City of Mt. Sterling

General Council Meeting

Police Training Center - #5 Jefferson Road

July 18, 2016 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, Police Chief Brandon Norris, Public Works Director Dusty Buss, and City Administrator Vada Yingling are present.

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

Alderman Myers, I have one correction- page 16 the 3rd or 4th paragraph where it says in accordance with the Federal Aviation Administration it should read bulletins not bullets and standards. Alderman Jim Jennings and for any literary enthusiasts under Mike Oeser should read Don Quixote not Donkey Ho. Stacy- there is one more correction on page 3 it should be Matt Bradbury instead of Mike.

Mayor Flesner- At 6:32 P.M. Police Chief Brandon Norris joins the meeting.

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

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

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

Alderman Myers- have the bills been paid? Stacy- yes.

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

Mayor Flesner- motion to approve the June expenses with the addition of $120.00 to Dunn Law Office passes with 5 yes and 1 no.

Mayor Flesner- Guest/Citizens opportunity to address the council- Action Brown County.

Mayor Flesner- Old Business

Dane- New Business, Tim Wachter, and he is on two consecutive items on the agenda so you have the floor. Tim, thank you very much, I have two street closures we would like to request for upcoming events for Sportsman’s. The first one being Saturday August 20th it will be our annual customer appreciation party. This is a party we do every year to say thank you to all of our customers. We will have some live music and some food out on the street, we do a scavenger hunt and have some drink specials and some things like that. It is free for anyone to attend, this year it is Saturday August 20th. We want to close the street from 12:00 noon until 2 A.M. Sunday morning August the 21st. The location would be from the 4-way stop and Main and Capitol, North to the alley behind Sportsman’s club I don’t need to close the alley just that block. The 2nd event we have this year is Saturday September 17th, it is a new event for us this year. We are bringing a National craft brewery to set up a bar in the street to showcase all their beers. We are working on getting a food vendor on board to do food carryings. It is called Deschutes Brewery out of Bend, Oregon. They are one of the biggest and most successful craft breweries in the country and they agreed to come to our little bar in our little town to showcase their beer and help us put ourselves on the map. This event would be Saturday September 17th we would like to close the street from 8 A.M. on Saturday morning until 2 A.M. on Sunday morning September 18th. The location would be from the 4- way stop at Main and Capital up to the alley behind Sportsman’s club we would also like to include the alley West of the Sportsman’s club so we can use that for trash reciprocals and port-a-potties. That is all I have. Mayor Flesner, is there a cover charge on that one? Tim that has not been determined yet, most likely there will be something since this is going to be a kind of premium style event. I would like to class this one up a little bit, it will not be a testicle festival. We would like to put a small charge at the gate to offset that expense of bringing that brewery to town.

Alderman Jim Jennings makes a motion to approve both requests as presented by Mr. Wachter, seconded by Schenk. Scranton yes, Buss yes, Lauren Jennings yes, Jim Jennings yes, Schenk yes, Myers yes.

Chief Norris, Tim what time will those two events actually run? Tim, the first event will start at 4 P.M. and end at midnight, we are not sure on the 2nd one yet but it would not start before 2 P.M. and would also end at midnight.

Mayor Flesner- the motion for Tim’s two requests for street closures pass unanimously.

