasts of school events.

There being no other business to come before the Council and upon a motion duly made to adjourn by Rod Mason and seconded by Kelly Amstutz, adjournment followed.

Gregg A. Sprunger, Mayor

ATTEST:

Gwen Maller, Clerk-Treasurer