

City Council Minutes
February 22, 2016

Council President Paul Canter called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Councilors Present: Ron Thexton, Harry Myers, Lonnie Koroush, and Donna Dillard. Staff present included Chief Operating Officer Jim Minard and Public Works Superintendent Dave Claborn. Mayor Thayer and Cindy Canter were excused for business or family matters.

STAFF REPORTS:

P.W.S. Claborn discussed his monthly report as sent to the Council electronically and that he was getting quotes to clean the sewer line up towards N. 3rd Street. There being no further questions, Mr. Claborn excused himself from the meeting.

C.O.O. Minard reported:

The Salem developer had bought the land between 8th and 10th, south of Ash and expected to submit for building permits within the month; he had received the appraisal for the market value on the railroad property, but he had some concerns; the court had only one citation to date for this month; he had filed several license suspensions for failure to appear or comply and the City received several thousand dollars (of the \$104,000 in outstanding fines) last week; Claborn had completed his punch list on the Reservoir Park and we should be getting our final payment of just more than \$4000 from the State Parks; he and Finance Officer Dave Williams would be looking at taking steps to seek out a new audit firm or negotiating with the current one.

Councilor Koroush asked about the citation counts and felt that the City did not appear to be getting real value with the Sheriff's contract. It was the consensus of the Council to request Sheriff Jackson attend next month's meeting to discuss the future of the contract.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilor Koroush had a couple of questions on the bills that PWS Claborn responded to. Councilor Myers moved to approve the bills, excepting those to Monroe Telephone, which was seconded by Councilor Thexton and approved 3-1 (Koroush- No). Myers moved to approve the Monroe Telephone bills, which was seconded by Koroush and approved 3-0-1 (Dillard abstained with conflict).

NEW BUSINESS:

South Benton Recreation Alliance: The primary presenter was unable to attend and the group's representative asked for this to be tabled to next month.

Gleaners Use of Old Library Space: Minard noted the agreement had been amended to provide a month-to-month tenancy and was awaiting their signature.

Renewal of Scare and Share Lease on Bellchambers (Haunted House) Property: Lorrie O'hare was present to represent the group. She informed the Council on the group's current and anticipated activities and shared the information on the beneficiaries of their efforts. Myers moved to extend the lease (which expires in June 2016) for another four years, which was seconded by Koroush and approved 4-0.

Legion Hall Telephone: The fact the phone had been used for only 54 minutes the past 13 months and that most the calls were generally personal. Given the missing elected officials this matter was tabled to next month.

OLD BUSINESS:

Monroe Fest Update: The lack of energy to get this festival back on track was discussed. The matter was tabled to next month to see if anything could be generated.

Street Light Discussion: Thexton and Koroush, as members of the Public Works Committee, shared their results of looking into the removed mid-block street lights. Their position was that the mid-block lights were not needed, but City should continue to look into upgrading certain lights. Minard submitted a recently developed map of the street lighting system with the light strengths, which showed the mid-block lights were not in character with the City and that these mid-block lights were likely installed for personal reasons. Minard was to look into the cost and process of upgrading the 70W street lights and report back next month.

Tim Eastridge opined that the loss of street lights created a safety concern when filling the Fire District tankers. Koroush asked if those tankers had (*multi-directional*) lighting; to which Eastridge responded yes.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Koroush noted the porta potty in City Park had been tipped over; Minard would work with the vendor and PWS Claborn to see what could be done. Thexton asked to be involved in working with PP&L on the upgrades and installing LED lights over the doors at City Hall.

ADJOURN: There being no further business Mayor – Pro Tem P. Canter adjourned the meeting at 7:19 PM.

Signed: _____
Mayor Frank Thayer

Attest: _____
C.O.O. Jim Minard