City of Mt. Sterling

General Council Meeting

Police Training Center - #5 Jefferson Road

May 16 at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Flesner calls the general City of Mt. Sterling Council Meeting to order at 6:33 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 Attorney Lonnie Dunn, and City Administrator Vada Yingling are present.

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

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

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

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

Alderman Myers- have the check been cut? Stacy- yes.

Alderman Jim Jennings makes a motion to approve the April expenses with 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 April 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- Anthony Miller, Hutchinson Engineering update on ITEP grant for Main and South Capitol. Anthony- I have some roll plats that I would like to share with you guys. I would like to solicit any comments or concerns anyone would have. Dane- Philip or Brian feel free to come up and look as well. Anthony, so I think we talked before about doing the traffic coming bump outs at the Main Street intersection which are shone in there. In addition we have something similar to that at each alley basically to terminate the parking areas. Kind of what we had previously discussed and what we are planning on doing is, right now there is generally the sidewalks out there anywhere from 8-10 feet wide. We are planning on reducing the parking lane by approximately 2 feet to where you will have an 8 foot parking lane and a 4 foot buffer zone. Which if you look at this sheet and this only applies to Main Street but if you look at the edge of the sheet you will see 2 lines that would be the edge of the IDOT’s driving lane. So, there is 28 foot of pavement out there, 2- 14 foot lanes. So these two lines right here, will represent the edge stripe if you will then there is a 4 foot buffer there and then the little boxes that you notice would be the parking lane. And the parking lane would encompass the new curb and gutter pan that are 2 foot wide. So, it would be 8 foot of parking, 4 foot buffer, and 14 foot lane on each side of the roadway on Main Street which would give you a 10-14 foot sidewalk. Jim Jennings, what are they currently I have never measured them? Anthony, some are 8 and some are 10 so 8-10. Dusty Buss, so what are they going to do with the North side where that step is at? Anthony, well there will still be a step. Dusty- wide enough, are you going to widen the step or are you going to leave it the same? Because we have to have an 18 inch step and then the curb. Anthony- you will still have to have a step there because if somebody parks there they have to be able to open the door. We are planning on leaving it at least an 18 and I say that the red area is like a brick pavement so, in that particular block there would be 2 foot of pavement behind the curb and then there would be the step. The rest of the project there would be, basically you would have 2 feet of brick pavement and then a 5 foot through ADA lane which basically in order to meet ADA compliance you have to have at least 5 foot or you can get by with less but prefer 5 feet of sidewalk that is maximum grade for travelling at ADA grades. Then the last 5 foot up to the building face will be used to warp into the existing door to meet some kind of ADA compliance there too. So, the goal is to make every business ADA compliant by doing this project. Dusty Buss- this is just going to be a stamped brick right, it is not going to brick? Anthony Miller- they are actually brick pavers. Jim Jennings- the blue is the stamped. Anthony- the blue is stamped, the red is brick pavers, the brick pavers that always reviews our projects in the past have a sidewalk under the brick pavers to where they are on a solid foundation. You will notice some of them in Jacksonville we have used them in all the towns we have worked in. Jim Jennings- and where you have them stamped, will they be dyed a different color? Because that is one thing we saw in the places that we visited, if it was just pavers or top coat it wore off in no time, but if they dyed it, it was different story. Anthony, this is concrete, you could choose the red color or any, Massey and Massey are the ones that try to coordinate that. But they typically use a red they have a tan color and I think a grey color. There are 3 colors they use but they try to coordinate with the bricks, I am sure it would be red in your case. Plus, one of the advantages with this with the layouts we are proposing is the bump outs reduce the travel width for the pedestrians, it allows you to put your stop sign out by the travel way, and the colored crosswalk helps the drivers identify that there is a crosswalk there as well as the pedestrians. So there is an advantage all the way around, other than plowing snow I guess. Dusty- well at least they are curved not at just a 90 degree angle. Mick Myers- what will be the useful width of the Main Street? Anthony- Main Street will be exactly the same width that it is now. The only thing that we are reducing is, right now there is 28’ travel way then there is an 8’ buffer between the edge of the travel way and the parking lane, we are reducing the buffer to 4’ down from 8’. Mick- well in other words, machinery and farm implements will be able to traverse Main Street without any problem? Anthony- oh yeah, we are not reducing the effective width of Main Street what so ever. We are reducing the intersection size with South Street, no not South Street but Capitol Street so one of the things that we would recommend is that any large trucks need to not go down Capitol Street but use South Street or come from the South. Dane- like all the semi’s for FS? Allen Schenk- they