

**City of Mt. Sterling
General Council Meeting
Police Training Center - #5 Jefferson Road
March 20, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.**

Mayor Flesner calls the general City of Mt. Sterling Council Meeting to order at 6:30 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, Public Works Director Dusty Buss, City Treasurer Cheryl Flynn, and City Administrator Vada Yingling are present.

Mayor Dane Flesner- I would like to entertain a motion to approve February minutes as presented by the City Clerk.

Alderman Schenk makes a motion to approve the February minutes as presented, seconded by Scranton. 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 to entertain a motion to approve the February expenses, with the addition of \$1200.00 to Dunn Law Office.

Alderman Jim Jennings makes a motion to approve the February expenses with the only addition of \$1200.00 to Dunn Law Office, seconded by Schenk. Myers yes, 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 unanimously.

Mayor Flesner- Guest/Citizens opportunity to address the council- Nancy Mitchell, Poppy Days at the 4-way, May 26, 2017for 6A-6P and May 27, 2017 7A-1P. Nancy, yearly the American Legion Auxiliary unit 374 requests to distribute poppy's at the 4-way stop on the weekend before the legal Memorial Day holiday. In our request we requested 6 AM – 6 PM on Friday the 26th and then 7 AM – 1 PM on Saturday the 27th. Last year we were told we could not start until 7 on Friday because it was too dark and it is really not that dark at 6 o'clock in the morning in the end of May. Dane, and I think we only did that as a safety concern and if it is light out I don't have a problem with that. Nancy, and I understand that, but it is plenty light out and just for an example I was up there at 6:00 that day setting stuff up for the day anyway and it was plenty light out we could have done that anyway. It was actually darker in October when I volunteered for the VFW poppy days at 7 AM. One of

the reasons we are wanting to go back to 6 is that we lost quite a bit of revenue, we lost probably close to \$200 by not being out there at 6 o'clock. We get the Dot people going in early and I don't know if any of you know what our money goes to but I thought I would share that with you. We provide two \$500.00 scholarships from the money that we collect. We buy books to promote patriotism in our schools yearly. And we also pay for the Father's Day picnic at the Vets home with that money. We give gifts to shut ins and Veterans and their families at the holidays and things like that. So it is real important that we are able to collect as much as possible, that basically is our only time to collect money to use for our Veteran's. So I would appreciate it if you would declare those two days at those two times as Poppy Days in Mt. Sterling.

Alderman Myers makes a motion to approve the request as presented, seconded by Schenk. Scranton yes, Buss yes, Lauren Jennings yes, Jim Jennings yes, Schenk yes, Myers yes.

Mayor Flesner-the motion to allow the Poppy Days at the 4-way May 26, 2017 from 6 AM-6 PM and May 27, 2017 from 7AM-1PM passes unanimously.

Nancy Mitchell, the next thing we are trying to do, the Poppy money can only be used for Veterans and their families, so we don't really have much in the way of operating money. The only way we get money besides doing the poppy days distribution is by collecting our dues. And the State has raised our dues considerably and we get to keep \$2.00 for every member we have and out of that we have to run our blood mobiles and all those kind of things. So we are trying to come up with a once a year, annual fund raiser that we can do. Some of our younger members have suggested that we do a 5K walk or run and that we hold that on Memorial Day. Now I am not here to ask for you to vote on that at this time, my concern is what do we have to do to make that happen? The reason they wanted to do it Memorial Day, that is the 29th is because a lot of our younger families that would participate in something like this will stay in town because of all the activities at the ball park. And they were thinking if they started it early enough say like 7:00, we thought that would give people an opportunity to support our Cemetery services that we do every year on Memorial Day. Some of the people would be right there in Mt. Sterling for the ceremony that we would have at the City Cemetery or the Catholic Cemetery. And what we are thinking about is years ago at the Fall Festival when I did the 5K walk they started at the pool and walked out to Henry Automotive and back and that was 5K. And I wondered if that would be a possibility, and that would bring people right back to the Catholic Cemetery where we have our ceremony at 9:15. Mayor Flesner, I say you just organize it and do it, we don't need to be saying you can or you can't. Dusty, we have to have a liability waiver, well we have had to have it in the past. Nancy, I wasn't sure that is why I wanted to ask. Myers, that would be county not ours. Nancy, then do I need to talk to someone with the county? Myers, I would get their blessing. Dusty, that would be township that isn't a county road, it would be Mt. Sterling Township. You should talk to Jerry, he is the road commissioner and we can get him in touch with you.

Mayor Flesner, Tana Parsano Action Brown County Cruise Night. Tana, we would like to propose like we have been doing, two cruise nights the second Saturday in June so that would be June 10th from 5-9 and the other one would be September 30th which is the Saturday in the Fall Festival also from 5-9. Like we have done in the past we are finding that if we block off North and South Capitol it gives the people cruising a place to park, since our spectators keep growing it kind of gives them a place to watch from. So that would be what I want to do and borrow barricades from Dusty. Mayor Flesner, what hours do you want North and South Capitol blocked? Tana, I would probably get here about 4:00 and just block it off. We usually just block there at the 4-way. Dusty, will that September date will that be the fall festival? Tana, yes. Dusty, ok so the other side will already be closed. Myers, well I have always voted for it but I still will renew my request that your participants behave their selves uptown.

