



ROBINS CITY COUNCIL Minutes of the May 7th, 2018 Meeting

Mayor Hinz called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Robins City Hall on Monday, May 7th, 2018. After the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, roll call was taken with Councilors Roger Overbeck, Marilyn Cook, Don Norton, Dick Pilcher and Brad Sevcik present, along with Mayor Chuck Hinz, Attorney Ryan Tang, Engineer Dax Suntken, Planning and Zoning Administrator Dean Helander, Building Official Vince Bading, Police Captain Gary Manhart, City Clerk/Treasurer Lori Pickart and around 10 guests. Norton moved to approve the Agenda, Sevcik seconded, all voted aye.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mayor Hinz noted there are several things happening around town adding he will let the councilors report them.
- Public Works Coordinator Roger Overbeck noted there haven't been any ground water or sewer/water issues.
- Finance Coordinator Marilyn Cook noted she has looked over the budget tracking and all looks well. She noted the city will most likely have to amend the FY 19 budget right off the bat as we most likely will not have the Main Street project completed.
- Parks Coordinator Don Norton noted May 8th is the next Civic Club meeting, 7:00 at City Hall. He noted May 18th and 19th are the Robins City Wide Garage Sales and May 19th is the annual Firemen's Breakfast. He added the RBI Baseball Tournament is May 19th and 20th.
- Public Safety Coordinator Dick Pilcher noted both the police and fire department seem to be running smoothly. He added the trees along Main Street are looking very nice and are in full bloom.
- Engineer Dax Suntken had no additions to the Engineers Report. He noted they are negotiating prices with BWC relating to repairing the dip on Main Street.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – Agenda items – none

CITIZEN COMMENTS – Non-Agenda items. Marie Vanourney, 135 Woodland Court noted she works at home full time adding the barking dogs in the neighborhood are out of control. She noted she has a dog and loves both animals and people. She noted most of the dogs are on White Pine Street and asked the ongoing barking should not be allowed. She asked the council to require mandatory training for dog owners or perhaps timing the barking dogs and after 15 minutes make them stop barking. She noted the city should also limit the number of dogs allowed as within three homes on White Pine there 11 dogs.

CONSENT AGENDA – Pilcher moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Cook seconded. Items approved were the Minutes of the April 2nd and April 16th meetings; the Financial Report, and the List of Bills Submitted. On the vote, all voted aye.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Request for Chickens.** Allen Reisner, 1701 Emerald Court addressed the Council relating to his request to have four (4) chickens on his property. He noted the chickens,

all hens, would be free reign within their fenced yard when are at home and in their coop at night. He noted the chickens would be fed table scraps, as they desire organic eggs. He noted they have bushes around their property line and a berm in their back yard along East Knoll Drive. He noted the neighbors are all fine with it except the neighbor to the east which asked he keep them out of his yard. Pilcher noted the reason for the law is due to the fact that chickens wander. Overbeck noted he would like to see the neighbor's signatures stating they are ok with having chickens in the neighborhood. Helander noted the city has made a property owner next to the park get rid of their chickens adding it would not be appropriate to then allow the Reisner's to have chickens. Norton moved to table a decision and to direct Mr. Reisner to obtain written signatures of the surrounding neighbors, Cook seconded. On the vote, all voted aye.

- b. **Parking Lot, 100 East Main Street.** Residents Brad and Deb Buntz noted they have been in the process of restoring one of the oldest homes in Robins to a "trail café". He noted the business will be a coffee bar in the morning, a fresh deli and artisan pizza during the lunch time frame. He noted the goal is to attract the bicycle and pedestrian crowd, but expect to have vehicle traffic as well. He noted they have provided one handicap parking space and six other parking spots along North Second Street but expects people to park their cars, unload their bicycles and head to the trails. He noted they are not asking for any type of incentive because he feels their biggest need is additional parking spaces. He noted the streets are narrow in the location and does not want a lot of on-street parking, especially along Main Street. The Council discussed options such as parking on the south side of Main Street on the city's vacant property, or parking along South Second Street on the same property, or perhaps opening the 10' alley and parking in Buntz's back yard. Pilcher noted there is parking available on the south side of City Hall. The Council decided to wait on making a decision until additional options could be investigated.
- c. **Fireworks Ordinance.** Mayor Hinz noted last year all four metro cities allowed fireworks as written in the state code. He noted since then Cedar Rapids has totally banned fireworks; Marion and Hiawatha have allowed fireworks on July 4th from noon until 11:00 p.m. and New Year's day from 6:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. The Council reviewed the proposed ordinance banning fireworks in the Robins City Limits. Mayor Hinz noted the city can, 1) leaving our law as it is and go with the state code, 2) banning fireworks in the Robins City Limits, or 3) doing something similar to Hiawatha and Marion. He noted he has received a lot of input from the fire department who noted the length of time (June 1st through July 8th) is too long to allow shooting of the fireworks adding they also have concerns relating to things landing on rooftops. He noted he could live with the option that both Hiawatha and Marion have enacted. Norton noted we are not Hiawatha, Marion or Cedar Rapids and he doesn't really care what they do. He noted he feels our current fireworks ordinance is not a problem or an issue and feels the city shouldn't change it. He noted he has talked to neighbors who don't feel it is a problem. Captain Manhart noted if the city bans fireworks, they should consider what to do with the possession of fireworks. Attorney Tang noted that the biggest problem is getting someone to testify in court of the infraction, as they are testifying against their neighbor. Overbeck noted he feels if they were legal year around it wouldn't be a big deal. He also feels that the newness may wear off. Norton reiterated he doesn't want to change our current code which is the state code. Sevcik noted he is more willing to limit the time frame. Pilcher noted he would like to amend the ordinance to limit the times. Attorney

Ryan Tang noted he would provide three options relating to fireworks as they did in Marion. Norton moved to table proposed Ordinance 1804, Pilcher seconded and all voted aye.

- d. **Lawn Mower Ordinance.** Bading noted there have been cases where people have been driving their lawn mowers on city streets, particularly during dusk. He noted he feels lawnmowers should have rules and regulations should they be on the streets as they are hard to see, don't travel very fast, and generally don't have head/tail/brake lights or blinkers. Mike Leibold, 1105 Maple Street noted he was driving his mower to the gas station to fill up in November when he was pulled over, ticketed, and had is mower towed back to his house. He noted per state code 321.381A it is legal. He now has a slow moving vehicle on the back to alert people. Mayor Hinz noted he compared the proposed Ordinance to the Golf Cart Ordinance noting the mower is a service vehicle and golf carts are more conveyance vehicles as there is not a golf course in town. Mayor Hinz added he is not sure if this is a major problem in town. The first reading of proposed Ordinance no. 1805 died due to lack of a motion.
- e. **S. Mentzer Sidewalk Extension.** The Council reviewed Change Order #1 and Invoice #34616 received from BWC Excavating in the amount of \$39,346.71. Cook moved to approve Sevcik seconded and all voted aye.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Ricklef's Property.** Overbeck moved to approve the third and final reading of Ordinance No. 1802 amending the Future Land Use Map by changing Lot 1 of the Barnhart 2nd Addition from Residential to Commercial and by Rezoning Lot 1 of the Barnhart 2nd Addition and Parcel B, Plat of Survey No. 211 from Agricultural to C-2 Highway Commercial. Norton seconded. On the vote, all voted aye.

Sevcik moved to adjourn at 8:19 p.m. Overbeck seconded and all voted aye.

Chuck Hinz, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lori Pickart, City Clerk/Treasurer