won’t be able to make these curves, long trailers won’t. Dusty- the last meeting that we were at you know we were talking to FS to see if some of that traffic could use SW Cross verses going to the 4-way stop. In all honesty it would be easier for them to go down SW Cross than it would be South Capitol anyway. Anthony-you’re going to be able to make the turn just fine with a single unit truck like a concrete mixer or a truck that size and maybe even some of the smaller semi’s. But when you get into the bigger semi’s there is really no way to provide the bump outs and provide 45 degree parking in order to get the biggest bang out of your buck. The parking on Capitol Street you want to use 45 degree angle parking. Allen-handicap accessible we only have 2? Anthony- that is up for debate to as far as how many handicap spaces you need. There is actually 4 on Capitol down there. It is hard to provide a handicap accessible route with parallel parking especially with block steps without building hand rails, but it is not impossible. Dusty- one question I have, how many parking spaces will we be giving up going with this versus what we currently have? Anthony- we haven’t even looked at that. Dusty- it is more that I am worried about the East end on Capitol to the East more so than the West. Anthony- we are obviously going to lose parking on Main Street just because of the bump outs. I don’t know if you are going to lose parking on Capitol. Dusty- no because most of the places you have bump outs we have as no parking anyway. Anthony-the only thing about the parking on Capitol right now is the angel of the parking right now instead of being 45 it is 60 and any and all the accidents out on Capitol right now probably have a lot to do with the parking, is because it is hard for drivers to back out and maneuver in the 60 degree parking and see. And get out fast enough so that if anyone approaches them they won’t hit them, it is never good to back into a traffic way but the more of an angel you can have the better off you are. Jim Jennings- did you guys, Anthony, the sidewalks are we going to max them out with what IDOT will allow, everywhere on Main Street? Anthony- as far as the width you mean? Jim- yes. Anthony- we have not talked about how wide, I don’t think IDOT would care about how wide we made them. But, as of right now we are right about 2 feet everywhere. I would say IDOT would prefer to have a buffer between the parking and the travel lane. So we didn’t want to push too far with increasing the width of the sidewalk but in our experience, 12 feet works out well because you have to have essentially the 2 foot brick is where your trees are going to be, there will be tree planting grates out there that I have not shown on there yet because we haven’t got that far with Massey and Massey yet. You are going to have trees that are going to be in that boulevard made out of brick and then you have your through lane that has to be 5 feet wide and then you still have 5 feet wide to transition from whatever elevation you are at on your ADA path to the door which in a lot of cases is a big challenge because a lot of these stores have a step into the door. One of the other things I should point out is the green areas is landscape, some kind of landscape be it anything at the intersection is going to have to be low height plantings where is doesn’t cause a sight restriction. As we get anyway from the intersections there will be trees, could be brick planters, could be high concrete curbs, and could be a combination of low fences high fences and any combination of that, a lot of them are simple. I should also point out we are doing work to the edge of the pavement, we are going to install the new storm sewer under the parking lane, we are going to pave to the edge of the pavement. All new curb and gutter all new sidewalk but we are not going to attach the 28 foot reams on Main Street where as Capitol will be a complete reconstruct, well we will save the pavement where we can but I think whenever you get down to the courthouse where you are building that circle drive and redoing the front yard what I think will end up happening is you will have to reconstruct everything done there by the time you get the grades to work. At least that is how we are estimating it anyway. And of course all of this is subject to your folks comments. Dane said we were going to have some public input tomorrow night, which is something we need to put in this application that we have initiated. Actually you guys have already had public input in the past with your strategic plan so we are summarizing that too. But we would like to have something that is current, resent in there to put in for public involvement. Jim- can we tomorrow, what are we calling that it is a committee? Vada- it is an open informational meeting. Jim- there is a lot to digest, let me ask you this, are you going to be at the meeting tomorrow? Anthony- yes. Jim- ok is someone from Massey going to be there? Anthony- no I probably won’t bring Massey. As we move forward one of the requirements of the Phase 1 before the Phase 1 reports is done there has to be a public hearing, a formal public hearing. Jim- and tomorrow will satisfy that right? Anthony- no, we will have one again as things develops. And we haven’t entered into an agreement with Massey yet because we wanted to get this stuff done. We have developed a detail cost estimate for both projects that is what we have been doing for the last couple of weeks. We would like to get Massey and Massey on board soon so we will have them involved in the public meeting process and of course until you get into Phase 2 and actually draw plans all this is subject to change. We had a meeting with IDOT on March 4th and explained to them exactly what we are doing and that we were putting together an ITEP