

**CITY OF KANKAKEE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SUMMARY OF MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH, 2019
7:00 P.M.**

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: I would like to call the meeting to order. We will start with a prayer by Pastor James Carr from Redeeming Life Ministry of Kankakee and go on to the pledge of allegiance by students of Mrs. Tracy Selock's Kennedy Middle Grade School Fifth and Sixth Grade Split Class.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: We have 17 people signed up so Public Comments will be limited to 3 minutes.

SCOTT CARNES:

I am here with the school district. I just came from the school meeting that occurred before this meeting. I am here with the parents expressing concerns about the safety around Lincoln Culture Center, safety with the school, safety around the school and possibly getting a Community Resource Officer in the school district. That is my main concern.

JOHN EVANS:

I am here to talk about the annexation of my house into the City. You are trying to bring me in on West Van Meter. I just want to say that it really doesn't make any sense right now to bring me in because there is nothing you are going to do for me. You are going to raise my taxes but you are not going to put sewers or sidewalks or curbs or anything in. My property is going to remain exactly like it was. The only thing that is going to happen is my taxes are going to go up. I don't see any reason to bring me in.

TOM BRANS:

I appreciate the opportunity to share, I am a resident of the City of Kankakee. I want to speak in regards to the consideration of having Marijuana dispensaries in the City of Kankakee. I know I can't ask questions and get a response tonight but I would like to pose some questions that may cause you to think. If we approve dispensaries, will this make Kankakee a better place? Will we be more attractive to industry? Will we be more attractive to good families who may want to move to the City of Kankakee? Does it make our pool of employees initially better or

might it cause a problem regards to that? Will it cause our property value sales to increase or will it cause in the long run property values to decrease? I am sure that most of you are aware that the State of Illinois from July 2017 thru July 2018 experience one of the greatest losses of population. I think there are reasons for that and I think it is decisions like these contribute to this on a State level and also on more local levels. Sometimes what I think we need to do when we approach these issues is to take the long view of things. What I understand is one of the main reasons we might want to approve marijuana dispensaries, is in order to increase our revenues. Sometimes a quick fix in the long run will ultimately leave you more broke. I would hope you do your due diligence. I would encourage you not to be in a hurry there is plenty of time. I also encourage you to do research on other states and all the problems they are facing. Sometimes a quick fix opposed to taking the long view can ultimately cause more problems and leave you more broke.

TIM NEHLS:

I currently reside at 235 East 2740 South Rd, Kankakee. I am here about the water retention problem still going on at River Stone Parkway.

LIZ SCOTT:

I am a resident of the 6th Ward, Parent of a student and president of the PTO. I am here to address you about the safety of our students. On more than one occasion there has been gun shots fired in close proximity of Lincoln Cultural Center. This has resulted in 3 lock downs of the school. In one case the shooting was directly across the street and another when the school bus was driving down the street. All the incidents occurred either when children were outside of the school or in proximity of the neighborhood. Students have witnessed gun fire in more than one instance. I have sent an email to you, the Chief and the Council. I still do not see the urgency that I would expect to see to be able to deal comprehensively on this issue...coordinate a...school and police. Second...police at the schools every day. Deal with the problem...daily. Prior to reaching out to you all, I along with the parents received no communication that indicated that the City, schools and police department are working together on these incidents. It appears that there is no administrative group actively taking charge to communicate to the parents, the who, what, when, where, and they why it is going on. I should not have to download an app to see or hear what is going

on in our community. There should be a public forum, publically stated by the Chie or Mayor so that false information is not dissiminated. This should be standard for any City. The most present issue is to ask, what are you presently doing to ensure the safety of our children? I have reached out to you and received reactive responses of what the City is hoping to do in the future. I tell my daughter that my number on job is to make sure she is safe. How do I tell her she is safe going into and out of the school wen this violence is happening at all hours. What specifically is done to date to address this issue? What specifically is being done tomorrow to follow up on what was done today? I appreciate that you are...and looking at other options but this violence is happening now. Since you seem to be looking for community suggestions, this is what I propose. Actively put extra patrol around the school and nearby neighborhoods. I barely see police in the area during recess on a school day. I am not asking for constant police presence but I am asking for consistent police presence. I need you to clearly show me, other parents, children and any person in the area that the police are present and care about the safety of our children. Lastly, I understand that many believe that one house on Lincoln Avenue that is to blame for these circumstances. Despite this awareness, I was surprised to learn that the Nuisance Abatement Ordinance used by the City before is not being pursued by the City police until recently. I appreciate that the States Attorney is aware the something anything has to be done but why was the City not involved from the beginning? In closing, I...we ask for three things...consistent communication, safety and action. I hope in future dialogue that you show what you plan to do on these matters. Provide information to the public in press releases in a specialized location so that anyone can easily find out what's going on. I want to be able to see that you are actively keeping the children safe on a daily basis. Thank you.

