City of Mt. Sterling

General Council Meeting

Police Training Center - #5 Jefferson Road

March 21, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Flesner calls the general City of Mt. Sterling Council Meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. with roll call. ROLL CALL – Jim Jennings here, Schenk here, Myers here, Scranton here, Buss here, Lauren Jennings here.

Fire Chief Brian Gallaher, City Treasurer Cheryl Flynn, City Administrator Vada Yingling and, City Attorney Lonnie Dunn are present.

Mayor Flesner- I would like to entertain a motion to approve February minutes.

Alderman Scranton makes a motion to approve the February minutes, seconded by Buss. Schenk yes, Myers yes, Scranton yes, Buss yes, Lauren Jennings yes, Jim Jennings yes.

Mayor Flesner-motion to pass the February minutes passes unanimously.

Mayor Flesner- I would like to entertain a motion to approve the February expenses with the addition of $1200.00 to Dunn Law Office.

Alderman Myers-have these already been paid? Stacy- yes.

Alderman Jim Jennings makes a motion to approve the February expenses with the addition of $1200.00 to Dunn Law Office, seconded by Schenk. Myers no, Scranton yes, Buss yes, Lauren Jennings yes, Jim Jennings yes, Schenk yes.

Mayor Flesner- motion to approve the February expenses with the addition of $1200.00 to Dunn Law Office passes with 5 yes and 1 no.

Mayor Flesner- Guest/Citizens opportunity to address the council- Action Brown County? No one here.

Old Business

New Business-Paul Henken- fence built for Kitchell’s Junk Yard, yes I am here to address a situation at Kitchell’s garage. It used to be that there wasn’t very many cars down there at all. But lately, especially in the last year the rate of accumulation of junk cars down there rapidly accelerated. To the point where they are even out in the field next to them there. And, I know a few years ago, Mt. Sterling had passed an ordinance where they were trying to get all the junk cars of the street. They required people to either license them and/or insurance them in order to keep them there. If my memory serves me right they gave two exemptions, I think Kitchell’s was one and Moorman’s was the other. There may have been more but I do know that they did. Since then, Moorman’s lot is clean of everything there is nothing there, not a car not a building not anything. And Kitchell’s has almost quadrupled in size. The reason they gave on that exemption I believe was for used cars and parts. But, I feel as though it has went way above and beyond that, it is a full-fledged junk yard. And, what I would like the City to do is to look into that and see if you can’t get them to either clean it up or build a fence. I am sure no one would like that in their neighborhood and I certainly don’t like it in mine. And it would be appreciated if the City would take that into consideration, thank you. Dane- Paul what we will do is throw that to a committee and they will address it there and then next meeting it will be reported on, so if you want to come back or we can get ahold of you however you want to do it or if you want to come to the committee meeting you can do that. Let’s see, would that be zoning or City planning. Vada- not zoning I don’t think. Jim- zoning would have some bearing on it, Lonnie- and requirements for the zoning. Jim- either that or since it involves an ordinance it could be a police committee meeting. Allen- that is what I would say it would be, it would be following an ordinance. Brandon- we can do it under police, we are going to have to look at doing something different with the ordinance though because it does have exemptions in there for auto mechanic shops. So, I don’t know Lonnie if you have a better idea because it will be basically looking at the ordinance and making a change to it. Lonnie- yeah let me look at it, I will just review it and I will get back to you. Dane- Emily go ahead and just put it on your docket for right now, Lonnie can you follow up with Emily when you have it looked at, or Brandon and Emily she is the police chairman. Mick- I think we need to look at other areas too. Lonnie- yes we need to look at zoning as well. Emily- you get with me on that as well I am on the zoning committee too.