Alderman Jim Jennings makes a motion to allow Action Brown County to hold their cruise nights and shut down North and South Capitol on June 10th and then in addition on September 30th from the 4-way to South Street, seconded by Schenk. Buss yes, Lauren Jennings yes, Jim Jennings yes, Schenk yes, Myers yes, Scranton yes.

Mayor Flesner, motion presented by Alderman Jim Jennings on cruise night passes unanimously.

Mayor Flesner, Action Brown County update, no one here.

Old Business-

New Business- Mayor Flesner, resolution for maintenance of the Streets and Highways by municipality under the Illinois Highway Code. Dusty, all three of those, the next three items will all be either approved or disapproved with one vote. That is our Motor Fuel Tax for the year, the resolution is in your packet. I passed out the map and the numbers, the quantities and commodities for everybody to look at as well. Our programs are going to be up about \$52,000.00 from last year. The sidewalk will stay the same, snow removal all that will stay the same, it is all street work that has raised the total. So I am just asking for approval tonight from the council so we can get this into the State and get working on it. The reason there is 3 of them because there are 3 documents that Dane needs to sign but we only need one motion.

Alderman Myers makes a motion to approve it as presented on all 3 subjects related and give the Mayor the appropriate authority to sign the documents, seconded by Scranton. Lauren Jennings yes, Jim Jennings yes, Schenk yes, Myers yes, Scranton yes, Buss yes.

Mayor Flesner, motion by Alderman Myers on maintenance of the streets and highways passes unanimously.

Mayor Flesner, USDA Rural Business Development Grant for proposed revolving loan fund. Vada, USDA is letting money about \$600,000.00 for the State of Illinois. You can request up to \$99,000.00 in your grant, I would like to explore the possibility. I have the grant half way written if I can get it done it is due the end of March. To ask for \$49,000.00 from the federal government to establish a revolving loan fund and some of the stipulations with that. 1. Is leverage from the City, we would have to put some of our own money in and I would like for you to entertain the idea of approving \$50,000.00 out of general savings and/or CD's to go along with that. We get more points by the percent of leverage that we offer. That would put us right about 49% and that gets us about 20 more points on our application. We will lose points because we have not experienced a lot of population decline in the last 30 years. We will also lose points because our unemployment is well under the States average unemployment of 6%, right now we carry a 3.7%. And also our median household income surprisingly is a little over 70% of the Illinois median household income. So there are several places that we are doing really well on but we do score lower so the only place we really do have an opportunity to increase our applications being positive is through our leverage. A little bit about a revolving loan fund is that it would used as gap financing for a business that comes in or an existing business that wants to expand. It allows them, a bank generally is going to offer them 60-80% of their funding and this is where the bank just can't give them anymore they just don't have enough collateral that the bank would request. And we would loosen up the collateral on our revolving loan fund, offer it for a little bit under the interest rate. The banks are doing a 4.25% right now we could maybe do a 3% and help these business get a little bit off the ground. But with it there would stipulations like job creation, they just don't get handed this money without having some stipulation behind it. So, anyway that is a little bit about it, it is a load of paperwork that you have to fill out for USDA, it is the rural business development grant that I am looking for. They typically fund this grant every year so if we should happen to not get it they would keep the application for the 2018 grant as well. I do understand that the Jacksonville office has a whole desk full of applications. Alderman Myers, could this potentially be used for a business that doesn't not lye or remain in the TIF districts? Vada, yes it is for the whole City wide so we would have potentially businesses that don't fall within the façade grant program or the TIF district, either TIF district that might want to have something done. And actually here is a classic example, is Mrs. Lamma's properties that are along the highway there South on 24 almost to the high school, they could be developed people haven't lived there for years. That is a classic example of not in the TIF district and not available for the façade grant and it could potentially be town houses or viable businesses. Myers, that is businesses on the West side of town too right? Vada, exactly. So that is kind of what I have tried to research, Pittsfield has done it they did a program from 1997-2013 they had 20 revolving loan grants they only had 2 defaults and those other 18 businesses are still operating and still have people employed. Alderman Jim Jennings, do they have a different board panel that sends the checks out? Vada, they do have a different board and we would need a different board, we would want to have bankers on it, businessmen, myself, probably the Mayor, probably a couple of aldermen to review the applications. It would be stringent it would be just like a bank application. I have all the paperwork from Pittsfield, they currently don't do it they got out of the revolving loan business. I did ask why and at the time they got out of it the interest rate wasn't competitive enough and they had no one taking advantage of it so the money was lying there doing nothing. They were able to get their investment back the initial

