



Minutes of the General Government and Public Safety Committee meeting of Tuesday, November 13, 2012.

The meeting was called to order by Alderman Wilkins at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Grenke, and Aldermen Magley, Sanders, and Bormann. Also attending were Lynn Behrns, Police Chief Larry Dudgeon, Fire Chief Denny Rusch, Darryl Spauldin, and James Smith.

Those present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Comments from Citizens

None

Economic Development

Ginny Zoellers will be attending the regular Board meeting to report on Chamber activities.

Behrns reported that he had garnered resolutions of support from all the other taxing entities which share territory with the proposed EEZ. Thereafter, the Boone County Commission authorized signing the Memorandum of Understanding on EEZ operations and a Resolution adopting the abatement levels and categories of eligible businesses under the program. The application has been signed by Commissioner Atwill and hand delivered to the Department of Economic Development. A review by their staff should be completed by the end of the week. Then it must be also reviewed by officials with the legislature and the governor's office. Because of elections and holidays, the timing for that step is hard to predict. DED has promised to keep us aware of progress.

Park Department

The Park Board minutes for their October meeting and a future agenda were in the Committee agenda packet.

Mayor Grenke said he had passed along a citizen suggestion for designating the west entrance to the recreation center parking lot to be "one-way".

Cemetery Advisory Committee

No written report. Behrns mentioned that only a portion of the Avenue of Flags had been erected because of high winds and a forecast of heavy rains.

Tree Board

No report.

Library Board

No formal report was made, but minutes and an agenda for the next meeting were presented in the Committee packet.

Finance

Financial statements for October were in the agenda packet.

Bills over \$1,250

Committee received a preliminary list of bills over \$1,250. Behrns clarified that the payment to Whelan was for grave openings and headstone straightening. He said that the City was doing most of its own



tree work for the rest of the year and would not have assignments for Asplundh until spring. He did not think that the water main break over the weekend would have many direct costs, except for the extra time worked by the Water crew.

City Prosecutor

No report. Dudgeon said that there would be no court in November because of scheduling conflicts for the judge.

Police Department

Dudgeon presented the report of October activities and calls for the Police Department.

Dudgeon is working with CEO Buck on a greater focus toward code enforcement, but does not anticipate a full report for some time.

The agenda packet held bids for repairs on the Police Station roof. The low bidder was Fred Freet of rural Centralia. There was only one other bidder because of the limited nature of the job. Behrns had specified the work to avoid the need for prevailing wages and other regulatory drawbacks. Materials will be ordered directly from LaCrosse Lumber and the City will use a dump truck for removal of old shingles. Freet would supply only his own labor and tools. The work will take only one to two days and be performed only by one man. After receiving comments from Rusch about Freet's qualifications, Bormann moved to award the work to Fred Freet for \$1,900.00. Sanders seconded the motion. All present voted aye and the motion passed.

Behrns described the events concerning the water break and the need to call for a boil water order. Part of the situation was exacerbated by a 4" water main that did not show on maps. It could not be valved off before water pressure system-wide dropped below 20 psi. The boil water order will not be lifted until lab results show no contamination—at least mid-day Wednesday. Dudgeon was thanked for the service of the dispatchers during the outage.

Fire Department

Fire Chief Rusch presented a report of October activities of the Fire Department. Rusch said that the repairs for water damage at the main fire station are nearly complete. The station is looking good.

Emergency Management

No report.

Protective Inspection

Cleanup on the house demolition on S. Columbia Street is nearly complete. Behrns has talked to Linda Yeager, who intended to empty her house on S. Allen next week and arrange for demolition just as soon as she can find additional funding. The contractor will cost about \$5,000, but she only has \$3,300 on hand. There is no money left in the budget for demolition subsidies for the current year. The board discussed subsidies at length, but determine that they could not yet give assurances that there will be funding in the next budget for this activity. There would be not sense in establishing a list of applicants at this time. Behrns noted that additional requests might come for demolition of the old Meador house on Pool Street and from Jackie Morris for the house she took down on Head Street.

Behrns and Mayor Grenke worked out a date for a hearing as the second step of enforcement of the dangerous structure ordinances against the Narraganset Building.



Sanders distributed a report from a construction company which detailed structural problems with the building at the corner of Allen Street and Railroad Street. It is owned by Newton Davis, Jr. Some months ago, Davis received a notice on the building and made some repairs. However, they were not sufficient and the front facade is again peeling away. Mr. Davis has put the building up for sale. Behrns will reexamine the site.

Committee engaged in an extended discussion of dangerous and nuisance buildings. Spauldin (from the audience) suggested that owners were not treated equally. Aldermen mentioned several other buildings and Sanders said that the whole of downtown was in poor shape. He wanted the City to more aggressively seek grants for rehabilitation. Bormann said that the Chamber of Commerce had done this several years ago, but the program funding required financial participation by the property owners and they were not interested. Behrns noted that the City had little luck gaining a block grant for 105 N. Allen. He also said that grant money was not as available as the public appeared to believe. Behrns will research further for current funding sources.

As May Arise

Behrns reported that Forrest Chevrolet had signed a deed to return 20 feet of Rollins Street right-of-way and the deed has been recorded.

Behrns presented a bid tab for replacement of either one or two shop heaters at the Street Barn. Low bidders were Hancock Heating for \$1,400. A second heater would be the same amount. Behrns had budgeted \$1,800 and planned to do the last heater next year. At the moment he is less certain about the General Fund budget. Committee deferred any decision until the regular Board meeting, when more information might be available.

The Committee then adjourned at about 8:20 p.m.

[Behrns forgot to tell the Committee that City Attorney Beck is preparing an ordinance to correct a small number of typographic errors in the ordinances which adopted the building codes. These were noticed by Sullivan while typing the City Code supplement. The ordinance should be on the regular agenda.]