

MINUTES OF COUNCIL-AS-A-WHOLE COMMITTEE MEETING
CITY OF SANDWICH, ILLINOIS – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
128 E. Railroad Street
October 5, 2009

Mayor Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Roll call was taken:

Present: Mayor Thomas, Aldermen Beverley, Hyatt, Killey, McMahon
Moran & Robinson

Absent: Aldermen Dannewitz and Keene

Annexation of Lane Property: Mayor Thomas provided the Council with a map showing the Lane property. He pointed out that the property has water and sewer, and is being charged twice the rate because the property is not within City limits. The Mayor said the landowner does not want to pay necessary costs to be annexed, but added the City needs the availability to access annexed property to the West. Attorney Paul suggested an easement could provide the same desired benefits. This matter will be put on next week's agenda.

Water Rates: Mayor Thomas explained that the City has had a 4% annual increase in water rates since 1997. The money is used to fund the bond for the new water plant. There is 3 years remaining on the bond, and a new increase schedule is needed. Alderman McMahon suggested a schedule for 4 years at the rate of 4% increase annually. Attorney Paul will prepare the necessary paperwork.

Lions Club: Gary Lemke, representing the Lions Club, was present to explain about a project the club will be undertaking. Volunteers will be building temporary ramps for those in need within the community. The Lions Club is requesting the City to waive any fee or permit costs. The Council expressed their support for the project. This matter will be placed on next week's agenda.

Mr. Lemke also explained another forthcoming project. The Lions Club would like to have a drop box located in the vicinity of City Hall whereby used eyeglasses could be deposited for re-distribution to the less fortunate. A location was discussed between the Annex Building and the Opera House. This matter will be placed on next week's agenda for a vote.

Trick & Treat Hours: Aldermen McMahon and Killey advised that they had received complaints about the trick & treat hours as being too long. Chief Olson noted that because Halloween falls on a Saturday this year, perhaps the hours should be changed to 3-7 PM to allow more daylight time for the younger children. Mayor Thomas said he had received a request that there be no leaf burning on October 31st enabling children with asthma to partake in the trick & treating, and also because smoke might hinder visibility when crossing streets. Council was in full agreement, and this will be placed on the agenda next week for a vote.

Monthly Billings: Mayor Thomas explained the problems that are being encountered with the monthly bills. There are a large number of late charges being assessed to various accounts, and perhaps the Council should consider going to a bi-monthly payment schedule. This matter needs further research, and will be placed on the agenda for the next Committee meeting on October 19th.

Proposed Closure of Pleasant Ave: Several concerned Prairie View School parents were present asking questions about the proposed closure of a portion of Pleasant Avenue during school hours. They expressed concerns for the safety of the children, and asked that the City not pass the ordinance until they have met with the school board. The next school board meeting is scheduled for October 21st. The Mayor requested Alderwoman Killey to attend the School Board meeting and report back to City Council.

Attorney Paul presented a revision for Ordinance 2009-12 amending Section 93 of Chapter 74 of the municipal code of Sandwich, Illinois, requiring stops for specified traffic concerning Drew Avenue and Tara Street. The first reading was last week, and this will be placed on the agenda for next week.

Attorney Paul presented Resolution 2009-04 entitled "Resolution approving and authorizing a commercial real estate contract between St. Mary's Carbon Company and City of Sandwich". **Alderman McMahon made a motion to purchase the General Carbon building under the agreement presented for \$768,000.00. Alderman Robinson seconded. Aye: Aldermen Killey, McMahon, Moran and Robinson. Nay: Aldermen Beverley and Hyatt.** Alderman McMahon asked to withdraw his motion but Attorney Paul said because the motion had been voted upon, the motion could not be withdrawn. Attorney Paul indicated because this is a purchase, it could only pass with a majority vote. He said Mayor Thomas would need to vote also. **Mayor Thomas voted no, and the motion failed by 4:3.** Aldermen McMahon and Robinson requested this be put on the agenda for next week for reconsideration when all the Council members are present.

Attorney Paul presented Resolution 2009-05 entitled "Resolution approving and authorizing an indefinite term of lease for land between BNSF Railway Company and City of Sandwich". There was no discussion. **Alderman Robinson made a motion to accept Resolution 2009-05 as presented, and Alderman Beverley seconded. Aye: Aldermen Beverley, Hyatt, Killey, McMahon, Moran and Robinson. Nay: 0 Motion carried 6:0**

Fieldcrest Subdivision: Present were Attorney Steve Krentz, and developers Jim Smith and Phil LaBarbara. The performance bond deadline is November 1st. Attorney Krentz indicated the target deadline to have everything completed is October 19th, and he asked for questions from the Council. There were no public comments or questions from the Council.

Engineer Horak reported that plans have been submitted to IDOT on the Railroad Street project. He indicated that there is money available to revise the work to be done, and this will be presented at the next Council meeting.

Woodbury School Paving Plans: The school district wants to pave the North side of 2nd Street along school property. Presently the sidewalk is built up 6 inches to create a curb along the graveled area. The school district wants the paved area to be level with the sidewalk. Mayor Thomas reported that the City has replaced the walkway twice, and he suggested installing barriers as a safety issue as well as detour cars from parking on the sidewalk. City Engineer

Tom Horak suggested making the school district responsible for sidewalk repairs. Council requested that City Engineer Horak develop a solution.

Chief Olson recommended a 4-way stop sign at Ernest Drive and Dutch Street. The park area is located on the Southwest corner of this intersection. This will be put on the agenda for next week.

Alderman McMahon: Arnie Schramel, a representative from Progressive Energy Group, was present for additional questions on his proposal to save the City money on their electrical usage. He indicated that presently there would be no savings on Nicor billings, but he estimated between \$7,000 and \$9,000 would be saved annually on electricity. Mayor Thomas said City buildings are covered under a franchise agreement with ComEd except for the sewer plant at 1120 E. Church Street. Mr. Schramel indicated that those buildings affected by the franchise agreement are not part of the projected savings proposition.

Alderman McMahon noted that City Accounting Clerk, Beth Searl, was present in the audience and questioned her opinion. She felt the City could benefit from the program but did not know how the ComEd franchise agreement would be affected. Progressive Energy Group is a broker, and their fee would be \$.002 per kilowatt hour that the City would pay.

Alderman McMahon made a motion to allow Mayor Thomas to proceed with negotiations with Progressive Energy Group to save the City money for a 6-month period ending May 30, 2010, and that the City should realize a 5% savings within 90 days, or the contract can be cancelled. Alderman Hyatt seconded the motion. Aye: Alderman Beverley, Hyatt, Killey, McMahon and Robinson. Nay: 0 Abstained: Alderman Moran Motion carried: 5:0

Alderman Robinson: Alderman Robinson questioned the City contract with Attorney Paul. He provided the Council with a copy of the contract along with paid invoices for the past five (5) months. Alderman Robinson said it is his opinion that the City is paying Attorney Paul twice for some services, and asked the Council to review the documentation he provided. This matter will be continued to next week.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, **motion made by Alderman Moran and seconded by Alderman Robinson to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

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Denise li, City Clerk