

DIXON CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Jessie E. McCully Memorial Library
200 South Pine Street
February 12, 2018
6:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

A quorum being present the council meeting of the Dixon City Council was called to order at 6:00P.M. By Shawn Wethington, Mayor

2. ROLL CALL:

Shawn Wethington Paul Watson, Jimmy Doyle, Marilyn Timmons Shawn, Wayne Brandt, and Betty Thilges

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Invocation given by Rev. Cromwell

5. Adopt the Agenda

- Mayor Wethington requested a change to the agenda. To move Mayor Wethington welcomes special guest (s) from City of Waynesville on Mutual Aid agreement. Discussion only! Before the City Collector, so the Waynesville folks can get back. The Council approved the agenda as amended by the Mayor by a vote of 5 to 0

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- **APPROVE AND RATIFY BILLS RECEIVED:**
- Betty Thilges moved to approve the bills. , Marylyn Timmons seconded the motion approved by a vote of 4 to 1 Paul Watson voting no.

- Betty Thilges aye
- Paul Watson nay
- Wayne Brandt aye
- Jimmy Doyle aye
- Marilyn Timmons aye

- **APPROVE MINUTES: (NO MINUTES)**

Old Business

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Wethington welcomed special guest (s) **Mayor Luge Hardman, Bruce Harrell, Jack Eldridge and Tracy York** from City of Waynesville on Mutual Aid agreement. **Are here to present assistance to the City of Dixon. Mayor Wethington thought it would be helpful to gain insight from other community leaders in the county.**

Waynesville Mayor Luge Hardman speak to the Council on the Mutual Aid Agreement proposed between Waynesville and Dixon. She stated that the motto of Neighbors helping neighbors/ Cities helping Cities was a good one. She also stated that Mutual Aid agreements are common and that Waynesville has Mutual Aid Agreements with many cities within Pulaski County. Some of the Waynesville City Employees will be helping the Dixon City Collector with the billing system. There was discussion regarding the transition Dixon is making from Thoroughbred Software to Summit Software for utility billing.

Bruce Harrell, Waynesville City Administrator introduced himself and cited several instances where aid has been given and received by Waynesville. He specifically mentioned the ice storm of 2007, the 2013 flood and stated that someone helped them, and if they have the ability to help others, they will. They are very happy to be able to help. Bruce Harrell stated that it is NOT their intention to take over any activity in Dixon, but merely to help Dixon where they need it most. Both cities use the FEMA model as far as billing is concerned.

Jack Eldridge. Eldridge stated that he has 40 years of construction experience, 30 years of which has been in water utilities. The Waynesville Treatment Plant was nominated for Treatment Plant of the Year last year and lost that designation by two points.

Tracy York is the Supervisor of the Utility Billing Department. She stated that she has two employees whom she supervises and will be able to help with the transition from Thoroughbred to Summit Software for billing.

Chuck Eads asked what the benefit of changing software would be. Chuck Eads stated that he was told the costs for transitioning to Summit would be astronomical. Mayor Wethington informed Chuck Eads that he had received faulty information and told him approximately what the cost would be. In addition, Tracy York and her people will only be paid \$20 something per hour whereas others would charge in excess of \$60 per hour. All other cities in the area are using the Summit system which makes it impossible to gain assistance locally.

Mayor Wethington said that the Council will meet on Monday, February 19 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss and vote on the proposed Mutual Aid Agreement.

City Collector to advise council on Business License for the city.

The City Collector presented to the council a listing of business licenses. Out of the number of business licenses on the books, many had paid for their licenses and were actively conducting business within the City. Several reminder letters have been sent out, several businesses are no longer in town and a few had not responded and will be receiving another letter. Any enterprise conducting business within the City MUST have a license.

Water Bills Discussed

The City Collector then produced a sheaf of 25 or more water bills that had been contested. Some people had received two bills for the

same month and had been required to pay both bills. Several suggestions were made on how to handle this. Some accounts from August to January were consistently inaccurate. One individual received a bill for \$3000. One suggestion was to look at historical data for each resident being double billed or over-billed. Thoroughbred (the City's billing system) has insisted that the figures are correct and refuse to make any adjustments. Marshal Brankel he is conducting an investigation of this matter and has spoken with Thoroughbred personnel. They have done a complete reset. This is unacceptable and another reason for changing from Thoroughbred to Summit. Other programs within the City (Court, City Clerk) are already using Summit, so it will not be a great stretch to add the utility billing function to the mix.

