

City of Albion
Council Session Minutes
August 6, 2018

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Brown called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. MOMENT OF SILENCE TO BE OBSERVED

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Maurice Barnes (1), Lenn Reid (2), Sonya Brown (3), Marcola Lawler (4), Jeanette Spicer (5), Andrew French (6) and Mayor Brown.

ABSENT: All members were present.

STAFF PRESENT:

Scott Kipp, Interim City Manager; Cullen Harkness, City Attorney; Jill Domingo, City Clerk and John Tracy, Director of Planning, Building & Code Enforcement.

***Mayor Brown asked for a motion to add Report from Rental Certification Sub-Committee as item K under Items for Individual Discussion.*

***Brown moved, Reid supported, CARRIED, To Add Report from Rental Certification Sub-Committee as Item K under Items for Individual Discussion. (7-0, vv)*

V. PRESENTATIONS-None

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS-None

VII. PUBLIC Comments (Persons addressing the City Council shall limit their comments to agenda items and to no more than three (3) minutes. Proper decorum is required.)

No public comments were received.

VIII. CONSENT CALENDAR (vv) (Items on Consent Calendar are voted on as one unit)

- A. Approval Study Session Minutes, July 16, 2018
- B. Approval Joint Study Session Minutes, July 19, 2018

Barnes moved, Lawler supported, CARRIED, To Approve Consent Calendar as presented. (7-0, vv)

IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL DISCUSSION

A. Request Approval 1st Reading Amended Council Rules & Procedures

Comments were received from Mayor Brown

French moved, Spicer supported, CARRIED, To Add to Rule 10, Agenda's and Order of Business: Items to be considered by Council as an action item must be received by the Wednesday prior to the meeting by noon. Items added to the agenda the day of the meeting will be added as a discussion item unless it is an emergency that requires immediate Council action. (7-0, vv)

Comments were received from Council Members Lawler, French, Spicer and Reid; Mayor Brown and Interim City Manager Kipp.

French moved, Brown supported, CARRIED, Add to Rule 1-Item F Add-typically Wednesday after calls with City Manager. (7-0, vv)

French moved, Brown supported, CARRIED, To Remove Appendix A, pages 16-18 (pages may change due to formatting changes) and replace with golden rod pages received from the MML. (7-0, vv)

French moved, Reid supported, CARRIED, To Approve 1st Reading of Amended Council Rules & Procedures with the above amendments. (7-0, rcv)

B. Request Approval of Demolition Bid for 608 Austin Avenue

Comments were received from Council Members Spicer, Lawler and Brown; Mayor Brown; Interim City Manager Kipp and Director of Planning, Building & Code Enforcement Tracy.

French moved, Barnes supported, CARRIED, To Approve Demolition Bid for 608 Austin Avenue as presented. (7-0, rcv)

C. Update on Parking on Maple Street

Council Member Lawler stated some of the reasons for changing the parking to one side are:

- Parking on both sides of the street cause cars to zigzag to get around the vehicles that are parked on the street
- Speed of vehicles going down the street
- Children's safety
- Difficult to get emergency vehicles down the street

Council Member Lawler stated she surveyed thirty (30) residents on Maple Street and received seven (7) responses. Five (5) of the residents would like to see the parking changed to one side of the street only and the other two (2) would like to see parking on both sides of the street.

Interim City Manager Kipp stated a traffic order proposal would need to be done before any changes could be made. There is no real cost to the City for the traffic order to be done. Once complete, Council would make the decision to change the parking to one side of the street. Parking would likely be changed to the east side of the street to make concurrent with parking on the north end of the street.

D. Discussion Street Millage

Council Member French stated he would like to see an increase in the street millage from three (3) to five (5) or more mills. The amount of funding being raised from the three mills does not cover the work that needs to be done to our local streets. He would like to see at least the same amount currently used for the matching funds for major street projects to be raised for local streets. We currently have no funds for local streets next year.

The City receives \$244,000 a year from the street millage yet the cost of reconstructing a street is a million dollars per mile of road. With 53 streets in the City, it would take 53 million dollars to do all the streets in the City. The monies received from the millage have typically been used as the match for the major street projects. Streets are a priority.

The City currently has two major street projects slated for next year. Council needs to have a plan in place if the millage is increased for local streets. An updated street assessment needs to be completed and a street presentation made to Council.

Additional comments were received from Council Members Brown, Reid, Spicer and Lawler; Mayor Brown and Interim City Manager Kipp.

E. Discussion/Approval 1st Reading of Ordinance # 2018-07, An Ordinance to Provide a Process for the Sale of Surplus Real Property and to Create Section 1-27 of the Albion Code of Ordinances

City Attorney Harkness noted a typo in Ordinance # 2018-07, On letter E-2nd line: authorize that the sale should be changed to authorize that the property.

Comments were received from Council Members Spicer and French; Mayor Brown; City Attorney Harkness and Interim City Manager Kipp.

