

PLATTEVILLE COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
JULY 15, 2014

The special meeting of the Common Council of the City of Platteville was called to order by Council President Eileen Nickels at 8:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

ROLL CALL

Present: Dick Bonin, Ken Kilian, Council President Eileen Nickels, Amy Seeboth, and Barb Stockhausen.
Excused: Barbara Daus. Mike Denn arrived at 8:10 PM.

WORK SESSION

A. *Proposed 2015-2019 Capital Improvement Projects (CIP)* – Council President Nickels asked other Council members what they wanted to start with. Kilian commented he would like to start with the property at 790 S Court Street. A letter by the owner had been received. This property may now be torn down. This property has problems with water drainage and topsoil loss due to no curb & gutter or storm sewer catch basin at the end of the street. Another issue on this property is the erosion caused by stormwater drainage from the large tube under Harrison Park and the tube carrying stormwater from Straw Avenue. Both of these tubes drain onto this property. Comments were made by other council members concerning helping one citizen and not others, with many other citizens having the same kind of problems since the tornados. Director of Public Works Crofoot stated the property at 790 S Court St would qualify as a CIP item. The Council asked DPW Crofoot to obtain a budget estimate for both projects: storm water runoff onto the property at 790 S. Court and the erosion between Harrison Park and Business 151 and bring it to the next Council meeting.

Seeboth asked to review the Strategic Planning Goals. The affordable housing situation in Platteville is an issue. With the new dorms at UWP, rentals by landlords is becoming a problem. Local landlords have many more empty apartments due to this. President Nickels suggested this item be set aside for future discussion.

Under the Fire and EMS category, the Fire Department is in need of more space and their current facility does not have the door entrance capacity for the new fire truck. The decision was to move forward with the remodeling as far as the garage doors and the hood over the kitchen stove. The EMS is in discussions with the local hospital for services.

CIP Review:

- Parks and Recreation – decision was to delay the Mineral St East bike trail and add \$30,000 for engineering study under TIF #5. Council would like further information on cost for bike trail.
- Airport – decision was to leave the \$40,000 for now until discussion is had with Airport as how to handle the funding. The construction of the 10-Unit Hanger is funded 10% by the City and the rest is funded by Federal/State Grant.
- City Hall – The Building Inspector is in need of a more efficient truck. The current truck will be transferred to the Parks Department and the Building Inspector will receive a used truck from the Street Department that will be 4-wheel drive and much more usable for his purposes. DPW Crofoot is to check the condition of the truck. The remodeling of City Hall and Election Voting Machines are approved.
- Police Department – CSO truck replacement – Police Chief is open to the possibility of purchasing a used vehicle for this. The Council would like someone to look into the policy of keeping vehicles for 8-12 years and possibly trading in sooner. This should be brought back at a later date.

- Public Works, Water & Sewer Utilities – Council would like to look at the ordinance on waiver of sidewalk repairs although this item was approved. The Aerial Overhead Photos cost was questioned but approved. Council would like further information on the Broadway Project costs.

B. *Strategic Planning Goals* – City Manager Bierke was asked by the Council to present a listing of ways to increase revenue for the City. Following are the items the Council showed interest in:

- Impact Fees – more fees when new building permit applied for.
- “City Services Bill” – Six month or quarterly charge for public fire protection, street lighting, or street frontage assessment. Would result in lower water bill.
- Bid out City Contracts – possibility of engineering, garbage disposal, or liability insurance.
- Combine Economic Development efforts – Save \$ but not create new.
- Referendum – Choose to raise taxes via referendum to cover costs associated with street repair.
- Subscriptions – sell subscriptions for people who want to use “Platteville Places” – GIS.
- Parking – restrict free downtown parking.
- Charge Utilities – Level of payment to City budget from Utility budget.
- Sell Compost, wood chips, and fertilizer – feasibility study would be required.
- Selling Parking Permits – Charge fee for current two permits to dwelling units.

Items Council wanted further information on were:

- Bill TID’s for Services – Charge TIDs for Attorney, engineer, City Manager, DPW Director, Finance, and Police fees.
- Fee for Home Security checks – Home visits by PD when owner on vacation.
- Annexation of City Airport – generate small increase in taxes paid to City.
- Fee for Vehicle Lock outs – apply fee when City assists in vehicle lock outs.
- Title Searches – charge title companies for requests.
- Fee for False Alarms – implement enforcement or modify fee for responses to false fire or home security calls.
- Fire Department Calls Charge – implement fee for fire calls in city limits.
- Fire Inspection Fees – change fee structure to a more structure specific/time demand schedule.
- Early Retirement offers – some long time employees may consider early retirement if it is beneficial to them which would leave open option to City of not filling position or restructuring.

Items Council removed from listing were:

- Streetlight Assessment – charge a resident user fee.
- Room Tax – no additional increase after the 01/01/15 increase.
- Increase Deductibles and Self Insure – Council felt employees were still feeling pinch from hours change.
- Health Savings Account – too costly overall.
- Transportation Assessment – assess residents per lineal foot of street frontage.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Stockhausen, second by Seeboth to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Lowery
Deputy City Clerk