

**CITY OF KANKAKEE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SUMMARY OF MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH, 2020
7:00 P.M.**

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: I would like to call the meeting to order. We will start with a prayer by Pastor Larry Garcia, Pentecostal Community Church and go on to the Pledge of Allegiance by Kankakee School District 111 Black History Participants. Thank you students for leading the pledge, you all did a great job in the program this past weekend.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

LANCE MARZAC:

The downtown area is nice, clean, well lit, and inviting. People feel safe downtown. The parking lot at Jimmy John's has zero lighting. People have stated it is not very inviting because it is very dark. They do not feel safe parking in that lot at night. I would like to suggest to reuse the decorative lights from Schuyler in that lot. Let's talk about Out On A Limb on Schuyler. I can tell you our older customers will not use that lot because they must climb over a brick landscape wall or a hill to get up the alley. It has been a successful business for 23 years and 13 years on Merchant a total of 36 years downtown. As leaders, you should always be interested in feedback especially from building owners. I like the downtown with the exception of the bike plans...People still ride on sidewalks even after installing the bike lanes. Our business is a year round business and in the winter people put their bikes away. They have a thing such as summer lanes, where they only open at summer time. I would like for you to consider when they put the bikes away, maybe open the Eastside during winter for parking at that time. I spent meeting after meeting trying to get you to change something. All the information presented, it should have been an easy decision but the building owners were tossed aside. Regardless of the safety and the business owners presenting because you were under a deadline with TIF money. I was done talking about the bike lane project but something struck a nerve with me after the last City meeting. It's one thing to spend the TIF money because you had to downtown. Now you have voted to spend \$30,380.00 for pre-engineering to extend the unprotected bike lanes to the south going across

another major intersection. That goes against all the...I handed you some paperwork...you can actually do more damage painting the lines green. Our roads are crumbling across town and you are painting our streets green with our money. Money that should be used to fix our roads in our town should be a first priority. Continuing the madness...I don't think is the right thing to do. If we are going to out the bike lanes in, let's do the dedicated ones. The old way is of the past. I found a 13 year study that shows the painted bike lines did not provide safety...it is actually safer to have no bike lane at all. Its giving the people a false sense of security being there. You continue to spend the tax payers money on something that will not improve the safety for the cyclist. The facts prove it look at that study. If you are going to spend the money do it the right way. It is safer for all and the right thing to do. Please consider your options when continuing the bike path. We need to be working together as a community to solve the problems in our town. I went to a community meeting and one of the residents was pleading to do something about the shootings. Some of you Aldermen did not attend that meeting, it was held by the Superintendent of Schools. Mike O'Brien and Stacy were there. I heard at the last Council meeting of a policy where another Alderman should not go in another Aldermen's Ward. I think as a community, you represent each and every one of us. Instead of looking at it as my Ward or his Ward maybe look at it as a team. Work together as a community. Work together with the citizens and business owners. Every one of us here wants a better Kankakee.

CLAUDETTE WILSON:

I am very proud this evening to come before you in front of our very honorable Mayor. It is so honorable that we have a female Mayor...there are so many cities with female Mayors conducting their great cities such as; Chicago, Illinois, Las Vegas, Nevada and now to be proud of Kankakee, Illinois. My comment is...I have greater comments that I will be making an appointment with the Mayor herself to speak to her directly before I present them to the City Council. The one thing I would like to say is that in traveling and coming back I was very astound at the safety condition of the northeast side of Kankakee, Illinois. I know there are many Aldermen here I would have wanted to address before doing so at City Council. It was great darkness in the area and I felt the safety of that side of

Kankakee should be considered by the Aldermen to have something done about it. There are many grants that could be written regarding safety and lights that could be there and great consideration for safety and lighting and I did not see that. I did notice that before making an appointment with the Mayor she has set up suggestions. I do apologize...I will meet with her later about the issue. It happen to be around the holidays and I was very disappointed and was going to get something together myself that could have lit up the northeast side of town with Christmas lights, caroling and etc... That is all I will bring before the Council tonight and that is consider your safety and your lights on the northeast side of this town. Let's brighten it up a little bit.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you. Moving on to Roll Call...

