

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 1, 2010
TIME: 7:00 P.M.

Present: Mayor Gary Herbert, Darrell Poling, Jamie Cain, Helen Gardner, Herb Hunter and Bill Wenning.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call was taken with all present.

Minutes were approved, motion by Herb Hunter and seconded by Helen Gardner. All ayes. So passed.

Gary Malone from H.J. Umbaugh and Associates was present. He stated the water and sewer utilities have been managed very well. He handed out comparison charts and stated Umbaugh is recommending a rate increase over the next three years of 5% for water and sewer each. The financials could be looked at yearly to see if the rate increase due for that year still needs to be implemented. Umbaugh had done an analysis study.

The Mayor stated that the rates were raised two and a half years ago. The City's lowest bracket of water is sold for \$1.15 for a hundred cubic ft. and it is costing \$1.45 to produce.

Some of the Council asked questions such as: if another large industry should leave or close up is the rate going to increase on everyone to replace that industry's 10% cost of water? Gary Malone stated not necessary 10%, but you may have to revisit the adequacy of the rates because they may or may not be sufficient at that time.

Another question was: is there another way to cut cost instead of raising the rate? The water and sewer departments and utility office have all looked at everything possible to cut their costs.

A Councilman stated when he looked at this packet, he saw where the residents cost has been staying good, but if industry is down, then he doesn't think the residents should have to be the ones to catch up the cost. With these economic times this is a tough decision. Was Honda a factor?

The Mayor stated that when Honda came to Greensburg they signed an agreement to buy so much water. Honda has been paying for the whole amount in the agreement even though they haven't been using the entire allotted amount.

A Council member stated they didn't like to have to raise the rates, but other cities have more than one trash that they pay separately for. We are blessed to have local city service for trash. We have looked at getting new meters and that hasn't happened. The lines are very old and need replacing.

Jeff Smith Wastewater Superintendent stated the City has annexed a lot of property and the sewer doesn't have the revenue to take care of what is needed for all the annexed area. He doesn't like to see a rate increase either but every year that it is held off is causing them to use up their reserve and then the increase would be a lot higher. Electricity for the sewer plant has gone up and he has motors that cannot be shut down. The sewer line on Park Road needs replaced badly. Park Road has water leaking into the sewer. The problem could get where there would not be sanitary service when a two inch rain comes.

Rick Denney Water Superintendent stated he took a lot of items off of his improvement plan. He has a five man crew for the whole outside. He has equipment that needs replaced. Nobody wants to raise rates.

Motion by Helen Gardner and seconded by Darrell Poling to pass on 1st reading Ordinance 2010-1 Sewer rates and Ordinance 2010-2 Water rates. Ayes Jamie Cain, Herb Hunter, Darrell Poling and Helen Gardner. Bill Wenning nay. So passed.

Motion by Helen Gardner and seconded by Jamie Cain to pass on 1st reading Ordinance 2010-3 Water Availability. Ayes Darrell Poling, Herb Hunter, Bill Wenning, Jamie Cain and Helen Gardner. Nays none. So passed.

Kathy Reynolds gave a report on the traffic committees meeting January 20th. They had discussed the recommendation of neighbors in the 400-500 block of N. Monfort Street to make North Monfort a one-way street from Michigan to First St.

This is a very tight narrow area.

The committee's recommendation is to make North Monfort a one-way street from Michigan to Walnut St. They would like to give the neighbors in the area

that might not be aware of this, a chance to give their opinion in the matter. They would wait until the next Council meeting.

The committee is made up of the Fire Chief, Police Chief, Street Superintendent, Councilwoman Helen Gardner and Kathy Reynolds.

Motion by Darrell Poling and seconded by Herb Hunter to pass Resolution 2010-1 and SB1 tax abatement for GECOM for three years on new manufacturing equipment. Ayes Jamie Cain, Herb Hunter, Darrell Poling, Bill Wenning and Helen Gardner. Nays none. So passed.

Council members had three candidates that would be willing to serve on the BZA Board, Janet Alloy, David Leas and Tony Colson. The member that has been serving on the BZA has been there for 12 years and would be willing to serve again if Council agreed.

After discussion it was decided to spread the BZA Board position around to others in the community. This is an appointed position.

Motion by Darrell Poling and seconded by Bill Wenning to appoint Janet Alloy to the BZA Board. Ayes Herb Hunter, Jamie Cain, Bill Wenning, Darrell Poling and Helen Gardner. Nays none. So passed.

Jean Johanningman thanked the Council and the previous administration for the opportunity to be on the Board.

Council listened and reviewed contribution request from the following groups:

MainStreet Greensburg was formerly Hottcity & Downtown DGDC. David Miers addressed the Council. They have a committee and have members from each of the former groups for the newly formed MainStreet Greensburg.

Bryan Robbins gave a presentation of what has been accomplished and what they have planned. He handed out and reviewed the annual report. They are requesting \$30,000 for the year 2010.

Economic Development Executive Director Vicki Kellerman thanked the Council for their support the EDC received last year. She wanted to let the Council know they are enhancing their website with tools for business success. She also extended an invitation to all the elected officials to their next Board meeting that will be held at the REMC at 7:00 A.M. They appreciate any support from the City.

(The City has been giving \$60,000 a year from Edit funds to the EDC.)

Jim Cummings from The Learning Center stated that Workforce sent 200 people whom had lost their jobs to the Learning Center for the year 2009. The center will have provided over 2000 college credits this year to people attending. The Center is requesting \$10,000 for the year 2010.

Jackie Blasdel and Jan Bartels were present for the New Directions. In 1992 this was opened as an outreach facility and in 2000 the shelter was opened. They had one resident that stayed 39 days with 6 kids. On April 10th they are having a fund raiser pork chop dinner. They provided a budget. They are requesting \$15,000 for the year 2010.

Tom Hunter was present concerning the School Resource Officer. The officer works for the three schools. He takes care of school safety and runs the security system in the schools. He works with the School Safety Specialist throughout the State of Indiana. They would appreciate any support. Last year the City gave \$5,000 and they are requesting the same.

The personnel committee was discussed and Council members asked Bill Wenning and Helen Gardner if they would consider staying on the committee. Both agreed to stay on this committee with the Mayor.

Motion was made by Herb Hunter and seconded by Jamie Cain. Ayes Darrell Poling, Jamie Cain and Herb Hunter. Bill Wenning and Helen Gardner abstained. So passed

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

PRESIDING OFFICER:

ATTEST:

Clerk-Treasurer