Dane- Tana Parsano, request for street closure for June 11th and October 1st for cruise night. Tana- yes, just in general to have the cruise night again we are really having a lot of success and turn out, we had several hundred people at the last cruise night, watching, participating, and going in local businesses. We would like to block off the 100 block of South Capitol again so we have a place for the cars to park, or people to watch and enjoy it. That is pretty much all I have for that part. Brandon- what time is that Tana? Tana-It would be from 5:00-9:00 both June 11th and October 1st. The October 1st one will be tied in with the Fall Festival and Homecoming as it has in the past. Dane- with the Homecoming will that be the same time as anything going on up town? Tana- the 31st would be the block party then Saturday the 1st is the vendors and everything up town on that and then the car show after that. Dane- what I am asking is there anything other than foot traffic, my biggest concern would be the burn outs at the 4-way stop if there is a fall festival going on. Brandon- Tana and I have talked about that before. Dane- ok that will work. Tana- and also second from this if I need something, Saturday is National Epilepsy Awareness day and Spirited Treasures would like permission to, about noon, to go to the 4-way and release balloons in support of that and I didn’t know if that was something we had to approve through the City council. It will just be for a couple of minutes. Mick- you won’t be on the street will you? Tana- no, we will just be on the corners. Dane- yeah, just stay off the streets. Tana- ok. Mick- I just want to say something, and I want to touch on what the Mayor has already said. You know I have never voted against the car show, but in the same time there has got to be some safety involved. I ran across a family last year that left town with their small children because they were concerned about their safety. I don’t know if you have a way to convey that to your participants but what goes on up there is totally dangerous for everyone involved. And I know if you would do it any other time of the year other than that cruise night it classifies as possibly reckless driving. And I would hate to see a vehicle get loose, charge into the crowd and kill someone. Tana- you know we could tell people to cruise, I have had a gentleman call me just the other day wanting to know what has to be. And I said it has to be a licensed vehicle and that type of thing I don’t think we have ever had anything there that isn’t licensed. Mick- I am talking about licensed, I am talking about the manner in which they part the 4-way stop. Tana- I could point it out to them like I said but I, you know we can say be careful and watch people. Mick- wouldn’t you agree Brandon? Brandon- well I was going to address that with Tana here will quick when she was all done. Dane- we will leave that in Brandon’s hands but Mick we understand and thank you. Jim- in lieu of that I will make a motion.

Alderman Jim Jennings make a motion to allow Action Brown County committee to shut down the 100 block of South Capitol from 5-9 P.M. on Saturday June 11, 2016 and Saturday October 1, 2016, seconded by Schenk. Scranton yes, Buss yes, Lauren Jennings yes, Jim Jennings yes, Schenk yes, Myers yes.

Dane-motion to shut down the 100 block of South Capitol on June 11th form 5-9 and October 1st from 5-9 for Action Brown County car show passes unanimously.

Dane- Tim Watcher, closing of street for Testicle Festival Saturday June 18th also additional street closure for ABATE on June 18th. Tim- thank you for giving me some time up here this evening. This is Nicole and I’s first year as owners for the Testicle Festival and with that being said we are trying to make the festival more user friendly for the community and for businesses as well. We have made some changes based upon things we have heard from people. One of the big things was the requirement of gate fee, so this year the first thing we are doing is eliminating the gate fee, it is going to be completely free to get in anyone who is 21 or older. We will still be checking i.d.’s at the gate and restricting access based upon age. But, so no cover charge this year, we are also going to keep the bar open, in the past we have only opened for the festival usually around 2 or 3 in the afternoon. This year we will be open at 11 A.M. during our regular business hours anyone is welcome to come in and into the bar and not have to purchase a cover charge to get in. The festival will be running from 11 A.M. until midnight, midnight we like to cut off to give everyone the extra hour to clear out. I know the liquor license is valid until 1 A.M. but that last hour is usually when you have the most difficulty with intoxicated individuals so midnight would be the cut off. This year our main sponsor or the beneficiary of our charity is ABATE, they will be conducting a bike run and also a bike show during the festival. And having said that, that is why we are asking for the dual street closures. First of all the main closure we always ask for years the North block of Capitol from US 24 up to North Street, and alley’s on each side behind Sportsman’s and behind the John Wood building. From 7:00 P.M. Friday until noon on Sunday. And then the second street closing would be on South Capitol from 24 down to the alley. And the reason for requesting that is to have specific area for bike parking, that way all the bikes are organized in one place that come in and out from the run and for the bike show. There would be ABATE members on hand to provide security for the bikes so no one will have to worry about someone coming through and causing damage to the bikes. And of course we will have some staff on hand to provide general security at the gates, and we would request the police officer or two do a walk through at different times in the evening to show a presence. There will be no alcohol served on the South side of Capitol where the street will be closed that will be contained in just the regular area of the festival. Jim- what hours do you need South Capitol? Tim- we will need South Capitol from 10 A.M Saturday until midnight. And we would request barricades from the City for the street closures and also water power access for the vendors. Jim- any other details, as far as Dusty and Brandon do you guys see any issues? Mick- Tim, you are not aware of any conflict with the Legion? Tim- I am not, no. Mick- because you are wanting to secure from their corner down right? Tim- we requested street closing all the way up to the stop sign on North but we don’t generally occupy that last 20-30 feet back there we just use it for parking for the bands, there will be people congregating back there if there is any one that needs to get access to the Legion for whatever reason. Which I am not aware of but they would have free access in and out, it will be just closed off for parking. Jim- in the past you have had that as a backup in case of inclement weather, is that the case this year? Tim- I have not received confirmation on that yet but I assume that would be the case this year.