Brown moved, Spicer supported, CARRIED, to Approve 1st Reading of Ordinance # 2018-07, An Ordinance to Provide a Process for the Sale of Surplus Real Property and to Create Section 1-27 of the Albion Code of Ordinances with the above noted typo change. (7-0, rcv)

F. Approve Offer of Sale of 702,704,706 & 708 W. Erie St

Comments were received from Council Members Brown, Barnes, Spicer, French, Reid and Lawler; Mayor Brown; City Attorney Harkness and Interim City Manager Kipp

Brown moved, Lawler supported, CARRIED, to Approve Offer of Sale of 702,704,706 & 708 W. Erie St as presented. (6-1, rcv) (Barnes dissenting).

G. Request Approval Boards & Commissions Reappointment

- Chris Farmer, Reappointment, Albion Building Authority, Term to Expire 6-30-2021

French moved, Reid supported, CARRIED, To Approve Chris Farmer, Reappointment, Albion Building Authority, Term to Expire 6-30-2021 as presented. (7-0, rcv)

H. Discussion-McIntosh Park

Council Member Lawler stated she was approached about who writes the City's grants and why only one specific park is receiving the grants. Also, who controls the funds once the grants are received? There is concern about children walking to Holland Park and would like to see something for the children on Broadwell Street and Lincolnshire.

Council Member Barnes stated there is grant money available for McIntosh Park. Doing one park at a time seemed to make the most sense. Council Member Barnes is working with Larry Williams, Recreation Director to write

grants for McIntosh Park. He has also spoken with Albion Housing to see if they could help with funding.

Council Member Reid stated everything at Holland Park was funded either with grants or donations. The original flowers were purchased by Council Member Reid and the second set of flowers were from monies received from selling food at the Juneteenth celebration along with a flower donation from Jolly Green Junction. No funding for Holland Park was from the City.

Additional comments were received from Council Member French and Mayor Brown.

I. Discussion-Dog Park

Council Member Lawler asked if a drinking fountain for dogs could be added to the Dog Park. Interim City Manager Kipp stated he would refer the request to Director of Public Services Director Lenardson.

Additional comments were received from Mayor Brown.

J. Discussion-Project Rising Tide

Mayor Brown stated the Project Rising Tide project is moving forward. Project Rising Tide is a two-year project to help Albion move forward. The City does not receive any direct funding from Rising Tide. A steering committee was chosen. The committee then compiled the City's concerns and choose the five (5) topics from those concerns. The topics are as follows:

1. Housing
2. Infrastructure
3. Post Industrial Sites
4. Healthcare
5. Workforce Development.

Residents who wish to sign up for any of these groups can do through the link on the City's facebook page.

Additional comments were received from Council Member Lawler and Interim City Manager Kipp.

K. Discussion-Code of Ethics Ordinance

Council Member Brown asked to have a study session for the Code of Ethics Ordinance.

L. Rental Certification Sub-Committee Report

Council Member Spicer stated the Council sub-committee met with the Landlord Association. No decisions were made by there was an open dialogue. The Landlord Association asked to meet amongst themselves and make recommendations for the rental certification ordinance. They asked to be allowed forty-five (45) days to complete the recommendations which would be around September 14th. Nine (9) landlords attended the meeting along with Interim City Manager Kipp, Glenn Lindsay from SAFEbuilt, John Tracy, Director Planning, Building & Code Enforcement and representatives from Albion College.

Council Member Lawler stated the Landlord Association also requested a written statement from the Mayor and each of the Council Members as to why they felt the rental certification was needed.

Additional comments were received from Council Members Brown and French; Mayor Brown; Interim City Manager Kipp and Director of Planning, Building & Code Enforcement Tracy.

*** Council Member Lawler cited Privilege and left at 9:00 p.m.*

X. Future Agenda Items

The following items were requested for the next agenda:

- Mayor Brown will schedule a study session to discuss the Code of Ethics Ordinance
- City Attorney Harkness asked to have the annual City Attorney Evaluation added to the next agenda.

Additional comments were received from Council Members French and Spicer.

XI. Motion to Excuse Absent Council Member (s)

No action was necessary as all members were present.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Persons addressing the City Council shall limit their comments to no more than three (3) minutes. Proper decorum is required).

Comments were received from Wayne Arnold, 906 Hall St; Elizabeth Faye Craig, 802 Austin Avenue; Jim Stuart, 205 W. Oak St.; Dave Atchison, 108 W. Erie St.; Ronnie Sims, 710 W. Erie St. and Calhoun County Commissioner Gary Tompkins.

XIII. CITY MANAGER REPORT

Interim City Manager Kipp gave the following report:

- On July 27th, 2018 Albion was designated as a North Country Trail Town.
- The environmental testing for PFAS has been completed and we had 0 parts per trillion in our water system so a very small amount in our water.
- National Night out will be held at Victory Park from 6-8 p.m. on Tuesday, August 7, 2018.

XIV. MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS

Comments were received from Council Members Barnes and Mayor Brown.

*** Council Member Barnes cited Privilege and left at 9:20 p.m.*

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Brown moved, Spicer supported, CARRIED, to ADJOURN Regular Council Session. (5-0, vv).

Mayor Brown adjourned the Regular Session at 9:25 p.m.

Date

Jill Domingo
City Clerk