August 6, 2019

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Pittsfield, Pike County, Illinois, was held on Tuesday, August 6, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the City Council room at 215 North Monroe Street. The following officers were present: Mayor John Hayden, City Clerk Cindy Prentice, and Aldermen Bill Grimsley, Kevin Ketchum, Ed Knight, Paul Lennon, Robert Ritchart and Robert Wood. Absent: Aldermen Robert Wilson and Kevin Wombles. Mayor Hayden presided.

Alderman Ketchum moved to approve the minutes of the last regular Council meeting. Alderman Ritchart seconded the motion.

Roll Call:
Yea: Ketchum, Knight, Lennon, Ritchart, Wood (5)
Nay: None (0)
Present: Grimsley (1)

The motion carried.

Alderman Knight moved to accept the recommendation of the Zoning Committee to approve the variance for Todd and Joann Smith, owners of the property located at 1311 West Washington Street to permit the placement of an unattached accessory building (refrigerated trailer) which will be zero feet (0') instead of the required ten feet (10') from a main building and leave a front yard of twenty-seven feet (27') instead of the required thirty-five feet (35').

Alderman Lennon seconded the motion.

Roll Call:
Yea: Grimsley, Ketchum, Knight, Lennon, Ritchart, Wood (6)
Nay: None (0)

The motion carried.

Alderman Ritchart moved to accept the recommendation of the Zoning Committee to approve the variance for Niemann Foods County Market, owner of the property located at 920 West Washington Street to place an accessory building, which will be one foot (1') instead of the required ten feet (10') from a main building.

Alderman Ketchum seconded the motion.

Roll Call:
Yea: Grimsley, Ketchum, Knight, Lennon, Ritchart, Wood (6)
Nay: None (0)

The motion carried.

Alderman Ritchart moved to approve the request from Kacie Lipcaman, First Christian Church Education Director, to close Memorial Street from Jefferson Street to Adams Street on Sunday, August 25, 2019, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with the City providing barricades.

Alderman Wood seconded the motion.

Roll Call:
Yea: Grimsley, Ketchum, Knight, Lennon, Ritchart, Wood (6)
Nay: None (0)

The motion carried.
Mike Jacobs, Newburg Township Supervisor, asked the City to provide seal coat for the north lake road from the highway east past the Civil War re-enactment entrance. The township can afford the base rock infrastructure and ditch work but cannot afford to also do the seal coat. Mayor Hayden stated the budget has already been finalized for this year and many streets in town need repair as well so no help could be provided until the new budget next year. He stated he would like to help since some of the damage comes from traffic to and from the lake, but it won’t be until at least next year’s budget. He encouraged Mr. Jacobs to contact the City again next March, before budget talks for next year begin.

A stop sign/slow children playing sign has been requested for the intersection of Perry Street and Monroe Street. Mayor Hayden asked Deputy Chief of Police Jennifer Thompson her opinion on the matter. Deputy Chief Thompson stated she is hesitant to add a stop sign since there have been no reports of accidents nor children being hit at the intersection. However, if it is a safety issue, it is hard to decline a request. Parking at the intersection seems to be a bigger issue because it is hard to see oncoming traffic around the cars. It was tabled for further discussion at a Street and Alley Committee meeting.

Alderman Wood moved to approve the Crowder easement.
Alderman Knight seconded the motion.
Roll Call: Yea: Grimsley, Ketchum, Knight, Lennon, Ritchart, Wood (6)
Nay: None (0)
The motion carried.

Alderman Ketchum moved to approve Ordinance No. 1638, An Ordinance Providing for the Disbursements of the City’s Portion of the Retailers’ Occupational Tax; and Amending Ordinance Number 1038, I.E., Amending Ordinance Numbers 775, 778, 840, 935, 1001, 1101, 1159, 1177, 1194, 1209, 1232, 1257, 1275, 1300, 1326, 1338, 1363, 1389, 1440, 1550, 1569, 1587 and 1611, on its first reading.
Alderman Lennon seconded the motion.
Roll Call: Yea: Grimsley, Ketchum, Knight, Lennon, Ritchart, Wood (6)
Nay: None (0)
The motion carried.

Alderman Wood moved to suspend the rules and have the second reading of Ordinance No. 1638 (described above).
Alderman Ritchart seconded the motion.
Roll Call: Yea: Grimsley, Ketchum, Knight, Lennon, Ritchart, Wood (6)
Nay: None (0)
The motion carried.

Alderman Wood moved to approve Ordinance No. 1638 (described above) on its second reading by title only.
Alderman Ketchum seconded the motion.
Roll Call: Yea: Grimsley, Ketchum, Knight, Lennon, Ritchart, Wood (6)
Nay: None (0)
The motion carried.

Alderman Ritchart moved to approve Ordinance No. 1639, An Ordinance Enacting and Adopting a Supplement to the Code of Ordinances for the City of Pittsfield, and Declaring an Emergency, on its first reading. Alderman Ketchum seconded the motion.
Roll Call: Yea: Grimsley, Ketchum, Knight, Lennon, Ritchart, Wood (6) Nay: None (0)
The motion carried.