Mayor Flesner- media statements. Alderman Myers, that was mine and I don’t want anyone offended by this but I wasn’t happy with the statement that was made to the media concerning the possible vote by the council to perhaps shut the water off at the prison. And I think in the future that if there is an alderman that choses to talk to the media certainly it is their right to do so but I do believe if that is going to be done I think that council person ought to make it known that it is that person’s opinion and maybe not the consensus of the council. There as a lot of unnecessary grief and unnecessary worry from a number of people that are employed there and those that have connections to that prison. And I think it was just a situation that caused as I said unnecessary sorry and grief by a lot of people. And I just think if there is going to be a statement that goes to the press the public or television station or whatever that the person doing the interview make in known that this is my opinion not necessarily the opinion of the entire council. Because it was never my opinion to shut the water off out there and I think the 357 people that had to worry about it from the time the interview occurred before we had our council meeting I think that was a lot of upset people, upset families and I would just like not to see that happen again. Jim Jennings, I am assuming you are talking about me Mick. I did say that and it was edited out a lot of the stuff I said was edited out. Mick, well I know in past relationships I’ve had in my public life with the newspaper or the television they don’t always necessarily print or put on the station what is said but I just think that, and I am not trying to be critical either and I said that when I prefaces my remarks, I just think that if we can’t be unified in a controversy or something that is as important as that is whoever is making the interview makes it be known that this is my opinion. Any of us are certainly free to talk to the press at any time about any subject I just think that maybe if you told them that it was your opinion they certainly should have aired that. Like I said I am not trying to be critical but I just think that unfortunately that it was a situation that did cause a lot of unnecessary worry and grief to everyone that would have been affected by it. Enough said. Dusty, I have something to add to that to while we are kicking this can around. When we got the call, Vada and I were getting calls all the time too and I just referred them to Dane but it that what we are supposed to do there, in that situation we have never dealt with anything like that before. I just referred them on I didn’t want to make any statements one way or the other but I would assume Vada would make a commit if someone were to make a comment for the City. I am just looking for in the future what do if the situation raises again. Dane, I personally believe in your freedom of speech so if you are approached as far as I am concerned it is up to you or if you are the type of person that wants to pass that on to me I think that is great. I will never be mad any anybody for doing an interview or anything like that, you can’t do that if somebody comes asks you and you want to talk about it. My opinion would be it would just depend on how educated the person is on the issue. If they don’t feel they are educated enough then. Dusty, right but like Mick said everybody has their own opinion on it and everybody is going to be different. So, is this something that we want to unify? Dane, that could be why they are seeking that, not in this issue but in the future, if we are at odds with something they might want to come to Mick who is pro and then they might want to Casey who is against for that just basic reason. I would be hard to set it in stone on who. Dusty, I guess I am asking from the employee point of view not the alderman point of view, would you rather us turn that over to you guys? Dane, that doesn’t bother me at all. Mick, well I mean if you would feel comfortable talking to them express your opinion then. Dusty, I just want point blank questions like if somebody wanted to know how much money they owed or something like that because that is public knowledge. Mick, sure but if you would feel uncomfortable talking to the media then you could always refer them to the Mayor. Chief Norris, I ask that Vada check but I think when we came up with the new policy manual I think it says something in there about media relations I think that was in the new policy manual. Mick, well I know from past experience, and I am not saying that this is the case, but unfortunately there is a lot of interest in something that is very controversial and someone can get a differing opinions of different sources and it seems like they thrive on that. And years ago we had a homicide in Mt. Sterling that everyone is probably aware of, the television station we were dealing with twisted that whole thing around and caused nothing but a lot of heartache for a lot for everyone involved and I just don’t like to see it when that happens and we are a small community and it is just something we need to be very delicate with. Dane, ok moving on.

Mayor Flesner- Mike Kropp’s zoning variance, Mike has requested to build a 2 car garage and he would like to put the building closer to the property lines than the current ordinance requires, from 8 foot to 3 foot or so. So what we had to do was, we had to run a 2 week advertisement with having the open meeting before we can go forward with that. I basically kind of just wanted to update everybody on that we will have to recess this meeting unfortunately to next week after the open meeting. It will be basically to see if anybody shows up for the open meeting, Stacy got all the letters back from the neighbors and nobody has a problem with it that neighbors him that is one of the requirements. The other was the open meeting and it had to be posted for a certain amount of time and unfortunately when the request was made we didn’t have time to legally get it in. That is why we will have to come back next week and see each other again for probably about 3 minutes. So does anybody have any input on that right now or do we want to talk about it next week?

Treasurer’s Report- Stacy, Cheryl can’t be here today.

Public Works Report-Dusty, I don’t have much to add unless somebody has any questions on my report. Casey- do you know where we stand on the building uptown? Fire Chief Brian Gallaher, I have an update on that I can do that.