investment of \$25,000 back to the City and the remaining balance went to Brenda Mitendorf, she works for Access Illinois, and she uses for projects only in Pittsfield, it didn't get away from their community. They got out of it because of the low interest loan and the only bad thing though was they got tired of calling people to get their payments in. It would be just another economic tool that we can offer new businesses coming to town and if you look around to a lot of other towns they do have these and they have success. Alderman Jim Jennings so all you need is a motion to go ahead and write the grant? Vada, there is no commitment and we could certainly do more than \$50,000.00. Mayor Flesner, is that something you need at this meeting or have a meeting with a banker and get some? Alderman Jim Jennings, it does but she says it has to be in by March 31st so we need to at least give her that. Vada, it does have to be on the agenda, it does have to be discussed so it can go to the next meeting, and I am probably not going to be able to get all the paperwork completed to meet the March 31st date because it is a lot. I am having some of my banking friends look at Pittsfield's program they have all the paperwork now, I was hoping to get it back today. Alderman Jim Jennings, so you are not worried about the deadline? Vada, I think that I should move forward and complete it if that is the wishes of the council but I don't think I will meet the deadline of the March 31, 2017 money, I think now my goal is 2018 money. Mayor Flesner, so there is plenty of time to research it and make sure it is kosher then? Jim, yes. Mayor Flesner, then I would think if we do anything we should form its own committee, isn't that what you said? Vada, to move forward, I miss understood. Mayor Flesner, yeah I mean call it under a committee and invite all those people and then if you decide from there to create your own board whoever the Mayor is at that point. Then or the council can give you the yes or no in creating the board that would be how I would think it would need to go if you are not in a hurry this year. Myers, I think it is something to explore. Cheryl, and find out what we need to do in the budget for our line items. Myers, I think we need to understand the federal fiscal year is much different than ours, I don't know if that is something that comes into play or not. Ok, so we don't need any motions or anything then? Vada, no.

Treasurer's Report-

Alderman Myers, for the record we have nearly \$2 million in water and sewer funds is that correct? Cheryl, yes for now until we start building.

Public Works Report- Dusty, alright the monthly update for Western's water bill is \$334,717.30 as of close of business today.

Dusty, the Motor Fuel Tax appropriation we took care of above.

Dusty, the only other thing I have is the loss control audit. An auditor from Selective Insurance the middle of last month Vada and I took him around, he had a couple of recommendations. Almost of his recommendations had to do with the playground at the lake. Like on the swings we need to replace the "S" hooks with nothing that is open on it so it needs to be a bolted in "U" that was all minor stuff. The major problems he had was, there

was a jungle gym that is too close to the pavilion, we need to address that. The merry-go-round we need to take that out completely, his recommendation was the sooner we could get that out of there the better off we would be. The springy animals that are there we need to take those out, any of the teeter totters that are left need to go. Basically, we have one swing set that he liked and in order to keep that we need to put some kind of edging around it, 15 foot all the way around it with a solid surface landing. So, we either have to use pea gravel or some kind of playground mulch. Mayor Flesner, so is the lake committee going to be looking into it to see what we can do out there? Dusty, well we talked about this at our last meeting and I just brought it to the council so everybody knows that we are going to go ahead and start taking that stuff out. We are going to take it out before we even open the park, then we can get back with them and tell them we addressed these issues. Mayor Flesner, if you have to do it with a sealed bid or anything I am cool with it but I pay something for those little springy animals. Jim Jennings, it would have to be put up for bid. Dusty, that was it as far as liabilities that he found. The only other thing he said was to get with Brandon and Brian as well but he is sending some fleet safety videos, driving videos that he says it is just monitory that they made us watch now, and I do have that now. But the main just of it is to get rid of every piece of playground minus the basketball hoop.

Committee Reports

Ad Hoc

Airport- Mayor Flesner, before this discuss starts I have talked to Mr. Myers and as long as this discussion stays were it is supposed to stay and doesn't detour off of the discussion then I won't say a word but I will stop it if it detours off of the discussion. So I will turn it over to whomever put it on there.

Alderman Myers, well I became aware of a situation that cast allegations against myself as well as our Airport Manager and I was very very appalled and disappointed by the tenor of the investigation. We have a good situation with Paul, he does a lot of work for the City for \$85.00 per month, and that \$85.00 a month is we give Paul a hangar space out there at the Airport. Paul takes care of all the paperwork for the State of Illinois, attends the meetings in Springfield, does all the notice to the FAA, gets calls in the middle of the night for various situations that occur out there. During the winter time an airplane runs off the runway or gets stuck in the snow or whatever the case may be, Paul gets the call and readily takes care of the situation. I think he is a tremendous asset to the Airport to the community that he serves. Paul is also a councilman over in Ursa and he is like us too he puts up with a lot. And for another Alderman to retaliate against me and Paul becoming the collateral damage, to me it just makes my stomach crawl. And both Paul and the State's Attorney are here to shed light of what they know about this situation. Jim Jennings, do you guys want me to go first or do you want me to go ahead? Jim, this is very simple, for one that is a complete mischaracterization of what happened. There was, I asked Officer Sergeant Steve Schwerk to be here, he was the Illinois State Police officer that looked into it. Just in a nutshell, City property disappeared and it is a building and I passed out last month what one

