The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Pittsfield, Pike County, Illinois, was held on Tuesday, August 17, 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 Gary Mendenhall, City Clerk Ann Moffit, Aldermen Bill Grimsley, Paul Lennon, Robert Ritchart, Beth White, Robert Wilson, and Kevin Wombles. Alderman Chris Little and Kevin Ketchum was absent.

Mayor Mendenhall presided.

Alderman Wombles moved to approve the minutes of the August 03, 2021 Council meeting. Alderman Ritchart seconded the motion.

Roll Call:  Yea: Grimsley, Lennon, Ritchart, Wilson, Wombles (5)
                      Nay: None (0)
                  Present: White (1)

The motion carried.

Alderman Ritchart moved to approve the July 2021 Treasurer’s Report. Alderman Grimsley seconded the motion.

Roll Call:  Yea: Grimsley, Lennon, Ritchart, White, Wilson, Wombles (6)
                      Nay: None (0)
                  Present: None (0)

The motion carried.

Alderman Ritchart moved to approve the Zoning Committee’s recommendation to approve the variance request of Raymond and Judy Davenport, to place a porch on their residence at 306 E Washington Street, Pittsfield, IL, which will have a front yard of fifteen feet (15’) instead of the required twenty-five feet (25’) and a side yard of twelve feet (12’) instead of the required twenty feet (20’) when abutting a residential district. Alderman Lennon seconded the motion.

Roll Call:  Yea: Grimsley, Lennon, Ritchart, White, Wilson, Wombles (6)
                      Nay: None (0)
                  Present: None (0)

The motion carried.

Bob Evans presented his idea for a Bee Museum at 404 E Perry Street. The museum would house a display of equipment, Bee products and Honey for sale, a honey prep observation room, a video theater, a display of bees as well as a primitive beekeeping area. The idea would be to have one working hive for observation. Bees are considered livestock and livestock is not permitted in city limits. Mr. Evans is requesting a variance or permit to allow a beehive in town. Mr. Wombles asked Zoning Administrator what the property was zoned, Mr. Rinehardt stated it is zone R-3 Multi-family. Mr. Rinehardt also indicated that a special use would need to be created. Mr. Hollahan stated this was a matter that Ordinance Committee should review. An Ordinance Committee meeting will be scheduled on September 7, 2021 at 5:00 pm.
Alderman Wombles moved to approve Ordinance No. 1685, An Ordinance approving the annexation of certain territory contiguous to the City of Pittsfield, as petitioned by the Pittsfield Assembly of God Church, on its first reading. Alderman Wilson seconded the motion.

Roll Call: 
Yea: Grimsley, Lennon, Ritchart, White, Wilson, Wombles (6)
Nay: None (0)
Present: None (0)

The motion carried.

Alderman Wombles moved to suspend the rules and have the second reading of Ordinance No. 1685, by title only. Alderman White seconded the motion.

Roll Call: 
Yea: Grimsley, Lennon, Ritchart, White, Wilson, Wombles (6)
Nay: None (0)
Present: None (0)

The motion carried.

Alderman White moved to approve Ordinance No. 1685, by title only, on its second reading. Alderman Lennon seconded the motion.

Roll Call: 
Yea: Grimsley, Lennon, Ritchart, White, Wilson, Wombles (6)
Nay: None (0)
Present: None (0)

The motion carried.

Alderman Wombles moved to approve Ordinance No. 1686, An Ordinance amending the City Zoning Code to allow for installation and operation of wind and solar renewable energy systems, on its first reading. Alderman Wilson seconded the motion.

Roll Call: 
Yea: Grimsley, Lennon, Ritchart, White, Wilson, Wombles (6)
Nay: None (0)
Present: None (0)

The motion carried.

Alderman Ritchart moved to approve Ordinance No. 1687, An Ordinance amending the City Zoning Code to allow for installation and operation of wind and solar renewable energy systems, on its first reading. Alderman Lennon seconded the motion.
Roll Call: Yea: Grimsley, Lennon, Ritchart, White, Wilson, Wombles (6)
Nay: None (0)
Present: None (0)
The motion carried.