Of the 25 or more contested bills, the first three were reviewed and the results were as follow:

- Individual contests \$93. After review, Wayne Brandt moved to forgive that amount. The motion was seconded by Jimmy Doyle and passed 5 to 0.

- Individual contested \$68.65. After review, Thilges moved to forgive that amount. The motion was seconded by Marilyn Timmons and passed 5 to 0.

- The next individual contested \$90.81. After review of this account, Betty Thilges moved to forgive this amount. The motion was seconded by Wayne Brandt and passed 4 to 0 to 1 with Paul Watson abstaining.

Jimmy Doyle moved have the City Collector to take an historical average of bills of each resident contesting their bills and compare to what has been billed and forgive the difference. The motion was seconded by Wayne Brandt and passed 4 to 1 with Betty Thilges voting no. Therefore, the Dixon City Council has authorized the City Collector to review the remaining contested bills and adjust using the historical average

Maintenance Report: Rob Forthman could not attend, but had provided his report to Mayor Wethington. In addition to the regular daily, weekly and monthly tasks, the Maintenance Department installed four sampling stations at different areas within the City. There were several frozen water meters during the month of December. As these meters thaw, they are being insulated to preclude further freezing. The Dixon High School and Baden Moving and Storage water wells were down for a period of time, but they have been repaired and are back online.

The water sampling stations were required by D n R and samples are to be taken at the main prior to water going through the meters. Four sampling stations have been installed with locations approved by DNR.

Three individuals received training and obtained their Waste Water licenses in January. Other individuals are scheduled to go for this training between now and April. Mayor Wethington wants all Maintenance personnel to be certified in Waste Water and Water Management. The Mayor commended the Maintenance Department employees for their passion and dedication.

Police Department Report; Marshal Gary Brankel reported that in 2017, the DPD responded to 3217 calls for service, down 10% from 2016 (4432)

There were 200 felony arrests with 193 resulting in charges being filed. Some felony drug charges – 764 in the City, down 32.75% from 2016 (1136)

Last year there were 315 vehicle violations, 29 DWIs, 11 resulting in City charges, 18 resulted in State charges. The DPD responded to 16 Domestic Violence calls. There were 16 City arrests for marijuana compared to three the previous year. There was one MIP.

Marshal Brankel stated that last year he requested an ordinance on making one street a one-way near DES. The Council voted on it and approved it, but it fell through the cracks and there was no ordinance. He had also requested School Zone signs for DES, but that was never followed up on even after the council voted on and approved it. (The Mayor stated that it is the Council's responsibility to draft an ordinance, notify the Mayor who will then put it on the agenda for review at the next Council Meeting. If approved, it will be given to the City Attorney to be put in legal format and voted on at the first Council Meeting after it is finalized.)

Marshal Brankel stated that there are ordinances that he has been told are not enforceable; i.e., the Nuisance Ordinance. He has submitted the ordinance to the State Attorney General's Office for a legal opinion. He is serving notice that he will be enforcing ordinances until they are repealed or until a legal opinion from the AGO is received. This will include barking dogs, etc.

Twenty-two months ago when Brankel came on board, he walked every street in the city and requested an ordinance regarding speed limits. Nothing has been done in 22 months.

City Engineer: John Doyle reported that next week there will be a DNR Inspection. DNR will be going through water loss, sampling and other documentation. They have requested 14 documents, but that may increase when they actually arrive on February 21st. In 2008 an Abatement Order went into effect. This was removed in January of this year. This is a feather in the cap of the City Council. It took 10 years, but we are now in compliance with DNR requirements.

Doyle reported that there were many concerns over the past few months that the citizens have voiced at meetings. He wants those citizens to know that their concerns were heard by the Council and this has resulted in the proposal for the Mutual Aid Agreement which was discussed earlier this evening. He then congratulated the Council on the hard work they have done. He also commended those citizens present for bringing their concerns up to the council.

Mayor Wethington said that everyone is moving forward to make Dixon a better place. A lot of work has been done, but there is much more to be done.

• ADJOURNMENT:

Councilwoman Thilges moved to adjourn this meeting of the Dixon City Council. The motion passed 5 to 0 and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Minutes approved this _____ day of _____, 2018.

Shawn Wethington, Mayor

Jessie Fleming, City Clerk