

City Commission meeting - September 23, 1996 - 7:00 p.m. - City Hall

Mayor Gilley called the meeting to order with- all commissioners in attendance, along with several interested citizens.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Mayor called for discussion, or ask if anyone wanted these read. With no additions or corrections to be made, Comm. Hardy floored a motion the minutes be accepted as written, seconded by Comm. Martin. roll call and vote - Cooke yes, Gilley yes, Martin yes, Hardy yes, Lacy yes.

2. Treasurer's report

The report was presented for corrections or questions by Mayor Gilley. With none to be heard, Comm. Martin presented a motion the report be accepted as printed. seconded by Comm. Cooke. roll call and vote - Cooke yes, Gilley yes, Martin yes, Hardy yes, Lacy yes.

3. First reading Ordinance #96-4 220.231-establishing a bank franchise and local deposit tax for the city

Mayor Gilley explained that this ordinance takes the place of the city being able to collect on bank shares as they could have in the past. Comm. Lacy presented a motion the ordinance be accepted for a second reading, seconded by Comm. Hardy. roll call and vote - Cooke yes, Gilley yes, Martin yes, Hardy yes, Lacy yes.

4. First reading Ordinance #96-5 220.232-1997 motor vehicle & water craft vehicle tax rate

This reduction from 26¢ to 20¢ had been approved at the Aug. meeting by the commission. With no discussion to be heard, Comm. Lacy floored a motion the first reading be accepted, seconded by Comm. Hardy. roll call and vote- Cooke yes, Gilley yes, Martin yes, Hardy yes, Lacy yes.

Mayor Gilley said the second reading of these two ordinances would be Tuesday.

5. Department reports

Police: Comm. Martin said the police chief had called her late in the afternoon to tell her he was ill, so she had no report.

Streets: Comm. Cooke said he had met with Ed Dyer, the county road supervisor and he promised they would fix Laurel like it should be fixed. Comm. Hardy said he had been told that there is a drainage problem on Sunset, he will check it, and report at the next meeting.

Cemetery: Comm. Lacy said he had several complaints regarding the appearance of the cemetery. Such as, the grass is not cut often enough, the headstones are full of grass, there has been a weed killer used that, sticks to the headstones, headstones have been moved around by the mower and several footstones need reset. His suggestion was, when the clerk sent him his check, he be informed of these deficiencies, and if he doesn't comply, then he will be fired. The clerk agreed to write this letter. Comm. Lacy said he had talked with him on several occasions regarding these complaints and Mr. Cole always agrees with him and says he will comply, but he doesn't.

Ms. Jordan said Barbara Stockton had called her about having church services at the chapel at the cemetery. Ms. Jordan told her she would have to approach the commission with this request. Mayor Gilley ask the commission their feelings regarding the use of the chapel for this purpose. Comm. Hardy said in his opinion the chapel wasn't designed for this purpose, plus you wouldn't be able to see if there were night services. Comm. Cooke felt he couldn't give a true answer based on the facts that had been presented. He felt that Stockton's needed to come to the meeting and make a presentation. Comm. Lacy and Mayor Gilley felt the liability to the city would be too great.

Comm. Cooke presented a motion that the decision be tabled until such time the Stockton's approached the commission, seconded by Comm. Lacy. roll call and vote - Cooke yes, Gilley yes, Martin yes, Hardy yes, Lacy yes.

6. Other

Street light discussion - 6th & Church Alley

WRECC had presented a proposal for the erection of this light as requested by Buddy Marr at the Aud. meeting, (copy attached). Mr. Marr felt the cost was very reasonable, and in his opinion, lights should be put up wherever there is a dark area. Especially since the city has been working on the Neighborhood Watch Program. Mayor Gilley said he felt that once you started there would be many others to request lights. Mr. Marr said he felt if they were needed, then they were reasonable requests. Comm. Lacy said he didn't know too much about this particular location. Comm. Hardy said it is dark and he is favor of installing the light, but he agreed that needs to be definite guidelines set down for future request of lights. Comm. Martin was in agreement that there should be guidelines for the commission to go by. Mr. Joe Madison said there were two lights in the area, but the belonged to the Baptist Church. Mr. Marr said there was also a need for a light at 6th & Wayne as there was none there. The commission agreed to view the areas in question and make a decision at the Oct. meeting Comm. Martin said she felt the commission needed to drive the whole city to really view the need.

Portable sign-discussion

Lawrence Stiffey said there were several signs in the I-65 area that were illegal. Gerald Brown said the city's zoning ordinance states that any portable sign in front of a business must relate to the business it is in front of. Mayor Gilley felt the city should get the city-county laws regarding portable signs and make Smiths Groves comply with theirs. Mr. Varner agreed with this suggestion. Mr. Stiffey said that Steve Meeks the State Road Supervisor had told him that if the city would notify him of these illegal signs and give him permission, he would have them removed. Comm. Martin presented a motion to notify the state regarding these illegal signs and request they be removed, seconded by Comm. Hardy. roll call and vote-Cooke yes, Gilley yes, Martin yes, Hardy yes, Lacy yes.

Shelvie Dubree wondered about the bush at the fire station that was obstructing vision. Comm. Lacy said he and comm. Hardy had removed it the past week. Comm. Martin said she had been working on getting sidewalks for the city and that it looked favorable. Mayor Gilley said he had talked with Judge Buchannon that afternoon and he told him there would be no money for this in 1996. He had also talked with Gene Becker from BRADD and Mr. Becker had said it couldn't happen this year. But he would look into it in conjunction with some road work in the coming year.

Comm. Martin said that the McDonalds Corp. had presented \$500.00 to the city at the ribbon cutting for their new restaurant. She said it was to be used for city beautification and she would like for all of the comm. to come up with some ideas for its use.

Dickie Madison said she was going to have another yard sale for the Library to try to earn money for the much needed carpet. She ask if there was any way the city could perhaps donate some funds toward this effort. Mayor Gilley said since the funds were already budgeted, it would have to be discussed with the clerk.

With no further business to be presented a motion to adjourn was heard.

APPROVED: _____
JAMES R. GILLEY, MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
DOROTHY J. NEAL, CITY CLERK