application, basically we showed them exactly what we are showing you right now. I don’t know if you remember when we talked you a while back and said we may have to do an intersection design study for Capitol and Main Street? They said we are going to have to do one. So, there will be some additional engineering there. They also said we had to have an electrical engineer onboard do so some lighting calculations to show what the lighting levels are throughout the down town. So we will have to coordinate through IDOT Central office, but they were happy with what we showed them and they were onboard with everything we showed them. They seemed to be open to the whole concept, I think it was a good meeting early coordination with everyone involved I think will be very helpful in moving forward. I think I should mention how Capitol Avenue is real similar other than we are going to do 45 degree parking there. New storm sewer on Capitol, so any questions so far? Mick Myers- I have 2 concerns, number 1 is the apparent reduction of the uptown parking, significantly it appears. And number 2 is the introductions of the new and heavy traffic a truck traffic into a residential area. Jim- well the truck traffic is already going through a residential area it is just going through a different residential area, I don’t know if that is good or bad. Anthony- one of the things I would like to ask, do you guys have a dedicated truck route through the South part of town? Dusty- South Street is the truck route all the way through town. But we don’t have anything North and South. Anthony- what about IDOT’s yard, is Chestnut a truck route? Dusty- no. Mick- well you know the State has used it and I don’t believe we have had any venue of telling them they can’t take a truck on the particular Street. Jim- do this, this is a lot to digest being laid out in front of us, you’ll have these here tomorrow correct? Anthony- these will be here tomorrow yes. Jim- is there a chance at having more than one copy? Anthony- yes. Jim- cause what I am thinking, I don’t have any idea if it is going to be like the public hearing we just had on the appropriations ordinance and nobody else showed up. But if more people showed up it would be nice to have some extra, with another table or two out with them laid out on them were people can see them easily. Then I personally would like to see, we will kind of see how everything shakes out tomorrow, and we need to, based on things that Mick is bringing up, is us in the community need to sit down and think about it and let it soak in for a minute and make sure we think of every detail. Anthony-absolutely, so whenever we get done we would like to be able to generate minutes of any conversation that comes out of it. We will encourage any comments from anybody and everybody that wants to make a written comment. All this stuff is going to end up, from tomorrow’s meeting and the meetings we have in the future it is going to become part of the Phase 1 document that we are preparing. This has to be done in order to spend this funding it will be inserted in there written document. So, what I am showing you tonight doesn’t mean anyone has to make a decision tonight, it is merely a status report to let you guys know what we have been doing and what we have going on and generate some conversation. Jim- that is exactly right, generate some conversation and number 1 I am loving this it is very exciting on what we are seeing here. The only reason I am bringing up possibly a second meeting is making sure, I am hoping that, you know we took a couple of tours of local people went to some other towns, I am hoping they come out tomorrow so we can show them what we have. I want to make sure we have community buy in for everybody, so they don’t feel like at the end of it all they don’t feel like wait a minute you didn’t talk to me. And Vada has done a wonderful job of putting together all the down town building owners and all that. Anthony- there will be another opportunity it just won’t be before the application goes through. Jim- and that is fine, the reason I am thinking it is so you don’t tell me we don’t have time for that, that is just want to make sure. Dusty- we can still change it after this application goes in. Jim- oh we can? Dusty- yes. Anthony- the application is for the funding, nothing more than a collection of visons of what we have seen in the past, what we have learned from working with Massey and Massey. We have other clients we have worked with that is all this is. It doesn’t mean that any of this is set in stone although the geometrics part IDOT will have some input we do the intersection design study they may tell us we can’t do the radius like that you will have to open them up more. You might have to put a turn lane back in. One of their first questions was, why do you have right turn lanes? Well we look at the traffic data we have no evidence whatsoever that there is a turn lane needed at either one of those sides there is not enough traffic there. We think it was just put in there because there was room to put one there we don’t know. So they may force us to change some stuff but we can change any of this all the way through, obviously the earlier we get things hashed out, not necessarily today, but as we move along the earlier we get it hashed out the less time we have to spend and the less money it costs you. So as I said in the past couple weeks once we develop this entire plan which includes all the major components regenerated some cost estimates for these two projects. When I say two projects, one is Main Street and two the beginning of the parking lane essentially the line that is drawn right here on both sides. Basically so we can open back up to what is existing and chop it off right there on both sides that Main Street would be everything you see here to the left