

COMMON COUNCIL

Work Session
September 16, 2003

Mayor Marylou Stewart presided at a work session of the Common Council held at 7 PM on September 16, 2003, at One Court Plaza.

Present:

Mayor Marylou Stewart
Ald. Gary Clark
Ald. James Cushman
Ald. Robert Rabinowitz
Ald. Jeffrey Thornton
Ald. Sharon Jeffer
Ald. Joseph Biviano

Also:

Clerk / Director of Finance Brian Molinaro
Fire Chief John Tighe
Human Resources Director Deborah DeForest
Police Chief Joseph Angelino
Asst. Police Chief Murray Roach
DPW Supt. Carl Ivarson
Admin. Asst. Amy Donnison

Discussion -- Relative to the Hayes Street Parking Lot, Mayor Stewart reported that the Traffic Commission and the BID may be requesting that the parking permits used in the past in the Hayes Street Parking Lot for business owners. This comes after an ad-hoc committee was formed to address ongoing parking concerns, this committee made a recommendation in late May that the west side of the Hayes Street Lot be designated as all day parking, which the Common Council approved. This plan is not working as expected. The new recommendation is that approximately 15 spots on the west side of the lot be reinstated as permit parking only. Mayor Stewart stated that there have been suggestions of charging for these permits and that they be reissued annually. Each business owner from Skillin's Jewelry to Service Pharmacy would be eligible for one permit. Ald. Biviano stated he received a call from a citizen stating it was felt that the meetings held by the ad-hoc committee were not receptive of anyone from the outside having input. Ald. Biviano suggested that a public hearing be held before any decisions were made so input could be received from the merchants and general public. Ald. Jeffer agreed with the suggestion of a public hearing, as parking is a sensitive issue and would welcome any suggestions the public could make.

Open Forum -- No one wished to be heard.

Development of Agenda for September 23, 2003

- 1) Call To Order
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Invocation
- 4) Approval of minutes of the regular meeting of August 19, 2003
- 5) Open Forum
- 6) Bids
 - ◆ 2004 Natural Gas Bids
- 7) Correspondence
 - ◆ Request from Robert Graef for a curb cut at 5a Sheldon Street
 - ◆ Request from the YMCA for a curb cut on Mitchell Street
- 8) Department, Board and Commission Reports
 - ◆ Historian monthly report for August, 2003
 - ◆ Police Department monthly report for August, 2003
 - ◆ Public Works/Water System monthly report for August, 2003
 - ◆ Records Management monthly report for August, 2003
 - ◆ Youth Bureau monthly report for August, 2003
 - ◆ Planning Commission minutes of August 15, 2003
 - ◆ Youth Board minutes of September 9, 2003
- 9) Ward and Committee Reports
 - ◆ Public Works Committee meeting of August 28, 2003
- 10) Old Business
- 11) New Business
 - Motions
 - ◆ Award of Bid for Natural Gas 2004
 - Resolutions
 - ◆ Res - Authorizing Transfer for Water Main Installation
 - ◆ Res - Authorizing Transfer for Fire Department Vehicle Maintenance
 - ◆ Res - Authorizing Submission of Records Management Grants
 - ◆ Res - Permanent Appointment of General Foreman
- 13) Payment of Bills
- 14) Adjournment

Committee Reports

- Finance Committee – Ald. Clark noted the budget process has started. The funds from the sale of an old fire truck to the volunteers for \$7,500 shall be applied to the vehicle maintenance line in the fire budget to help offset those rising costs. Finance also approved to dispose of 2 junk vehicles through surplus bidding, also stated that if anyone had anything else they wished to add to that surplus list, please do so. Ald. Biviano inquired of the Fire Chief if any of the items being cleaned from the old

squad building were worth putting in surplus. Chief Tighe stated everything that was being disposed of was junk with no value.

- Personnel Committee – Ald. Thornton turned this report time over to Human Resources Director Deb DeForest as Jeff was unavailable for a meeting last month. D. DeForest stated that no meeting was held and the only business that needs to be addressed is formalizing the paperwork for the General Foreman.
- Public Safety Committee – Ald. Jeffer stated that she was happy to see Police Chief Angelino in the audience and welcomed him back. The Public Safety budget was presented and moved to the finance committee for approval. Emergency Management shall be seeking funding from the blackout that hit the northeast that may be made available. Firehouse bids have been awarded and the work start date may be as early as Monday morning (September 22, 2003). An Explorer Camp was held by the Fire Department and was a great success.
- Public Works Committee – Ald. Biviano reported that the Streetscape project had to relocate the power distribution unit because of easement problems with the County. Due to this there may be a couple of parking spots that will be lost. A grant that was received some time ago for the footbridge is being worked on, we do not wish to lose that funding, however, we are uncertain at this time when it would be completed.

Adjournment – Ald. Thornton moved to adjourn at 7:15 PM. Seconded by Ald. Jeffer and duly adopted, ayes all.