Committee Reports

Ad Hoc

Airport

Cemetery

City Planning-Anthony Miller, update- Well prior to last meeting we presented what we intended to use for the intersection of Main Street and Capitol Avenue. I think that generated a lot of comments. F.S. was here to show their opposition to the lack of truck movements down the South way on Capitol Avenue and everyone on the council was on board at looking at different options. So we did that or have done that within the last few days so we are going to show that to you. Here you go you can compare the new with the old one. So based on what was presented by F.S. at the last meeting their truck movements that they showed was that they commonly used what we would call a WD67 truck which is the absolute largest truck that is legal on the road in the State of Illinois. I don’t know how common those trucks are with F.S. but I am sure there are all different sizes of semi’s that comes to F.S. What we did was made our best attempt at giving an intersection that accommodates the WD65 which is very close to a 67 the wheel base is less than 2 feet difference. It is what our computer program runs the best but it should be pretty representative of it. I have cut to full size pictures for you guys to look at and I have some 11X17’s also. Basically what we did was, we have not changed the overall width of either piece of pavement and were standing pretty firm on width on the pavement mainly because we are very strong in the opinion that we need to widen the sidewalk a little bit for more than reason. Number 1 reason is ADA compliance with the new layout it also gives us room to add street lights without conflicting with an ADA route. It allows for ramps into all of the doors and all the doors are necessary and as you are aware there is a lot of steps up there so the more elevation there is between the Street and the building door the harder it is to get in there. The more room we got the easier it is to make the route ADA compliant. It also gives us a little bit extra room so vendors can show their wares on street shopping if you will. Casey, how does that relate to the letter we got from the historical society? Anthony, well the letter we got from the Historic Perseveration is a letter that you commonly see whenever we try to make changes like this. So, we are not really alarmed by it at this point. Once we get into a conversation the State and explain the reasoning for widening the sidewalks we are pretty confident they are going to go along with it. The bump outs are, as long as the City is onboard with constructing the bump outs that are away from the Capitol intersection, we are relatively confident that State Historic Perseverance will go for that too. We are not overly concerned about the letter we think it is something we can coordinate with the State. We are confident we can come to some kind or an agreement with them even if we have to modify the design somewhat. So, as you can see with the new layout we got rid of the bump outs on the Southwest and the Southeast quad. And given the geometrics of this intersection and widths of the streets there are there, I haven’t set and watched a large sum of traffic but we think it would be hard for a large sum of traffic to make those turns now without encroaching the whole road. And somebody that has seen it happen I would be interested to know if it is true. Jim Jennings, I have a question and John tell me what you think, because I have sat there and watched. On the new one here I see, on the new one are you planning on not having the turn lane? Because to me it made more sense, and I realize we had more than a couple of complaints about slowing traffic down but people don’t understand that is a goal we want to do that, as we have more pedestrians downtown. Wouldn’t be easy for a semi if it is coming from the West to turn right if it is in the actual East bound lane on 24 instead of over in that turn lane because if we have just enough of a bump out and shut down the turn lane seems to me like the semi’s will be able to turn easier than that there because it is a wider turn. Because I have set there and watched it. Anthony, honestly from a truck movement stand point the turn lane is no good for a semi-truck. Jim, that is what I thought. Anthony, the closer to the middle of the road they can the easier it is to make a turn. I don’t think a semi- truck would ever use the turn lane because when they do they are going to drag their trailer across the sidewalk and risk hitting one of the buildings. I don’t know, John has anybody witnessed that? John, I guess the only thing, if you keep a turn lane there then you want to stay in the main lane you are always giving somebody the opportunity to try to squeeze in. Jim, that is right and I have seen that happen. John, that is a bad deal. Jim, I have seen a trucker slam on his brakes because a person is in the turn lane. Anthony, that would be in their blind spot. Chief Norris, most of the ones I seen will straddle the turn lane line when they are turning South. John, or you will nose into that get the trailer started in the turn lane then bring yourself the tractor part back out again then you are kind of covering the turn lane a little. But a lot of it has got to do with experience driver that are used to being around semi’s you know kids they don’t think about that kind of stuff. The older you get the more a person thinks about it. I would think any kind of semi