Alderman Ritchart moved to suspend the rules and have the second reading of Ordinance No. 1639 (described above). Alderman Ketchum seconded the motion.
Roll Call: Yea: Grimsley, Ketchum, Knight, Lennon, Ritchart, Wood (6) Nay: None (0)
The motion carried.

Alderman Wood moved to approve Ordinance No. 1639 (described above) on its second reading by title only. Alderman Ritchart seconded the motion.
Roll Call: Yea: Grimsley, Ketchum, Knight, Lennon, Ritchart, Wood (6) Nay: None (0)
The motion carried.

City Attorney Hollahan recommended an Ordinance Committee meeting be scheduled before the September 3, 2019 regular City Council meeting to discuss the legalization of cannabis and make sure the public is aware of the meeting to get public feedback on the issue. An ordinance must be passed by October 1 if the City will be allowing retailers and intends to collect sales tax on the sales of cannabis. The matter will be on the September 3 agenda.

The discussion on e-mail accounts was tabled until after the Illinois Municipal League Conference September 19–21, 2019, which will have sessions on the subject.

Alderman Lennon moved to approve Zachary Ehlert as the new Gas Department employee effective Thursday, August 8, 2019. Alderman Ritchart seconded the motion.
Roll Call: Yea: Grimsley, Knight, Lennon, Ritchart, Wood (5) Nay: None (0) Abstain: Ketchum (1)
The motion carried.
August 6, 2019

Alderman Lennon moved to approve Ann Moffit as an entry level clerk effective August 1, 2019 and appointed as City Clerk effective September 13, 2019. Alderman Ketchum seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Yea: Grimsley, Ketchum, Knight, Lennon, Ritchart, Wood (6)
Nay: None (0)

The motion carried.

Alderman Ritchart moved to approve construction of a new stage for festivals on the courthouse lawn to be built by Brian Dell Construction at a cost of $7,837.86 to be paid out of the Ellen Barnes Estate funds and a plaque to be attached to the stage in her honor. Alderman Grimsley seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Yea: Grimsley, Ketchum, Knight, Lennon, Ritchart (5)
Nay: None (0)
Abstain: Wood (1)

The motion carried.

Alderman Ritchart moved to approve the Finance Committee Report and the Clerk be directed to issue the claims thereon. Alderman Ketchum seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Yea: Grimsley, Ketchum, Knight, Lennon, Ritchart, Wood (6)
Nay: None (0)

The motion carried.

MECO Engineer Max Middendorf reported an application has not yet been submitted for the west water tower grant.

Mayor Hayden reported there are a few fix or flatten properties that need notices sent; one on West Jefferson Street and one on East Perry Street just to name a couple. He also stated at the last Pike County elected officials meeting it was stated there was a new state statute that allowed for a shorter time frame for fix or flatten properties. City Attorney Hollahan said he could not find the change in the statute but will call Griggsville Attorney Dan Beard for information.

Interim Gas Foreman Steve Watkins reported the gas odorizer has been put back in the system. They are adding slowly and have started with half of the strength for two weeks and will increase to ¾ for two weeks before going to full strength.

Foreman Watkins also reported he has received bids for the water project on Higbee Street from Memorial Street to Madison Street and the water project on West Street from Washington Street to Fayette Street. A bid for 1,000 feet of pipe was received from Core and Main in the amount of $8,790 and a bid was received from IMCO in the amount of $9,950. A bid of $10,000 each for both of the above bores has been received from Clayton at Central Underground, LLC, which has already been reduced from a cost of $5.00 per inch of product per foot. A permit for a combined proposal has been sent.
Alderman Grimsley stated he has had a complaint from someone fishing with their grandkids that the weeds at the lake need to be taken care of. Street and Alley Foreman Jeff Griggs stated Street and Alley employee Steve Barker is scheduled to take care of that this week or early next week.

Alderman Lennon said the spraying for poison ivy on the disc golf course has been done. He spoke with a couple that is excited to start hosting tournaments on the course. City Clerk Cindy Prentice stated her office has also received a call with a compliment from people who have played the course that it is a “state of the art” course. Street and Alley Foreman Jeff Griggs stated he has also had inquiries regarding the course. The course is something we need to keep well maintained. Economic Development Director Diana Halmick stated she has advertised the course on Google Business and encouraged people to send her pictures of people playing the course to add to the site. Zoning and Building Permit Inspector Tom Reinhardt presented a brochure from the Rend Lake disc golf course as an example of one that could be prepared for this course.

Alderman Knight stated Midland GIS will be wrapping up their work on the mapping system and it only took them about one week to complete.

Alderman Ketchum stated he had a request for something to be done regarding fishing on the bridge on the north end of the lake. There have been several close calls with farm implements and vehicles coming across the bridge. It is a safety concern on City property. It was suggested a “No fishing on bridge” sign could be placed on the bridge. The matter was referred to the Lake Advisory Board for a recommendation to be given at the next regular Council meeting.

Alderman Knight moved to adjourn this meeting at 6:54 p.m.