of those buildings cost. To get one new it is \$27,000.00, double walled fiber glass insulated structure. So, Dusty is the one that brought it to my attention. Now as I told the Police Officer, and I went to the Sheriff's office first, Sheriff said he wasn't interested because he thought he had a conflict of interest because he knows everybody. And what I told the Officer was that I just want the truth as to what happened because the stories were not lining up, now the only stories I got was and I pull not punches here, it was Dusty and now I have never said this in front of Dusty and anybody else but when I told the Police Officer I have gotten where I don't trust anybody over the years. So, I don't know who is telling the truth and who is not, I just want to know. Paul Walker, I was never asked no one ever asked me or any members of the Airport committee that knew the whole story. So, if a few questions would have been asked this whole thing could have been avoided. Jim, ok then what I have to ask then is, Dusty you told me that Paul had said that he had gotten the permission from Alderman Schenk and Alderman Myers to take that. Dusty, well he said he got permission from the Airport committee, and that is exactly what I told you. Jim, alright but there is nothing at the committee meeting minutes, but anyway there is no need to go over all those details unless you want to. I asked Officer Schwerk to be here and he said the Illinois State Police has a standing policy that they don't come to council meetings and get involved in things. Never once did I say, I want you to investigate Paul Walker, never once did I say that I want you to investigate Mick Myers, as a matter of fact I told him in full disclosure me and Mr. Myers have very public disagreements at the table. But if he did nothing wrong I don't want anything to happen to him, I just want to know the truth. Now, maybe I am naïve but I personally believe when somebody is in an elected position they should not only abide by the same laws as everybody else they should even go a step above. I don't like people that abuse positions or think that they are above the law. When Dusty told me the building disappeared, I drove out there and looked out there and sure enough it was gone, and I knew what the building was worth. This would be the equivalent of me being at a police committee meeting and the Chief saying we have a cop car that we are going to get rid of and me saying hey I want it and I am going to give it to one of my friends. You cannot do that. Paul Walker, can I stand up and tell the story? Jim, yep let me finish quickly. Mayor Flesner, let Alderman Jennings finish. Jim, the officer asked me, he said do you think there was criminal activity? I said I don't know, I have no idea I just want to know what the truth is. At a minimum what I want is to have a very public discussion so Mick I am actually glad you drove this into open session. Because I cannot stand it when Alderman, Sheriff's, I don't really care who it is when they do not behave like they know they are supposed to. And I know you are on a town board also Paul, you should know that is City property and you can't just take it that is not how it works. Paul, when I am allowed to speak I will tell you the whole story. Jim, but let me finish, is it disappeared and I have not missed a council meeting that was never discussed. The committees cannot give legislative, they have no legislative powers, all they can do is make recommendations, and then it has to come to full council. All of it, the podium, a pen in their office all of it that is tax payers property. And if that was a piece of junk falling over I would have understood, it is double walled fiberglass, its insulated, a dual walk in commercial steel door with stainless steel hinges a 200 AMP service into it, it's worth some money. Now, I don't know how much it is worth but that was for this table to discuss. I don't want to say this too badly, but it is viewed as a good ole boy hey just go ahead and take that we won't go through the proper channels, just go ahead and take it. So, that is all that I saw, now since the information that was getting to me was not