MARIO FLORES:

I am a Crisis Responder for Youth at Aunt Martha's Health and Wellness, I am also a Pastor of Community Cup of the Nazarene, and a proud citizen of Kankakee. I firmly believe that better days are yet to come for this City. I firmly believe our best days are ahead of us and not behind. I want to be concise because there are a lot of research, statistics and facts that I have learned in the past year alone about marijuana. Mayor, I appreciate you and our Elected

Officials, I appreciate the City and County. I love Kankakee County so much. My wife and I are raising a 2 month old as we speak in this community. Ultimately, I hope that in our Community there is wholeness and Harmony. I believe we are headed that way however, I believe the legalization of marijuana will be an obstacle; not a help toward this. I will simply say that every state pays more in the long run in cost than they make in revenue or profits from marijuana. If I bring up the NAACP and the Illinois Chief of Police, they are actually united on this issue; not wanting it to happen. If I were to talk about the promise of marijuana being regulated closely I would mention that it is not regulated as close because the FDA does not regulate it on a federal level. Instead I want to bring up the vulnerability in our community which is the youth and our mentally ill. 1 out of 6 youth become addicted to it. The marijuana industry is similar to tobacco and alcohol, they make profits off of those that are addicted not casual user and I have a problem with people making profit off of the backs who suffer from substance abuse and addiction. In several cases the mentally ill use marijuana and experience psychosis which is not a good thing. I will also bring up self-medication. Many times, people who struggle with mental illness struggle in general and will self-medicate whether it be food or drugs. Marijuana will be easily accessible instead of getting the Counseling or help...I do hope that I am wrong. I do hope that Illinois will be the exception and not experience the same heartaches that all the other states that have legalized marijuana have experienced. If I am right, I will not say I told you so. I will continue to do my best to help people find wholeness, and housing like I have done and continue to help them with the issues they might have. I would be remiss to say that truly wholeness is found in Jesus Christ. I appreciate all of you and I do believe better days are yet to come. I am for this community so I do urge that the City do not legalize marijuana dispensaries. My prayer is that God's will is done in Kankakee County as it is in heaven.

PASTOR CARL RANDLE:

I am born and raised in the City of Kankakee. I live at 905 South Lincoln and I am here in respect to the dispensary. I am coming from another angle. We have seen how alcohol became the number one drug and if we deal with marijuana it can really become the number one. I am looking at you all and some of your children maybe grown or out of school and maybe you all don't care. Mayor, we are trying

to raise test levels and educate our children. It is a proven fact that marijuana affects them, affects the brain, the mind. It will hinder their education. Some of those that are intelligent, smart, in different classes and they begin dealing with marijuana it can affect them. Look what we will have on our hands. This is not a good thing. Like I said, maybe you all don't have any children in school but you need to decide what we will do. The alcohol prohibition and look what alcohol became the number one drug and look what it has done. Look at how it has affected citizens...people. What do you think marijuana is going to do to our children? Coming up, if a person wasn't old enough to buy alcohol, he would get an older person to buy the alcohol. I know a gentleman right now that has the medical marijuana. Somebody else gets it and gives it to him. Now what do you think about the children? Somebody else will get it and give it to the children. Save our children.

BRIAN SCOTT:

I am here to discuss with you an issue I have grown increasingly concerned about. I live in the 6th Ward. I am here to voice my concern about the recent shootings going on in the City and the lack of response from the City and the Police Administration. I just came from the PTO meeting where the Superintendent, States Attorney and Chief of Police were present to listen and respond to parent concerns. Based on the School Districts and States Attorney's presentation, I was informed about steps they had taken prior to this meeting and steps they are asking to address these issues. I appreciate the Chief being there but I was disappointed in the lack of response demonstrated from the City or Police Administration...to these issues. From what I have seen there has been a lack of voice from the City to explain what has happened, what the response was, and what the plan to solve these issues will be. This concern leading up to the meeting tonight was only exasperated from a shooting 2 blocks from my house that I only heard about from a neighbor, that my neighbor heard from a friend, that they heard on a police scanner. No press release was issued from the City or the Police Department. ...the 5 or 6 shots heard around midnight...I would not have pressed my Alderman for information on this. I have heard from the City and Police that the public is frequently left...information...to prosecute. My question is, how are we supposed to help if you don't put information out especially when you have a PTO group searching for ways

to fix these issues immediately in response to the LCC incidents? It has been commonly discussed about Community Policing being done here but it is not being done. Community Policing consist of identifying an issue, communicating the issue with the public based off their concerns and working with the community to figure out a plan to address the issue. You then implement that solving method, listen to a response and respond accordingly. That has yet to happen on any of these issues. Piecemeal activities by this Administration is unacceptable. Finally, mayor, I am asking you to stand in front of people much like your Chief did tonight, like the Superintendent and States Attorney Rowe to engage with us so we can get real time answers tour questions...not to be delayed. Thankyou.