Alderman Jim Jennings makes a motion to give Tim and Nicole Watcher permission to shut down North Capitol from route 24 to North Street and also the alley next to Sportsman’s and next to John Wood Community College starting Friday at 7:00 P.M. on June 17th through noon on Sunday, June 19th and also permission to shut down South Capitol only on Saturday June 18th from 10:00 A.M. to midnight, seconded by Schenk. Buss yes, Lauren Jennings yes, Jim Jennings yes, Schenk yes, Myers yes, Scranton yes.

Mayor Flesner- motion for Tim Watcher for closing the streets for the Testicle Festival from Saturday June 18th and also addition street closure for the ABATE on June 18th as well passes unanimously.

Mayor Flesner- Reg, welcome, Reg- thank you Mr. Mayor, ladies and gentlemen, you have under contract until March of next year of several accounts belonging to the City itself. There were 4 accounts that weren’t under contract and so they are eligible for pricing through the bid process which we have done. I think Stacy has in your packets have given to you a proposal from Homefield Energy which calls for those 4 accounts to be priced at 4.999 cents might as well say 5 cents a kilowatt hour. The comparable default rate with Ameren is 7.1 cents. So the 4.999 cents is about a 20% reduction in cost and as your consultant we would certainly recommend that you go with that. It is shorter than the normal period because the other accounts was maybe 15 or 16 ends in March, so this proposal would have these 4 accounts end in March as well. So, all of your accounts will be terminating and ending at the same time which would mean Stacy wouldn’t have to work on invoice 2 times a month and payment 2 times a month. Jim- just quickly in the eligibility is says the agreement is only applicable to nonresidential accounts that are less than 400 kilowatts that is not concern on this? Reg- no, these are commercial accounts. Dusty- you aren’t worried about us going over that at the Fire Station? Reg- no, these are not electrical aggregation accounts they are simply contracted accounts which don’t fit the electric aggregation program. The 15,000 limit does not apply to any of these accounts. Jim- I am still kind of ignorant on this if someone more educated would want to make the motion I would let them do it. Dusty- everything else is already contracted at the price through Homefield.

Alderman Jim Jennings makes a motion to accept the agreement with Homefield Energy for the four accounts listed, City Hall, Fire Station, stop lights, and street lights, seconded by Myers. Lauren Jennings yes, Jim Jennings yes, Schenk yes, Myers yes, Scranton yes, Buss yes.

Mayor Flesner motion to accept the contract with Integrity rate with Homefield Energy for the four remaining accounts not contracted passes unanimously.

