COMMON COUNCIL

Regular Meeting March 7, 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, March 7, 2016, at 7:00 P.M. Councilman Phares opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, and Councilman Carmony followed that with a prayer. All Council members were present, and Mayor DeBaun presided.

Councilman Nolley moved to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2016 meeting, and Councilman Asher seconded. The motion was carried on a 7-0 voice vote.

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

Under old business, on Ordinance No. 15-2785, amending the City's 2016 Salary Ordinance for the Police Department, Councilman Nolley moved to approve this on second and final reading, and Councilman Carmony seconded. The motion was carried on a 7-0 voice vote.

Under new business, a Uniform Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statements by Kurt Lockridge was requested to be approved. Councilman Wright moved to approve the form, and Councilman Phares seconded. The motion was carried on a 7-0 voice vote.

On Ordinance No. 16-2786, amending §90.02 "Animal Care and Treatment," of the City Code of Ordinances, Councilman Carmony moved to approve this on first reading, and Councilwoman Bowen seconded. Councilman Carmony said he and others with the City met to talk about how animals are treated, or mistreated, during extreme heat or cold weather. Animal Shelter Coordinator Keith Barrett felt it was important that his staff should have better discretion on how to handle owners of animals who mistreat them by leaving them outside in the extreme heat over 90 degrees, or cold weather under 20 degrees. The Council felt this Ordinance had enough "teeth" in it to allow the Animal Control Officers to use their immediate discretion on how animals are being treated by their owners. The motion was carried on a 7-0 voice vote on first reading.

Under other business, Councilman Nolley introduced Eriko Ikeda, a Japanese exchange teacher at Shelbyville High School, who has lived with the Nolley's for the last seven to eight months, and who is returning to Japan this week. Eriko wanted to show a slide presentation to the citizens of Shelbyville about her home in Japan, Shizuoka City, which is also Shelbyville's Sister City. Mount Fuji is almost always in the background of pictures with Shizuoka City, Japan's tallest mountain. She also showed slides of their arts, culture, festivals, their many fruits and green tea, and different types of fish caught in the Pacific Ocean which the Japanese and tourists can enjoy. Eriko thanked the Nolley's for their hospitality, and she said she enjoyed traveling across the country during her times off from teaching.

Kris Schwickrath was next to talk about the ash trees within the City's limits. She gave an update to the new Council members about the emerald ash bore that was first noticed in 2002 in Michigan, it's working its way south, and it's now in Shelby County. Kris said it's hard to know whether or not an ash tree has been infested, but if it hasn't, it could be within the next year or two. If the ash trees are to be saved, she said they will need to be treated. She said she rode her bike around town, finding and measuring 55 of the ash trees. She wasn't sure how to proceed because she didn't know the costs. Contacting a company in Indianapolis, she found it would cost around $5,000.00 to treat 30 of the biggest ash trees over a two year period. Kris felt the City has approximately 120 ash trees, but her main focus has been the ash trees in the City's right of way, and not on private property. Mayor DeBaun asked Kris to contact the arborist in Indianapolis so he, City Attorney Trent Meltzer, and she can review the contract, and then he would notify all of the Council members by e-mail about the high points. They would then decide what to do. Under discussion, Councilman Ridgeway felt it was important to find out if grant monies are available for the treatment of the trees, before spending taxpayers' monies for this. Kris said she would look into it, but she has a sense of urgency, and feels the trees need to be treated right away. She then thought grants could be looked into in the second year of treatments. Mayor DeBaun thanked Kris for spending her time on this.

Next up was a presentation by Susie Hagerty regarding the Blue River Career Programs. Councilman Ridgeway said he was so impressed with Susie when he attended the Open House for Blue River's Career Programs, that he asked her to enlighten the Council tonight on what she does. He said she gives our students an opportunity to do well in the community and to make a decent wage. Susie said students in her class, at the end of the school year, can earn certification as a certified nursing assistant. They have to be Juniors or Seniors, and can come from any of the County's schools to take the course at Blue River's Career Center. The students have to learn at least 75 skills throughout the year, and are tested by the State to show their knowledge on at least four or five of those skills. Afterwards, they can seek employment, and many of her students now work in Shelby County. She said she has taught 70 students in her three years here at Blue River, many make a decent salary, and can pursue further education to become more skilled in college. Susie brought a couple students to share their thoughts on her program, and how they're benefitting because they've taken the course.

Next up was Ken Remenschneider to discuss the City's Stellar Designation intent. Ken said two communities are awarded Stellar Designations every year, one for communities under 6,000, and one for over 6,000. He said they are awarded to communities who have developed a vision for their future and can help move their community forward, making them more competitive in the marketplace to develop quality of life amenities. Mayor DeBaun said Shelbyville has tried twice for the Stellar Designation, and although never receiving it, the City was one of the finalists on the second try. In the last three years, Mayor DeBaun said the City, County, Schools, and businesses have gotten together trying to hone in on what we want to accomplish as a community. What's being shown tonight was a culmination of a lot of those efforts focusing on the downtown. Slides showing what improvements wanted to be done in the downtown area were talked about. The application for the Stellar Designation needs to be sent by this Friday.

Kaitlyn Frazee, a Shelbyville High School Senior, commented on how glad she was that Advantage Shelby County was created to help her work harder in school and give her the best opportunity as a graduating student. Mayor DeBaun said almost half of the 500 County students graduating took advantage of this program this past year.

Mayor DeBaun asked all of the high school students in the audience to stand, give their name, and say why they were here. Most said they were here for a government class.

Mr. Moody announced that the local watershed group, the State Blue River Stream Team, is planning a river clean-up on May 14, at Kennedy Park at 9:00 A.M. He said he would appreciate some coordination and assistance from the City, but mainly volunteer students would be wonderful. He stated he could be reached at 317 825-0229. The hope is to conclude around 1:00 P.M., followed by snacks and refreshments afterwards to make it a fun event. He said more would be forthcoming as the time gets closer.

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

Thomas D. DeBaun
Mayor

ATTEST:

Frank Zerr

Frank M. Zerr
Clerk-Treasurer