

**Murphysboro City Council Meeting  
February 15, 2017**

The Murphysboro, Illinois, City Council met in regular session, pursuant to its ordinances, on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of February 2017. Mayor Stephens called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and Pastor Humphrey led the council in prayer. Following the invocation, Mayor Stephens led the council in the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Mayor Stephens then directed City Clerk Cottonaro to call the roll. The roll was called with the following

**Present:** Linda Porter-Smith, Russell Brown, Herb Voss, Gary McComb, Danny Bratton, John Erbes, Gloria Campos

**Absent:** Barb Hughes, Bill Pierson, Tom Ridings

Chief Roberts presented a Merit Award to Ashley Etherton for her efforts in solving residential burglary cases in Jackson and Perry Counties.

**Motion: To approve the minutes of the January 24, 2017 council meeting. All aldermen received a copy of the minutes, for their review, prior to the meeting.**

Motion by Alderman McComb

Second by Alderman Bratton

Mayor called for a voice vote. All were in favor.

**Motion Carried**

Alderman McComb inquired about the amount the city paid on the cost incurred for removal of the tree hanging over 11<sup>th</sup> Street. Initially, the residents had said they would pay for half of the tree removal cost; however they have only paid \$50. Mayor Stephens stated when they told him they could not pay half of the cost he said okay pay what you can afford. Alderman Bratton stated we should get dollars from citizens before we do work from now on.

**Motion: To approve the accounts payable, register #672, and #673 through February 15, 2017, accounts receivable through February 15, 2017 and payroll through February 15, 2017. All aldermen received a copy of the accounts payable, accounts receivable and payroll for their review, prior to the meeting.**

Motion by Alderman Bratton

Second by Alderman Erbes

Ayes: Linda Porter-Smith, Russell Brown, Herb Voss, Danny Bratton, John Erbes,  
Gloria Campos

Nays: Gary McComb.

**Motion Carried**

## **COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS**

Alderman Bratton opened Budget & Finance Meeting.

There was no old or new business and no public comment.

Alderman Brown opened the Building and Grounds Meeting.

Attorney Blake stated that the Ameren Franchise Agreement for gas and electric is still with Ameren. They want to set up a conference call to go over the issues that remain. Our attorney will let us know when we have some information.

No public comment.

Alderman Bratton opened the Community Relations Committee Meeting.\

Since no letter was received from the owners on either side of Cindy B's stating they had no objections, we will table the issue of the request by Cindy B's to utilize two city-owned parking spaces for their dumpster.

**Motion: To approve the request for 5K and street closures for St. Patrick's Day on March 18, 2017.**

Motion by Alderman McComb

Second by Alderman Brown

Alderman Bratton called for a voice vote. All were in favor.

**Motion carried.**

**Motion: To approve the request for closure of Chestnut Street between 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> on June 10, 2017.**

Motion by Alderman Campos

Second by Alderman Voss

Alderman Bratton called for a voice vote. All were in favor.

**Motion carried.**

**Motion: To approve the request for closure of Chestnut Street between 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month from April to September, except for June 2, 2017, for Brews Brothers Taproom Block Parties.**

Motion by Alderman Voss

Second by Alderman McComb

Alderman Bratton called for a voice vote. All were in favor.

**Motion carried.**

Sandra Ripley inquired if the council members are walking in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Mayor Stephens stated he will walk.

No public comment.

Alderman McComb opened the Public Improvement Committee Meeting.

There was a presentation regarding the proposed Carbondale to Murphysboro Bike Route. The project is to construct an 8' wide bicycle/pedestrian path adjacent to IL 13 from Humane Road/Wood Road stub near the Humane Society, cross under IL 13 along the abandoned railroad underpass and continue adjacent to IL 13 to Airport Road. They were asking for a verbal commitment to pay for 1/3 of the \$165,000 which is for a box culvert and 2800 feet of bike path. The money would be due in February 2018. They stated that the City of Carbondale will maintain the path. Alderman Bratton stated if Carbondale would agree that their property line is east of Airport Road, and Murphysboro would be west of Airport Road then he could see it. Mayor Stephens thinks we should try to do it. Greater Egyptian would help us write a grant. Mayor Stephens invited them back to the 2/28/17 meeting. Alderman Voss and Alderman Bratton volunteered to meet with them for future information.

The request to eliminate alley use by large trash haulers was discussed. If we did this we could do the oil and chip program every eight years instead of every four and we would save \$50,000 per year. We could require small trucks and if they do not abide then we would set a weight limit. We will research ordinances of other cities.

Cathy Norton stated that in prior years there was a lot of protests when the city tried to go to one trash hauler.

Mayor Stephens opened the Public Works Committee Meeting.

The purchase of a new gas mower for the WWTP was discussed. This was a budgeted item. Would like to purchase from Mark Williams Equipment for \$7300.

**Motion: To approve the purchase of a gas mower from Mark Williams Equipment for \$7300 for the WWTP.**

Motion by Alderman Bratton

Second by Alderman Campos

Mayor Stephens called for a voice vote. All were in favor.

**Motion carried.**

No public comment.

Alderman Brown opened the Public Safety Committee Meeting.

Cathy Norton's request for street lighting on Shoemaker Drive was discussed. Mayor Stephens stated he had driven the street and it appears to him to be as well lit as other areas in town. Alderman Porter-Smith and Alderman McCann stated they did not think it was needed. Alderman Bratton had not looked at it.



<b>ALDERMEN ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS</b>
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Linda Porter-Smith	Nothing
Russell Brown	Nothing.
Herb Voss	Nothing
Gary McComb	Nothing
Danny Bratton	There is a boring company boring under Surburban Drive. One Hot Cookie getting sewer.
John Erbes	Nothing.
Gloria Campos	Who is in charge of keeping sidewalks clear? They are full of trash, bottle, dead grass.

<b>DEPARTMENT HEAD ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS</b>
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Richard Blake	Nothing.
Sandra Ripley	Welcome W. J. Pittman and Jance Curry-Witzman
Bill Center	Nothing
Steve Swafford	Nothing
Chad Roberts	Nothing
Eric Kennedy	Nothing
Darrin Mills	Nothing
Jim Stewart	Nothing.

**Motion: To adjourn**

Motion by Alderman McComb

Second by Alderman Bratton

Mayor Stephens called for a voice vote. All were in favor.

**Motion Carried**

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.