of those two spots. Capitol would be connecting to that is a separate project. I have 8 copies of each of these you guys can split them up. Ok, so basically what you are going to see on here, and again we have this mostly developed, but it is definitely not final by any means because it is still under development. If you look on the historic Main Street if the improvements we are showing there it is two million dollar projects with 1.45 million coming from ITEP money and $470,000 coming from City money. Some of the ways the dollars are split is up to negotiation with IDOT, but you are not going to pay less than 20%. And honestly the more your application shows you are paying more than 20% the more points you get. So it is a 2 million dollar project Main Street and if you look at Capitol Avenue it is about the same 1.9 million, with about the same split too. It is between 20 and 25% your money with 75% ITEP money. Mainly because some items are 80/20 eligible and some items here are not. One of things that is not is street lighting is 80/20 eligible but pedestrian lighting is only 50/50 eligible. So you will see that when you look down the items that pedestrian lighting is only covered at half. Jim- Anthony, when do we have to make the decision of, there has been a discussion as this has been moving forward of use upping our contribution to make it if I understand our points on our grant will be higher if we go 60/40 instead of 80/20. Anthony- well whenever we, this split right here is about a 23/77 percent split, but the engineering is not included in there and they consider the engineering too. So once we add the engineering line item in there, all this information is going to get fed into the online application and in that online application the engineering in there is considered. So by the time they get the engineering in there, and you guys fully fund the engineering you are going to be at a 30/70 percent split or more anyway. This is only project cost and it is the best estimate we can give you in the matter of two weeks. Mick- another concern that has come to mind after this discussion. Several months ago we had a gentleman that unfortunately suffers from a handicap medical condition and he visited us to inform us that according to his research he believes that we don’t have adequate handicap parking spots uptown. And does this diminish handicapped or does it add more? Jim- there are more handicap spots, IDOT will demand that, we have no choice. Anthony- this project, every improvement that we do has to be ADA compliant no questions asked that is part of it. Dane- Anthony is there anything pressing that we can’t chat about tomorrow night. Anthony- we can chat about it tomorrow night the only thing that I want to point out is early on whenever we all met talked threw dollars out to what things are going to cost. Then early on we were discussing only doing Capitol Avenue then it expanded to Main Street one of the things I would like to get, and I don’t know if it requires council approval, is that we told you we weren’t going to exceed $40,000.00 without notifying you and we are at the $40,000.00 limit right now. So, we would like to have the authority to keep on moving and as we told you before as the farther we can carry this before we submit it the better off we are. And we are kind of hopefully after we submit it the contact we remain with at IDOT coordination that maybe after things develop after we submit it maybe they will be aware what we are doing. They are going to be aware of it because we have to maintain continuous coordination with them so we would like to have the authority to keep moving continuing now because of the last few days we have kind of been, and I wanted to notify you guys that we were at the $40,000 limit before we spend any money. You guys can decide if you want to get council approval, I have an agreement that says it’s ok but I am not going to work on it unless you want me to keep going. Jim- I have obviously missed something. Dane- in the prior meeting he said that if he hit $40,000 he would let us know and he has and wants our permission to keep on trucking. Anthony- we have to keep moving to keep contact with IDOT to keep this moving the best we can from now until June 15th. Since this is an IDOT route there is going to be constant communication with IDOT, whenever we stop communicating with IDOT they are going to know that we are not making progress. We are writing the application right now like phase 1 is under way, phase 2 is underway of course there is no right away, but we writing the application like the City is onboard, you guys have already talked about the resolution and authorized to use the funding so that’s in place. So we are writing the application like Mt. Sterling is serious we are moving forward with this we are going to have the plans done by the time the next construction season comes back to where if you get your application chosen in October then we are ready. That is our goal. Of course we are at the mercy of the reviewing bodies, basically IDOT but we don’t have any reason to believe that if we keep moving that we can have a shelf ready set of plans for next year if you are chosen. If you are not chosen you still have a shelf ready set of plans. Jim- two things, 1 we will eventfully see, I don’t know how itemized it will be, but we will see where our money is going right, I feel like we should at least do that for the tax payers. Anthony- yes, like a status report is that what you mean? Jim- sure Anthony- yes we can do that, we are working on getting the first rough draft worked up and ready by next week. A couple of weeks in advance so we can review it amongst us anyway, you know Vada will get to see what we got, get some input. Jim- Lonnie, do you think we should make that a motion to continue on? Lonnie- yes.