Mayor Flesner- bill payment proposal, I have no idea what this is. Myers- as everyone knows I have had a concern as well as the auditors annually concerning the payment and how we process our monthly bills. I spoke to the City Clerk in Rushville and not only being very surprised but she can’t believe these bills are being paid prior to council approval. And to eliminate my concern and also achieve satisfaction from the auditors without any audit finding. I have a proposal to mold to a similar nature as to what is done in Rushville. And what they do over there is the Thursday before the Monday meeting department heads review and code the bills, and coding the bills is defined as, the department head putting line items from where they come from in the budget. Then the clerk and staff enter the claims in the financial system. Mick- and do you write the checks by hand or do they come from the computer? Stacy- the come out of the computer. Myers- they are put into the computer and then they are reviewed again by the department heads then after the approval of the council the checks are then printed the following day. The only checks that are written without being approved first are the utility bills that are due before the meeting. And as I said I think it would satisfy my concerns that the department heads sign off on them give them to Stacy as soon as they have done that and they are put into the computer and then following approval by the council then the checks are issued and everyone is happy. At least I am and the auditors certainly will be. Jim- now does this solve the issue that you guys have? I understand your point Mick it has been made 4 or 5 times but are department heads always tell us it is going to hand cuff them if we do this, now does this that he is proposing now does that change any of that? Dusty- so we would just meet once a month and go through the bills? Mick- well you just look at them before the meeting I don’t care when they are done as long as… Dane- they already do look at them before the meeting and code them to lines for Stacy. I guess you are just asking us to do it one day out of the month instead of doing it once a week? Myers- they could look at them and sign off on them and give them to her and or however they do it. Norris- we are doing that weekly now on Thursday’s. Myers- that could be done. Norris- basically the only thing different from what you proposed to what we are currently doing now is the fact that none of the checks get mailed out until after the council meeting? Right. That is the only difference the problem that we are going to run into is that some of my bills are due prior to the council meeting that month and if we are not getting it done then we will be incurring late fees again. Myers- I think each vendor should be aware of our policy. Dane- well the vendors have their own polices they are not going to care what our policies are. Myers- wait a minute, wait a minute, every vendor has a 30 grace period to pay a bill we are not the State of Illinois that is going to take 2 years or more to get things paid. But as I said they are being approved by the department heads then we approve them and then the check is cut after the council formally approves the bill. The auditors have annually told us we do the procedure wrong. We will achieve satisfaction and we will have it done properly by this proposal right here. And as I said the clerk over there and the council can’t believe the way we do it. Dane- well we are not Rushville. Myers- well it don’t matter Dane. Dane- well it does matter to me, we don’t have to do everything like somebody else. Myers- then why have the auditors tell us this every year? Schenk- because they are assuming Mick, speak of myself here, they are assuming that we are not approving the bills without the heads looking at them first. Myers- no that is not the case. Schenk- and like they said earlier I was aware that they look at the bills weekly and they sign off on them. Dane- and code them to line items, there is no difference other than that Stacy cuts the checks after every meeting that is the only difference than what you are proposing over there. So if everybody can be kosher with that difference then and it’s that big of a deal to you then that is up to everybody at the table. Jim- Mick I would at least do this, I have understood what Mr. Grafton has said and they don’t ever tell us if we are right or wrong, they give advises as to which way we should do stuff. As I have said before we do reserve the right to refuse any advice if we don’t think it is going to be beneficial to us. I like Richard Grafton, I will call him and have him explain it to me and I will be very arbitrary about it and tell him that you are concerned and see what he says. We will be having a finance meeting before, next Wednesday right?, yes, I will do it before then and I will tell the department heads what Richard and I discussed. If he tells us we are breaking the law then yeah we will want to take care of that. But I think he is just saying I would rather see it this way, and I am going to take the advice and council of our supervisors opposed to someone that comes in once a year and doesn’t know how our day to day operates. Has Richard every came to any one of you and said this has to stop? No. Mick- I didn’t bring my audit with me but it’s there every year. Jim- alright I will call him.

Treasurer’s Report

Public Works Report- Dusty, the only thing I have I met with Anthony Miller and Doug Pagel from Hutchinson’s on our Motor Fuel Tax for this year and I believe Stacy has the proposal here. Regardless it is roughly the same dollar amount with $1000.00 of what our program was last year. Basically it is the same streets with a couple additions, $10,000.00 again for sidewalks, $2500.00 for culverts, $3500.00 for a new signs, those can’t be street signs, street name signs they have to be traffic signs. Basically it is the same program that we approved last year. So, I would like the council to approve that so we can get it in before our budget it due so we can get our budgetary numbers together. Jim- I would like to also call a Street and alley meeting and see some of the general revenue used for sidewalks as well, they are in desperate need of it.