lining up, what I have learned in the past is if somebody is lying they are usually doing it to cover up bad behavior. And I wanted to know who engaged in bad behavior, and actually I think that most of the citizens of Mt. Sterling would appreciate that, that I don't just sit here and watch people misbehave and turn the other cheek. And I am just the opposite and you can ask State's Attorney Vincent, I disagreed with how it was handled, and I went and told him just as candid as I am right now I don't pull any punches I say what I think it was not personal. It was, I want to see elected officials behave at a high standard than even citizens, and that is what happened and I say that what I have to say about it. And when you tried to call me I didn't answer because Steve Schwerk said he wanted to look into it and have a discussion with the State's Attorney, I said alright I didn't tell anybody, I didn't even tell my wife. I just forgot about until Dusty called and told me that the officer talked to a couple of people and that Mark had talked to you and told you to just bring it back and in full disclosure Paul like I told Mark Vincent, I went up and talked to Mark about it and said what did happen? He said well I just told Paul it was probably all just a misunderstanding, and the way I compared it with was so if I ever get caught shoplifting can I just bring it back, and I am not saying that you stole it Paul, I am telling you I am never going to find out what the truth is now that everybody knows about it before an actual investigation as far as I am concerned. None the less if I get nailed for shoplifting I can't go put it back and everybody say nothing to see here. So, that is my story, now go ahead I would gladly hear what you have to say. Alderman Myers, well I want to say something in between, the allegation that I was told was that you were accusing me or the conjecture was you were accusing me of giving money under the table to Paul for the dilapidated piece of building out there. Alderman Jim Jennings, number 1 I don't think it is a dilapidated piece of a building but. Alderman Myers, wait let me finish, in my opinion you filed a false police report you had no bases for your opinion, that I am aware of, and to drag someone you has been their lifetime in law enforcement and to bring Paul into it as the collateral damage, I think Jim the whole thing was in retaliation for what Lonnie looked into the conflict of interest when you voted for the uptown improvement that I questioned. I think that was what this whole entire thing was based on. Mayor Flesner, let's let Paul address us please. Paul Walker, first off a lot of that information that you just said isn't true, it might be what you were told but it isn't true. And you have never hesitated to call me in the past, I certainly wish you would have taken 5 minutes before you took a nickel's worth of information and blow this up and drug my name through the paper and just given me the courtesy phone call. Because I would have been happy to tell this story because Lord knows you can ask the airport committee, I share every bit of information I have. In 2014, I had my first meeting a pre design meeting with the State of Illinois, and Stacy can attest here, I was asked to be airport manager in 2010 I believe it was, I never applied for it I never asked for it the City came to me and asked me to do it. Since 2010 I have turned in expenses 1 time for driving to Springfield and I ate at McDonalds. I have been to Springfield every time, at least 1 time a year since 2010, taking care of business for the City of Mt. Sterling, never charged them never said a word. 2014 though, we had our first pre-design meeting about this project out here concerning the new vault house, the new pappi lights, which has taken over 4 years it has been quite a project to get done. It was first mentioned in 2014, we were there with Hanson Engineers, State of Illinois, and for those of you that don't know Hanson Engineers represent the City of Mt. Sterling with the State of Illinois and all of our projects, which is quite a mess and God bless Hanson. And it was first mentioned about removal of this building, the State of Illinois had deemed that this building

had no value. It is like saying I bought a car 25 years ago, put 500,000 miles on it and it still worth \$27,000.00, it is not. Hanson Engineers in their estimate, because they do up an estimate so you know how these contracts work, they do up a project and Hanson Engineers will do up an estimate of what they believe the project should cost. Then once the State approves it, then they put out for bids and let bids. Hanson Engineers said to remove and dispose of that building was going to cost the City of Mt. Sterling \$8500.00, the actual bid came in to over \$10,000.00 so to say that was worth \$27,000.00 it was actually a liability of over \$10,000.00 to the City of Mt. Sterling. So 2016, we had a pre-construction meeting, this was brought up again at which time I said, the City of Mt. Starling will get rid of that building or if I have to I will haul it out of her but we aren't paying nobody over \$10,000.00 to haul this building out of here. They said that was fine, they left it as a line item but it was taken off the bid because it is a standard State of Illinois contract. So fast-forward, we come up to this contract that was supposed to be done last year and here we are in 2016 just now getting it done. The contractor comes to me and says we need to be getting this building out of here, because they needed to do wiring underneath of it getting everything transferred to the other one, we need to be getting it out of here in a few days. Some of the City workers were out there, I talked to them about it, which some them said they wanted the electrical stuff out of it, but I had already talked with Kevin Lightfoot, who is the electrical engineer for Hanson, to see what we needed to save out of the building in case something broke and what was usable. It was basically decided that we were going to strip everything out of the inside of the building, one of the City workers said I would like to have the electrical panel for my house, I said you can't have that electrical panel for you house we are going to keep this stuff at the airport in case we ever need it. We could actually use this for the hangers, not for the new building, but we could use it for the hangers. So, they said they were going to get ahold of Dusty, and I said I am going to get ahold of Dusty too, and they said well we see him in a little bit. So I said send him out here because it is time to get this building out of here, so Dusty came out to the airport. It was freezing cold, we are standing out there, and I said they are telling me they want this out of here tomorrow and I said do you need it, does the City need it, does the City want it for anything, mind you this was going to cost us over \$10,000.00 to have this removed. Dusty said let me go see I might need it at the sewer department. I said that was fine just let me know. At least one if not more than one at airport committee meetings I talked about this building and the expense it was going to cost the City. You can ask the airport committee, like Perry here Cole Foote whatever, they heard all of this. They will tell you that I am telling you the honest to goodness truth on this, that either the City was going to have to take it and if the City wasn't going to take it and it was ok with Dusty I would take it and get it out of there, but we weren't going to pay this amount of money. Now this is a \$600,000.00 project why pay another \$10,000.00. So, I called Dusty later that day, and I said Dusty if you are not going to take this building I need to be making arrangements to get it out of here can you use it at the sewer department? Dusty said well yeah maybe but I don't feel like f-ing with it get it out of there. So, I took it upon myself to get the thing out of there so the City didn't have pay for it, and I told Dusty, I will strip everything out of this when it warms up a little bit, which Kevin Lightfoot can tell you every piece of equipment in there, I said but I am not going to do it right now because I am too much of a wimp and I am not going to freeze to death to get everything out of this building, I don't know how to take this stuff apart but I will get it out and Dusty said I will order shelves for one of the corner garages and we will put it all on those shelves. I said great. But