Alderman Jim Jennings makes a motion to authorize Hutchinson Engineering to continue working to finish our ITEP application and all engineering involved continuing on to finish phase 1 and also continuing on to finish phase 2, seconded by Schenk. Scranton yes, Buss yes, Lauren Jennings yes, Jim Jennings yes, Schenk yes, Myers yes.

Mayor Flesner- motion to allow Hutchinson Engineering to get through phase 1 and continue all way into phase 2 passing unanimously.

Anthony- I wanted to point out too, tomorrow the public meeting is from 5-6 but I will be here until you guys are done.

Mayor Flesner- moving on to new business, I would like to entertain a motion to approve ordinance #05-01-2016 appropriations budget.

Alderman Jim Jennings makes a motion to pass the appropriations ordinance #05-01-2016, seconded by Scranton. Buss yes, Lauren Jennings yes, Jim Jennings yes, Schenk yes, Myers yes, Scranton yes.

Mayor Flesner motion to approve ordinance #05-01-2016 appropriations budget passes unanimously.

Mayor Flesner- city wide clean up proposed for June 10th and 11th.

Vada Yingling- ok we want to do that, we have Market Iron will donate a roll off for any steel. Been trying to get ahold of John Jennings about 2 roll offs out at the Fire House where it will be easily seen but maybe they wouldn’t dump as much crap out there. And we want to make signs that says what they can accept and what they can’t accept. Chad said he could take anything that was 50% metal, so even furniture that is 50% metal he can take. And anything except t.v.’s so appliances outside of t.v.’s he said he would take. They could take batteries, no tires so we would advertise it we would sure and make some signs and put out there. Dane- and somebody would have to be there. Vada- yeah we talked about that too and when it is over it is over we will have them pull it out right away that day. Chad is looking at taking it at 2 and I want to make that same arrangement with John when I can get ahold of him. Dusty- 2 on Saturday so it would be Friday and Saturday not Saturday and Sunday. Vada- and that is consistent with City wide yard sales too. Jim- do you have a cost on it yet? Vada- when he calls me back. Jim- it might be odd that I am giving this opinion but in the past years ago I remember watching City wide cleanups and I know the attention is to give people that we are about to write ordinance tickets to a chance to clean up their property. And I have to be honest that is usually not what happens, it is somebody cleaning out the inside of a garage and the properties we are concerned about say like they are. I just want to put that as a history, anyway I just wanted to make that point. Brandon Norris- if I could make a request if we do that, that whoever stands out there for the day, my guys and I can take a shift if you want a few people to do it. I might suggest doing some sort of signup sheet, the people that come in look at a driver’s license, have them sign a list that they were there and that they dump stuff off. That gives us 2 things, 1 a list of names for the ordinance violation stuff that way we can go back and look and 2 that way we see the driver’s license and we can see that it is in town residence and we don’t have people coming for out in the county cleaning out a barn or something out there and coming in and throwing it away. Dusty- and that is what we did last time we had all that. Dane- does anyone want to make a motion? Scranton- do we want to make it contingent on cost, do you know what it is going to cost? Vada- I don’t have a clue. Lauren Jennings- for the 20-30 yard containers I know they are going to average between $450-$600, and that is for a rental for 10 days. I would image some of that cost could be dropped since you are only using it for a weekend. Jim- in my opinion you should put a cost on it because historically you will be 4 hours into it and calling saying we are full can you bring another one down. Lonnie- and you don’t want things piling up that increases the liability, so the height must be contained. Dusty- do you want 2 employees there all the time? Dane- Lonnie thinks we will have to have a special meeting to approve it if we want to do it. Can we move the date back or does it need to be this date? So we can get the research in? Jim- or give an amount saying that it doesn’t exceed this amount of dollars that is what I would suggest. Dane- either way.

Alderwoman Buss makes a motion to approve City Wide cleanup for June 10th and 11th pending cost and approval by everyone to cap at $2000.00. Lauren Jennings abstain, Jim Jennings abstain, Schenk yes, Myers yes, Scranton yes, Buss yes.

Mayor Flesner- the motion to approve the City wide cleanup for June 10th and 11th with a $2000.00 cap passes with 4 yes and 2 abstentions.

