The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Pittsfield, Pike County, Illinois, was held on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the City Hall Council Room at 215 North Monroe Street. The following officers were present: Mayor John Hayden, City Clerk Ann Moffit, Aldermen Bill Grimsley, Kevin Ketchum, Paul Lennon, Robert Ritchart, Beth White, Robert Wilson, Kevin Wombles, and Robert Wood.

Mayor Hayden presided.

Alderman Ketchum moved to approve the minutes of the March 02, 2021 Council meeting. Alderman Grimsley seconded the motion.

Roll Call:
Yea: Grimsley, Ketchum, Lennon, Ritchart, Wombles, White, Wilson, Wood (8)
Nay: None (0)
Present: None (0)

The motion carried.

Alderman Wood moved to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2021 Special Council Meeting. Alderman Ritchart seconded the motion.

Roll Call:
Yea: Grimsley, Ritchart, White, Wilson, Wood (5)
Nay: None (0)
Present: Ketchum, Lennon, Wombles (3)

Alderman Wombles moved to approve February 2021 Treasurer’s Report. Alderman Ketchum seconded the motion.

Roll Call:
Yea: Grimsley, Ketchum, Lennon, Ritchart, White, Wilson, Wombles, Wood (8)
Nay: None (0)
Present: None (0)

The motion carried.

Chief Starman explained that there was an incident on March 8, 2021 involving a suspect and multiple law enforcement vehicle, two of which belong to the City of Pittsfield. Chief Starman shared the in-car video of Officer Mitchell Barton. Officer Barton’s vehicle was hit head on by the suspect. Chief Starman went on to express that if Officer Barton would not have chosen the action that he did to cease the suspect’s movements the outcome would have been different, and lives would have been lost. Chief Starman presented Officer Barton with a plaque in honor of his bravery.

Alderman Ritchart moved to accept the Finance Committee’s recommendation to allow Chief Starman to purchase two used police vehicles as he sees fit from the Missouri Highway Patrol. Alderman Wombles seconded the motion.

Roll Call:
Yea: Grimsley, Ketchum, Lennon, Ritchart, White, Wilson, Wombles, Wood (8)
Nay: None (0)
Present: None (0)

The motion carried.
Alderman Ketchum stated the normally Kid’s Trout Fishing event is held on the first Saturday in April. Because the state is still under restrictions and gatherings of more than 50 people are prohibited, Blake Ruebush with the IDNR will not be able to participate in the event. Mr. Ruebush believes that an event may be able to be held later in the summer for the kids. Trout will still be delivered, to the lagoon, on March 23. There will be no fishing allowed in the lagoon until opening day of trout season, which is April 3.

Alderman Ketchum moved to allow stocking the lagoon with no organized being supported by the City. Alderman Lennon seconded the motion.

Roll Call: 
Yea: Grimsley, Ketchum, Lennon, Ritchart, White, Wilson, Wombles, Wood (8)
Nay: None (0)
Present: None (0)

The motion carried.

Alderman Ketchum moved to open Lake Pittsfield Campground on April 16, 2021, weather permitting. Alderman Wilson seconded the motion.

Roll Call: 
Yea: Grimsley, Ketchum, Lennon, Ritchart, White, Wilson, Wombles, Wood (8)
Nay: None (0)
Present: None (0)

The motion carried.

Alderman Grimsley moved to accept Mayor Hayden’s recommendation to appoint Bob Looper as Park Ranger. Alderman Wilson seconded the motion.

Roll Call: 
Yea: Grimsley, Ketchum, Lennon, Ritchart, White, Wilson, Wombles, Wood (8)
Nay: None (0)
Present: None (0)

The motion carried.

Alderman Wood moved to pay bills as stated by City Clerk. Alderman Lennon seconded the motion.

Roll Call: 
Yea: Grimsley, Ketchum, Lennon, Ritchart, White, Wilson, Wombles, Wood (8)
Nay: None (0)
Present: None (0)

The motion carried.

Alderman Ritchart requested a public safety meeting be held on April 6 at 6:30 to discuss Fire Department Compressor.
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Mayor Hayden stated that there will be a golf cart parade on April 3 at 1pm. Alderman Grimsley asked Chief Starman to address the construction vehicles that are parked in the road by King Park. Chief Starman will look into the matter but it is believed that the vehicles have been moved.

Alderman White commended the Police Department on all their efforts over the last few weeks. Alderman Wombles reiterated Alderwoman Whites statement.

Alderman Wood thanked the Council for bearing with him last week during his speech to withdraw as a Mayoral Candidate.

Robert Wilson again thanked Ed Knight, and the Clerk’s office for all of their work during the gas price situation.

Clerk Ann Moffit thanked the alderman, police department and Audrey White and Abby Springer for their assistance with the billing cycle this month.

Chief Starman has Community Service workers that have been cleaning up trash through out town and asked anyone who has a target area that needs to be addressed to contact him.

about the status of the vehicles parked near Wright Auto Body. Alderman Wilson stated he has spoken with Mr. Wright and they will be moved.

Alderman Ketchum has been in contact with Blake Ruebush with IDNR and they will remove fall trout fishing from the IDNR calendar. He also stated that we have less than 4 weeks to decide on the Kid’s Fishing Tournament, it is normally held on the 1st Saturday of April. Mayor Hayden asked what type of contact and/or social distancing measures could be implemented? Max Middendorf stated that the only contact was while distributing tackle boxes and during the photo.

Alderman Wood read a letter to the council stating that he will withdraw as a Mayoral Candidate.

Alderman Wilson thanked Economic Development Director Ed Knight, City Clerk Ann Moffit and Staff for their time and efforts on the gas situation.

Alderwoman White moved to adjourn this meeting at 6:31 p.m.

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City Clerk