PASTOR JAMES CARR:

I am the Pastor of Redeeming Life Ministry. I have been a resident for many years. Practically raised here since, 10 years old. I know what marijuana can do to people. I am here to oppose it tonight. I knew that I was going to come here to say something tonight. I prayed and asked the Lord, what do You want me to say? He told me to tell you that you are responsible, you are responsible to take care of our children. When you stand before Him you have to give in account of every deed that we do. We don't need to legalize marijuana to destroy our children. We need to save our children. God Bless You.

KATE REED:

I know that I am standing in a room of Public Officials...public servants who care deeply about this community and about our youth. You have a very difficult job to do as you make decisions that affect so many lives. So, as you make the decision about retail marijuana in the City of Kankakee. As you have heard already tonight there are so many questions. So, as you as public servants make your decisions, we want to provide an opportunity tomorrow at 2:30 P.M. to have some conversation around those questions. We will be showing a documentary on other states that commercialized and normalized marijuana in their communities. Again, there are so many questions...cost verses revenue, the impact on public safety, the affect on youth use of the substance. In conclusion, are we sure...are we sure...and if not...if it is not going to make us a healthier community where our youth can thrive, I will encourage you to come tomorrow to learn more and ask those questions so we as a community can ensure that we are doing what's best to cultivate a

community where our youth can thrive. We will be at the IKAN Regional Office of Education in the Regional Center located at 50 West Park Industrial Drive at 2:30 P.M. Thank you.

DOUG AYRES:

On Saturday November 2nd, there was a loud bang on my door and by the time I got down to my door there was a card stuck in my window. Alderman Michael Cobbs got out of his car came up to my front porch in a fast pace, pointed at my wife's handicapped Parking sign and stated something about my wife no longer needs the sign. I asked who told him that and he said Code. I told Mr. Cobb that I am guessing it was my neighbor who called because they and or their company have been illegally parking in the handicap parking space. I have called the police a number of times to report them. The last incident was a couple of weeks ago on a Sunday. The officer could not make it to my house because there was a shooting up the street. The officer called me later and apologized for not making it and instructed me if they park there again to insist that a ticket be written. He said to let the responding officer know that I have called the police several times about this matter. I don't remember the officers name but because Mr. Cobbs mention it was Code, I called Code on Monday, November 4th, 2019 to find out who made that statement. The lady I spoke with stated that Ryan the Code Officer was not in but would have him call me. She also that she didn't know why Code or Ryan would say such a thing because they do not handle that type of matter. Ryan called me back on November 4th, 2019 and stated he did not say anything to Alderman Cobb. My wife is disabled and my sign is there for her. In addition, to having 2 heart attacks this year, she has additional medical problems that limit her mobility and we must be able to park in front of our home. We need it and that is why the sign is there. Mr. Curtis did verify that the sign is going to stay. We feel like we are being harassed due to my wife being disabled or us being elderly. We are not sure if Mr. Cobbs got involved because he was the Realtor that sold our neighbors their home. If that is the case he has overstepped his duty as Alderman. The handicapped sign needs to stay and I do not expect to have any other problems on this matter or harassed in any way. Also, I expect tickets to be issued to anyone who parks there illegally. The sign clearly states there is a \$750.00 fine which has not been issued so far. In closing, it is not up to any neighbor to determine anything about the use of

handicap parking or anyone's medical condition. I would like an apology from Michael Cobbs for overstepping his authority and causing a panic to us which was totally uncalled for. Thank you.

KIM BRANDS:

I am a mom that lives in Kankakee. I also teach nursing at Kankakee Community College. I just want to go on record being very concerned about the vote of retail cannabis in Kankakee. My kids are young, their friends are young...you guys have heard the statistics and I don't need to repeat it. I want to stand here today...same thing as Ms. Reed said... do your due diligence. Think about the kids in this community. Think about the decision your making. Not just about money but about the kid's lives. About our future, about the kids future when we aren't here anymore. It means a lot to me. If you have kids I know they mean the world to you. I will just ask you on behalf of the kids, the kids I teach at KCC which many of them struggle to get in a nursing program, they struggle to stay in a program because they have to work a lot. Many of them struggle to pass a drug and background check because of the things they have been handed in life. I have thought about this from every angle. There is no angle I see that will help our community selling marijuana and making it accessible. There has been research done on nurses. One of the reason nurses become addicted to Opioids is because they have access. You know what? This is going to be huge access. Access that we don't need. I would just ask you to please think about more than just the money...I would love to live in Kankakee for the rest of my life. My husband and I both want to make this a better place to be. So, I just ask you to do your due diligence and to really think about it.

