COMMON COUNCIL

Regular Meeting May 2, 2016

The regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Shelbyville, Indiana, was held in the Common Council Chambers of City Hall on Monday, May 2, 2016, at 7:04 P.M. The Synergy Show Choir from Shelbyville High School opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, and Councilman Carmony followed that with a prayer. Mayor DeBaun presented a plaque to the Director of Synergy, thanking them for a very successful season all across the state. Synergy also sang a song to the delight of everyone in the audience. All Council members were present, and Mayor DeBaun presided.

Councilman Nolley moved to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2016 meeting, and Councilwoman Bowen seconded. The motion was carried on a 6-0-1 voice vote, with Councilman Carmony abstaining.

Under miscellaneous business, Councilman Nolley moved to approve the City financial reports, and Councilman Asher seconded. The motion was carried on a 7-0 voice vote.

Under old business, on Ordinance No. 16-2788, establishing a Cumulative Capital Development Fund not to exceed $0.05 for 2017, Councilman Asher moved to approve this on second and final reading, and Councilman Carmony seconded. Mayor DeBaun opened the issue for a public hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak on the matter. With no one speaking, Mayor DeBaun closed the portion of the hearing, and there being no further discussion, the motion was carried on a 7-0 voice vote.

On Ordinance No. 16-2789, amending Chapter 92 "Health and Sanitation" of the City Code of Ordinances, Councilman Nolley moved to approve this on second and final reading, and Councilman Asher seconded. With no one wishing to speak, the motion was carried on a 7-0 voice vote.

Under new business, on Resolution No. 2016-9, tax abatement on manufacturing equipment was requested by Plastic Moldings Co., LLC (PMC). Councilman Phares moved to approve the request, and Councilman Nolley seconded. Rick Martin came forward as a representative to speak for the company, talking about how the new machinery will be used. Under discussion, he said two new jobs will be created, and no other jobs will be affected. Councilman Ridgeway said this was a good business decision, but he couldn't vote for it because he didn't feel the abatement was warranted, and he asked other Council members to deny it as well. He felt a callback provision was necessary before he could approve any tax abatement requests over the next four years in office. Councilman Asher thanked Mr. Martin for creating two new jobs, keeping 130 current jobs at PMC, and he's in favor of approving this tonight. Councilman Carmony said the state has been successful in allowing tax abatements in the past, but this Council will be looking more closely at new tax abatements in the future. Councilman Nolley thanked Mr. Martin for continuing to invest in our community, and he would vote in favor of this request tonight. The motion was carried on a 6-1 voice vote, with Councilman Ridgeway voting no.

On Ordinance No. 16-2790, adopting internal control standards for the City of Shelbyville, Councilman Phares moved to approve this on first reading, and Councilwoman Bowen seconded. Mayor DeBaun said this is something that's being mandated to us by the state of Indiana. It requires anyone who handles money in the City to have controls adopted. They are to be monitored, trained and certified that they have reviewed the video required by the State Board of Accounts. The motion was carried on a 7-0 voice vote on first reading.

Under other business, Mayor DeBaun and Councilman Asher asked Joe Kucharski, from Retail Strategies, to come forward to talk about an overview of how their company works. Joe said he works for communities across the United States, ranging in size from Fort Lauderdale, FL to around 4,200 in a community in Tennessee. The company was founded in 2011, and it can help Shelbyville with the resources or connections to get us in front of the right retailers. From a broad overview, Joe said what they're trying to do is attract two categories of retail to Shelbyville. The first is those retailers who have the highest probability of long term success. The second goal is getting retailers in here that are capturing some of the gap or flow of dollars

