

## February 2012 – Mayor’s Minute

Well talk about a long meeting, I think this months council meeting was the longest meeting of any type I have ever been involved in but it was so productive it was worth it.

One thing that we started doing and hope to continue having a “workshop” an hour or so before each council meeting. This gives the council more time to go over items on the agenda as well as other issues needing more discussion. It was very productive last month and as always public is welcome to sit in on these workshops.

We are having the elections in November which will coincide with the School and County. This was done due to new laws enacted at the State level. More on this in months to come. Looked at a couple of items involving ordinances. We plan on having a workshop to work on language on peddlers and great traps and as soon as this is complete will report back to you. CJ and the city crew will be doing street repair on East Spruce Street in the coming weeks. This street is in dire need of repair and plans are to chip seal this street.

Annual audit on city books has been completed and it was reported that city operated in the black this past year. This is due in large part to the increased water sales due to the drought along with your city council being fiscally responsible. I have a meeting this week regarding the re-finance of city debt and plans are for any savings to go toward building addition to the sewer plant which will take approximately 2.3 million dollars the hope is no money has to be raised (bonds) to cover this.

Agreed to accept the donation of the caboose at Katy Park (green one) and possibly donate the old red one to the Railroad Historical Commission. I don’t see us ever doing something with that old red one...it’s been sitting taking up space by the tracks for years. Speaking of Railroads I’m working with Mr. Schelbitzki about the trains that block Oak Street and a solution to keep this crossing open when trains have to stop in town. More to come on this.

Other items were the completion of the Air condition project at library. This was matching grant from Oncore under their energy program. Plans are next year to put in request for funds for the Depot. City agreed to pay for ½ the cost of new beepers for Fire Dept. The city only spends about 5,000.00 a year for bonds for the firemen no tax money really goes for equipment so we should consider ourselves lucky that our Fire Department works hard to fund equipment and other items by holding fundraisers.... And on that subject Fire Department’s BBQ cook-off is scheduled for March 16 and 17<sup>th</sup>... make plans to attend and help with this event....food available and judges needed Saturday. A while back Fire Auxiliary was started so if you’re interested in volunteering contact D’Ann Lee 829-9652 to join this organization. They will be helping out at the cook-off and other Fire Department functions.

The Council agreed to move forward with the city museum which will be located in the upstairs of city hall. The museum committee will hold a town hall meeting on April 24 at Community City. I encourage everyone interested to come to this event. This is YOUR museum and everyone's input is needed and requested. We'll discuss what the estimate to renovate the upstairs will be as well as outline some plans as to layout and most importantly how we're going to pay for all of this. Public and private funds will be needed so please make plans to attend.

One last thing and I really would appreciate this, if anyone is interested in volunteering I need for a garden club or some organization help plant some flowers (city will buy the plants) around city hall.... City Hall landscape looks sad and we really need to spruce this yard up so contact me or Joey at city hall (826-5352) if you're interested....