Alderman Jim Jennings makes a motion to approve the 2016 Motor Fuel tax maintenance resolution as presented, seconded by Lauren Jennings. Jim Jennings yes, Schenk yes, Myers yes, Scranton yes, Buss yes, Lauren Jennings yes.

Mayor Flesner- motion to pass the 2016 MFT maintenance resolution agreement passes unanimously.

Committee Reports

Ad Hoc

Airport

Cemetery

City Planning- Dusty, we met with Hutchinson’s Engineering today, Vada, Dane and myself and two engineer’s from Hutchinson’s. We went over, the Federal government is distributing money again for the ITEP funding which is basically what rebuilt Jacksonville square. It is what Rushville’s square was redone on the same funding. It is federal money what they call pass through money, federal government gives it to the state and then the state passes it along to municipalities. Basically what they would like us to do is they would like to write the grant for us at no charge for the grant to submit it and then moving forward get the engineering started for this to better our score when they turn the grant in. Basically I am going to call a city planning meeting and go over the numbers and have them come and met with everyone so if anyone has any specific questions. Dane- and we strongly suggest anyone that is not sitting on that City Planning committee to please come that day because that will be all the specifics that you will need to know. Dusty- when I call that meeting I will have Stacy just CC everyone on the council, the more people we can get here the better off we will be. He is going to be able to answer a lot more questions that I will even afterwards sitting through a meeting with him. It is exciting to possibly get some funding for this uptown project. Jim- if I could add another reason to be at the meeting is this is going to be a big project we are doing and any time you do that there is going to be some resistance, you want to make sure you are educated on it so when you are challenged you can explain to them what is going on. Dusty- basically it is an 80/20 grant all the way through with the exception of street lighting and street lighting is 50/50. It will cover storm sewer, infrastructure as far as redoing the streets, sidewalks it does not cover any kind of sanitary sewer or water but basically everything else you can write it into that grant with a cap of 2 million dollars. Vada- and they thought we would score higher for the historical district because most of this is in the historical district. Jim- that 2 million dollar cap is their 80%? Yes that is correct. Jim- we can still spend our 20% at least? Yes.

Finance/budget

Fire

Lake/Lake Development- Dusty, one thing I had on the lake, in the packet there is a sign on the first page of the Public works packet, those are the signs we had the prisoners make for us years ago. Those signs are falling apart coming off the building, I am going to get some pricing before we have a lake committee meeting to replace those signs with something that is going to be a lot more sturdy and last a little longer. I just wanted to everyone know I will have some prices for that for the next meeting.

Personnel

Plan Commission

Police- Brandon Norris, I have those two items on there I need to get a committee meeting set up for next week. Would it be possible Wednesday- Thursday sometime in there? 4:30 next Thursday

Street and Alley

TIF

Water/Sewer

Zoning

Zoning Board of Appeals

Other Business- Mayor Flesner- I just have one quick thing to bring up, I just wanted to see if everyone got their packets ok? If that is a process we want to start doing moving forward as far as the packets goes getting our packets on Friday’s if anyone saw a problem with that. Or if anyone has any ideas or suggestions I guess. So is leaving it with dispatch fine for everybody? Dane, Lonnie is there a problem leaving them there for other people to see? No, once they are in that packet it is public knowledge. Myers- I still say people should have until 4:00 to get their information in. Stacy- they do Mick. Myers- then what was the problem with last month? Stacy- it was after 4:00. Jim- you two got it worked out didn’t you? Stacy- yes we did.

Executive Session

Motion to Adjourn.

Alderman Myers makes a motion to adjourn at 7:13 P.M., seconded by Scranton. Schenk yes, Myers yes, Scranton yes, Buss yes, Lauren Jennings yes, Jim Jennings yes.

SoSo

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Dunlap, City Clerk / Collector