Dane- ok Mick you have the floor. After discussion with the Mayor I would like to, you know I have had a concern since last October when the auditor presented his report. About the recommendations the voting of the council and then for some reason the wish or the desire of the council is being ignored as far as when it comes to the implementation of certain things. And after talking to you yesterday morning I would like to see that, outside of a bill that we could save some money by approving it at the time. And I think we have done that for Brian on one occasion that I recall, where he had an opportunity to purchase some equipment for the fire department, and it was a situation that was considered worthy of in saving quite a bit of money for the City. I think at that time the members of the council were polled and we went ahead and give authorization for the purchase of the equipment. So I would like to see that the bills are, the checks can be cut and written up prior to the meeting if that is what wants to happen but at the same time I think that when we have an auditor that has commented that we need to be doing it this way or that way and we are not doing it and then the council votes on that we are still not doing it and I think we are leaving ourselves liable for some problems. So it would be my suggestion that outside of any statement or bill that we would be saving some money on by going ahead and paying for it that we discontinue the process of writing of the checks prior to the council’s approval. Jim- I had a, and I apologize for how long it took me to get it done, a long talk with Richard Grafton Friday afternoon and I told him I was going to ask first of all and once again, Dusty and Brandon, what is being imposed would be an inconvenience if you always have to wait for every any expenditure to be paid is an inconvenience? Dusty- we talked about this to and I think we can still do ours the same way, I mean we still do it weekly whether we wait or whether we don’t we can still fill ours out. Stacy gives us our bills throughout the week and then we do it once a week we fill them out and then get them back to her. So I don’t think anything will change on our end of it other than Stacy just wouldn’t send out the checks until after the meeting but it is not going to affect our day to day on how we code our bills anyway. Brandon- no because we already discussed anyone Dusty and I and the council, stuff like tires, brakes that stuff those things have to be done. So those we can go get them done, get a bill for them and if they have to be paid ahead of council meeting we have already talked about that with the council and that is what was ok to do so. Jim- as in the letter there you know, he is not taking a side if you will he is reiterating what the recommendations were. We discussed those and we had a meeting about it and we talked about it and gave our concerns to Stacy. But the last one that is this that Mick keeps bringing up do we pay them, are we always going to have them authorized before they are paid. Now as Richard put it he says all we do is offer the best case scenario, and I explained to him how it is being done now. For the most part a lot of them are being Ok’d before they are paid and there are reoccurring ones such as utilities, but when you guys have brakes or tires or snow plow that breaks in January excreta you guys call and informally poll the council asking do you support this. He has absolutely no problem with that Mick whatsoever. Mick- I understand and I am agreeing with that. Jim- I feel like we are taking action on a non-problem that is my opinion, he agrees with me that everything is working fine. We have a good working relationship with our department heads, we haven’t seen anything happen while I have been sitting her anyway that made me think that you guys are spending money without our approval. And he is perfectly willing to come to a meeting and reiterate that, as he put it, those recommendations they give that to every municipality and made the exception of one other taxing body where there are 7 people and for any department head to spend money they have the check printed then they have to find all 7 of them and have it initialed. And he said, I am not going to tell them not to do that, but if it was one of my members I would feel that is too much. Then there are other places where they don’t pay attention to anything and the next thing you know a year later and there are tons of problems. Personally I feel like everything is working pretty well, that is just my thoughts. And Richard is very comfortable, and I asked him specifically, do you see a legal problem and of course he is not an attorney I said in your experience have you ever seen that the way we are doing this that somebody comes back and there is some sort of law suit against the municipality and the leadership saying you know you paid that bill before it was ok’d Police Chief spent it so I’ve got a suit against the City, it just has never happened. Mick- well you don’t conduct your household like this so why would you conduct City business like this? I mean we got a letter there in writing Jim. Jim- once again I discussed those with him and the point that I made as I have said to Lonnie before is any legal counsel and accountants they give their advice we consider that advice and then we make our discussion and that is what we did. Mick- it is a finding every year. Jim- once again he called it best case scenario they send that to every Municipality and the leaders decide if they think they need to do that. There were 4 recommendations and 3 of them we said we are going to do. We had a meeting on it we dealt with it and so here we are again. Emily Buss- I am more concerned with the payroll tax penalties but Dane you already addressed that correct? Jim- that is what Mr. Grafton addressed because he said that was the one and I said yes in the meeting we made it very obvious to Stacy how important that was and that it was never going to happen again. Then we talked to the supervisors and everything seems to be working ok. And like I said if you want him to come to a meeting he will come to a meeting and verify everything I just said. Mick- well there is no recourse when there is a check written and already sent to the vendor. There has been several that there was overpayments or underpayments there has still been penalties where they haven’t received their money on time. And like I said you don’t conduct your business at your household and pay bills like we do. So then why should we be running the City any different? Jim- that is a separate issue that we can talk about if we need to. Anything that they are saying are they doing that now? Stacy- they are doing exactly what they said they were doing. Jim- that same thing you keep harping about I asked him specifically and he say he was completely comfortable with the way we are doing things. Mick- then this letter is worth nothing then. Jim- if that is how you see it. Dane- so is there any motion, Mick do you want to make any kind of motion? Mick- no, I think that if he says we are doing fine contrary to what the letter says I will share that with the newspaper and as I said I will say for the third time you don’t pay your home bills like this but yet we will operate the City like that it just don’t make sense not good fiscal sense either. Dane- ok no motion?

Treasure’s Report

Public Works Report-Dusty I have a few things I would like to touch on the pictures in there are of the cabin out at the lake, we had talked about this at the last lake meeting, something is going to have to be done with that. Whatever we decide to do with that I just want everybody to know that we have had some more of the stone work on the fire place come down. Just keep in mind that is something we are going to have to deal with probably sooner than later. Mowing is in full swing the water totals that you guys see in your packet this month is kind of skewed a little bit. It was a 21 day billing cycle for Clayton/ Camp Point. So it shows we went from 19 million gallons to 13 million. Our daily use didn’t go down any it was just a shorter billing cycle. But other than that everything went smooth is month, I didn’t have any leaks and only 3 turn offs. So it was a good month.