KAREN SILVA:

My husband and I moved here two years ago from Mexico. My husband is a Pastor for the Hispanic Community... and I have the privilege of working with the youth at Kankakee Trinity Academy. I also do translation for KCCASA, Harbor House and Pregnancy Center. I'm here as a mom, I have three children. If this vote was up to our mom's...making this legal. All of you coming here have a say and you are smart people. If you have a doubt if this is a good or bad decision ask your moms. What kind of communities would your moms want you to grow up in? AS a mom of 3 parenting is hard. I deal with a lot of issues of identity and coping mechanisms. Is this going to help them or mess them up? If you decide to go forth with this,

what kind of resources will be available for parents that will have kids addicted? I smoked marijuana growing up, I did it for 7 months and I was ready to go onto the next drug. My life was changed...I found the meaning and identity in Jesus Christ. If this was up to moms, what kind of community would we want for our children? Thank you.

JIMMY STRIC:

I began smoking marijuana late in high school and early college. Before starting to smoke, I was very high energy and outgoing. I immediately started to lose my sense of self. I along with others began to experience these highs and eventually the highs were not enough. I needed a greater high so I along with friends began to experiment with other drugs that definitely took a toll on my mind. I started to become fearful, I had no peace and I really started to lose a sense of self. Thankfully, my sophomore year of college Jesus Christ saved my life. My mind found peace and my soul found hope. I am now serving Him here in Kankakee. I love Kankakee. I am actually teaching Bible at Kankakee Trinity Academy. I have a heart for the youth and to see them be all that they were created to be and I have a heart for Kankakee. I do not believe legalizing marijuana here is going to help us. I do not at all believe it is going to help the youth. I really hope you guys consider this. Thank you.

JACOB GOUGE:

I am a Youth Pastor of Kankakee First Church of Nazarene. I do not believe that marijuana dispensaries in Kankakee is what is best for our community. My personal experience as a teenager, my experience working with teens in Bradley, Kankakee, at church and through internships in college outside Chicago has proven to me that marijuana is harmful specifically on the lives of teens as well as all people. As a teen, I smoked marijuana with friends although I never became addicted by the grace of God I quickly quit but many of my childhood friends have not. Marijuana is a gateway to harder types of drugs. To this day, I know of tow that continue to struggle with addiction to this and other types of drugs. My work with teens in Kankakee and inner-city Chicago has brought me into direct contact with teens using marijuana. While interning in Inglewood side of Chicago, I got to know a 13-year-old boy who daily smokes marijuana. One night he brought marijuana to our open gym at the church I had to ask him to leave and he threatened to shoot me someday. This was a threat I knew

was not true. He spoke that way to me because he was under the influence of marijuana. Unfortunately, this boy and his brothers were often left to take care of themselves because they were raised by a single mom. In order to feed them she had to work multiple jobs. This is no fault of the mother but a reality for many in Inglewood and Kankakee. This reality made this boy accessible to marijuana. One of the major arguments used is that it will increase revenue. This is untrue. For example, in Colorado for every \$1.00 brought in from marijuana sales it cost society \$4.50. The problem for me is seeking to increase revenue via a gateway to more harmful drugs is counter-productive to what you are trying to accomplish. It will actually create more issues for our State and our City. Ultimately it will harm our young people and their future. I conclude with this, marijuana and marijuana distribution centers will never bring sustainable and sufficient transformation to our City...only Jesus can. Thank you for listening to my comments. May the Lord help us do what He believes is best for our City. Bless you guys.

PASTOR HOWARD WILLS:

Thank you Mayor for working hard from all that is within you on behalf of our City. I stand tonight to voice my opinion and the opinion of so many that I represent in the community at large, of the consideration in passing the Ordinance to legalize marijuana. I have never used marijuana in my life. I decided not to use it at an early age because I saw the devastating affect that it had on so many of my friends. When I served in Vietnam, I worked beside so many that lost their lives, not just because of combat situations but because they were so strongly under the influence of marijuana. When it came time for them to function, they could not function at their best. I experienced that first hand. I am concerned tonight on the behalf of the young people and citizens of this community at large. This law is not handed down to us from the federal government. This Ordinance is being considered by our City Council to pass. Which means that each of you will be accountable and totally responsible for the longevity affect that this will have on our community. I ask and I challenge you tonight to think this through. I understand that the City needs revenue and I understand that completely. We should not do anything we can do just to generate revenue. Lives are more important. Lastly, we ought to be more concerned of what kind of government,

what kind of city are we going to leave for the next generation to come.