would want to stay in the main lane. Brandon, I think they are to eliminate that turn lane right? Anthony, the main reason for it is the bump outs had several reason why we use them. Number 1 is it squeezes the road down to tighter and slows down traffic, let’s everybody know that the intersection is there. It gives a place to put signs, posters to the edge of the pavement where everybody that is approaching the intersection can see the signs. It reduces the crossing distance for pedestrians so they’re not walking across so much pavement, they have a shorter distance to walk. And it is a place to have beautification which is really a big part of this project to, try to add some planting areas and some brick just some beautification in the downtown area. It serves as all those purposes plus whenever you come up to it you kind of serves as an entrance to Mt. Sterling. Safety is the biggest accomplishment though, but unfortunately whenever you have semi tractors there is no way we could keep any part of the bump outs and allow use by semi’s. And if you notice the line work that is on this drawing you’ll see that the new curves are slightly inside the old curves mainly because both of those sidewalks are a couple of feet wider than they should be. So, the roads going to get a little bit tighter, the little bump outs that are to the South shouldn’t be a big issue for semi’s the way they track. Jim, I want to ask you something real quick why I have it in my head here I want to show it to you, is can something still happen there to shut down the turn lane and we will have semi traffic out here? Anthony, well the main reason was, there is a parking space here, when you have parking to close to the intersection you strip the sight. Jim, I know what I am talking about is a slope something like you have here. Anthony, I have truck movements for each one of these instances and I can get those out and show you guys if you want. I don’t have enough copies to give everyone but I have the movements and what the traffic shows. Jim, I would like to see it if I can do it after the meeting. Anthony, first of all we feel this intersection will work at a 65% it will be difficult that is just the way it is for now. The smaller semi’s are going to be accommodated much easier but we think this is a reasonable compromise and we can still modify it somewhat if anybody thinks we need to. But we are basically providing about the same amount of pavement as we did before you are losing some parking by this that I should point out because right now where this bump out right here is there is a couple of parking spaces right there. If there is cars parked there I am sure a truck really has a hard time going around that corner now certainly a big truck if there is a car parked in that first parking space right there. Dusty, they do. Anthony, so this lay out we think is at least as good as what is there now, maybe slightly better. Dusty, you don’t think it will look really lopsided if you have bump outs on one side and not on the other side. Anthony, I guess that is open for debate. That is part of the reason for this exercise. We can make it look the same but if you had it look the same it would be a benefit, you mean move the bump outs from the North side? Allen, I would still like to have the turn lane in front of Brown County State Bank, otherwise we are bottling up all the traffic in that one lane. Dusty, that is what we want. Jim, that is the safety thing yes. Dusty, especially going that way, you don’t want to leave a turn lane on one side of an intersection and not on the other side. Anthony, really one of things we have to do here that I have mentioned before, we have to do an intersection design study and of course this geometrics of the intersection is the first step in that. We have collected traffic data for downtown we did the last couple of weeks we did it for 12 hour’s. Somebody set out there for 12 hours and took counts or somebody took machine counts they didn’t really sit out there. Those numbers are what we are going to do to design the intersection those will tell us whether we need left turn lanes or what. And that is usually how, whenever you design an intersection especially on a State route it is all done for the numbers that are out there and a projection out 20 years. Allen, why don’t you do these in fall when there is increase traffic, especially the semi traffic? Because how many trucks, John, would you have a day maybe? John, I would say during harvest time, of course there is no harvest now, it would be supply trucks and our semi’s. Dane, why would it matter how many semi’s go through there when you have already made turn lanes big enough for them? Allen, well coming from the East going West there will be semi’s going in from that way to go down to FS you clog that up there they are going to be backing traffic all the way back to Dot Foods. Dane, if the semi’s come up to the 4-way stop legally, I don’t even think legally you can go around that semi in how small our turn lanes are. So why would it matter if the turn lanes are there? Give me a good reason. Allen, say I am behind 4 semi’s, 40 foot a piece, that is 200 foot roughly. Dane, so how are you going to get in the turn lane legally? Allen, I am wanting to turn to the Courthouse, I have to wait all the time. Vada, I am going to go up South Street instead of Main Street to the Courthouse. Dane, you are not understanding though Allen you