the airport committee, I talked to them I had talked to Dusty and the State of Illinois and Hanson Engineers said it was over \$8500.00 to remove it and the bid came in at over \$10,000.00 and I wasn't trying to keep secrets or nothing from anybody. It is a 25 year old fiberglass building that constantly cures out it has a bunch of holes in it were it had conduit run in it, it had termites at one time it also has rot in the floor and the floor is soft so it not like it is a valuable piece of anything, over a \$10,000.00 liability. The next thing I know, I find out and hear there is this investigation and where did the building go. Dusty knew where it went, the airport committee knew where it went, and it wasn't like it was a valuable asset it wasn't like it was a retired State patrol car that was worth some money or anything like that. Nobody told me I should bring back, nobody at all, I flew mad I flew madder than an old wet hen, I am really mad right now. My name has been drug through the mud, I have been called thief and everything else, I saved the City of Mt. Sterling over \$10,000.00 and this is the thanks I get. So I got to thinking... Jim Jennings, I want to ask a quick... Paul Walker, no you can when I am I done. So, I got mad and I loaded the thing up and I hauled it back here, I have \$400 in moving that building around trying to save the City over \$10,000.00 and for trying to do this I get my name drug through the mud. So go ahead what is your question? Jim, who called you a thief? Paul, that is what they indicated in the paper. Jim, who said that? Paul, what do you mean I read the paper, it talked about Paul Walker theft of a building. Jim, you said your name? Paul, the paper did. Jim, Mick Myers said your name not me. Because from the very onset I said I told the officer I don't want this to go anywhere I don't know what happened but I want to know what happened. Paul, well you can't instigate an investigation without it going anywhere, so you should have known better than that. And I called you before that last meeting, I called you and I said can you get your daughter to come because we have a really big meeting and we have a lot of things to cover on this farm, I have never seen her a meeting before. She stayed 30 minutes and left if she would have stayed to the end of the meeting which was over a 2 hour meeting I believe if memory serves correct, she would have heard this brought up. And as far as it not being in the notes, I am trying to run a meeting and keep notes all at the same time, so if I miss something in the notes I am sorry but I am trying to run the meeting and keep all the notes. Jim Jennings, ok number 1 Dusty can verify when I had the discussion with him and he said that he knew that you were taking the building but what did I say, from now on you tell people you don't have that authority the committee doesn't have that authority only the council has that authority. Dusty, yes you did. Jim, so that is exactly how this started and then when I talked to the police officer I told him several times I have no idea if there is anything, he is the one that said I think I better go ahead and he asked me what does the building look like, is it out there? I said no it is not. And he said and the council didn't discuss it? I said no sir we did not. He said give me some names, he wanted to know who was on the committee, he wanted copies of the committee minutes he is the one that felt like there was something to look into. Now, if your name hadn't been blurted out against the advice of Lonnie Dunn at last month's meeting it never would have been mentioned. Paul, well since I have been in this position.... Jim, now let me finish. As soon as I had my discussion with Mark Vincent, I said Mark I really think this should have been handled differently but I am just telling you this is how I feel about it. Mark is the highest law enforcement officer in the county, he said there is nothing criminal, Schuwerk agreed, I was done with it I didn't mention names to anybody for some reason everybody else starts spewing stuff out saying something is stolen and this and that. Paul Walker, I get word because it is an investigation

