

CITY OF SHULLSBURG
FEBRUARY 18, 2009
6:30 P.M.

A regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Shullsburg was held February 18, 2009 in the Community Room of the Shullsburg Community Townsend Center, 190 N. Judgement Street, Shullsburg, Wisconsin. Mayor Curran called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Notice of the meeting was posted and given to the official newspaper. Roll Call- Cheryl Fink, Josh Jerry, Carol Korn- Present. Stan Woodworth- Absent. Others present: Wayne Gehrt, Nancy Gehrt, Ollie Cody, Bill Graham, Irene Graham, Tom Lethlean, Tom Gunnell, Emmett Reilly, Harry Blackbourn, Bill Gile, Pam Paquette, Carl Ballard.

Motion by Fink second by Jerry to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2009 meeting as amended. All aye, motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Ald Jerry reported that following items were discussed regarding a Street Committee meeting: 1. User fees for burning grounds. Decided it is not feasible. 2. Amending the brush ordinance. 3. Federal Stimulus Funds- the city does not have anything that qualifies at this time.

Ald Fink reported that a Police Committee meeting will be held February 25th for discussion of the chief position.

Ald Korn reported leave request for Verne Jackson and Steve Staver. Korn also reported that a Utility meeting was held. Reports were given by George Morrissey, Verne Jackson and Steve Staver.

Ald Korn also reported that a Park Committee meeting had been held. Discussion included seasonal positions and museum hours.

Motion by Fink second by Jerry to approve the Committee Reports. All aye, motion carried.

Motion by Jerry second by Fink to approve the bills for the general, water, sewer, electric and library funds. Roll Call- Korn, Fink, Jerry. All aye, motion carried.

A discussion was held regarding an Investment Policy. The clerk presented a revised Investment Policy. Wayne Gehrt also presented the council with a policy. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Korn second by Fink to approve the policy as presented by the clerk. All aye, motion carried.

No action was taken regarding the city's contribution towards the cost of the Shullsburg Visitors Guide. It will be addressed at the next meeting.

Stan Woodworth arrived at 6:48 p.m.

No action was taken regarding the purchase of a Mine & Museum advertisement in the Shullsburg Visitors Guide. This will be addressed at the next council meeting.

Charles Gensler arrived.

A discussion was held regarding the hanging flower baskets. The following suggestions were made: 1. Have the business owners' purchase and water the flowers. 2. Have a group, perhaps the master gardeners or the FFA plant the flowers. Mayor Curran feels that this is not an expense that the tax payer should bear. Ald Korn feels that due to the economy the city should not spend the funds. Ald Fink feels that the city has to do everything they can to keep the business district a viable entity. Ald Woodworth agrees with Fink, we need to keep our downtown district viable. Ald Jerry is not in favor of spending tax payer dollars to purchase the flowers. The general consensus is that the flowers add to the downtown area, but we need to find another way to fund them without using taxpayer dollars. Motion by Fink second by Woodworth to accept the bid from Cuba City Greenhouse for the hanging flower baskets and to accept the bid from Coughlin Co. for the liners at a cost of \$1,795. Roll Call- Korn- No, Fink-Yes, Jerry-No, Woodworth-Yes, Curran-No. Motion failed.

Brad Wiegel arrived.

A brief discussion was held regarding a fire works permit submitted by Platte River Fireworks & the Fourth of July Committee for July 4, 2009. More information is needed regarding compliance with the regulations before a decision is made. No action was taken regarding this issue. It will be addressed at the next meeting.

Motion by Korn second by Fink to approve an election worker wage increase to \$7.00 per hour retro to the beginning of the year. Roll Call- Woodworth, Fink, Korn, Jerry. All aye, motion carried.

A brief discussion was held regarding the preparation for the mine for the seasonal operation. Discussion included whether or not the mine needs to be inspected due to the amount of water that was in the mine shaft last summer. The city was contacted by a firm to inspect the mine at a cost of approximately \$3,750. More research is needed before a decision will be made regarding entering into a contract to have the mine inspected. Tom Lethlean requested that Mayor Curran contact Pat Lacke. Lacke headed the fundraising for the museum renovations and oversaw the remodeling. Lethlean stated that there are funds set up for maintenance of the museum.

Motion by Jerry second by Korn to change the operating hours to the following: Closed Monday and Tuesday, Wednesday – Thursday 12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 Friday – Sunday. All aye, motion carried.

Motion by Korn second by Woodworth to approve an operator license for Valerie Leifker contingent upon a successful background check. All aye, motion carried.

During the public comment session of the meeting the following comments were made: 1. Wayne Gehrt voiced his concerns regarding keeping the Mine & Museum open. Gehrt also voiced his concerns regarding the Federal Stimulus funds and the city is not taking advantage

of trying to get these funds. The clerk explained that the letter regarding the Federal Stimulus Money was dated February 6 and received February 10. Not only was the deadline for the application February 18 but the project being submitted needed to be shovel ready by February 18 as well. Gehrt also expressed that the city needs someone to keep on top of the Federal Stimulus Program. Jim Paquettte suggested a city manager. 2. Bob Edge inquired about what was going to be done with the concrete on Water Street. The plan is to repair a section at a time. 3. Bill Gile inquired about the Electric Utility having a long range plan. Gile also voiced his opinion regarding the recent purchase of an electric recloser unit for \$30,000 and \$70,000 of sewer funds spend on the sewer plant maintenance when only one bid was received. Gile felt that these items were not needed. 4. Bill Graham stated that he wants a decision regarding the fireworks as soon as possible. Brad Wiegel stated that they are looking for an alternative location for the fireworks.

At 7:30 p.m. a motion was made by Korn second by Jerry to adjourn. All aye, motion carried.

Marsha Einsweiler
City Clerk/Treasurer