Committee Reports

Ad Hoc

Airport

Cemetery

City Planning

Finance/budget- Dane- the only thing I have is, it is that time of the year again and I would like to entertain a motion to give our City employees a 2.7% raise across the board, for all City employees. Jim- was there evaluations done or anything like that, or are we doing that? I couldn’t remember just want to make sure what I am thinking here. Cheryl- we did it last time. Dane- basically we set a precedent at this number and if them 2 had any concerns with an employee or problems it would be a lower rate. I would be addressed with me and talked about at that point and time. And everything across the board seemed to be kosher. Jim- it’s the anniversary I take it? It has been a year since we discussed that? Dane- yes. Jim-wow. Cheryl- is that part time too? Dane- no. Cheryl- you didn’t give part time anything last year. Dane- what are you guys thoughts on that we didn’t discuss that. Jim- any concerns if we do that? Brandon- just make it 2.7 for everybody including part timers? Dusty- I would say part timers that have been here for a year. Jim- are you ok with that? Dane- yes I am ok with it, that was just not brought up to me, I don’t have a problem with it I am not saying we don’t respect what the part timers do by no means.

Alderman Jim Jennings makes a motion that we give a 2.7% pay increase to all City employees, all full time and part time employees that have been with the City for at least a year, seconded by Scranton. Jim Jennings yes, Schenk abstain, Myers yes, Scranton yes, Buss abstain, Lauren Jennings yes.

Dane- motion to give the City of Mt. Sterling employees raises of 2.7% across the board for full time and part time who have been with us for a year passes with 4 yes and 2 abstentions.

Fire- Brian got called out

Lake/Lake Development- Dusty, I just have one thing- the signs we ordered last month will be done either tomorrow or Wednesday. So we will have them up this week. Jim- while I am thinking about this I had mentioned this to Vada and she passed it on to you, I had asked about the Department of Correction still offers labor. I think the question was what do I have in mind? The only thing I thought of was done at the very end of the road were you head down towards the boat ramp we still have an electrical post there where there is no level or decent camping spot, is that something we could utilize their labor on to do that? Dusty- not really, we would end up doing the majority of it with our equipment anyway. It would probably take us longer to have them do anything than it would if we just went in there and did it. And you talked to me about the algae control at the lake and once we get to that point we have an agreement as of last year with DNR to handle that from now on.

Personnel

Plan Commission

Police-Brandon- alright, I am going to start something new, I am going to start giving a monthly activity report with some of the stuff we have going on and some of the stuff we have done. Be had 168 contacts this month, which include doing business checks, calls for service, vehicle unlocks, walk in complaints those types of things. We had 74 traffic stops, 18 citations, 56 warnings, handled 5 accidents, 5 criminal arrests, we had 31 ordinance contacts for the month 5 of those have for sure been corrected I didn’t get a chance today because we had another call and arrest today, 2 citations issued and the majority of what we have for ordinance violations will be coming due in the next week or 2. As far as whether they get a citation or they have been corrected. On April 30th we participated in Healthy Kids Day at the YMCA and finger printed approximately 30 kids for the id cards. I would like to thank Officer Bond and Officer Himan for going out and getting that taken care of on a Saturday. We just completed a 2 week investigation on an aggravated sexual abuse case with an arrest, I want to thank Officer Bond for all the hard work he put in the case he put a lot of extra hours on that. We provided Don Newingham with an amber strobe light for a thank you for the volunteer work he does there as crossing guard. Something I wanted to bring up and I think Jim kind of touched on it. You would talking earlier about having these maps and stuff available. It just crossed my mind what are the thoughts of the council about getting some kind of technology out here for presentation and stuff like that? I know it is only $22.50 for us to do the cable/internet there at the office, is that something the council would be interested in doing out here. What is the thought about that and doing some sort of projector that you could use, Anthony could bring in a laptop and put that up on the wall for a bigger presentation. The reason I ask I also spoke to our mobile training unit today scheduling our fire arms qualifications for the year and I talked to them about utilizing this facility more. They will sponsor classes and we will get a couple of officers in it for free for hosting it but they pay the instructors and then students would come from all over. Dane- I say just get a cost for us Brandon and put a couple of options together. Brandon- other than that that is all I have. Dane- I just want to real quick interject and thank you guys, Brandon you and your guys for especially the YMCA thing I seen a couple of pictures online and had a couple of parents tell me that you guys let them sit in the car and look at the cars and they thought it was really cool and as far as these ordinance violations go I know it is a tough thing to ask you guys because I know that you guys want to be everybody’s buddy but you have to realize these concerns are coming from our citizens about these properties. Emily- I have seen a change in our area just over the weekend. Brandon- as far as the ordinance violation progress on each of the multiple occurrences, I believe that was yours Mick? Mick- yes. Brandon- I have a list of stuff here, I don’t want to bog down the council’s time but you are more than welcome to take a look at.