are going to have to wait all that time anyway. Because our turn lanes are from maybe us to the wall legally to get into them, you are going to have to wait all that time anyways. There is no difference. Dusty, the turn lane is like 90 foot or something. Dane, it is illegal to go around them in the those empty parking spaces anyway and take a right which is very dangerous which people do now. Anthony, they are both short. Emily, how many times have you pulled up to that and you just barely seen somebody walking across? Dane, or come to an abrupt stop from the people that are backing out of the parking spot two down from the right? Emily, right because they can’t see you. Jim, like you say we having an exercise we will have to talk more on it but there are a couple of things I want to say. Number 1 remember why the bump outs and everything is happening, it is all for increased safety. We are looking at trying to make the downtown more pedestrian safe as we increase pedestrian foot traffic downtown that is our goal. I want to make sure everybody remembers, I know there are some loud voices on social media, now I personally don’t do social media but people are mentioning hey did you hear what so an so posted. Now of course there is a lot of wrong information, a lot of why are they spending that money there and not spending it on pot holes? We can’t do that you know and on and on and on. It is a lack of information. Remember the exhaustive reviews that the Dot Family Foundation did so did Two Rivers and so did, I forget the name of the group, out of Macomb. Overwhelmingly our community wants to see this happen they have mentioned specifically nicer sidewalks, better street lighting all this, a downtown beautification. Now is there going to be changes? Yes there is going to be changes. Look what happened when they put IGA out here on 99, tell me you don’t sit in line a lot longer than you did 3 years ago. It is called adapting to change it is a wonderful problem that we have. Is that we are growing and we are able to grow more and there is going to be the guy 20 years from now when he is sitting in line that is still going to be griping that we put the bump outs out there. But most people don’t they are behind this and remember you don’t hear from the supporters you hear from the negative, the 5% that just want to complain and don’t even have all the facts. But that is what we are trying to do here, it is like any major accomplishment. If you go to a Cardinals game you don’t get to park right in the front door and walk in, you put up with certain discomfort and inconveniences because it is such a neat atmosphere. You know at 3:00 when high school gets out it is going to take a little longer to get through town. When harvest is going on it going to take a little bit longer, but to me the benefits far outweigh those that are negative. Remember that because sometimes one person gets way to much impact on the discussion in the community just because they are the loudest. Emily, we are not selling just a single plan that we are saying you all need to take this idea and learn to live with it. We are welcoming people to come here and give ideas and come to the informational meetings and learn what we are learning with us so we can fine tune everything to work well for everyone for safety and for the businesses. Dusty, I am glad John came tonight to, I was down to talk to John earlier and just all the miss information that even people are coming down and trying to pawn off onto F.S. There is so much of it that is so far out there that has never even been discussed in any of these plans. It is just mind boggling the information that we are hearing on how it can be that far off. And I wish that more people would come to us and say hey you know can you explain to me how this plan works? Because all these people, there is a petition going around town, these people are signing this petition and they have no clue what they are signing. I am glad that F.S. has taken the time to work with us in this verses just saying hey we are going to sign a petition and that is how we are going to do our part. Mick, I have a couple of questions. Anthony, let me interrupt for just a second, one of things I want to point out about the width. I have talked to Vada about this and I know there have been comments about the width. Either of the Streets no one is even going to know they are skinnier, they are not even going to notice. We are taking this much off of each side. Brian, if you look at it from Dorothy’s Market going East it is already that narrow where the curve is going to Casey’s. Anthony, and when you get to the West end down by North West Cross it is skinnier too. And really the part we are taking away, right now is not striped for anything, it is not striped for parking it is just no man’s land. Mick, what is going to be the actual loss spaces of uptown parking with this plan? Anthony, we don’t know yet. Mick, are we talking 1,2? Dusty, it probably depends on what option we go with. Anthony, since the thing is still under development there is several at this point but I.. Mick, I have had several that have express a concern about the loss of good parking. Anthony, right and these types of projects that is always the case. Mick, and the second question I had was, you know you just eluded to with the narrowing. I had a cancer patient come to my house and said that she had hoped that we didn’t give up our safety