CLERK DUMAS: **PRESENT:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Crawford, O'Brien, Malone Marshall, Prude
ABSENT: Swanson, Osenga, Gall
(11) Present (3) Absent

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you. Department Heads.

CLERK DUMAS: **PRESENT:** Kosman, Schuldt, Kubal, McGrath, Doyle, Nelson, Bertrand, Schmitz, Ellexson, Brewer-Watson.

MINUTES

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Moving on to the minutes for Monday, January 21st, 2020. Do I have a motion to approve the minutes?

ALD LEWIS: So move.

ALD MALONE MARSHALL: Second.

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

COUNCIL: Aye

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Opposed same sign... Minutes for Monday, January 21st, 2020 are approved. Moving on to the Minutes for Monday, February 3rd, 2020. Do I have a motion to approve?

ALD LEWIS: So move.

ALD MALONE MARSHALL: Second.

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

COUNCIL: Aye

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Opposed same sign... Minutes for Monday, February 3rd, 2020 are approved. We have no Petitions and no Communications. Moving on to the Standing Committee Reports.

STANDING COMMITTEES

ITEM 9A: Community Development Committee– Alderman Curtis
The meeting was held on Monday, January 6th, 2020.
Highlights include: Mrs. Watson updated us on several things; allocation of money capturing funds from the past, deadlines we have for funds that need to be spent soon. We were updated on the Lead Grants and Landbank Status, and Census Grant. We discussed the citizens group and also the updates on the programs; surveys that went out. Over 200 responded to that. We had no old or new business.

ITEM 9B and 9C: Budget Committee– Alderman O'Brien
We have two months of minutes. The first meeting was held on Monday, January 13th, 2020. The second meeting was held on Tuesday, February 11th, 2020.
Highlights include: Properties imposing safety issues, discussed the City's financial reports, in January we talked about the 8 month mark...only 54 percent not including the home...at that time expenditures were at 57 percent where they are expected to be. In the February meeting, we reviewed the City's financial report at the 9 month mark, revenues and expenses are where they should be as we approach the end of our fiscal year. We also had a presentation from Bob Reeds regarding the City's Police and Fire Pension Funds sharing the lack of funds. We discussed insolvency related to...to me it is a call to action. We have to act, it's not going away. In terms of investment funds, I shudder to think in terms of the market having another crash such as 2008...what would happen to our funds. Everyone knows that and it is our job to do

something. Our next meeting is Thursday, March 12th at 5:30 PM in the training room.

ITEM 9D: Ordinance Committee – Alderman Tall
The meeting was held on Tuesday, January 28th, 2020.
Highlights include: We talked about the proposed Ordinance to change Chapter 21 Business License and Registration. We passed the Ordinance at our last meeting.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Moving on to Item 10A Reports of Officers.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

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 amount of \$420,133.40.

ALD LEWIS: Second.

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

CLERK DUMAS: **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Faford, O'Brien (*abstain on check #'s 76047 and 76048*), Malone Marshall, Prude
NAYS: Tall, Crawford (I will remain No until the audit is done and we get our rating back).
(9) Ayes (2) Nays

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion carries. Item 11 Unfinished Business we have none. Moving on to Item 12 New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

ITEM 12A: Ordinance Amending Chapter 32, Section 231 Entitled “Handicapped Parking” of the Municipal Code of the City of Kankakee Rescinding Ordinance No. 2012-05 Establishing a Handicapped Parking at 1483 South Fifth Avenue (*1st & 2nd Reading*).

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

ALD FAFORD: So move.

ALD TALL: Second

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderman Faford and Seconded by Alderman Tall. Roll Call please.