TOM COOKE:

I am a former resident of Kankakee, I grew up in the Riverview area and after college my wife and our family lived in Gracefield while our children attended grade and middle school on the west side. Although I do not currently live in the City, I own Glade Plumbing, a business that employ local people and call Kankakee home for all of our 72 years of existence. I am here before you to encourage you to seriously consider all the facts associated with the decision to allow the sale of marijuana in the City of Kankakee. Our state legislature has already made the decision that recreational use of this drug is acceptable. This drug has led to many negative societal, financial and personal problems. Adults and young people will be able to make this decision for themselves in a very short period of time...It is no secret that Kankakee has been the recipient of many jokes and negative publicity. Quite honestly it does not have the reputation none of us desire for our City. Some of the negativity is deserved but most is unwarranted. We have made great strides...for a new respected desired City of Kankakee. I feel that this is a great opportunity for the City to take a leadership position and say no, we are not going to allow the sale of this drug to our people. We care too much for our citizens... and we do not want this to represent us. Even though City's around us agreed to it, we would make a great statement...we care about our people. I ran across the City website and saw the Mayor's State of the City Address. The bottom states the City of Kankakee was founded in 1853 and is the County seat. Located on the Kankakee River...the City is dedicated to nurturing, building...while enhancing lives. I feel the City is on the right track. You as our leaders are taking us in the direction to make Kankakee a desirable place for people to live and businesses to thrive. Please make a decision that will protect, build and nurture the community you serve while enhancing the lives of the citizens of this great City. Thank you.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you everyone for your thoughtful comments. Moving on to Roll Call...

CLERK DUMAS:

PRESENT: Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall

Malone Marshall, Prude
(14) Present (0) Absent

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you. Department Heads.

CLERK DUMAS: **PRESENT:** Kosman, Schuldt, Kubal, McGrath, Schiel, Nelson, Bertrand, Schmitz, Ellexson, Hoffman, Brewer-Watson. Thank you.

MINUTES

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Moving on to the minutes for Monday, October 21st, 2019
May I have a motion to approve?

ALD OSENGA: So move.

ALD MALONE MARSHALL: Second.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderman Osenga and Seconded by Alderwoman Malone Marshall. Any edits or corrections?
All in favor?

COUNCIL: Aye.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Opposed same sign minutes are approved. Moving on to Petitions.

PETITIONS

ITEM 7A: Minutes of the Planning Board – Tuesday, September 17th, 2019.

MIKE HOFFMAN: The Planning Board approved the Minutes of the meeting and they were submitted in the Council Packet for informational purposes only.

ITEM 7B: PB2019-9-1 Ordinance Annexing Certain Territory to the City of Kankakee, Illinois – 1105 West Vanmeter.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Neil is not here tonight, he had another engagement. This has come up several times in Capital meetings. There are several residents complaining about drainage in this area of the City. This particular property is not in the City and the only way to access what is going on is to bring it into the City which is why Neil recommended an annexation. It is surrounded by property on three sides.

ALD FAFORD: We as a City has never forced anyone to be annexed into the City. There is no money set aside to do this project. I don't see the sense in forcing this property into the City at this time without a plan or money set aside for a plan.

MIKE HOFFMAN: I will just reinforce the fact that the City engineer wants to evaluate the property and determine the best solution for the drainage on the area. This property is not in the City and we would have no jurisdiction to...solution in the area. It was thought to annex the property. There was a Public Hearing before the Board and they recommended annexation and that the City...the property tax for 10 years in Item 13D...we don't have a solution until its engineered and evaluated...

ALD SWANSON: I make a motion to table annexing certain territories mentioned in Item 7B, Item 7C, and Item 13D.

ALD FAFORD: Second.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderwoman Swanson and Seconded by Alderman Faford. Can you two follow up with Neil?

ALD SWANSON: Yes and Mr. Evans for a better understanding

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: We have a motion and a second to table all related to 1105 West Vanmeter. Roll Call

CLERK DUMAS: **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude
(14) Ayes (0) Nays

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion carries. Moving on to Item 7D.

ITEM 7D: PB2019-10-1 Ordinance approving a Zoning Map Amendment from I-1 to R-1 for 160 North May Avenue in the City of Kankakee, Illinois as requested by Michael and Kay Peeken (*1st and 2nd Reading*).

MIKE HOFFMAN: There are 25 homes zoned commercial or light industrial north of Court and West of Wall. Since it is zoned industrial we couldn't allow him to build a garage. He had two choices: Variance or rezone property. We sent out

letters to everyone in that area...The Planning Board suggest that we rezone Mr. Mayes property.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: May I have a motion to suspend the rules that interfere with the passing of the Ordinance?

ALD OSENGA: So move.

