

Rising Sun City Council
December 4, 2008
7:00 P.M.
City Hall

Call to order/Pledge

The meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Marksberry with all of Council present.

Minutes

Minutes of the November meeting had been previously distributed to Council and Mayor Marksberry for review. After discussion a motion was made by Councilman Graves to approve the minutes of the November meeting, 2nd by Councilman Slack; motion carried 5-0.

Update from the State House—Jewell DeBonis and Jon Bond

City and County Lobbyists, Jewell DeBonis and Jon Bond gave a brief update on the upcoming legislative session concerns. See Attached Exhibit A. There was discussion the Riverboat Development Agreements may resurface as well as the “Held Harmless Funds” which is supplemented by the State. It was also discussed that Environmental regulations are going to be a major issue in the next few years—this would add costs for the RSMU. Jewell urged all to keep in contact with legislators and let them know how these environmental regulations will affect our citizens. First day of the session is January 7th, last day is April 28th.

Reports from Boards and Committees

Tourism—Sherry Timms

Sherry Timms, Executive Director of Tourism gave an update to Council and Mayor Marksberry on tourism activities. See Attached Exhibit B. She stated she has been working on Home for the Holidays with Historic Downtown Main Street. She also presented Council with a new visitor guide for the hotel and various stores. She has been working on the virtual website link for the local artists. She reported the Art Academy classes are at capacity (100) with 30 on the waiting list.

Police Department

Police Chief, David Hewitt presented a report to Council on City issues as follows:

- **911 Computer Upgrade**—the Police Department received 2 new desk top computers with a dedicated server through this project.
- **Lap tops for cruisers**—Dave has worked with Tom Work to get 8 new lap tops for cruisers and utilize the wireless network.
- **E-Ticket**--- Hewitt is currently researching an E-Ticket system which includes a small scanner and printer in police vehicles. The information is imported to the courthouse. Cost is about \$10,000 and Hewitt is researching grants and other funding sources at this time. There is a 2011 deadline to be online with this process. According to Hewitt this will not affect the Violations Bureau set up earlier this year.

Mayor Marksberry questioned Chief Hewitt regarding a group of kids hanging out at the Library. After discussion it was determined this was more of a Library issue. Fred Taylor commented about skateboarders being on the sidewalk. Hewitt stated skateboards are not to be on the sidewalks. When you see this --call and the police department will address it.

Project Manager

Northcutt presented a report to Council on City projects. See attached Exhibit C.

- **Library Drainage Project**--Northcutt requested approval of Change Order #3 for adjustments to estimated quantities and assist water department with water main repair; total deduct in the amount of \$11,907.50. After discussion a motion was made by Councilman Slack to approve this change order, 2nd by Councilman Graves; motion carried 5-0.

Historic Downtown Main Street

Amy Hoffman, Director of Historic Downtown Main Street presented a report to Council and Mayor Marksberry of monthly activities. See Attached Exhibit D.

Park Board—Jamie Bell

Jamie Bell, Park Director, informed Council of various activities of the past month and had submitted a monthly report for Council and Mayor Marksberry. See attached Exhibit E. Bell also reported the Park Board hired Heather Whitham for extra clerical help throughout the year. She stated there were 30 events held at the Senior Community Building in November and 800 plus miles were walked in the “31 Miles in October” program. Bell is to meet with a Boy Scout who plans to earn his Badge by doing the tree trail markers in the new community park.

Petitions and Comments from Citizens

William Rees addressed the Mayor and Council with the following comments/issues:

EDC—According to Rees last summer EDC was formed jointly as a City County Board. The lawyers involved in this process apparently did not inform the Board that any entity that receives over 100,000 in public funds must hold meetings that are open to the public. Clerk Gipson informed Rees EDC was made aware of this numerous times.

Downtown Main Street—Rees has concerns that Redevelopment and the Revolving Loan Fund Board are sponsoring Acapulco’s. He feels the program is not fair. This business is supported by the city—paying \$500 per month rent with any maintenance issues and repairs paid by the City.

Historic Downtown Main Street—According to Rees the By-Laws of this group have changed and the City was not notified—Rees wants these reviewed by a lawyer or a second opinion by another attorney—not Lane Siekman because he was entirely wrong with the Revolving Loan Fund.