CLERK DUMAS: **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Crawford, O'Brien, Malone Marshall, Prude (11) Ayes (0) Nays

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

ALD FAFORD: So move.

ALD TALL: Second

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderman Faford Seconded by Alderman Tall. Any discussion? Roll Call please.

CLERK DUMAS: **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Crawford, O'Brien, Malone Marshall, Prude (11) Ayes (0) Nays

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion carries. Moving on to Item 12B.

ITEM 12B: Ordinance Vacating a 30' x 199.81 Portion of an North/South Alley Lying North of Chestnut Avenue Between Schuyler Avenue and Dearborn Avenue (*1st & 2nd Reading*).

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

ALD MALONE MARSHALL: So move.

ALD PRUDE: Second

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderwoman Malone Marshall and Seconded by Alderman Prude. Roll Call please.

CLERK DUMAS: **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Crawford, O'Brien, Malone Marshall, Prude (11) Ayes (0) Nays

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

ALD MALONE MARSHALL: I so move.

ALD PRUDE: Second

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderwoman Malone Marshall Seconded by Alderman Prude. Any discussion?

ALD CRAWFORD: Is this the alley they are going to be doing the Metro?

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: A map was enclosed in your packet.

ALD CRAWFORD: Are they going to be closing the whole alley or just the portion?

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:Just the portion in the packet. Any other discussion?

ALD FAFORD: Out of curiosity, do we know when they are going to start on this?

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:They told me it will be this year. We are trying to move them along. This is for construction in the 1st Ward at Chestnut and Schuyler Avenue for River Valley Metro to build a Transfer Station there. They are also in transition. They have a new ...Director coming in June and I am hoping this doesn't cause a delay but they have assured me the project will be started this year. Roll Call please.

CLERK DUMAS: **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Crawford, O'Brien, Malone Marshall, Prude (11) Ayes (0) Nays

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion carries. We have no Appointments. Moving on to Item 13. Skip to Item13B: a Resolution by Economic & Community Development Agency Establishing A Development Incentives Policy and Application. I had a meeting with Barbi...they have some suggestions and we are pulling Item 13B off the agenda tonight.

MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

ITEM 13A: Resolution by Economic & Community Development Agency Establishing A Citizens Advisory Board By-Laws and Application.

BARBI BREWER-WATSON: Part of the Community Development Agency's work is mandated by HUD to be engaged with citizens regularly, to

ask them what is going on in their neighborhoods getting feedback and also to get larger feedback from the residents of Kankakee on how to spend the federal entitlements dollars we receive each year. It is my opinion that in the past we have not done our due diligence on this and so as the Director along with the team, we did research and found out how other communities engage their citizens. One of the ways is to have a Citizens Advisory Board. We are proposing the structure to be a 25 person board with representatives from each Ward. Also residents that represents businesses, high school student, college or university student, representation from social services, health and homelessness. You will see that in your packet. The application comes to us by HUD with application instructions that cites HUD regulations. Also the By-Laws of the Citizens Advisory Board. I will be leading the Board but they will chose their officers. They will have a chairman, vice chair and a secretary. We will host their meeting but they will essentially have their agenda. We will inform them of money we will receive each year and we will ask them how they would like us to spend it. They will also help us in the consolidated planning session every 5 years, any grant dollars we get they can also help us identify the need in spending. It will help the City have access to the neighborhoods in a more engaged and unique way. After much legal review and excitement from our team we are bring it here tonight to pass it so we can get immediate participation.

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

ALD CURTIS: So move.

ALD COBBS: Second.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderman Curtis and Seconded by Alderman Cobbs. Any discussion?

ALD TALL: On page 97 B Section 3 there is a misprint. It states that appointments will start January 2005. I think that's a misprint. If we can clear that up I think we can move forward.

BARBI BREWER-WATSON: They are actually changing the date to April 1st, 2020.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you Alderman Tall. Any other discussion?