so I get notified, that you initiated an investigation that I stole something which I never stole anything. Jim, you keep misquoting me. Paul, well I am just... Jim, I never ever said that. Paul, well that was the indication that as sent to me. You know I hardly slept at all that weekend, I put in a lot of hours for this City for \$85.00 a month hanger you know a lot of hours. You ought to see the paperwork that comes through, I started this 10 years ago and the very first thing I did was I thought we need to clean up our rules concerning aerial applicators. I contacted the aerial applicators I had multiple meetings with and as Matt Bradbury said we had public meetings I invited every aerial applicator in and the thanks I got for that was we had a local gentleman that had less than a thimbles worth of aviators knowledge for about six week straight drag my name through the paper and trash me. And here I am again for \$85.00 a month getting trashed and here I thought I was trying to save the City over \$10,000.00 so I just want to say thanks for that. You never hesitate to call me any other time you have a question you could have easily picked up the phone before you did anything and said what is going on where is the building and it would have been over. Jim, also this presentation you just gave, had you given it to the council, you don't understand that that is City property and no committee can tell you that you can take it, you are on a board Paul. Paul Walker, I understand it was a liability to the City. Jim, and you know as well as I do engineers blow up everything. Paul, the contractor blew it up more than the engineer because you wanted over \$10,000.00. Jim, the value of that building is to be set right here, that is where it is to be set. Paul, ok whatever but if you would have just called me you would have known the whole story I would have shared it because I have shared it with everybody, any information that I get I share it with any and everybody. I try and tell Stacy what is going on, I try to keep everybody in the loop. Jim, when all the stories weren't lining up, why was I going to assume I was going to find out what actually happened when already the stories were contradicting one another. Paul, by stories you never contacted me so you never got any story from me. Jim, you are right. Myers, I was never contacted by the State Police either. Jim, and that... Paul, the State Police never contacted me you never contacted me....Jim, you are correct. Paul, that is just really sad that was the whole story of what happened so I flew really mad and I brought it back, nobody told me to bring it back nobody ask me to bring it back. You are insinuating and saying well if I shoplifted something and brought it back. I never shoplifted anything, if I was going to take something would I have told Stacy would I have told Mark would I have talked to airport committee would I have talked to Dusty, and asked Dusty what do you want to do? Dusty said get it out of there. Emily Buss, he doesn't have that authority. Jim, right and it was never discussed here and Paul I am telling you, and I know from now on you are going to hate me and that is fine but... Paul, I don't hold grudges I am not going to hold a grudge against you, I probably won't trust you but I won't hold a grudge. Jim, that's fine and I am hoping when you look at this through clear eyes....Paul, I am looking at it through very clear eyes, my name has been trashed and I have been drug into this.... Jim, not by me. Paul, I have lost sleep and it was all initiated by you and you could have placed a phone call to me and asked me what is going on. You could have called multiple committee members and asked them what is going on. Jim, ok when property disappears and Mick you are talking about being a police officer, when property disappears do you go to the people involved and go, hey I am going to let you guys know I am going to question you guys in 2 or 3 days to see what happened. Myers, well as I said in my original statement, I don't think it had anything to do with that building out there, the thing you had in the back of your mind and your drive

was trying to cause me trouble over my concern in the situation involving you voting against legal advice for the uptown thing, I think this was all done in retaliation I am sorry it is my belief I think poor ole Paul was the collateral damage. Dane, I think everybody has aired their opinion. Dusty, I want to say something here too, is no way is Paul saying that I gave him permission to take that building the committee give him permission, I did not say to you hey you have my permission to take that building. Paul, you said I don't feel like f-ing with it get it out of there. Dusty, I did not tell you, you said the committee said you could. Paul, I said the committee said it was alright by them ask Dusty if he needs it for anything and if he don't need it for anything and he don't have a problem, it isn't worth nothing so get it out of here. Dane, Mark do you have something to add? Mark, yes. Mark, I am sorry this is has come to what it is, it isn't that big of a deal. But I do want to want to correct a fundamental misunderstanding or mischaracterization of this building as property. This council has I assumed has approved the contract of this improvement out at the airport. At that point you already approved in paying \$10,000.00 to dispose of it, so you decided to dispose of the building. From that point it became an issue of, and this is where Paul and I wasn't privy to any of that, but what I think has happened is that it was lined out spend that money and if he hadn't have taken from there and the contractor took it the next day you would have got a bill for \$10,000.00 and that is the way it was presented to the committee. In my opinion from a legal stand point it was already decided it was a liability so you didn't have to come back and say, now granted everything has value, I mean somebody might pay a few hundred dollars for it but I don't know I have looked at it, I don't think I would want it on my property. Maybe out in the woods or something. That I think is just a fundamental misunderstanding or a mischaracterization of it as City property because I think legally it had already been decided that it was going to be disposed of and they only action that would take in subsequent of that was save the money, City use it keep it or somebody else get rid of it. But I think as a committee, we had no problem with Paul having it as long as the City didn't want it and I think Dusty was the appropriate person to check with that. But I don't think further action would have been needed before the council on that. But other property I am well aware of the process how you get rid of public property, but I think there had already been action on this. Anyway I just want to reiterate what has been said, Paul does a tremendous job out there and my family ran an airport in Beardstown for years in the 80's and it is a lot of work, a lot of headache and I am sure all of you know what a great asset that airport is, as a pilot a mechanic, a aircraft owner who has a hanger out there it is really great and it is getting better. In fact, I think we are, and no small part due to Paul's action, because we might be getting some recognition in the next year or 2 so. Sorry this has come to what it is, I think it was just a misunderstanding, communication should have been a little better but I think we can all move on. The building is still out there by the way so it would be nice to get rid of it somehow. Thank you I will answer any questions if anybody has any. Mayor Flesner, alright thank you.