Alderman Wombles moved to suspend the rules and have the second reading of Ordinance No. 1687, by title only.
Alderman Lennon seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Yea: Grimsley, Lennon, Ritchart, White, Wilson, Wombles (6)
Nay: None (0)
Present: None (0)
The motion carried.

Alderman Ritchart moved to approve Ordinance No. 1687, by title only, on its second reading.
Alderman Grimsley seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Yea: Grimsley, Lennon, Ritchart, White, Wilson, Wombles (6)
Nay: None (0)
Present: None (0)
The motion carried.

Alderman Ritchart moved to approve the Serenity Day Spa exterior wall sealing bid submitted by Robert Wilson in the amount of $750.00 for labor only with the City of Pittsfield supplying all material.
Alderman Grimsley seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Yea: Grimsley, Lennon, Ritchart, White, Wilson, Wombles (6)
Nay: None (0)
Present: None (0)
The motion carried.

Max Middendorf with MECO Engineering gave an update on the Maysville Bridge. There has been a recent inspection of the bridge and there is discussion of degrading it. The pipe supplier has looked at the bridge for a culvert replacement. Alderman Wombles asked if the county would assist with the repair, Superintendent Griggs stated they would not. Mr. Middendorf stated the last quote for repair was approximately $65,000, however, steel prices have increased. Alderman Ritchart asked how long the bridge would be closed when the repair is being completed. Alderman Wombles estimated approximately one week.

Alderman Ritchart moved to proceed with the bridge replacement of the Maysville Bridge using Rebuild Illinois Fund as allowed.

Roll Call: Yea: Grimsley, Lennon, Ritchart,
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White, Wilson, Wombles (6)
Nay: None (0)
Present: None (0)
The motion carried.

Alderman Ritchart moved to allow Attorney Hollahan, Mayor Mendenhall, Clerk Moffit, and any interested Alderman to attend the IML Conference September 23 – 26, 2021. Alderman Grimsley seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Yea: Grimsley, Lennon, Ritchart, White, Wilson, Wombles (6)
Nay: None (0)
Present: None (0)
The motion carried.

Mayor Mendenhall stated that a meeting has occurred with Ameren in reference to decorative street lighting in the downtown area. The free lighting that Ameren offers does not match the existing lights. The estimate for the matching lights is $2,600 each. Mayor Mendenhall would like to table the lighting for further research.

Alderman White indicated that the City Goals as discussed in previous meetings will be put into 1-, 3- and 5-year plans and this will be presented at a future meeting.

Alderman Ritchart moved to pay bills as stated by City Clerk. Alderman Grimsley seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Yea: Grimsley, Lennon, Ritchart, White, Wilson, Wombles (6)
Nay: None (0)
Present: None (0)
The motion carried.

The 2020 Census results have been released. A formula must be used to calculate smaller municipalities and IML has calculated and released all Illinois census results. The City of Pittsfield population has reduced from 4,576 to 4,206.

Ed Knight, Economic Development Director, stated that he and City officials attended a meeting hosted by PCEDC about the uses of the ILARCA funds. The funds, at this point, could be for water and sewer projects.

Mr. Knight also stated that he has submitted a grant for a DNR boat ramp and a Safe Route to Schools grant.

Alderman Ritchart stated that more mats have been donated for the merry go round area at Lowry Park.

Alderman Grimsley asked how close the Washington Street Project is to completion. No one had a completion date; however the lights are working.
Alderwoman White stated that school is starting this week, and everyone should be mindful of children walking and or biking.

Tom Reinhardt stated the old overflow at the Lagoon has gone bad and he has been working with DNR to rebuild and a new overflow will be installed.

Mayor Mendenhall expressed his appreciation for superintendents for all their hard work.

Alderman Ritchart stated that the golf cart club is having a fund raiser for the Halloween parade.

Chief Starman stated the new officers are doing very well in the academy and have 14 weeks left.

Chris Davenport stated he feels all residential homes on Washington Street have a significant drop on the transitions. Much worse than the business transitions. Mayor will mention this to the Regional Engineer.

Chief Starman stated that Part time officer John Pennock will be working full time hours while the new officers are in the academy wo he may be seen more often.

Alderwoman Wombles moved to adjourn this meeting at 6:58 p.m.

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City Clerk