ALD CRAWFORD: Second.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderman Osenga and Seconded by Alderman Crawford. Roll Call

CLERK DUMAS: **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude
(14) Ayes (0) Nays

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion carries. May I have a motion to place the Ordinance on final passage?

ALD OSENGA: So move.

ALD CRAWFORD: Second.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderman Osenga and Seconded by Alderman Crawford. Any discussion? Roll Call

CLERK DUMAS: **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude
(14) Ayes (0) Nays

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion carries. Moving on to Item 8A Communications.

COMMUNICATIONS

ITEM 8A: Introduction of New Fire Fighters Richard Campione, Nicholas Slaboszewski, and Brian Wagner.

CHIEF SCHULDT: We are very happy and proud to announce our new Fire Fighters. It's been a long time since we hired anybody. When we hire people, we put them on day for...weeks for training then they are disbursed to one of the 3 shifts. We put one on each Shift. The first one is Bryan Wagner he is 27 years old. He is a certified paramedic, advanced

technician fire fighter certified fire officer 1 and he has numerous fire certifications as well.

Richard Campione is 28 years old. He has a Bachelor's Degree from Southern Illinois University, Certified Paramedic, Basic...Fire Fighter, and rescue & hazardous certifications.

Nicholas Slaboszewski who is currently on the job and not here in front of us. He is 22 years old and is very close to receive his Associates Degree in Paramedic Services, Certified Paramedic, Basic...Fire Fighter, and numerous certifications in rescue. Join me in welcoming our new Fire Fighters.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Moving on to Item 9A

STANDING COMMITTEES

ITEM 9A: Economic Development – Alderman Tetter
The meeting was held on Thursday, September 26th, 2019. Highlights include: Unemployment rates, project updates... Dollar General, Tractor Supply opening. Mike Hoffman provided a map for the East Court TIF. Under new business we discussed the impact of the City employees living outside of our City.

ITEM 9B: Budget – Alderman O'Brien
The meeting was held on Tuesday, October 15th, 2019. Highlights include: We discussed the first 5 months of the City's fiscal year at the 42 percent point. Revenues are at 38 percent of budget and expenditures are at 39 percent. We discussed the possibility of purchasing new radios to be used various departments in the City and we have a proposal on the agenda for later tonight to act.

ITEM 9C: Building & Code – Alderwoman Malone Marshall
The meeting was held on Thursday, October 17th, 2019. Highlights include: We have completed our review of the Building & Code Chapters and we are now ready to present to attorneys to be up to date.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you. Moving on to Item 10A approval of the bills. A couple of big ticket items include: Blue Cross Blue Shield...tractor Supply, R&R Inc., Odelson & Sterk of With a portion for FOIA's and Appeals. May I have a

Motion to approve?

ALD FAFORD: I move that we approve the report of officers, place the money in the in the proper accounts and pay the bills in the revised amount of \$1,469,480.99.

ALD LEWIS: Second.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion made by Alderman Faford and Seconded by Alderwoman Lewis. Any discussion?

ALD TETTER: Can you repeat that number for FOIA's?

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: \$6613.45 for FOIA's and Appeals. Alderman O'Brien?

ALD O'BRIEN: The half million for Tractor Supply, that was the TIF agreement that we pledge to them?

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Yes. Okay Roll Call...

CLERK DUMAS: **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Faford, Swanson, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall (*abstain on check #'s 2955, 1143, and 748*) Malone Marshall, Prude
NAYS: Tall, Crawford
(12) Ayes (2) Nays

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion Carries. We have no Unfinished Business. Moving on to Item 12A New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

ITEM 12A: Recommendation to approve Grant or Easement Agreement Between Gina Serafini and the City of Kankakee, Illinois for Parking at 1105 West Merchant Street.

ITEM 12B: Recommendation to approve Grant or Easement Agreement Between Gina Serafini and the City of Kankakee, Illinois for Parking at 1161 West Merchant Street.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: If there are no objections, I would like to combine Items 12A and 12B. We have had discussions on this and I will defer to Mike Hoffman.

MIKE HOFFMAN: This pertains to rezoning from R-1 to R-3...these properties have been there for years but were not properly zoned. Upon exploring the sale of one of those properties they ran

into complications. The decided to rezoned and we granted some variances with that process. One of the things we ran into was onsite parking. As a resolve we proposed an easement to use as their parking and in return they will be obligated maintain these areas in good use for tenants.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: May I have a motion to approve those recommendations?

ALD OSENGA: So move.

ALD CRAWFORD: Second.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderman Osenga and Seconded by Alderman Crawford. Roll Call...

CLERK DUMAS: **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude
(14) Ayes (0) Nays

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion carries. We have no appointments. Moving on to Item 13A.

MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

ITEM 13A: Proclamation for National Apprentice Week November 11th -17th, 2019 in the City of Kankakee. (*read by Mayor*).

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: May I have a motion to accept the Proclamation.

ALD BROWN: So move.

ALD FAFORD: Second.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderman Brown and Seconded by Alderman Faford. All in favor?

COUNCIL: Aye

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Opposed same sign. Motion carries. Moving on to Items 13B and 13C. If there are no objections I would like to combine.

ITEM 13B: Resolution establishing City Council Dates for the year 2020.

ITEM 13C: Resolution establishing Holidays to be Observed by the Offices of the City of Kankakee during 2020.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: May I have a motion to approve the Resolutions?

ALD TETTER: So move.

ALD SWANSON: Second.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderman Tetter and Seconded by Alderwoman Swanson. Any discussion?

ALD COBBS: I see it says Council Meetings and Committee Meetings...

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: We are establishing Council Dates...that is correct.

ALD OSENGA: Are these the same number of Holidays we have had over the years?

CLERK DUMAS: Yes they are. We go by Union Contracts for the City.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Any other discussion? Roll Call.

CLERK DUMAS: **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude
(14) Ayes (0) Nays

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion carries. Item 13D was tabled. Moving on to Item 13E.

ITEM 13E: Resolution Authorizing the Execution of the Equipment Purchase with Motorola Solutions, INC. (*Attachment Provided Separately*).

ELIZABETH KUBAL: This was discussed in Budget and Public Safety. This resolution is to update radios. I passed details out to the penny. This is just to approve the purchase. Motorola is looking like a viable option...Thank you to Captain Bona's for providing information and we look forward to integrating the City with the County.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you Captain Bonas for your negotiating skills. May I have a motion to approve the Resolution?

ALD BROWN: So move.

ALD SWANSON: Second.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderman Brown and Seconded by Alderwoman Swanson. Any discussion?

ALD CRAWFORD: The price...Did the Fire Department get a grant for this?

ELIZABETH KUBAL: The Fire Department did receive a partial grant. They were the only ones that qualified. That price is reflected before the \$629,000.00.

ALD CRAWFORD: ...(inaudible)...

ELIZABETH KUBAL: I did not bring that document.

CHIEF SCHULDT: ...There are some things that the grant did not pay for approved some time ago. That an approximate number.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: This will be a lease agreements as we discussed...

ELIZABETH KUBAL: Yes, up to 5 years.

ALD O'BRIEN: The resolution references Motorola...the document that you handed to us?...

ELIZABETH KUBAL: This is just a listing there is no official Motorola Agreement they just need to know there was passage here Tonight via Resolution.

ALD O'BRIEN: For the purchase of the equipment. Perhaps we want to amend the resolution this document instead of an agreement that is not there. The lease agreement is not attached what is instead is the listing we received.

ELIZABETH KUBAL: Simply what was given was the attachment with the quantities as such Motorola did not provide an agreement.

ALD O'BRIEN: The Resolution says we are approving an agreement but there is no agreement. Instead there is a list of equipment. From a house keeping perspective it is important to amend this resolution to reflect that we are approving this document...the list of equipment from Motorola...

ALD BROWN: I amend the motion to reflect the list of equipment from

Motorola.

ALD SWANSON: Second.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderman Brown and Seconded by Alderwoman Swanson. Any other Discussion?

ALD CURTIS: The \$73K will be paid out of ESU for their portion, correct?

ELIZABETH KUBAL: When we get to the financing portion, there will be a complete breakdown... but yes ESU is responsible for their equipment.

ALD CURTIS: ...that's going to come out of General or Capital?

ELIZABETH KUBAL: Yes.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Any other questions or discussion? Roll Call.

CLERK DUMAS: **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude
(14) Ayes (0) Nays

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion carries. We do have a need for Executive Session for the purpose of Personnel: The Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance or Dismissal of Specific Employees of the Public Body or Legal Counsel for the Public Body. Our Attorney will provide updates on pending litigation. May I have a motion to go into Executive Session?

ALD TETTER: So move

ALD LEWIS: Second

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderman Tetter and Seconded by Alderwoman Lewis....We are now in Executive Session. Moving on to Roll Call...

CLERK DUMAS: **PRESENT:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude

(14) Present (0) Absent

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion to leave Executive Session and Return to Open Session...

ALD BROWN: So move.

ALD SWANSON: Second.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderman Brown and Seconded by Alderwoman Swanson. We are now back in Open Session. Roll Call please.

CLERK DUMAS: **PRESENT:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude
(14) Present (0) Absent

ACTION RESULTING FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you. There is no action resulting from Executive Session. Moving on to Item 16.