net between the parking now and this new plan. Because she said you know that it would be nice to, it is nice now that they can park their cars uptown without the fear of getting their car sideswiped or getting run over getting out of the car. And I wanted to know if, and her concern was, that would be sacrifice in this new plan that when they park right there at the street and the possibility when they open their door they are going to get struck or get run over or something like that. And I have a concern because that concern has been expressed to me by not only her but others as well. Anthony, the parking on Capitol Avenue is going to be 45 degree parking. Mick, I am not talking about Capitol I am talking about Main Street. Anthony, on Main Street there was a 6 foot buffer between the traffic lane and the parking lane and now there is a 4 foot buffer. Mick, so we are losing 2 feet? Anthony, you are losing 2 feet. Dane, right now there is enough room to park two cars side by side up there, so nobody’s door is the length of a whole car. Mick, people enjoy that safety net. Dane, they will still have it. Jim, there is also if we do take away turn lanes that will elevate some of that, but that danger exists already. If you parallel park and somebody is boogying down through there early because they are behind 2 or 3 semi’s before they get to the turn lane and this in my opinion will improve that. Like I say the traffic calming and the intersection will be much more noticeable, it is human nature all this makes the drivers look when they drive through town more aware and they say oh wait a minute and they slow down. Because it just looks like there is more going on and they see the intersection they feel like they will naturally slow down. I think it will improve. Dusty, they only people that it is really going to accentuate is the people that can’t really parallel park. Because a look of them still get out in the road anyway. Mick, well as you know we have a large consensus of elderly people in the community too, we have to look at their safety as well. Dusty, but with making everything ADA compliant that is going to make things better for them too. Vada, it will be great because there will be no steps going into each of the buildings, which has been issues. Mick, well you know obviously this is in the embryotic stage so there will be opportunities for people to come forward and get involved. Anthony, well at this point what we would like to do, we are at the point where we would like to get the geometrics of this intersection to a point where we can start working with the State. We will do a study of this intersection, and look at the traffic data and do the intersection design study with them. We can wait as long as we need too but that is a step in this process so kind of the reason for me to come tonight was to show the plan and generate comments from you if you guys want to get F.S.’s input or anyone’s, what we would like to do is get some feedback to make the necessary adjustments. Dane, when is the soonest would have some response from you guys? John, I will try to get something this week I know we have had somethings going on. I like what I see on this because it is taking out the bump outs, which as a semi turns and we have shown on the radius’s how you will have to make a big swing to not hit the bump out and it is not the tractor part it is where the tires on the trailer are and with the bump outs on this side I do see that as being a good thing. Anyway I like what I see on this. I am not against beautification or anything but we don’t want to discourage our patrons from bringing products to us because it is a nightmare to get through town to get there. We sure don’t want to lose business coming our way. And I think by making it easier or user friendly I guess I think that is a good set up right there. Anthony, also I do have templets to show you if everyone wants to see. Jim, I am of the opinion that we should have a least one more committee meeting just on nothing but this the intersection. Anthony, yes that would be fine. There is another thing I want to point out, all my conversation was concentrated on the South side, I want to point out that on the North side after talking with Vada she indicated that there was beer trucks that sometimes use the North leg and although our count shows no large trucks going down there that particular day. Jim, usually they come up the alley behind City Hall. They will come out that way but I don’t think that will be an issue. Anthony, if you compare to two North legs you are going to see the throat of Capitol is wider on the new lay out than it was on the old lay out. So, it will accommodate the smallest semi and any single unit trucks that go that way. But of course we don’t want to open it up too much because form the same reason why we started South Capitol the same way we think if you can discourage anyone from going there that doesn’t need to be there it will be safer for all your pedestrians all your people that are parking all your people that are backing out so the North leg is slightly different too. Jim, like I say once again people already at 5:00 when Dot lets out if you watch Chestnut, Union, or Franklin it is a freeway through there. Dusty, and South Street. Jim, it is people adapting to make their own decisions. They are going to figure it out it is going to work. Anthony, any other questions for me? Dane, thanks Anthony.

