



City of
MONMOUTH

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 16, 2010**

Mayor Rod Davies called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 100 East Broadway, Monmouth, Illinois.

Present: Aldermen Dave Rutledge, Dave Bates, Les Dollinger, Bob Wells, Dan Heatherly, Jaime Godina, and Alderwoman Vicki McNamara **Absent:** Alderman Tim Heatherly **Also Present:** Mayor Rod Davies, City Clerk Susan S. Trevor, City Administrator Eric Hanson, City Attorney Marcum Spears, Police Chief Brad Zeigler, Cemetery/Zoning Administrator Chuck Talley, and members of the Press. **Absent:** Fire Chief Jim Conard and EMC Public Works Director Andy Jackson

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. MPD Monthly Report – Chief Zeigler

Chief Zeigler reviewed his monthly report for February for the Council. He highlighted that there were 152 arrests in January and 1,251 calls for service in that month. A total of 12,255 miles were patrolled in the month of January.

2. WWTP Update – Joe Pisula

Mr. Pisula reported that a meeting was held today with the contractor, Williams Brothers. There are change orders with Gunther Construction to be submitted. Mr. Pisula stated that he has concerns that the project will not be substantially completed by the March 27, 2010 deadline. He also noted that it will take around 6 months to work out the bugs in the system. At the present, Building 105 has the masonry completed and Building 110 has the pumps in. Unfortunately, the digesters have two to three feet of ice in them due to the extreme cold weather and snow. According to Mr. Pisula, Williams Brothers will have to give notice as to what they are going to do by March 1st or March 15th. Updates are sent to the I.E.P.A. regularly from Donohue and Associates and EMC Public Works Director Andy Jackson. During the ensuing discussion, Mr. Pisula said that memos were sent to Williams Brothers as early as last summer indicating that it was felt that the project was not being adequately staffed and that the contractor has been told that if the City is fined by the IEPA for non-compliance that they, William Brothers, may be responsible for payment of the fines.

3. M. C. Request for Street Mimes use of Central Park, 3/4/10, 3-4 p.m.

Sean MacWilliams on behalf of the Monmouth College Classics Students requested permission to use Central Park on Thursday, March 4, 2010 from 3-4 p.m. for students impersonating mythological characters and famous people from ancient Greece and Rome. A certificate of liability insurance accompanied their request. **It was moved by Alderman Dan Heatherly and seconded by Alderwoman McNamara to recommend approval to the Council of the afore-mentioned request. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote with the exception of Alderman Tim Heatherly, who was absent.**

4. Discussion on Sales Tax Changes

Mayor Davies reminded Council that the implementation of a 1% increase in our sales tax was first mentioned in December. If an adoption of a 1% sales tax increase is passed, it would make it possible to reduce the City's portion of the property tax by 15 to 20% and also eliminate the City wheel tax stickers. Mayor Davies emphasized that unprepared food, and prescription drugs would be exempt from the sales tax. During the ensuing discussion, Alderman Wells expressed his concern about a 1% sales tax increase and felt that he could only support a ¼ % increase. Other members of the Council expressed their support of a 1% increase in sales tax along with reducing property taxes and eliminating the wheel tax stickers. Mayor Davies pointed out that it would take a 1% increase to be able to accomplish reducing property taxes and eliminating the wheel tax. Administrator Hanson emphasized that the City of Monmouth's property taxes are 20% higher than our neighboring communities and that if we can reduce our property taxes by 20%, it will likely offset some of the other public bodies' increases.

5. Approval of Resolution 10-005, 2010 MFT Maintenance Project

Administrator Hanson explained the reason that the Council needs to approve the 2010 MFT Maintenance Project so early is due to the fact that Representative Meyers was able to obtain a \$200,000 grant for the City and the project has to be let by April.

6. Approval of 2010 MFT Maintenance Engineering Agreement

It was explained by Administrator Hanson that the 2010 MFT Maintenance Engineering Agreement needs to be approved along with Resolution 10-005.

7 Adjournment

It was moved by Alderman Bates and seconded by Alderman Dollinger to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.

Mayor Rod Davies

City Clerk Susan S. Trevor