Redevelopment—Rees stated that Redevelopment was formed to redevelop the blighted area of Rising Sun. Some people think this is completed. He feels this has not been done and need different people that have vision to get this done.

Mayor Marksberry told Rees they would take Rees’ comments under advisement.

Resolution 2008-10 Hazard Mitigation Plan—Kathy Kelly and Tom Work

Resolution 2008-10 was presented to Council regarding the requirement by FEMA to have a Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution on file. According to Kelly Ohio County passed a Resolution in the same at their last meeting. After discussion a motion was made by Councilman Graves to approve Resolution 2008-10, 2nd by Councilman Slack; motion carried 5-0.

Second Reading --Ordinance 2008-9-- An Ordinance Amending Title V, Chapter 56 of the Municipal Code of the City of Rising Sun Entitled Wireless Broadband Service

Ordinance 2008-9 was presented to Council for second reading. After discussion a motion was made by Councilman Slack to approve Ordinance 2008-9, 2nd by Councilman Powell; motion carried 5-0. Attorney Siekman informed Clerk Gipson this Ordinance would need to be published in the local paper.

John Davies—Fraternal Order of Eagles

Davies informed the Mayor and Council the Fraternal Order of Eagles was planning to start an Auxiliary in Rising Sun. According to Mr. Davies the group needs 50 charter members to start. The group is about people helping people—they give back to the community. Currently they are doing a membership drive. Once they have the 50 charter members they plan to work with other organizations to hold meetings in the area.

Janie Eldridge—Denver Siekman Environmental Park--Annual Report

Janie Eldridge presented Council with a 2008 Annual Report of activities for the Denver Siekman Environmental Park. She informed all the park goals for 2009 are to increase the number of students served and complete phases 1-3 of the theater barn. She requested \$20,000 in funding from the City and stated they had made the same request to the County. Eldridge also said the group would really like to preserve the wood stave silo. They plan to work with the Park Board and research grants for this project.

RLF Loan Issues-- Henrietta Lay Loan

Ms. Lay was not in attendance.

Sue Obertate—Festival Tent Placement

Sue Obertate presented concerns to Council and Mayor Marksberry. See Attached Exhibit F. Obertate resides at 214 S. Front Street and feels she was inconvenienced during the past Navy Bean Festival. She requested the tent festivities be moved from in front of her home. There was discussion of possibly using snow fence in the area, and the additional electric which was installed to hold festivals on the river. It was also discussed that a good portion of the people in her yard felt they were invited to be there. Mayor Marksberry asked Obertate if she would like to serve on the Navy Bean Festival Committee to aid with these and other concerns when putting on a festival. Obertate declined. Marksberry stated he would pass along these concerns to the Navy Bean Festival committee.

Odds and Ends

Clerk Gipson informed Council after discussions with Mayor Marksberry she requests funds from the sale of the videos of the Veteran's Bell Tower and Ohio County Patriots be used for start up funds for an Endowment for the American Legion Post 59. After

further discussion a motion was made by Councilman Slack to designate the funds received from the sale of these videos as start up for an endowment for the American Legion Post 59, 2nd by Councilman Radcliff; motion carried 5-0.

Lawn Care Quotes

Clerk Gipson informed Council and Mayor Marksberry she had received 2 quotes for Lawn Care Services as follows:

Lush Lawns—Casey Rayls	3728.00
Chemlawn	1909.99

After discussion a motion was made by Councilman Padgett to continue with the Chemlawn contract, 2nd by Councilman Radcliff; motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Marksberry presented Council with a letter of thanks from Ripley County Officials. He also informed Council he and Clerk Gipson were members of the IACT Legislative Committee for 2009. After some discussion a special meeting was scheduled for January 5th at 6:00 pm to review Event Funding Grant Applications. Applications will be due to the city by noon on December 29th. The regular Council meeting will be January 8th at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment

After the reviewing and signing of claims, and with no further business; a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Padgett, 2nd by Councilman Powell; meeting adjourned at 8:52pm.

Attest:

Rae Baker Gipson,
Clerk Treasurer

William A. Marksberry,
Mayor