

**COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
CITY OF ATTICA**

9-13-2021

The Common Council for the City of Attica met on September 13th, 2021, at 6:00 P.M.

Those present at the meeting were: Council Members; Mr. Larry Grant, Mrs. Valarie Maus, Mrs. Kaylie Carnahan, Patricia Hargan and Mr. Scott Voorhees, Also, present were Attorney Jud Barce, Mayor Duane Roderick, and Clerk-Treasurer Joanne Broadwater.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

- Maus made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 9th, 2021, council meeting, Voorhees seconded, all were in favor and the motion passed.

CITIZENS PETITIONS:

- John Hunt – Attica Heritage Days asked the Council for a short-term loan to pay expenses until they receive grant money they are anticipating. Receipt of the grant was delayed, but it will be received. The loan will allow Heritage Days to pay their vendors timely.

Broadwater asked Attorney Brace if the city can loan money. The Council discussed different options to loan the money through either Mainstreet or WEGA. Barce said the Council could make a conditional motion to loan the funds to Heritage Days if the other entities are not able to help.

Hargan made a motion for a conditional donation to Attica Heritage Days if the funds are not available from either Attica Mainstreet or WEGA. Maus seconded, all were in favor, motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

NONE

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Eric Swank Director of Public Works:

- Stated there is a Sycamore tree in Ravine Park that needs to be removed. During recent storms a branch fell and damaged the large pavilion. Swank indicated they have contacted 3 companies and the only one that will take the tree down is over \$10,000.00. Grant asked Swank about systematically replacing older trees that we are losing. Swank stated the city could hire an arborist to assist the city in strategically removing and replacing trees to maintain the health of our parks.

Grant and Swank discussed other trees in the city that need to be removed. Swank stated if the city purchased a manlift the city could remove most trees in house.

Matthew Powell, Police Chief:

- There were 5 citations issued to RZR's that were improperly driving on the state highways.
- Powell reported the Attica PD will have \$70,000 remaining in the APD budget and asked the Council if they can use \$50,000 of that money to purchase a new Silverado. Powell explained the Tahoe that the K-9 officer is driving is not police grade and is requiring a lot of maintenance. Powell also asked for an additional \$50,000.00 to purchase a second Silverado.

Carnahan asked what they need to do, Broadwater stated the Council can discuss this request, but they are not able to vote on the request tonight because based on the current appropriation report there is not \$70,000 of uncommitted money in the APD budget.

- Roderick stated he discussed with the Chief about making speeding tickets an Ordinance violation, that way the funds will remain with the city instead of going through Fountain County. Officer Miller stated most of the funding from the state comes in through deferral programs so it would be in the interest of the city to let citizens know that the deferral program is an option. The Council and Officer Miller discussed various ways to keep revenues from tickets in the city.
- Powell reported Officer Lescak has resigned, he took a position at Quacker Oats in Danville.

Mike Little, Fire Chief:

- Reported the new truck has arrived and is being outfitted in Lafayette.
- Stated there will be a concert in town with as estimated 5-10,000 people. Little reported a permit is required and has not been applied for. He left a message for Kyle Knosp from the Badlands to contact him regarding police and fire support.

Mr. Pycke, Building Commissioner:

- Provided the Council with an update on unsafe building orders that were discussed at the last Board of Works meeting.
- Roderick announced that Mr. Pycke is stepping down as the building commissioner effective 12-31-2021. Roderick stated he spoke to Mr. Swank about taking on the additional responsibilities of this position in 2022 if an additional employee is hired in his department. Swank agreed to this arrangement. Roderick asked the Council to consider this and stated more details would be provided at the next meeting.

Rod Bannon, Economic Development Director:

- Was not present, but asked Roderick to report that WEGA is moving forward on the masterplan with the Troyer Group which will include public input.

Joanne Broadwater, Clerk-Treasurer:

- Broadwater provided current Financials for Council review.
- Broadwater gave an overview of the budget process. Broadwater provided copies of anticipated revenues for 2022 and explained the allocation of expenses across the general budget and enterprise funds. Broadwater encouraged the Council to reach out to her with more specific questions.
- Broadwater explained how monies budgeted in the Cemetery fund stays in the Cemetery fund and that it is a recommendation of the consultant to eliminate the Cemetery fund and run all the cemetery expenses through the general fund. By making this change any unexpended money in the cemetery budget will remain in the general fund instead of the cemetery fund and can be used where it is needed.
- Carnahan brought up pay increases for employees and requested that any pay raises granted be based on performance and not across the board. There was Council discussion regarding this request.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Vacating of the Davis -Timberlake Alley.

Barce gave an overview on what the vacation of the alley means as far as city access and use. Voorhees gave a brief explanation of adjacent homeowner concerns.

Hargan stated she received an email from the owner of the restaurant behind the alley regarding vacation and that they were not in support of it due to access issues by customers and vendors.

Leslie Davis, an adjacent homeowner, voiced her concerns that delivery and customer traffic to the restaurant created a safety issue for her children as well as damage to her historical property because of the size and weight of the vehicles that were using the open alley. Davis provided documents and photos to the Council in support of her position to permanently close the alley.

Citizen Adam Bonebrake spoke against the closing of the alley and felt that closing an alley because high volume use is counterproductive.

The City Council and legal counsel discussed the closure of the alley at length. Voorhees stated if the Council condones the alley being used incorrectly then the Council is setting a precedence.

Roderick asked for a motion to vacate the alley. Voorhees made the motion to vacate the Davis-Timberlake alley, Maus seconded. The following vote was taken:

Grant	N
Carnahan	N
Maus	Y
Voorhees	Y
Hargan	N

The motion to vacate the alley did not pass. Davis asked what the city is going to do to keep her children safe. Barce stated the Council will need to vote to restrict the traffic in the alley as discussed if they choose to do that.

After much discussion, Hargan made a motion to erect traffic control signs on both ends of the alley, except residents, restricting traffic to the width of a golf cart and changing the alley to two-way traffic, Grant seconded, the following vote was taken:

Grant	Y
Carnahan	N
Maus	N
Voorhees	N
Hargan	Y

The motion did not pass. Powell asked how the police are to enforce use of the alley? Roderick stated the alley would stay closed until the Council came up with a plan, Grant stated the alley should be opened until the Council comes up with a plan. Grant made a motion to table the discussion until the next meeting, Voorhees seconded, all were in favor, motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Roderick presented Resolution 2021-0913 transferring funds from Food and Beverage to Economic Development. Carnahan made a motion to transfer funds from Food and Beverage to Economic Development to fund WEGA, Hargan seconded, all were in favor, motion passed.


MISCELANOUS:

- Patrick Runyan asked about a trailer behind his house on Union Street. Runyan stated the property has been a mess for years and nothing has been done. Hargan asked Mr. Pycke to add this to his list of properties to check on.

ADJORNMENT:

Roderick stated he had no further business and requested a motion to adjourn. The next regular Council meeting will be held Monday, October 11th, 2021, at 6:00pm.

Hargan made the motion to adjourn, Maus seconded, all were in favor, motion passed, meeting adjourned.



Duane Roderick, Mayor

ATTEST: 

Joanne Broadwater, Clerk-Treasurer