

Minutes

Seymour Common Council

May 13, 2024

The May 13, 2024, City Council was called to order by Mayor Matt Nicholson at 7:00pm. The invocation was given by Pastor Les Linz and the Pledge of Allegiance to the nation's flag was recited. A virtual/steaming option was available.

Members Present: Mayor Matt Nicholson, Clerk/Treasurer Darrin Boas, Jerry Hackney, Brad Lucas, Clint Blish, Drew Storey, City Attorney Chris Engleking, Assistant Police Chief John Watson, Seth Davidson, January Rutherford, Jim Lucas, Paula Hercamp, Mike Wright, Brian Terrell, 2nd Deputy Melissa Herndon, Denise and Zoe Wischmeier, Assistant Fire Chief Anthony Walker, Fire Chief Eric Roll, Will Everhart, Bob Beatty, Carol Mellencamp, Deborah Loper, Heide Collier, Paul Bontrager, and 50 various City/County residents.

Tonight was newly appointed Councilman Brian Terrell's first meeting. Mr. Terrell abstained from all votes this evening due to receiving the Council information only 24 hrs prior to the meeting.

Councilman Hubbard shared a passage from Ordinance #1, 1992, that stated: No person shall use violent or contemptuous language, behave in a disorderly manner, or refuse to obey the orders of the Mayor or presiding officer in the Council room while the City Council is in session. The Mayor or presiding officer may order the removal from the Council room of anyone who intentionally disturbs the decorum of a Council meeting.

On a motion made by Mr. Hackney, seconded by Mr. Storey, the minutes for the April 22, 2024, Council meeting were approved.

Reports from Committees, Boards, and Commissions

- Councilman Davidson presented an abatement Transfer Request:
 1. Request to Transfer Abatement from RP Realty of Seymour to MSF Seymour, LP. – Bridget Hilt. This is due to a partnership change and the formation of a new entity. The abatement will continue as it was originally established. On a motion by Mr. Davidson, seconded by Mr. Hubbard, the transfer was approved 6-0-1.

- Councilman Davidson presented the following Compliance of Statement of Benefits that were reviewed by the Industrial Development Committee and came to the Council with a favorable recommendation for approval.
 1. Silgan Plastics Corporation, 3779 N. Co. Rd. 850E., Seymour (2 Personal Property)
 2. O&K American Corp., 1625 Bateman Dr., Seymour (5 Personal Property, 6 Real Estate)

3. Plant Nutrient Operations LLC, 101 Agrico Lane, Seymour (1 Real Estate, 1 Personal Property)
4. MSF Seymour, LP, fka RP Realty, 527 Miller Lane, Seymour (1 Real Estate) – Bridget Hilts
5. Marpar Properties, LLC, 102 Community Dr., Seymour (1 Real Estate) – Brad Pardieck

On a motion by Mr. Davidson, seconded by Mr. Lucas, the compliances were approved 6-0-1

Councilman Lucas, Governmental Affairs committee, shared letters had been sent to attorneys throughout the County to solicit feedback regarding interest in serving, fees, and qualifications to serve as Council for the City Council. The letters are requested to be returned by June 21st and will be presented June 24th to Council. Mr. Lucas was asked to share with Council the letter that was sent to the Lawyers, and Mr. Lucas said he will send it out via email to Council.

Public Hearing

- None to report

Old Business

- None to report

New Business

a. Councilman Blish made a motion to bring Ordinance No. 14, Council Bill No. 34 (2024)(Tabled 4/22/24) off the table, seconded by Councilman Hackney, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 50 of the Seymour City Code to Update Schedule of Sewer Rates. Mr. Blish then motioned for the Ordinance to be read by title only, seconded by Mr. Hubbard. This is for a rate increase of 1.5% over 3 years, .5% per year effective in June of 2024, 2025, and 2026. There was some discussion regarding projects, capacity, and maintenance costs. On a motion by Mr. Blish, seconded by Mr. Hackney, the Ordinance passed the first reading 6-0-1.

b. Councilman Blish made a motion to bring Ordinance No. 15, Council Bill No. 35 (2024) (Tabled 4/22/24) off the table, seconded by Councilman Hubbard, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 50 of the Seymour City Code to Update Schedule of Trash Rates. Mr. Blish then motioned for the Ordinance to be read by title only, seconded by Mr. Hubbard. This increases the trash rates by \$4/month over 3 years, effective June of 2024, 2025, and 2026. There was discussion regarding profitability of recycling, cost of equipment, and landfill providers. On a motion by Mr. Blish, seconded by Mr. Hackney, the Ordinance passed the first reading 6-0-1.