Street and Alley

TIF- Philip-I appreciate your time, I will try to summarize, basically what we have come to is a rare occasion and that is due some abstention within our committee because of conflicting relationships. So basically on the most recent application which is for the Tastee Treet, the split is basically due to the depth of which we want to allow for the reimbursement and the reimbursement rate of such. And again, I will field questions but I will just do this kind of top line for you. So TIF allows for reimbursement to be everything from property acquisition all the way to competition. And so that acquisition was actually part of a reimbursable expense. Now that is not always granted, in some cases it is or isn’t we have done a plethora of different things over the years for the different entities as far as those TIF reimbursements. There really is no hard and fast rule to follow it is really at the discretion of the council effectively. In this case where we are divided is basically, and Vada correct me if I am wrong, Vada has been involved in it and let me thank you again for Vada and for the position because she has done an outstanding job and the things you will continue to see happening in the City is going to be because you have voice through her and it’s a consistent one. Dane- I would echo that especially with my position I agree 100%. Philip- but where we are struggling is basically in that reimbursement for that acquisition, is making that part of the overall expenditure as you probably are aware of they want to do improvements to the property and as you have seen with your own project when you start that you have to make sure all the compliances are involved in that and that just blows the cost up. And that is what they are facing. Personally, not to try to sway you one way or another, but my opinion is that is a true community institution it has been here since most of us where born obviously, it provides local jobs it is local income it stays here it is made here it draws in people. I can’t believe the people that know about lemon ice cream. So all those subjective rational are why vote was yes I think it should be included and quite thoroughly you will never see a return on that investment no matter how great the actual business is. That property it will not max any further on its evaluation so I think for a business owner and a good faith to make that type of investment in a property I do believe this is where TIF comes in and makes that happen but some of my fellow committee members respectfully disagree with that and don’t feel like the acquisition is part of what should be reimbursable that they already made that choice prior to sighting to go forward with it. Is that true am I paraphrasing correctly Vada? Vada- yes I think so, I get it. Philip- so we are divided and this is the first time I have every really had to actually come to you but ultimately it is your vote I just wanted to give you a background on that as to why. Dane- so you are basically saying that when they purchased the property your saying that you know it was there choice or some of the guys are saying it was their choice to buy that property? Philip- yes, it is a lot easier for the committee to do that when they are acquiring blighted property I mean it is undeveloped it is new that makes sense to a lot of people I think cognitively, my argument as well was that blighted as a developed property but you can go either way. Jim- and you say it was even though you were probably down some members it was a split vote? Philip yes. Dane- because people had to abstain because of conflict of interest. Jim- now with an acquisition we have spoke to Steve Klein and we can do that? Philip- yes. Jim- now are they wanting to, and I only know this from talking to Steve, the agreement that seems to be common is after we approve it we, they get 70% back of their taxes they pay for the life of the TIF, are they wanting to exceed that or? Philip- no, it is really the basis you have it is really with any TIF application you have what are qualified as reimbursable expenses. First of all what qualifies to be reimbursed and then the second thing is that the committee then decides at what rate. That rate can be 2% to 99% quite honestly so that is the secondary discussion point and then what happens is over time they will get their property tax bill that reimbursement is calculated off of that. So let’s say if $100,000.00 was the mark first year they got $2,000.00 worth of reimbursement now they are down to $90,000.00 and you spin that down and you got the 20 some years left of the TIF in order to do that, unless we extend it further. So there could be a point where you don’t ever fully, and I can say in two of the instances already where we will ever actually fully reach reimburse what was eligible. Just because time and the taxes didn’t escalate. Jim- that is my question, do you think that is the case in this situation? Philip- yes it would be, that is what I mean by they will never fully recoup because at the end of the day the assessed valuation of the facility will I don’t believe ever catch up to the money honestly what they have already put into it or will put into in the future. Because a lot of that is blue sky and good will. Jim- so you are wanting it the way the reimbursement is structured will remain the say but this will allow the acquisition of the property to be included? Philip- yes. Mick- what is the project am I missing something here? Vada- they want to extend and tear off the East side and make better outside seating that will be kind of an indoor outdoor seating and put some heat in there in the winter add additional like side to the West side and add an addition to the back side so they can have a walk in freezer and updates. They also want to purchase a walk in freezer and update the inside of the existing.

Alderman Jim Jennings makes a motion to go ahead and allow all eligible costs be part of the reimbursement of the Tastee Treet project, seconded by Buss. Schenk yes, Myers yes, Scranton yes, Buss yes, Lauren Jennings yes, Jim Jennings yes.

Mayor Flesner- the motion to approve the Tastee Treet application to include all eligible costs passes unanimously.

Water/Sewer-Dusty- I am going to call a water/sewer meeting probably next week if I can find a date that works regarding Western Illinois Correctional Center being behind $394,008.00.

Zoning

Zoning Board of Appeals

Other Business

Executive Session

Motion to Adjourn.

Alderman Myers makes a motion to adjourn at 8:01 P.M., seconded by Scranton. Myers yes, Scranton yes, Buss yes, Lauren Jennings yes, Jim Jennings yes, Schenk yes.

SoSo

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Dunlap, City Clerk / Collector