ALD O'BRIEN: Thank you Barbi. I think this is a great step forward to get more residents engaged in obviously an important time...Thank you for your leadership in making this happen.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you Alderman O'Brien. While we are on engagement, I just want to mention that was not happening before and we do have a survey. It should be at any of our events...We are working hard to capture feedback for the City driving the need and resources. We have a motion and a second. Roll Call...

CLERK DUMAS: **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Crawford, O'Brien, Malone Marshall, Prude (11) Ayes (0) Nays

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion carries.

ITEM 13C: Proclamation Declaring February 2020, As Black History Month (*Read and presented by Mayor*). The Mayor also honored the various members of the community including: Henry Duvall – 1st African American Deputy Police Chief
Author Lax- Lax Mortuary
Ernest King – 1st African American Assistant Fire Chief (*Ernest King acknowledges the 1st African American Fireman Nathan White*).
Kent Wade – 1st African American Vice President Library Board.
The Late John and Leatha Malone – Malone Laundry Mat and Convenient Food Mart
Chasity Wells-Armstrong – 1st African American Mayor City of Kankakee (*read and presented by Alderman Brown to Mayor Wells Armstrong*).
Amani Drew – 1st African American 21st Circuit Court Judge
Juliana Straton- 1st African American Lieutenant Governor State of Illinois
Barack Obama – 1st African American President of the United States

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

ALD COBBS: So move.

ALD PRUDE: Second.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderman Cobbs and Seconded by Alderman Prude. All in favor

COUNCIL: Aye

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Opposed same sign. Motion carries. No need for Executive Session. Moving on to Item 16 Alderman & Alderwomen Comments.

ALDERMEN & ALDERWOMEN COMMENTS

ALD BROWN: There is an issue in the paper recently. I am sure most of you are aware that there is a conflict with youth sports and District 111. I want to thank to Chris Bohlen for his recent comment at the school board. He stated that the purpose of a youth organization should be to make a person a better student and citizen and not so much as to get... Lots of people are saying the Eastside Bulldogs Jr. League Football and the Kankakee Colts are folding. I have not spoken to anyone of the Kankakee Colts but I want to go on record saying that the Eastside Bulldogs Jr. League Football have been here for 54 years and we are still open for business and we will go forward. I have been a member of the board for 40 years. We ask the youth to be better students. If you go back and ask some of the kids that went through our organization they would say if it wasn't for Eastside, I would not have made it. Eastside had to pull it out of them. What we do is develop the youth...to be young men and young women. Eastside is not folding.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: We will move on to Department heads.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

STEVE BERTRAND: The Library is offering free cold...Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays for Youth ...to 8 years. It's sponsored by the NIFB. On Wednesday, February 19th, at 7:00 P.M. we are having an LGBTQ Networking event on the 4th Floor of the Library.

JAZMYN HUMBLE: We are showing Selma downtown Next Tuesday at 5:30P.M. Kent Wade will be hosting the discussion following the movie. Free and open to the Public.

BARBI BREWER-WATSON: February 25th is the Home Buyers Workshop. There are 6

courses in the workshop. Next Tuesday at 5:30 P.M.
ECDA on the 4th Floor of the Library.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you to all the Children here tonight. Ward Meetings... Ward 4 we need your schedule for the Capital Team. Market Study is underway with the developer from Milwaukee. Alderman O'Brien brought up an issue. There was a feasibility study done a few years ago to gauge if there was an interest or demand for downtown housing that would cater to artist. The study as about \$20K...the next phase of that study is about \$30K. What I did was reached out to the developers that is having a market study done ...Tracy Cross... this was in my updates on Friday. I asked them to incorporate that study. The current study is also to address housing in the downtown area.
Liquor Ordinance no feedback...please get back with me.
Thank you to Jazmyn for Love My City Campaign. The initiative will be carried out throughout the year.

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.