

City Council Meeting Minutes
January 3, 2017

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Steve Shepard called the Regular City Council Meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. Council members present were: Jesse Knight, Sharon Jones, Jeff Blosser, Mark Brooks, Betty Hughey, and Sharon Haun. City Administrator Danny Matthews was also present. City Attorney Randy Heilman was absent. Others attending were: Jason Booker, Diane Wolfe, Deputy Building Inspector James Masters, Building Inspector Larry Siegrist, Craig McNeal, and Megan Glotzbach.

Blighted Structures Hearing @5:30 P.M.

Deputy Building Inspector James Masters reported the property owned by Floyd L. and Belinda M. LeMay at 310 Hockaday has been demolished and removed and is now in compliance.

The Property owned by Susan L. White at 115 N. 4th St. needs an order issued to remove, demo, or repair the structure on the property. Councilperson Jeff Blosser made a motion to have City Attorney Randy Heilman issue an order to remove, demo, or repair the structure located at 115 N. 4th Street and allowing until March 1, 2017 due to inclement weather season. Councilperson Mark Brooks seconded the motion and the Council voted 6-0 in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD I

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilperson Betty Hughey made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented in the packet. Councilperson Sharon Jones seconded the motion. The consent agenda consisted of:

- A. December 20, 2016 Minutes.
- B. December 20, 2016 to Current Appropriations.

The Council voted 4-0 in favor with Councilperson Jeff Blosser and Mark Brooks abstaining. Motion carried. 6-0

OLD BUSINESS

- C. Washington St. "speed limit lowering" review.

Mayor Steve Shepard noted during the December 16, 2016 meeting the decision was made to lower the speed limit on Washington St. and many have voiced their opinion on the speed limit change. The City has received an email from the Morris County Hospital Administrator expressing his concern about the lower speed limit and states it is too slow. Mayor Shepard opened the floor for the public to give their input. Jason Booker, resident of N. Washington Street, noted he has seen people slow down and there is an 11 second difference between 30mph and 20mph from Main Street to the Hospital. Mr. Booker noted the other neighbors are in favor of the lower speed, signs are cheaper than a sidewalk, and no one who complains about the lower speed lives on N. Washington Street. Councilperson Mark Brooks noted he has seen research on traffic safety stating there is a 5% chance of a pedestrian death at 20mph, 45% chance of a pedestrian death at 30mph, and 80% chance of a pedestrian death at 40mph. Councilperson Jesse Knight made a motion to table this until next meeting to allow more information to be gathered and a chance for community members to voice their objections. Councilperson Mark Brooks seconded the motion. Councilperson Sharon Haun noted the Council may want to look at the speed limit for the whole town. The Council voted 6-0 in favor. Motion carried.

- D. Alternate Lake Committee Appointment

Mayor Steve Shepard appointed Councilperson Mark Brooks as an Alternate for the Lake Committee. Councilperson Jeff Blosser confirmed the appointment. Councilperson Betty Hughey seconded the motion and the Council voted 6-0 in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- E. Council Grove City Lake Association.
No one present.

- F. Police Committee recommendations

Councilperson Jesse Knight reported the Police Committee Recommendations:

- Seeking purchase authority up to \$15,200.00 from equipment reserve to purchase the following equipment for the Police Department.
 - o 2 digital car cameras
 - o 2 Mossberg 500 pump shotguns
 - o 3 radar units
 - o 2 AR 15 Rifles to be kept in the police cars.

Councilperson Mark Brooks inquired about mounting for the AR's. Councilperson Jesse Knight noted Police Chief John Stone will be looking into it. Councilperson Knight noted in the future a budget and

schedule will be put into place to replace or repair equipment as needed rather than doing them all at once. Councilperson Jeff Blosser made a motion to give purchase authority up to \$15,200.00 out of Equipment Reserve to purchase the equipment requested. Councilperson Sharon Jones seconded the motion and the Council voted 6-0 in favor. Motion carried.

GOVERNING BODY COMMENTS

Councilperson Jesse Knight wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Councilperson Jeff Blosser noted the Street Committee will need to get together soon and Happy New Year.

Councilperson Sharon Haun wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Councilperson Mark Brooks noted he is going through some health issues and will do the best he can and wishes everyone a Happy New Year.

Mayor Steve Shepard wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Mayor Shepard noted the center draw of Council Grove is the Riverwalk and he would like the Council to think about doing something more next year for the Holidays. Mayor Shepard noted it may be nice to have a professional come down and decorate the trees along the river walk with lights to really make the area stand out. Diane Wolfe noted the pride committee is looking into that as well.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilperson Betty Hughey made a motion to adjourn. Councilperson Mark Brooks seconded the motion and the Council voted 6-0 in favor. Motion carried.

Steve Shepard Mayor

~~ATTEST:~~

Danny Matthews City Administrator

