The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Pittsfield, Pike County, Illinois, was held on Tuesday, September 7, 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, Kevin Ketchum, Chris Little, Robert Ritchart, Beth White, Robert Wilson, and Kevin Wombles. Alderman Paul Lennon attended remotely.

Mayor Mendenhall presided.

Alderman Ketchum moved to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2021 Council meeting. Alderman White seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Yea: Grimsley, Ketchum, Lennon, Ritchart, Wilson, Wombles (5)

Nay: None (0)

Present: Ketchum, Little (2)

The motion carried.

Alderman Wilson moved to approve the Zoning Committee’s recommendation to approve the variance request of Daniel Thiele to place a third unattached accessory building, which will exceed the two unattached accessory building limit at 406 Benson Street. Alderman White seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Yea: Grimsley, Ketchum, Lennon, Little, Ritchart, White, Wilson, Wombles (8)

Nay: None (0)

Present: None (0)

The motion carried.

Alderman Ritchart updated that the Ordinance Committee met today to discuss the following matters: The Bee Museum presented by Bob Evans last council meeting was discussed. It was found that the State of Illinois has licensing procedures that needs to be researched, therefore the matter was tabled for further research; Parking on and around the square has been brought up numerous times, the Ordinance Committee discussed various solutions, however decided to consult with the downtown businesses to request their input before making any decisions; Ordinance Committee approved the replacement of a fence at …., property owned by Frazier and Ali Curless. The fence is currently on City property, being the Alley behind the property. The fence replacement was approved providing Mr. Curless enters into an agreement with the City of Pittsfield stating he will move the fence three feet back from it’s current location and remove the fence should the City make the request in the future.

Alderman Ketchum moved to approve the Ordinance Committee’s recommendation to approve the replacement of a fence at 232 South Monroe Street. Replacement will be allowed on City right of way, providing the owner will enter into an agreement with the City of Pittsfield stating he will move the fence three feet back from its current location and remove the fence should the City make the request in the future. Alderman White seconded the motion.
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Roll Call: Yea: Grimsley, Ketchum, Lennon, Little, Ritchart, White, Wilson, Wombles (8)
Nay: None (0)
Present: None (0)

The motion carried.

Alderman Wombles moved to approve Ordinance No. 1686, An Ordinance approving the annexation of certain territory contiguous to the City of Pittsfield, as petitioned by the City of Pittsfield, on its second reading.
Alderman Wilson seconded the motion.

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

The motion carried.

The issue of no parking was table to allow for input to be obtained from downtown businesses.

Alderman Ritchart moved to approve the request from Rotary Club and Picture Pittsfield for a dog park fundraising dog walk and costume contest at 9:00 am on Saturday, October 23, 2021 with the round being from King Park, south on Madison, parading around the Square and returning to King Park, again, on Madison Street.
Alderman Wombles seconded the motion.

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

The motion carried.

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

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

The motion carried.

Alderwoman White presented a spreadsheet that was created to tract and manage the City Goals as discussed in previous meetings. It will be distributed to Alderman and Supervisor for cost estimate and assignment of duties.

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

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

The motion carried.

Mayor Mendenhall stated the Homecoming bonfire has been relocated to the parking lot of the bowling alley. There has been a request made to close the street at that location. Mayor Mendenhall stated that he will convey to the presenters that no burning should occur on the city street.
Alderwoman White congratulated the Fall Festival Committee on a great festival, despite the rain.

Ed Knight, Economic Development Director, has submitted a grant application to IDNR for $63,000 with our share of

He also stated that we have been approved to apply for a USDA grant that would provide 100% funding for the Well #4, Replacement Well.

We have been informed that funding is available for commercial routes. Mayor asked Max Middendorf to review the possibility of making Higbee a commercial route.

Chief Starman stated that all in-car cameras have been installed. All cars have cameras, and all officers have body cameras. He also stated that the cadets are doing very well in the academy.

Mayor Mendenhall asked Alderman Wombles to look into the requirements to have signage placed on the interstate about services, restaurants, gas, etc. available in Pittsfield.

Alderwoman Wombles moved to adjourn this meeting at 6:34 p.m.

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City Clerk