Mayor Flesner, Partial payment to Roberts Sealcoating to start the accepted bid of \$29,465.00 for the repainting of the runway. Alderman Schenk, I had that put on there, so it would be up to the council if we could pay him a 1/3 or a half or whatever. He has always done the City a good job in the past, I have spoke to him briefly I forgot what day it was Friday I believe. I asked him if he had put anything in his contract where we would pay a little bit in advance and he said no he never thought about it didn't know he could. I said I

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DRAFT

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would bring it up to the City council to see if we would be interested in paying a 1/3 or a 1/2 or whatnot upfront because the paint is very expensive for that and there is a lot of it. And he is going to be starting that I believe after April 1st. Dane, the only thing is, and I know what kind of guy he is and what kind of work he does and how reputable he is, I would just hate to open up a can of worms with this. Because we got burnt with a 1/3. 1/3, and a 1/3 on another project. And I know this is completely different Allen. Schenk, he is a different person and he has already worked for us before. Dane, I understand that but I just think if you are going to, he is a great person, and the next person who comes to us may be.. and wins the bid or the only bid and we are kind of like uhhhh. And they are like oh but you gave it to him. I think we are just opening up a present we don't want but I will leave that up to the council, that is just my opinion and it has zero to do with Mr. Roberts I know everything about him and he is awesome. Jim, well what if we do this because it is the paint that is expense right? Schenk, yes and the glass beads. Jim, what if we pay for the materials and then we would own them and if something went wrong we would still have those, what does everyone else think? Myers, well Dane you read my mind, we have other examples of what paying has done and I am not favorable for it.

Alderman Jim Jennings makes a motion contingent on approval of City Attorney Lonnie Dunn that the City pay for the cost of the paint glass beads for the project of the repainting of the runway and we would want to see an invoice before cutting a check, seconded by Schenk. Jim Jennings yes, Schenk yes, Myers no, Scranton yes, Buss yes, Lauren Jennings yes.

Mayor Flesner, the motion to purchase the materials paint glass beads for Mr. Roberts to start the seal coating bid passes with 5 yes and 1 no.

Cemetery

City Planning

Finance/Budget-

Fire-Brian, I don't have anything.

Lake/Lake Development-Recommendation to bond the lake host for up to \$28,500.00 (honesty bond) at a cost of \$100 per thru West Central Insurance. Vada, we looked into getting the lake host bonded. It is called an honesty bond and it insures up to \$28,500.00 and the cost of that policy is \$100.00 a year and that would be through West Central Insurance where we have all of our current bonding for City staff. And the lake host has never been bonded in the past and it is conceivable you could have quite a bit of cash there that they would be handling and camping season is starting April 1st. Myers, Vada how does that work say there is an issue with some losses of funds how does that work, does this bond reimburse

us for that cost? Vada, it reimburses us for the loss and the insurance bonding people will go after the individual to get the money.

Alderman Myers makes a motion to bond the lake host at a cost of \$100.00 through West Central Insurance, seconded by Lauren Jennings. Schenk yes, Myers yes, Scranton yes, Buss yes, Lauren Jennings yes, Jim Jennings yes.

Mayor Flesner the motion to bond the lake host up to \$28,500.00 for \$100.00 per year through West Central Insurance passes unanimously.

Mayor Flesner- Recommendation to quit the \$2.00 per day unoccupied camping fee and charge \$15.00 per day whether occupied or not. Vada, I think keeping the \$2.00 per day unoccupied fee just opens up our Lake to be a camping and RV parking lot for storage that is cheap. I think people leave it out there for a long time unoccupied, we had that happen last year. I think it would be an incentive to be out there and camping if it is \$15.00 no matter what. And I think that was the committee's recommendation. Myers, what does Siloam do? It is \$15.00 a day or whatever their rate is.

Alderman Myers makes a motion to do away with the \$2.00 unoccupied fee at the lake and charge \$15.00 per day whether they are camping or not, seconded by Buss. Myers yes, Scranton yes, Buss yes, Lauren Jennings yes, Jim Jennings yes, Schenk yes.

Mayor Flesner, motion to quit the \$2.00 a day unoccupied camping fee and charge \$15.00 per day whether occupied or not passes unanimously.

Personnel

Plan Commission

Police- Vada, I just want to say because I know most of you know because I talked to you but I wrote 2 grants that were awarded in the last month. One was from Dot Charitable I got \$5000.00 for AED's for the squad cars. Brian is going to help us purchase those and also give personnel training and any maintenance that might need to be done. Then I also wrote a USDA rural development grant and the City was awarded 75% of a new police vehicle that is approved as a police truck or squad car. So that will come out to \$21,100.00. And I am finishing up the paperwork on that and we could have that in the new budget year. Dane, that is awesome Vada thank you.

Street and Alley

TIF

Water/Sewer- Dusty, I had one thing Dane. I put in the paper for this next coming week application for a part time billing clerk. Carlos turned in his 3 week notice and we sure appreciate everything he has done for us filling in that gap. But it is time for us to start looking for another part timer. It will be in the paper next week so hopefully we will have someone to bring to council.

Zoning

Zoning Board of Appeals

Other Business

Executive Session

Motion to Adjourn

Alderman Myers makes a motion to adjourn at 7:37 P.M., seconded by Scranton. Scranton yes, Buss yes, Lauren Jennings yes, Jim Jennings yes, Schenk yes, Myers yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Dunlap, City Clerk / Collector