Finance/budget

Fire-Brian, I was just going to update everybody on the Thrift Store building. The bank that owns the building has been working with their insurance company trying to get a structural engineer up there. He actually showed up there today. They were getting tired of waiting on the insurance company so they hired one out of their own pocket. So right now they are waiting on the recommendation from them they will have the two that they will have to work with together but their number 1 priority is to try to salvage the building if it is at all feasible. So I am sure it will boil down to dollars and cents. That is why we are leaving the barricades up and the tape for the time being. There has been some more bricks fall since the original cave in but not really much. Just that top row where there were some cracks and the wall from the very beginning that has probably 6-8 more that fell. It doesn’t really look like any more are lose at that the present time around the very edges so they fenced it off pretty well the best they can. Dane, Brian are you in contact with them weekly? Brian, I have been at least weekly in has been really about every other day. Dane, good I was talking to Vada today and I didn’t know that so I just wanted to make sure we were giving them a little prod. Brian, they want to move very quickly, they are concerned with the monument being there and something fall on it. That’s all I have. Dane, thanks Brian.

Lake/Lake Development-picnic tables- Dusty, I will take that. The picnic table out at the lake for a couple different events here in town we have loaned those picnic tables out. I was just curious if the council would be willing to get some tables, I know that that is something good to do for these events, but I think it would be good if we could get some tables and just keep them in town. Because these tables get moved around so much and if we have something rented out at the Lake and they are doing an event we could have tables in town and we would have tables in both places if the need be. We don’t move them back in forth so it would be up to the person using the tables to get them and bring them back. Just to prevent any issues from happening if that is something that we are going to do I would like to see us buy some tables and keep them in town. Dane, how much are tables? Dusty, I haven’t even looked into it I just wanted to see if that is something you guys are interested in. Dane, what I think would be a good idea too is, don’t charge an arm and a leg but every time, how many do you think and how much? Dusty, I think the prisoners did our last ones and they were like $160.00 apiece. Mick, does Kassings sell picnic tables? Dusty, I don’t believe so. Dane, Tim how many do you usually borrow from the City for one of your events? Tim, I believe we borrowed 6 this year, in the past we have borrowed as many as 10. Brandon, we could do $10.00 a table rental or something. Emily, but we are going to have to have some tables made. Dane, I was just thinking if we had some tables made and we had them in town it would be easy for them to get them and on the other end of that we could have a sign out sheet where you have to sign them out when you bring them back they have to be looked at and someone has to sign off on them. Dane, I say just get a bid. Dusty, the next thing is what kind, do we want to the get the heavy wooden ones with the wheels. Dane, I say just get two different table prices. Because ultimately these tables are bringing revenue to our City. Mick, one other thing on the Lake, I don’t know if it is the proper time to bring it up but you know the signs out there look nice that are fixed to the building. But I was wanting to know if we could put a sign in different colors that states no firearms, no hunting and no trapping out there? I would make a motion that we place a sign conspicuously a different color of sign that we have now. Dusty, where would you want to put it at? Mick, where ever firearms prohibited, trapping, and hunting. Dane, we are going to have to have a lake committee meeting I am pretty certain after this next issue so let’s just table it because that isn’t even on the agenda we shouldn’t make a motion on something that is not on the agenda. But yes we will research it. Dane, let’s move on to the lake host. Dusty, ok lake host, we have had some issues in a couple of different situations out there. We don’t feel like we are probably getting our maximum use out of camp host. There are some procedures that are not being followed the way it was laid out to that camp host in a meeting last June. So we just had a meeting to kind of get everybody’s feelings on how we want to move forward with this. If we want to keep going with the host, do we want to try to get somebody local that can go out there every day, it is open ended right now. The committee as a whole everybody that was there felt like we need to change for sure a few things in the way it is being handled right now. Jim, let me ask something real quick since this is personnel we can go into closed session, do you want to do that? Because I don’t even know what is going on. Dusty, no we don’t need to. Without going into any specifics I think everyone at this table for the most part knows what is being done and what is not being done. Mick, I don’t know, and Jim apparently doesn’t know. Dane, I can give a great synopsis of what is not being done, and after speaking with Dusty we don’t have policies and procedures a certain A-Z on how we run that place. We don’t really write down anything about the campers, we don’t them emergency contacts. Dusty, we are supposed to it just doesn’t happen. Sarah, they have been notified what they need to do and it is not being done. The fees aren’t being collected something has to change. Dane, and I am fine with that but there needs to be another meeting and we need to come up with a plan of how we are going to do and who is going to do it. I don’t think any money should be collected out there unless it is on a weekend. I think everything needs to go to Stacy, if they call on a Monday and say we are going to come Saturday Stacy says ok I need the check here by Friday. I don’t like the fact that somebody else has their hands on the City money without records there could be cash that comes in that we don’t see. I think our stuff needs to be padlocked, the hook up’s out there so that nobody can trolley on in and hook up whenever they want. I think we need to number the spots and know who is in the spots recorded. Sarah, but those things are supposed to be being done and they are not being done. Mick, well have they give him an opportunity to correct these? Sarah, many. Dane, that is fine I am not arguing that but we need to figure out, I don’t care who it is I don’t think that we should be trusting someone out there to take cash. I don’t think any money should be changing hands out there. Mick, my only concern is if this person is no longer there it is going to be very difficult to find someone that is willing to do it. Because I know in the past my experience with the council in my years here it is very very difficult to find someone that will stay out there all the time but maybe that has changed. Emily, we just need someone that is willing to go and at least check on it once a day. If that is in the evening time or maybe once in the morning but just consistently once a day checking who is there, who is gone, writing the receipts, making them post them in the window where it is visible and collecting their payment, put it in the drop box or someone to pick up whatever. Dane, it is simple like Dusty and I were talking, if those places were marked with numbers Dusty said it would be very easy for him to do that. So, whoever is doing to could go out like at 6:00 and say Joe Blow is at in 24 this is camper id. I just think we need to get a procedure down and it is not rocket science. Mick, we 30 years ago, and I certainly don’t want to burden the police, but 30 years ago the police department actually took an active role in doing some of these tasks. Sarah, we talked about them doing that, some of the campers out there had expired plates and registration that we discovered that when we had to have one moved from the lake for the fourth of July celebration. Dane, which we had no contact information for that person either. There is more wrong than just our lake host. Yes maybe he is part to blame but not everything is his fault. Our policy and procedure we need to get that nailed down and figure out who is going to do it. Dusty thought maybe one of his part time guys might have interest in doing it. I think another committee meeting in my opinion needs to happen where you outline a plan and Dusty can gage interest on who we want to do or maybe put an ad in the paper. Something, it is up to the committee to bring a recommendation but I think we need another one to lay out a plan and a way to move forward. Dusty, I fully believe we need a lake host out there all the time, no question about it that is the best situation you can have. We just have to have the right person. Jim, there are two things that will have to happen I can boil this down, is 1 there is a check list already of what is supposed to be happening and that is not happening so that is a personnel issue. Then there is also a policy issue, because he probably isn’t bonded is he? No. ok there is one big problem right there. So, I would say at the meeting he is probably going to have to be there. And we are going to have to say the duties are going to be expanded now and this has to be done or we have to make a change.

