

Regular City Council Meeting
January 8, 2013
7:30 PM

Call to Order: The Regular Meeting of the Richmond City Council was called to order by Mayor Sheldon Snow.

Council Members Present: Verlin Springer, Claire Blackburn, Rick Weber and Mary Harris. Mary Ann Platt was absent from the meeting.

Staff present: Jake Strobel and Marla Gadelman.

Guests Present: Donna Thompson, Connie Weber, Sister Loretta Roeckers, Sandi McIntosh and Doug McIntosh.

Public Comment: Connie Weber asked whether it would be possible to remove the ice in front of Diane Coates' building because it creates a hazard. Mayor Snow indicated that something would be done.

Doug McIntosh stated that he had talked with the City Attorney concerning cleaning up the disreputable houses in town and wondered if anything had been discussed or brought up since the last meeting. Mayor Snow indicated that he had not talked with Blaine about it. The City Clerk indicated that Mary Ann Platt had left some information with her concerning removing debris that may contain asbestos which Mary Ann had obtained from KDHE. A copy was provided to council members and Mr. McIntosh.

Mr. McIntosh questioned whether there are new ways for stockpiling the general fund of the City. Mayor Snow explained that after the water plant bonds were paid off we kept the budget mill levy about the same so that we could transfer money into a capital improvement and reserve fund. The budgeted amount to the capital improvement fund for the 2013 budget year is \$37,600.

Approval of Minutes of Meetings: Verlin Springer made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 11, 2012, Regular Meeting. Claire Blackburn seconded the motion. Vote 4-0, motion passed.

Approval of Monthly Expenses: Rick Weber made a motion to approve the expenses paid since the December 11, 2012 meeting. Mary Harris seconded the motion. Vote 4-0, motion passed.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

1. **Community Garden.** Although no city action is necessary, at least at this time, Mayor Snow reported that he attended a presentation in Williamsburg presented by Rebecca McFarland from the Extension Office about community gardens. The Extension Office is the administrator of a grant program that is giving \$5,000 each to as many as 20 different projects this year and next year for start up money. The deadline for grant applications is January 15, 2013. Mayor Snow is going to try to put together a meeting to see if there is community interest

in a community garden. If anyone is interested they can check the website of <http://kansascommunitygardens.org> or the American Community Gardens Association at <http://communitygardens.org> and those sites will lead you to others. After doing some research, Mayor Snow found there is more grant money available from other corporations and different things. Several locations in town were discussed as possible sites for a community garden. No action was taken.

2. Concern about new water bills. Marla Gadelman reported that she had received a phone call from a resident landowner with some legitimate concerns about our new water bills. Several council members also received a phone call about the new bills. Although it was unnoticed by the Clerk when bills were prepared, if a person used less than 1,000 gallons of water the meter readings were not printed on the bills. If a person used more than 1,000 gallons of water the meter readings were printed. The software developer has agreed to upgrade the program so that meter readings will appear on all bills. Another concern was that the meter fee is not itemized out on the bill. The meter fee is now included in the water usage costs so that we can charge sales tax to the businesses on the full amount including the meter fee. This is a software requirement. The next bill will include a statement that the previous meter fee is now included in the water usage fee. Other concerns of the caller were: the new account numbers, the bills were too plain, and the printing too light. Plain white cards are less expensive than colored printing or card stock. Colored options may be available at a later time. No other complaint about the new bills has been received. Marla reported that overall the software is working great with the integrated utility billing, payroll and fund accounting. No action was taken.

3. Any other necessary city business. None

Staff Reports: Jake reported that the heater at the sewer ponds that keeps our jetter from freezing quit working but has now been repaired. The following day all of the water had drained out of the jetter, but it was now been repaired also.

The water plant has been running well. The lake is low but is not a big concern at this time.

The two new hydrants have been installed up the hill.

Marla Gadelman reported that on January 9 there is a meeting in Ottawa with the Local Emergency Planning Committee which she and/or Doyle Sobba will be attending.

KDHE did an inspection on our lagoon system and water plant last month and the reports have been received. A copy was provided to each council member. The only requirement is to install a backflow prevention device on our bulk water station. Another recommendation made, although not required, is to get a generator for the sewer plant.

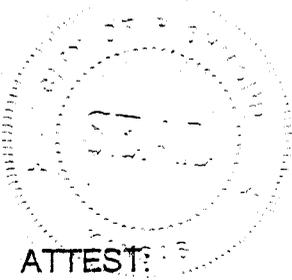
Spring elections. Election are in April, 2013. Positions up for election are Scott Snow, Mary Ann Platt and Rick Weber. Applications are available at City Hall. Applications must be in the Franklin County Clerk's office by noon on January 22, 2013.

Federal Payments will be up and going within a few weeks.

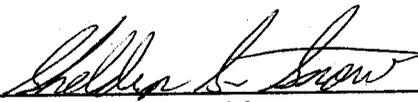
A majority of the year-end and quarterly reports have been completed although most are not due until February and March.
Our worker's comp audit is scheduled for January 18, 2013.

Council Comments and/or Reports. Mayor Snow received a sales letter from a storm siren company.

Adjournment: Claire Blackburn made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mary Harris seconded the motion. Vote 4-0, motion passed. 8:20 PM



APPROVED:

By: 
Shelden Snow, Mayor

ATTEST:


Maria Gadelman, City Clerk