

REGULAR MEETING OF THE MISHAWAKA COMMON COUNCIL

February 7, 2011

Be it remembered that the Common Council of the City of Mishawaka, Indiana met in the Council Chambers of the Mishawaka City Hall on Monday January 17, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Clerk Block, and all were asked to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chief Deputy Hazen's roll call showed the following;

Dale "Woody" Emmons 1st District Councilman – Present
Mike Bellovich 2nd District Councilman – Present
Ross Deal 3rd District Councilman - Present
Marsha McClure 4th District Councilman - Present
Michael Compton 5th District Councilman - Present
Ronald Banicki 6th District Councilman – Present
John Gleissner, Councilman At Large – Present
Gregg Hixenbaugh, Councilman At Large – Absent
John J. Roggeman, Councilman at Large – Present
A quorum was obtained.

Others present; Deborah S. Block, City Clerk; Mary Ellen Hazen Chief Deputy I absent, Linda Dotson, Chief Deputy II absent, and Council Attorney Mike Trippel absent.

The minutes from the January 17, 2011 meeting were approved as received from the Clerk's Office.

Clerk Block read **Proposed Ordinance No. 2011-01** opening it for public hearing.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2011-01

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND DETERMINING THE EXPENDITURE OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2011 (Additional Funds – Public Safety fund \$210,000.00)

Mr. Compton reported the Budget and Finance Committee recommended this proposed ordinance should be adopted and moved for acceptance of same, upon a second by Mr. Banicki, the motion carried.

Ken Witkowski, Police Chief said he was speaking in favor of this proposed ordinance. He said the Police Department has received a Cops Tec Grant for the amount of \$210,000.00 and they would like to use the money to purchase in car cameras for the fleet, the department currently has 22 (twenty-two) cameras and they would like to have 40 altogether. Chief Witkowski said the way that it works was they have to make the purchase first and then get a full reimbursement.

Question was called for at 7:03 p.m. on **PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2011-01** with the vote being 8 to 0 in favor, thus it becomes **ORDINANCE NO. 5299**.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Christopher Lovejoy, 1908½ Liberty Drive, said he was part of a small group of people in Mishawaka who wanted to petition the Council to allow Mishawaka residents to raise Hens and Chickens in their back yards to supplement their gardens. He said he would like to have four Hens for egg laying and he would not have any roosters.

President Gleissner said he has done a lot of research on this and some states out west and here in Indiana, Indianapolis were looking into this issue. He told Mr. Lovejoy he needed to talk to Mayor Wood regarding his group "The Backyard Hens" and would need someone to support him by bringing an ordinance forth.

Mr. Compton asked how many people belonged to this organization. Mr. Lovejoy said approximately 20 people. Mr. Compton said he thinks of chickens as a farm animal and feels that was where they belong, but he was willing to listen. He was curious as to how this would be monitored, what would happen if someone would want 10 chickens, would it be Code Enforcement's responsibility to determine what were hens or chickens. Mr. Compton said personally speaking he would be reluctant to have 4 or 5 chickens living next door to him. Mr. Lovejoy said his main reasons for this campaign were because so many people are unemployed, and it was a good supplement to their food supply. He said they only want hens, roosters are too aggressive and they Call where hens are silent with only making some clucking noise. Mr. Lovejoy said Hens lay eggs, Chickens are for meat and their life span should only be 6 weeks. Mr. Compton said he has a dog and dogs like chickens so that could be another problem. Mr. Lovejoy said their proposal would be that the chickens would be required to be in Chicken Pens and would not be running around the yard and street and what have you, with a limit of four hens.

Mr. Gleissner asked if the number of Hens were negotiable. Mr. Lovejoy stated one chicken would lay one egg per day. He said he believes South Bend has already adopted this. Mr. Gleissner asked Mr. Lovejoy to bring information on Chicken waste to the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Emmons announced his neighborhood watch meeting would be on February 17, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Bavo's School and the K-9 Dogs would be there, as well as Char Monges Director of Mishawaka Police Dispatch.

Mr. Deal announced his neighborhood watch meeting would be on February 16, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at Twin Branch School and would also be having the same program Mr. Emmons was having.

Mr. Compton asked the Council President to form a committee to look at and review the Collective Bargaining Process with the different entities Mishawaka Bargains with to see if there were some improvements that could be made. He said he would ask that the committee be made up of Council members and individuals from each bargaining unit, as well as the Mayor's administration.

President Gleissner asked Mr. Prince if he would relay that message to the Mayor. Mr. Prince said he would pass that on. President Gleissner stated he would like to appoint Mr. Roggeman, Mr. Hixenbaugh, Mr. Compton and Mrs. McClure, to this committee.

There being no further business to come before the Council, President Gleissner adjourned the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Debbie S. Block, _____/s/
Debbie S. Block, City Clerk MMC

John G. Gleissner _____ s/s
John G. Gleissner, Presiding President