c. Councilman Blish made a motion to bring Ordinance No. 16, Council Bill No. 36 (2024)(Tabled 4/22/24) off the table, seconded by Councilman Hubbard, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 50 of the Seymour City Code to Update Stormwater User Fee Determination. Katelyn Shafer from Reedy's spoke about the increase and utilizing the additional revenue for

projects to expand the stormwater system to help alleviate flooding in certain areas. There was some discussion regarding grants, which Katelyn and the Mayor touched on. This ordinance is for a \$2 increase phased in over 3 years, effective in June 2024, 2025, and 2026. On a motion by Mr. Blish, seconded by Mr. Hackney, the Ordinance passed the first reading 6-0-1.

d. Councilman Davidson introduced Ordinance No. 18, Council Bill No. 39 (2024), seconded by Councilman Blish, An Ordinance Amending Title IX “General Regulations: of the Seymour City Code, Specifically Chapter 95, “Health and Sanitation”. This ordinance was presented by Attorney Lorenzo for a potential new food service industry coming to Seymour. This ordinance addresses the Company’s commitment to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design and/or Sustainable Sites Initiative programs, and how it chooses to maintain the grounds around their facility. On a motion by Mr. Davidson, seconded by Mr. Lucas, the Ordinance passed the first reading 6-0-1.

e. Councilman Lucas introduction Resolution No. 22, Council Bill No. 37 (2024), seconded by Councilman Blish, a Resolution Authorizing the Filing of a CY2025 Application for a grant Under Section 5311/5339 of the Federal Transit Act, as Amended. This is the annual grant from the federal government that provides roughly 50% of operating funds for the City transit system. Whitney Koelling from ARA spoke about the grant and Resolution. On a motion by Mr. Lucas, seconded by Mr. Hubbard, the Resolution passed 6-0-1.

f. Councilman Storey introduced Ordinance No. 17, Council Bill No. 38 (2024), seconded by Councilman Blish, an Ordinance Amending Chapter 75 of the Seymour City Code – 5th Street Angled Parking, 15 Minute Parking at 5th & Ewing. This was requested the Fish Stand restaurant on the corner of 5th and Ewing St. On a motion by Mr. Storey, seconded by Mr. Lucas, the Ordinance passed the first reading 6-0-1.

Miscellaneous Business

- The floor was opened to the Audience, and once again, they shared their opinions on the topic of the study provided to the City by the Brookings Institute.
- Several citizens spoke, some included Paula Hercamp, Will Everhart, Mike Wright, Deborah Loper, Paul Bontrager, Hedio Collier, Marc Woods, and Carol Mellencamp.
- Discussion revolved around:
 - Law enforcement – helping residents feel safe and secure.
 - Give full support to our Police to address safety concerns.
 - Ties of Brookings to Soros, dark money, trafficking, etc.
 - Utilize citizen groups to help with projects/planning.
 - The need to stop bickering/fighting, come together as a community.
 - Want to keep the small town small.
 - Elected officials/Mayor taking citizens seriously.
 - Mayor’s trip to Alabama for Main Street and his speech.
- During this exchange, Councilman Hubbard brought up the letter sent to Council by Parks Director Chad Keithley regarding an amendment to Resolution 14 passed by Council a couple of months ago to allow the Parks Department to continue working on projects relevant to Parks that were mentioned in study. This expanded the discussion; some from the audience

saying “Shut it Down” again and others asking why they can’t work on items that were in play prior to the Brookings study.

- The Mayor stated he wanted an amendment to Resolution 14 from the Council that clearly states what pieces of the study can be worked on, in hopes of quelling some of the accusations being thrown at him.
- Assistant Police Chief Watson also addressed the concerns of City Hall support of the police, stating he feels he has the full support of the Mayor, and they are addressing concerns regarding DUI’s, drugs, and etc. But there is a need for change on the state and federal levels regarding penalties for driving without ever receiving a license, habitual offenders, and the whole immigration program. Assistant Chief Watson also shared they had met with Representative Lucas in hopes of getting some of these issues addressed at the Statehouse.
- Councilman Storey asked the Mayor if he would put together a review of what projects were funded in this year’s budget for the Parks Department that were mentioned in the Brookings study. It was then recommended a special committee be formed, comprised of Mr. Storey, Mr. Hackney, Mr. Terrell, and the Mayor (and perhaps Jim Lucas) to put a recommendation to Council of what amendments could be made to allow the Parks department to move forward. The Mayor agreed to schedule a meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Lucas, seconded by Mr. Storey, the meeting was properly adjourned.

Matt Nicholson, Mayor

Attest: Darrin Boas, Clerk/ Treasurer

