

MINUTES

MID MONTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Portageville City Hall
May 19, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the City Council of the City of Portageville was held on Wednesday, May 20, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 301 East Main St. Mayor Vince Berry called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Council Members Present

Alderman McCrate
Alderman Adams
Alderman Johnston

Council Members Absent

Alderman Walker

Following roll call, the City Clerk announced that a quorum was present.

Also present were:

Rachel Wrather, City Clerk
Mary Kate Hollingshead
Kim Ivie
TR Thompson

Jonathan Thacker
Terry Wheeler
George DeLisle

APPROVAL OF
AGENDA

Moved by Alderman McCrate, seconded by Alderman Adams and unanimously carried, to approve the agenda as submitted.

OLD BUSINESS

AUTO READ METERS

Mayor Berry presented information on Auto Read Meters that he would like to see installed throughout the City of Portageville. Discussion followed. Mayor Berry asked for a motion to bid out the financing of the project in the amount of \$300,000.00. Motion was made by Alderman Adams and seconded by Alderman Johnston. Vote was as follows: Alderman McCrate, nay; Alderman Adams, yea; Alderman Walker, absent; Alderman Johnston, yea. Motion passes 2-1.

Rachel Wrather, City Clerk, will draft an invitation to bid to be distributed to financial institutions within the area. Whitney Watts, USDA, will also be called to seek assistance with this project. Bids will be opened at the June 7, 2021 meeting.

SUMMER HELP

Mayor Berry reviewed the applications received for the summer help positions within the City of Portageville. Mayor Berry asked for a motion to accept the following candidates: Kaidyn Fisher, Police; Alex Riddle, Street; Britton Cooley-Smith, Street; Morgan Hoehns, Fire; Jillian Forrester, City Hall; Matthew Riddle, Water. Motion was made by Alderman McCrate and seconded by Alderman Johnston. All members voted in favor.

There is still an open position for Sewer. A post will be made on the City's Facebook and Website seeking applicants for this position. It will remain open until filled.

GPS FLEET

Mayor Berry stated that after multiple issues with Verizon Connect GPS, he had reached out to ATT for a quote on their GPS program for the City fleet. Discussion followed. Mayor Berry asked for a motion to approve thirteen GPS tracking devices from AT&T Fleet in the amount of \$240.91 per month. Motion was made by Alderman Johnston and seconded by Alderman McCrate. All members voted in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

CITY HALL AC UNIT

Mayor Berry informed the Board of Alderman that a formal vote needed to be taken on the replacement of the AC Unit at City Hall. A text vote was taken on May 6, 2021 to have Bivins Appliance Service replace the 14-year-old unit at a cost of \$4150.00. Alderman McCrate made the motion. Alderman Johnston seconded. All members voted in favor.

ELECTRICAL HAZARD REPAIR LIFT STATION #6 REPAIR

Mayor Berry stated that a formal need to be taken on the repair of an electrical hazard at Lift Station Number 6 that was found by David Parsley. A text vote was taken on May 6, 2021 to have Kelley Electric repair the issue at a cost of \$845.00. Alderman Adams made the motion. Alderman Johnston seconded. All members voted in favor.

SUPERVISOR CAP EXEMPTION

Mayor Berry explained that a cap of \$17.00 per hour was placed on employees in the Water, Sewer, Street and Solid Waste departments; however, at this time, supervisors were supposed to be salaried and would not be affected. When it was determined that supervisors would continue to be hourly employees, the Board of Aldermen failed to exempt them from the cap. Mayor Berry asked for a motion to exempt supervisors from the \$17.00 per hour cap. Motion was made by Alderman McCrate and seconded by Alderman Johnston. All members voted in favor.

FEMA BANK ACCOUNT

Mayor Berry asked for a motion to establish a new bank account at First State Bank and Trust to receive FEMA Funds for the DR4552 May 2020 Storm Disaster and Mitigation Project. Motion was made by Alderman McCrate and seconded by Alderman Adams. All members voted in favor.

SUPERVISOR SALARY VS HOURLY

Mayor Berry stated that he would like to table this issue for now due to the water department being short-handed. Everyone agreed.

POLICE WINDSHIELD REPAIR

Mayor Berry presented a quote from Maverick Glass in conjunction with Bill Hayes Ford Sales for the replacement of a Windshield on the 2020 Police Ford Explorer. Discussion followed. Motion was made by Alderman McCrate to approve the quote in the amount of \$679.00 for windshield repair. Alderman Adams seconded. All members voted in favor.

FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mayor Berry stated that he would like to see a Financial Advisory Board created to review the budget expenditures to see if there were other ways to save the City money. Discussion followed. Mayor Berry asked for a motion to draft an ordinance creating a six-member board made up of six citizens representing the following sectors: (1) Finance, (1) Insurance, (1) Ministerial, (1) Employee of the City, and (2) Small Business. Motion was made by Alderman McCrate and seconded by Alderman Adams. All members voted in favor. Rachel Wrather, City Clerk, will contact Terry McVey for an ordinance establishing the new committee.

WATER RATE TECHNOLOGY FEE INCREASE

Mayor Berry explained that with the new auto-read meters, a technology fee of \$0.89 per meter would be charged to the City. Mayor Berry stated that the charge should be passed to the customer as a fee added to the water bill each month in the same amount. Discussion followed. In order to see when the fee would become effective, Alderman Adams tabled the issue until the June 7, 2021 meeting when a representative of Mid-West Meters would be present.

BUILDING PRE-PLANS FIRE DEPT

Mayor Berry asked George DeLisle, Fire Chief, to address the Board of Aldermen concerning the Building Pre-Plans. DeLisle stated that

this is in conjunction with the Emergency Reporting Software and would help with the ISO ratings. Discussion followed. The Board agreed with the program.

George DeLisle also mentioned that there had been a misunderstanding at the previous board meeting concerning the purchase of a trickle charger for the fire truck. He stated that the expense would come out of the Fire equipment budget 100% from the City and not the half that was motioned at the meeting. After discussion, the Board of Aldermen agreed that was fine.

STREET PATCHES- CONCRETE VS ASPHALT – DM

Mayor Berry asked Alderman McCrate if he would like to discuss the street patching item he had placed on the agenda. Alderman McCrate stated he would like to see a policy implemented that when we repair streets that only concrete be used and not asphalt to fill in the area. Discussion followed. Mayor Berry stated he would like to table this issue until he can speak to someone like Paving Pros or Causey about the process.

PORTAGEVILLE JAYCEE FIREWORKS- DRW

Mayor Berry stated that a text vote had been taken on May 17, 2021 to allow the Portageville Jaycees permission to shoot off fireworks for the Community Day event from city property. Motion was made by Alderman McCrate to authorize the use of city property. Alderman Adams seconded. All members voted in favor.

ROY BOOKER SEWER ISSUE

Mayor Berry informed the Board of Aldermen that there was an issue on a sewer tap for Roy Booker's new construction on West 8th Street. Discussion followed. A solution to the problem is still being investigated; however, Mayor Berry would like the Board of Aldermen to forgive the cost of the street and water taps due to the current situation. A motion was made by Alderman McCrate to forgive the water and sewer taps for this construction. Alderman Johnston seconded. All members voted in favor.

Mayor Berry asked for a motion to amend the ordinance for building permits and put a policy in place stating that no new construction can begin until water and sewer taps are installed at the property. Motion was made by Alderman McCrate and seconded by Alderman Adams. All members voted in favor. Jonathan Thacker, Code Enforcement Officer, stated that new constructions should be approved by Planning and Zoning first. After approval, taps will be made before a building permit will be issued.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – SRO

Mayor Berry reviewed the changes for the 2021-2022 Memorandum of Understanding for the School Resource Officer. Changes to the pay structure state the SRO will be paid based on the rank pay scale put in place by the Portageville Police Department plus normal benefits as a City employee, payable at the same time and manner as other City employees. Discussion followed. Motion was made by Alderman Johnston to approve the Memorandum of Understanding. Alderman Adams seconded. All members voted in favor.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mayor Berry asked if there were any visitors present who would like to address the Board of Alderman.

Kim Ivie addressed the Board of Aldermen regarding inhabitable property near her own. The property owner will be contacted by Jonathan Thacker, Code Enforcement, and an update will be given at the June 7, 2021 meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was none.

MAYOR AND ALDERMAN COMMENTS

Mayor Berry asked if there were any comments from the Aldermen that needed to be addressed.

Alderman Adams updated the Board of Aldermen on the donation of materials that could be used to establish a parking area over in Meatte Park.


DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Board of Aldermen will hold a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, June 7, 2021 at City Hall, 301 E Main, starting at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, moved by Alderman McCrate, seconded by Alderman Adams, and unanimously carried, to adjourn at 7:02 p.m.


Rachel Wrather
City Clerk


Vince Berry
Mayor