

Minutes of the General Government and Public Safety Committee for Monday, January 11, 2010.

The meeting was called to order by Alderman Orsini at about 7:45 p.m. Present were Mayor Grenke, Aldermen Million, Bormann, Simmons, and Parmeley. Also attending were Lynn Behrns, Fire Chief Marvin Rodgers, James Lee, Ginny Zoellers, Kalei Holder, Police Chief Larry Dudgeon, James Smith, Steve Oberman, Darryl Spauldin, and Greg Grenke.

Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Economic Development

Zoellers gave an activity report for economic development and Chamber of Commerce activities in the past month. She also presented a written report that detailed work done in fulfillment of the Chamber's contract with the City for economic development and promotion.

Zoellers said that the merchants were pleased with this year's Christmas promotions. The Chamber will start planning next year's events in June and may considered merging the two parades. Million asked about feedback on the Santa House. Zoellers said it was popular, but some people felt that Santa could have been available for a longer time. Maybe next year there can be two Santas.

The kettle donations for the Salvation Army were only about \$2,000. But the Community for Kids project was able to provide presents to 118 children. This event was greatly enhanced by the assistance of the local churches and many others. It has become a real city-wide effort.

Holder told the Committee that Boone County Community Partnership is working on locating funding sources and more high-grade participants for the Chamber's new economic development committee. This committee is focusing on job training and development and creating formal structure and bylaws. They will next meeting on Tuesday, the 19th at 6:30 p.m.

The next Chamber meeting is the same day. Mayor Grenke asked if they would schedule one or more night meetings, so that he could attend.

Park Department

Minutes of the previous meeting of the Park Board have been distributed. The Park Board will next meet on January 19.

Behrns said that James Enlow reported that there were 1701 members of recreation center by the last day of the year. He told Million that this number was sufficient for the center to be self sustaining for its operations.

Cemetery Advisory Committee

There was no written report

Tree Board

There was no written report.

Library Board

No Library Board minutes have been distributed. An agenda for their next meeting was made available.

Finance

Financial statements for December had been previously distributed. Behrns said there was nothing new of significance to report. Sales taxes revenues are about level with last year—which is disappointing. Likewise, gross receipts taxes on electric utilities are under target, mostly because of mild summer weather.

The preliminary list of bills over \$1,250 was presented. Behrns explained details of the bill for D & D Tires. The Committee had no other questions.

Other General Government

Behrns said he is working to obtain a web-based tool to help residents to find ways to make their homes more energy efficient. The tool will be acquired from MPUA and set up as a link on the City's web page in near future.

City Prosecutor

No report to present. Mayor Grenke noted that April Wilson's aunt had passed away,

Behrns and Grenke said that Judge Schneider will be revising and updating the list of fines and bonds for the municipal court. It should become more of a match for those of surrounding cities. No action by the Board of Aldermen is needed. When completed, the City will find ways to make citizens aware of the changes.

Police Department

Chief Dudgeon presented a report of Police Department activities in December and for the last year. Crime numbers were up a bit from 2008 in some categories.

Behrns presented a request concerning organizations soliciting at intersections. Currently, the Knights of Columbus use the main intersection of Allen and Singleton Streets to ask for charitable donations on some Saturdays each year. The American Legion would like to do the same. Behrns said this would likely not be a problem, unless many more organizations asked to do the same or present organizations want to increase their frequency. Committee members were comfortable with allowing a limited amount of additional solicitation. Dudgeon suggested we could track such use through parade permits. The current application form should be sufficient and would identify the responsible contact persons for each organization.

Grenke asked about 2009 training results. Dudgeon said the video training objective for 2009 was met and worked well. City training efforts garnered about \$500 in credit against law enforcement liability premiums. The City is covering all officers other than part time officers who can access the program through their principle employers.

Mayor Grenke read a letter from Martha Willingham, who urged the City to adopt a goal of zero violence in 2010. Her sentiment was well received.

Fire Department

Chief Rodgers presented a report of Fire Department activities in December and all of 2009.

There has been a short delay of the Fire Department assuming EMS responsibility for some categories of calls. The 911 Dispatch Center is still working to be able to separate Centralia calls from Boone County Fire Protection District calls.

Bags of treats, fruit, and fire prevention tips were distributed to about 1200 children on Christmas Day.

Rodgers has ordered five replacement sets of bunker gear. Their cost should be under the budget. At least three more sets will be included in next year's budget. Rodgers is working on the remainder of purchases allowed by the present budget and preparing a schedule for inclusion in the 2010-11 budget.

Emergency Management

The firefighters will soon have a class for renewing their CPR training.

Behrns said he is preparing comments on the draft update of the Boone County Hazard Mitigation Plan. This is a project of the County and the Regional Planning Commission staff and will be needed for requesting future grant funds from FEMA.

Protective Inspection

Behrns has reexamined the building on East Railroad Street owned by Mr. Meador. Meador has technically made fixes to most items cited, but not always in the most aesthetic or lasting manner. Behrns is still concerned about the broken window adjacent to the sidewalk. Behrns has not made any other contacts in the last in December. Committee members and Spauldin discussed preliminary use of a soft approach before the formal notices need to be distributed. Behrns noted that demolition at the old Red Wood motel has been slow because of the winter weather.

Accessibility Committee

Oberman stated that he believed a City version of the "cold weather rule" would be very helpful to the disabled.

Oberman asked for the City to pay more attention to cleaning snow and ice from sidewalks and ramps. Travel in downtown is difficult for those with wheelchairs, or even those who use canes. Staff will discuss this at the Wednesday department head meeting.

The Accessibility Committee will next meet on the 21st.

Behrns said that he received information from Zim Schwartze concerning a State contract for a variety of "relay services" for deaf citizens. Between these and the pervasive use of computers, email, twitter, and smart phones, it may not be necessary to buy designated TDD.

Other

Allstate Consultants have almost completed preliminary plans for the Safe Routes to School sidewalk grant. Staff and the Mayor will meet with them next week.

Behrns passed out a letter from Art Dollens. Dollens requests permission to tie blue ribbons to the decorative street light poles as part of a possible candidacy in the coming School Board election. He noted that the City allowed red ribbons to be used for the last school bond election. Behrns distributed

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a packet from Attorney Beck of material about discussion and actions surrounding the red ribbon campaign. The matter will be a topic on the next Board agenda

As May Arise

Mayor Grenke reminded those present that the filing deadline for the municipal election was next week. Only two candidates have filed so far.

The Committee then adjourned at about 8:14 p.m.

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