that are currently leaving the community that are retailers and restaurants and being spent elsewhere. He said they come in and do an exhaustive study of the market, and bring in their people who are real estate professionals. If new retail is brought in, it needs to be done through a real estate deal. Once the studies are completed, they will let the City know what they have found and see what the City decides. He said they are here to fulfill the City's vision. Once a strategy is agreed upon, his company goes out to get directly in front of the targeted retailer to bring them to the market. Under discussion, Councilman Ridgeway, as a business owner, says he does research on a daily basis, and he said research shows Shelbyville does not have the numbers to get retail. His research showed Shelbyville has no growth, income is low, it won't have population growth in the next 25 years, and Shelbyville has done nothing in the last few years to concentrate on retail. On a level of zero to ten on an economic barometer, Councilman Ridgeway said Shelbyville scored a 3.8, and we're not attractive to anyone looking at us. Councilman Ridgeway said he's not willing to spend taxpayer money on something that's not going to get us anywhere. Councilman Asher said we're not going to take a vote on this tonight, it's just a discussion, and we're starting a conversation on the subject. Councilman Carmony feels more conversation needs to be done on this subject, and he feels it's too early to vote on this as well. Mayor DeBaun asked Councilman Asher to resend another proposal so Council members can review the demographics to get a better understanding of what's going to be done. Councilwoman Bowen asked Joe what the current trend is in businesses now, like whole food, or organic stores, and is it something that is going to last? Joe said yes, and he's doing a webinar next week on grocery, as part of what their company does. He said millennials have a large part in the say of what goes on in retail these days. Mayor DeBaun asked Joe to send a new proposal to Councilman Asher, and he said he would. Many thanked him for coming to help start the discussion.

Kris Schwickrath, Joshua Tafflinger, and Scott Gabbard appeared next to talk about trying to save the heritage ash trees in the City's right of ways. Kris said she has found 53 trees so far, and Joshua, a certified arborist, has prepared a contract to treat and protect the trees from the emerald ash borer insects. Under discussion, Councilman Ridgeway said there is no total price on this contract, and there's not enough detail in the contract as to what the cost really should be. Kris said she is the only one who has seen the trees, and Joshua hasn't, so she proposed accepting a contract that doesn't go over a certain dollar amount. Based on what Kris has prepared, Joshua said the total would be $8,672.00. After a lot more discussion, Mayor DeBaun said the trees in the City's right-of-way are the City's responsibility, and he doesn't feel comfortable asking Corporations to fund this when it's our responsibility. With the possibility of finding a few more ash trees in the City's right-of-way, Councilman Phares moved to approve giving $10,000.00, and have City Attorney Trent Meltzer review the contract. Councilman Wright seconded. The motion was carried on a 7-0 voice vote.

Mayor DeBaun asked Dave Blacklidge and Sue Williams to come forward to read a proclamation declaring May as Motorcycle Safety Awareness month in the City of Shelbyville. Dave said there will be a safety ride on May 22 at the VFW Post, behind the Cinema 10 Theatre, starting at 1:00 P.M., at a cost of $10.00 per bike, and the ride leaves at 2:00 P.M.

At his request, Mayor DeBaun read a proclamation to Councilman Asher declaring May 8-14, 2016 as Economic Development Week in the City of Shelbyville.

Councilman Ridgeway said he's hosting a town hall meeting tomorrow night at the Shelby County Library at 6:00 P.M., so everyone can come by and express their views.

Mayor DeBaun asked all of the several students in the audience to stand individually to give their name and say why they're here. Also, a few boys from Scout Troop #203 gave their names and said why they were in attendance. Scout Leader Mrs. Wickizer said the boys were told it would probably last thirty minutes, bringing lots of laughter from the audience, since the meeting was approaching one and one-half hours. After Ridgeway said it would have been without him, Mayor DeBaun said that would have been from the previous City Council.

Councilman Ridgeway said Susan Hagerty, from Blue River Career, had a student go from $9.00 an hour at Subway to $13.00 an hour at another job because she got her certification.

There being no further business, Councilman Asher moved and Councilman Wright seconded to adjourn.

Thomas D. DeBaun
Mayor

ATTEST:

Frank M. Zerr
Clerk-Treasurer