March 17, 2020

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Pittsfield, Pike County, Illinois, was held on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, 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 Ann Moffit and Aldermen Bill Grimsley, Ed Knight, Paul Lennon, Robert Ritchart, Robert Wilson, Kevin Wombles and Robert Wood. Absent: Aldermen Kevin Ketchum. Mayor Hayden presided.

Alderman Lennon moved to approve the minutes of the last regular Council meeting. Alderman Wombles seconded the motion. Roll Call: Yea: Grimsley, Knight, Lennon, Ritchart Wilson, Wombles, Wood, (7) Nay: None (0) The motion carried.


Alderman Ritchart moved to accept the recommendation of the Zoning Committee to approve a variance for Lexi and Ray Moore, tenants of the property located at 302 E Washington Street in Pittsfield, to permit the placement of an accessory building which will have a ten feet (10’) rear yard instead of the required twenty feet (20’) from the north, rear property line, subject to compliance with current codes regarding commercial buildings. Alderman Wombles seconded the motion. Roll Call: Yea: Grimsley, Knight, Lennon, Ritchart Wilson, Wombles, Wood, (7) Nay: None (0) The motion carried.

Mayor Hayden has reviewed applicants from the prior Economic Development Director vacancy and has a candidate in mind, therefore he does not feel we need to advertise. Alderman Lennon moved to advertise for the position of mechanic. Alderman Ritchart seconded the motion. Roll Call: Yea: Grimsley, Knight, Lennon, Ritchart Wilson, Wombles, Wood, (7) Nay: None (0) The motion carried.
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Alderman Wombles moved to enter into a Reciprocal Reporting Agreement between Pikeland Unit School District No. 10 and the City of Pittsfield. Alderman Wood seconded the motion.

Roll Call: 

Yea: Grimsley, Knight, Lennon, Ritchart
Wilson, Wombles, Wood, (7)

Nay: None (0)

The motion carried.

Alderman Ritchart moved to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between Pikeland Unit Community District No. 10 and Pittsfield Police Department. Alderman Grimsley seconded the motion.

Roll Call: 

Yea: Grimsley, Knight, Lennon, Ritchart
Wilson, Wombles, Wood, (7)

Nay: None (0)

The motion carried.

Pittsfield Lake Opening is tabled to the next regular scheduled council meeting.

Alderman Wood moved to approve Ordinance No. 1657, An Ordinance Approving the Seconded Amendment to the TIF Redevelopment Agreement between the City of Pittsfield and Square 1838, LLC, on its first reading. Alderman Wilson seconded the motion.

Roll Call: 

Yea: Grimsley, Knight, Lennon,
Wilson, Wombles, Wood, (6)

Nay: Ritchart, (1)

The motion carried.

Alderman Wood moved to suspend the rules and have the second reading of Ordinance No. 1657 (described above) by title only. Alderman Ketchum seconded the motion.

Roll Call: 

Yea: Grimsley, Knight, Lennon,
Wilson, Wombles, Wood, (6)

Nay: Ritchart, (1)

The motion carried.

Alderman Wood moved to approve Ordinance No. 1657 (described above) on its second reading by title only. Alderman Ketchum seconded the motion.

Roll Call: 

Yea: Grimsley, Knight, Lennon,
Wilson, Wombles, Wood, (6)

Nay: Ritchart, (1)

The motion carried.
Alderman Ritchart moved to approve the Façade Loan application from Nucci’s Restaurant in the amount of $8,000.00 as recommended by the Economic Development Committee, subject to approval of plans.
Alderman Grimsley seconded the motion.
Roll Call: Yea: Grimsley, Knight, Lennon, Ritchart
Wilson, Wombles, Wood, (7)
Nay: None (0)
The motion carried.

Alderman Wombles moved to approve the placement of a Pedestrian Crossing Sign in the alley running East & West between Madison and Memorial and between Fayette and Washington Streets. Location of the placement of the signs shall be approved by the Street and Alley Superintendent and Chief of Police.
Alderman Lennon seconded the motion.
Roll Call: Yea: Grimsley, Knight, Lennon, Ritchart
Wilson, Wombles, Wood, (7)
Nay: None (0)
The motion carried.

Mayor Hayden updated the council that the Finance Committee met and approved the purchase of a used police vehicle. Chief Starman stated that the vehicle has been purchased for $12,000.00. The Pikeland Unit 10 School District will reimburse one-half the cost of the vehicle per the SRO agreement, which is $6,250.00.

Alderman Ritchart moved to approve the application of The Dome 109, LLC for a Restaurant Liquor License and to have Mr. Hollahan amend the ordinance to eliminate the restriction on the number of available licenses.
Alderman Wood seconded the motion.
Roll Call: Yea: Grimsley, Knight, Lennon, Ritchart
Wilson, Wombles, Wood, (7)
Nay: None (0)
The motion carried.

Attorney Hollahan advised the council that the Governor has issued an Executive Order In Response to COVID-19 and in doing so the provisions of the Open Meetings Act have been modified. These modifications should be reviewed before holding meetings.

Alderman Ritchart moved to suspend the policy of utility penalties and utility shut offs through May 1, 2020.
Alderman Wilson seconded the motion.
Roll Call: Yea: Grimsley, Knight, Lennon, Ritchart
Wilson, Wombles, Wood, (7)
Nay: None (0)
The motion carried.
Alderman Wombles moved to approve the temporary placement of cones in parking spaces for Curbside Dining Services.
Alderman Lennon seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Yea:  Grimsley, Knight, Lennon, Ritchart
Wilson, Wombles, Wood, (7)

Nay:  None (0)

The motion carried.

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

Roll Call:

Yea: Grimsley, Knight, Lennon, Ritchart,
Wilson, Wombles, Wood, (7)

Nay: None (0)

The motion carried.

Tom Reinhardt stated that Alderman Ketchum, who was unable to attend this meeting, asked him to inform the committee that the Kid’s Fishing Tournament that was scheduled for April 4, 2020 has been cancelled. Trout fishing season opens on April 4, 2020. Alderman Ritchart asked if the supplies have been purchased and if so, where they would be stored. Max Middendorf stated that yes, the supplies have been purchased and they are working on a storage location.

Mayor Hayden stated that the bathrooms at the parks are not open yet, they are typically opened when the Pittsfield Lake Campground is open for the season.

During the current COVID-19 situation and the closing of bars and restaurants, the first offense for not complying with the will be a warning, the second offense will result in Liquor License and Food License being removed.

The Watertower preconstruction meeting will be Thursday at 10:00 am.

The SCATA system will be upgraded for an approximate cost of $17,000.00 with Electric Control Company is doing the programming.

Attorney Hollahan would like an ordinance committee meeting scheduled to review ordinances. This may be done at a later date. Mr. Hollahan stated that he may be unavailable to attend the next scheduled council meeting.

Max Middendorf stated that the shop drawings are being reviewed for the pool project and that should be moving forward soon.

Alderman Knight moved to adjourn this meeting at 6:36 p.m.