

CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

March 17, 2008

7:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Gottman called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Vandalia City Council to order at 7:30 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

Aldermen present were: Cable, Elliott, Swarm, Brosman, Bennett, Hobler and Feldpouch. McNutt was absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was given by all present.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR JUDY HOFFEK:

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Larry Hoffek's late wife Judy.

Larry Hoffek serves as the Chairman of the Vandalia Planning Commission Board.

Our condolences to her family.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Hobler approving the minutes from the March 3, 2008 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

REGULAR BILLS:

A motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Swarm approving the regular bills as presented. Motion carried.

SPECIAL BILLS:

A motion was made by Cable and seconded by Brosman approving all Special Bills as submitted: North American Salt Co. in the amount of \$2,155.75 for bulk salt; McCarty Auto Body in the amount of \$1,837.01 for repair work on lake truck; Tri-County Petroleum in the amount of \$4,764.13 for fuel; Centraz Industries, Inc. in the amount of \$1,710.00 for sewer solvent; G.S. Robins & Co. in the amount of \$4,000.85 for chemicals; Univar USA, Inc. in the amount of \$2,640.00 for mozofloc. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

A motion was made by Hobler and seconded by Feldpouch approving the Treasurer's Report as submitted. Motion carried.

UPDATE ON THE RIVER INTAKE:

Mayor Gottman stated he was asked to give the council some information on the river intake.

A sheet with information on the history of the intake and its cost was presented to each council member.

Construction on the new river intake began in 2003 and completed at the end of 2004.

Additional work was performed in 2007.

Total costs for infrastructure is approximately \$950,000.

The city is making an annual payment of \$46,500 a year.

The city has incurred engineering costs to date in the amount of \$182,000.

Mayor Gottman stated he was contacted by an individual who has worked with underground welding and with other similar projects, that would like to talk with the city about some of the possible solutions for the problem at the river intake.

Feldpouch said his concern was the loss of total production, since the city is still taking water from the lake.

Feldpouch requested a copy of the logs from the water plant, to actually see how many days the river intake has been utilized since it was completed.

Cable says the problem comes in when water gets high, which seems to cause fine sand to settle on the screen for the intake.

Cable stated that this isn't the right time to have someone look at the intake.

Cable said they met with HMG yesterday and discussed the river intake problem.

HMG suggested that larger screen holes or a larger compressor to blow the debris off of the screen.

Swarm mentioned that he recently visited the water treatment plant, to find out a few more facts about the problem.

Swarm said he wished the council would have gone ahead two weeks ago with hiring a different engineering firm to look at the problem.

Feldpouch said he believes its imperative to get going on finding a solution for the intake.

A motion was made again by Alderman Feldpouch and seconded by Alderman Swarm to have another engineering firm look at the problem.

A roll call vote was taken: Cable, nay; Brosman, nay; Bennett, nay; Elliott, nay; Feldpouch, yea; Swarm, yea; Hobler, yea; McNutt was absent. Motion failed.

Brosman remarked that he was in favor of gathering more information, but would rather hear from our local people for free, prior to hiring an expert to look at the problem.

Mayor Gottman questioned, if the city is going to continue to throw money at a company that we have already spent \$950,000 for the contractors and \$182,000 to the engineering firm that has been out at the river intake twice to try to rectify the problem but has been unsuccessful in doing so.

Mayor Gottman stated that he did not feel like it is a good idea to spend the tax payers money in this community. He said he didn't think its good stewards of the tax payers to continue to give a company that's not fixed the problem to begin with.

Alderman Cable pointed out that one issue with the original work was that this was a state bid, and the city is required to take the low bid from a company that had never done a project like this one.

Mayor Gottman said that the law states that you do not have to take the low bid. You take who is qualified to do the job.

City Administrator, Morani was told by Brian Buchheit, engineer with HMG, because of the state requirement to get the EPA loan, the city is forced to take the low bid.

Mayor Gottman asked Morani to provide him with the documentation from the EPA that states we are required to take a bid from a contractor who did not know how to do the job.

More questions came up from the aldermen on numerous projects that HMG handled and there were problems.

