December 21, 2021

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Pittsfield, Pike County, Illinois, was held on Tuesday, December 21, 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, Paul Lennon, Chris Little, Robert Ritchart, Beth White, Robert Wilson and Kevin Wombles.

Mayor Mendenhall presided.

Alderman Ketchum moved to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2021 Council meeting. Alderman Lennon 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 Wombles moved to approve the November, 2021 Treasurer’s Report. Alderman Grimsley 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 Ketchum moved to accept Planning Commission’s recommendation to allow the subdivision plat for Ionson, Inc. at 625 W Washington Street. Alderman Lennon seconded the motion.
Roll Call: Yea: Grimsley, Ketchum, Lennon, Little Ritchart, White, Wilson, Wombles (7)
Abstain: Little (1)
Nay: None (0)
Present: None (0)
The motion carried.

Alderwoman Little moved to accept Planning Commission’s recommendation to allow permanently rezone any portion of the property located at 1243 W Washington Street that is not currently zoned R-2 to B-3 Highway Business District. Alderman Ketchum 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 accept the Zoning Committee’s recommendation to approve the variance request of Jeff Hannel, owner of 107 S and 109 D Illinois Street, to construct a duplex with a front yard of ten feet (10’) instead of the required twenty feet (20’). 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.

Alderman Ritchart moved to accept the Zoning Committee’s recommendation to approve the variance request of John & Ann Hill, owners of 222 W Crane Street, to construct an unattached building with a rear yard of zero feet (0’) instead of the required five feet (5’). 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.

Anthony Miller with Hutchison Engineering presented the preliminary plans for a project that they will submit, on behalf of Pittsfield, a DCEO grant request for. The grant covers downtown revitalization of areas effected by COVID 19. The grant will provide street and sidewalk repairs on the east, north and west side of the Pittsfield square.

Illini Community Hospital submitted a letter requesting two parking spaces on Adams Street, for employee parking for the daycare facility they plan to open at 201 Mississippi Street. Monica Beard stated that when this building was built 21 years ago she and other neighbors expressed concerns of parking on Adams Street and her concerns still exist. She is concerned that the spaces will be used for more that employee parking. She is concerned about backing into Adams Street due to vehicles speeding. She is concerned about visibility when driving from Mississippi Street. And she is concerned with safety if children are picked up or dropped of on Adams Street.

It was decided that this issue would be tabled to gather additional information about the desired use of the space.

Propane Tank Ordinance 1688 was tabled.
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.

New Business:

Mayor Mendenhall presented information in reference to fines from the ICC as a result of an inspection 
that was completed on October 8 – 10, 2019 and October 21 – 21, 2019. The fine is $138,800, the City has 
worked with USDI and made changes to equipment and procedures to ensure the violations do not occur in 
the future therefore Mayor Hayden requested a reduction of the fine to no avail. Mayor Mendenhall has 
had several conversations with officials from the ICC as well and a reduction of the fine was denied. It was 
decided this matter will be placed on the Agenda January 4, 2022.

Alderman Ketchum commended the Street and Alley Department as well as the Gas and Water Department 
for their work on Piper Lane.

Alderman Little distributed calendars and stated that things are looking promising for a food establishment 
to come to the area.

Ed Knight had great responses when he went to the downtown businesses to discuss the grant discussed by 
Hutchison Engineering.

Tom Reinhardt stated that there has been no use of the campground so it will be closed.

Tom Reinhardt stated that bids are being accepted for dredging the Lagoon.

Alderman White moved to adjourn this meeting at 7:14 p.m.

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City Clerk