

Common Council Meeting – Thursday, January 12, 2012 – Held at Ligonier City Hall – 7:00 pm – Audio Available

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Call to order by Mayor Fisel – Public Hearing regarding potential sale of property off East Union Street

As there were no comments from the public, the public hearing was closed by Mayor Fisel.

Call to order – Common Council Meeting by Mayor Fisel

Mayor Fisel offered her welcome to the new council members.

Roll Call

Present: Council President Ken Schuman, Council members Becky Gray, Chris Fought, and Julia Bell, Mayor Patty Fisel, City Attorney Steve Hagen, and Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn

Absent: Council member Kelly Ware

Minutes from previous meeting of December 12, 2011

Motion to approve by: Ken Schuman

Seconded by: Chris Fought

Vote: All Ayes

Citizens Comments

Name & Address: Gary Bishop

Comment: Welcomed the new members and proud to have them as council members.

Unfinished Business

1. City property off East Union Street

City Attorney Steve Hagen explained that the Mayor is authorized to offer the property sale. Mayor Fisel stated she would like Council support of a decision. Council member Ken Schuman expressed interest in selling the property with agreement from other members.

Mayor Fisel authorized the sale of the property within the approved guidelines.

New Business

1. Council President Election

Each year it is necessary for the council to appoint a president pro-tempore

Motion to reappoint Ken Schuman as Council President by Julia Bell

Seconded by: Becky Gray

Vote: All Ayes

2. Jeld-Wen CF-1

Compliance for CF-1 must be filed yearly for tax abatement.

Motion to approve the CF-1 based on the payroll even though the number of employees was not as

anticipated by: Ken Schuman

Seconded by: Chris Fought

Vote: All Ayes

3. Contract for Steve Hagen

City Attorney Steve Hagen presented a new contract for employment. For services over and above those included in the salary ordinance, the hourly fee is set at \$185.00. The previous two year rate was \$180.00.

Motion to approve the new contract for City Attorney Steve Hagen at \$185.00 per hour by: Ken Schuman

Seconded by: Julia Bell

Vote: All Ayes

4. Contract for Rick Pharis, Triad

City Engineer Rick Pharis presented a new contract for engineering services. The contract is identical to the 2011 contract with no rate increase.

Motion to approve the new contract for City Engineer Rick Pharis and Triad by: Chris Fought

Seconded by: Becky Gray

Vote: All Ayes

5. New Board Appointments for 2012

The Mayor and/or Council are responsible for several City board appointments including BZA, RDC, Economic Development, Plan Commission, and Park Board.

Mayor Fisel reappointed Nate Reynolds to the Park Board for another four year term.

Council has three appointments to the Plan Commission and each must be involved in City government in some way. The Mayor has four appointments to the Plan Commission with two being democrats and two being republicans. As the records showing term start dates are unavailable, the Mayor asked members to research their records for their start dates for their special meeting set for January 31, 2012, at which time they will elect their officers for 2012.

Two members of the Plan Commission resigned near the end of 2011, Mark Shearer, a Mayoral appointment and John Pettit, a Council appointment.

Mayor Fisel appointed Tami Janes to complete Mark Shearer's term.

The Mayor asked Council to consider and make their appointment to fill John Pettit's term by the next Council meeting.

The Redevelopment Commission (RDC) members are appointed yearly. The commission consists of two Council appointments and three Mayoral appointments. The School Board appoints one school board member as a non-voting RDC member. John Lutton, a Council appointment resigned from the board. Julia Bell stated she would volunteer to fill the vacancy.

Motion to appoint Julia Bell to the Redevelopment Commission by: Ken Schuman

Seconded by: Chris Fought

Vote: All Ayes

Gary Bishop is willing to continue on the board.

Motion to reappoint Gary Bishop to the Redevelopment Commission by: Ken Schuman

Seconded by: Julia Bell

Vote: All Ayes

Clerk-treasurer Barb Hawn will contact West Noble School Corporation for their 2012 appointment.

The Economic Development Commission (LEDC) does not require any appointments at this time.

Claim Registers – APV # 35362 through 35591

Motion to approve by: Ken Schuman

Seconded by: Becky Gray

Vote: All Ayes

Comments by Members of Council and Administration

Police Chief Bryan Shearer: Bryan welcomed the new members stating this is the first new Council since he has been the Chief. He asked that members consult with department heads to discuss any questions or problems that may come up with residents to resolve the problems – it is not necessary to wait for Council meetings.

Fire Chief Jeremy Weaver: Jeremy reported that volunteers would be going door to door in the City for a department portrait fundraiser. He also reported that fire inspections will commence in February. Shawn Cox will be in charge of inspections and is working with the state. Items addressed in the inspections will include clear exits, lighting, working smoke alarms, closed electrical panels, etc.

Street Superintendent Mike Burdette: The staff is changing street signs over to the reflective signs as mandated by the state. The project is set to be completed by 2015. We are in good shape funding wise as we have been replacing signs as needed. Because the project is over 50% completed, we will not continue pursuing a grant that would help fund the project. The grant required a City match which would be above the cost necessary to complete the project on our own. Mayor Fisel added that the City received five proposals to do the inventory, the first phase of the grant which would cost \$20,000. Letters will be sent to the firms who sent proposals, thanking them and informing them of the City's decision.

Council President Ken Schuman: Ken welcomed and thanked his new fellow Council members.

City Attorney Steve Hagen: Steve added his welcome to the new Council members.

Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn: Barb added her welcome to new Council members and looks forward to working with them.

City Engineer Rick Pharis: The City will be applying for an OCRA grant for the water department in the amount of \$600,000 and Region III-A will be here for a public hearing prior to the next Council meeting. The plans for the funds include: hydrant replacement, site piping, and a holding tank to address the backwash issues at CSO 9.

The CSO project in the northeast basin will separate the storm water lines by adding new sewer lines. The CSO project will be awarded by the end of March for construction beginning in April, and should take 12 months to complete. The GO bond funds will be used for the paving project associated with the project.

Mayor Patty Fisel: The CSO project will be done in Becky Gray's district. The residents will be alerted and informed of the project. Becky and others receiving calls with questions can direct the residents to contact Rick Pharis who will be the lead on the project.

The department heads will meet with HR Unlimited to work on a revised employee handbook on January 18. The existing handbook has not been addressed since 1999.

The Mayor offered her thanks and appreciation to those who are willing to serve as appointments on the City boards. The Mayor wants to be sure everyone knows her door is always open. Please feel to contact her with any needs.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by: Ken Schuman

Seconded by: Chris Fought