ALDERMEN & ALDERWOMEN COMMENTS

ALD COBBS: I speak briefly to Mr. Ayers prior to Executive Session about the miscommunication that we had at his front door. I just want to explain very carefully. As a 30 year professional in this neighborhood...I did apologize if I knocked on his door too hard. I did get a correspondence from Code about a dispute with the neighbor and the handicap sign. The dispute was he told the neighbor he doesn't need it. I went to Ayers, explained the reason I was there, that he said he did not need the sign. Upon exiting Mr. Ayers residence I got a call from his neighbor. I explained to his neighbor that he legally has that handicap sign and that it is going to stay. I don't know how the miscommunication came about. I hope that we have an understanding as well as his neighbor. Since I have been an Alderman, I have done 4 handicap signs. This does

disturb me...if you do have a disabled member you should have the minimal amount of obstruction going from and to your car...I did a little research and I hope that we can be courteous with our neighbors...I do want to ensure that our handicap signs aren't being abused...

ALD TETTER:

I commend the new hires in the Fire Department I hope they are residents of Kankakee. Economic Development will not meet on Thanksgiving. We will meet Wednesday, November 27th. The Lieutenant Governor is coming to Speak on the cannabis law that has been passed...social...compliance...needs to be put in our ordinances and monies used...

ALD O'BRIEN:

Budget Committee will meet November 13th at 5:30 P.M.

ALD FAFORD:

I am concerned about Dollar Stores. The Economic Committee approved one on Jeffery. That was debated a couple months ago, pertaining to Eighth Avenue. I have no problem with it on Jeffrey Street but I am wondering, How many Dollar Stores does the City of Kankakee need? If they put it on Jeffrey we want it to look like the one on Station with Brick all the way around and not devalue property. I would appreciate it.

ALD CURTIS:

We do have a License & Franchise meeting on Thursday at 5:30 P.M. We will have several representatives present...Neighbors get information on Social Media, sometimes before us which is fine. How much should we be sharing...on communication? Is there a way for us Alderman to get the communication and then let them know what's going on without interfering with an investigation and things of that nature.

DEPARTMENT HEADS

CHIEF KOSMAN:

I appreciate your concern regarding sending out what I send to you. Some may have information that should not be shared publically. I will be working with command staff and we will do a better job out to the public and doing a press release. We are working on a new website for our page for the city and we will use the ring system too...The misconception on the Nuisance Abatement Process. We may not have gone through the Court system in this pass year but we have sent out 40 letters to property owners this year. We set up meetings with the Deputy Chief Hunt talks

to them about it and most are resolve. The 456 Lincoln property...a letter was received from their attorney...a lot of the laws are complimentary for City and State. If the State wants to do it will let them do it. They are also processing criminal cases in the area...I know more about the process and it will be considered... We decided back in May when we sent a letter to go with the State...this property was not ignored by the City

KRIS SCHMITZ:

Chronic Nuisance Abatement...Court Date November 7th. At 1:30 P.M. with the State. It's been moved to judge...

BARBI BREWER-WATSON:

My reports you will put in the weekly updates as well. So you guys will have the Community Development and Economic Development reports in there. We got over 370 surveys back and Hud is pleased. The next step is working together to maintain the funding that we get from federal for 2020- 2025. In the past, this has been a staff thing but moving forward we will all be doing this work together.

MIKE HOFFMAN:

East Court TIF proposed boundaries have been mailed out to all Council Members. We are ready to move forward...we have a short break in schedule and we will do some training for planning and zoning issues...Finally, Alderman Faford, I agree with you. My original draft is to mirror the other store on Station. They came back with a lessor proposal. I would appreciate your push on that.

PETE SCHIEL:

Keep in mind that 45/52 was a coordinated effort between the property owner and the Contractor. The City of Kankakee keep in touch with Mr. Nehls. There has not been a break in moisture, need to ensure dryness for the next step. It needs to solidify in order to complete.

ELIZABETH KUBAL:

Please check your email. The requested information is due by Friday.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:

The River Stone Survey is complete. Tractor Supply is open. Thank you to Police and Fire they had 200 kids for Trunk or Treat. They had additional partners this year. Chief and I have attended meetings about gun violence. Barbi and United way met to address a substation in each Ward. Karen Johnson will assist in spearheading as well and Chief Kosman will help with the implementation. The OSLAD Grant has moved to the next step going to Springfield for a presentation. An Expungement/Job Fair

in partnership with Cresco Labs on November 15th, at the Library on the 4th floor...10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. They are expanding due to the Legislation that just passed.

ADJOURNMENT

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: May I have a motion to adjourn?

ALD COBBS: So move.

ALD MALONE MARSHALL: Second.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderman Cobbs. Seconded by Alderwoman Malone Marshall. All in favor aye?

COUNCIL: Aye.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Opposed same sign. We are adjourned.