Personnel

Plan Commission

Police-Brandon, alright we had 312 contacts this month, 68 traffic stops, 9 arrests, 26 citations, 53 warnings, and handled 2 accidents. I am meeting with Stacy tomorrow to pick up the check to pick up the new squad car at 5. The car came in they called last Thursday or Friday. I will get the center console for it and the cage and the other items ordered this week. And then once that stuff comes in I will get it wired up and then should be up and running here in about 2 weeks. The other charger we have that it is replacing we haven’t been using it for about 2 weeks now because it has some mechanical issues and I didn’t want to throw money at something that we are just getting rid of anyway. When we get the new one and get it up and running I will probably take the old one to one of the shops here in town and have them take a look at it and see what kind of issues we have. That way when we put it out for bids we can at least let a bidder know kind of what they are looking at. We have continued with the ordinance violations, the guys have been out there working on that stuff.

Street and Alley

TIF

Water/Sewer-Dusty, I did not call a water/sewer meeting just for the simple fact that they passed the stop gap and I just want to wait to see what we get before we go any farther. Jim, but they still haven’t paid a dime since? Dusty, nope. If you guys would like to have a meeting just let me know and I will get one set up.

Zoning

Zoning Board of Appeals

Other Business

Executive Session

Alderman Jim Jennings makes a motion at 7:43 P.M. to Recess this meeting until July 25, 2016 at 6:30 P.M. here at the usual location, seconded by Myers. Buss yes, Lauren Jennings yes, Jim Jennings yes, Schenk yes, Myers yes, Scranton yes.

SoSo

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Dunlap, City Clerk / Collector