Mayor Gottman stated that he will provide the council with a spreadsheet at the next meeting of the last five projects handled by HMG, which shows the original contracts versus what was actually paid out on the projects.

UPDATED ZONING MAP:

A copy of the updated zoning map was enclosed in your packet.

If there are any changes that should be made please give them to Morani.

T21 GRANT PROJECT:

There is nothing to report on the T21 project.

MORANI REPORT:

Morani stated that he is working on finalizing the Census 2010 project local addresses and updated lists.

Morani reported that he is working with Department Heads on the annual budget.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Brosman told the council that he received a call from Albert & Lisa Doyle owners of The Redwood. They are concerned about the possibility of loss of parking in their area with the construction that Young's are doing at Gallatin & Second St.

Prior to them demolishing the buildings, there was parking along the east side of Second St. and Doyle's contacted Brosman if there was going to be parking available on the east side of Second St. once Young's have there exterior display room project finished.

John Moyer, Public Works Director said those parking spaces were for businesses that were in the buildings that have been torn down, and since those businesses are gone, that parking is no longer needed.

Moyer said that he felt there should be no parking there at all, that its city right-a-way.

Mayor Gottman referred the issue off to the Streets & Sewer Committee.

A motion was made by Cable and seconded by Brosman to advertise for chemical bids for the Water Treatment Plant & Waste Water Treatment Plant. Motion carried.

Swarm gave the February 2008 monthly report for the Police Department.

The amount of fines collected were \$11,337.00 in the month of February. The city's portion was \$3,762.00.

Chief of Police gave a report on the work that will be done by ATT on the phone lines at the Public Safety

Building.

Feldpouch reported the city is in the process of installing microphones over the council table, with speakers in the audience area and audio access at the media table.

Bennett announced that the Personnel & Finance Committee will meet on March 20th at 3:00 P.M. with the Laborers and March 25th at 4:15 P.M. with the Police and the Tele-communicators to follow.

Mayor Gottman stated he is in the process of setting up a visit by the Buxton Company to the city council meeting. He will be inviting the Economic Development Commission to be on hand to hear from the Buxton Company representative.

Mayor Gottman announced that he along with JoAnn Givens will be attending the ICSC trade show in Las Vegas, Nevada this spring.

Elliott reported that the Tourism Commission met on Tuesday, March 11th.

Elliott reported that JoAnn set new ad hoc committees for upcoming events to be held over the year.

MAIN STREET REPORT:

Main Street Program Manager Dana White reported to the council the Architect from Illinois Main Street visited Vandalia last week.

Whiteman stated they made site visits to six locations, one was the Liberty Theater. Dana said the current owner is working with Jeff Eisentrout, who owns the theaters in Hillsboro, Carlinville and Gillespie, to take over the operation of the Liberty

Theater.

Whiteman gave a walking tour in the downtown area to ladies from Illinois Department of Transportation.

Marjorie Blythe added that these ladies came from sixteen counties in District 7 and Dana did a great job and how enthusiastic she was about the city.

ANNOUNCEMENTS :

Mayor Gottman gave a list of names to the engineering firm who is handling the Rt. 51 expansion.

Mayor Gottman announced the governor put together an ad hoc committee to work on the state capitol budget. Glen Poshard along with Frank Watson are planning to meet today.

Mayor Gottman announced that he and JoAnn Givens will be meeting with County Board Chairman Steve Knebel to talk about economic development for the city as well as the county.

Mayor Gottman announced that the city received the fourth quarter payment from New Wave in the amount of \$5,293.40.

Mayor Gottman was asked to sit on the Illinois Tax Increment Associated Board of Directors. He will be filling in for the remainder of the term for the Mayor of Collinsville who died suddenly.

COUNCIL WOULD LIKE NEWWAVE TO ATTEND COUNCIL MEETING:

Aldermen Bennett and Swarm would like for NewWave Communications to attend one of the council meetings in the near future to give us an update on the progress they are making with the expanded digital product, high speed internet, high definition TV and

digital telephone.

Mayor Gottman directed Morani to contact them to make arrangements to attend a council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT :

There being no further business to bring before the Council, a motion was made by Swarm and seconded by Elliott to adjourn.

CITY CLERK