

**CITY OF TELL CITY
COMMON COUNCIL**
December 5, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order – Mayor Jim Adams, Presider. Present: Council Members Gary Morton, Sean Risse, Chris Cail, Kevin Dauby, Julie Kohnert, Clerk-Treasurer Jenny Richter, and City Attorney John Werner.

II. Non-Discrimination Policy Statement

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Adoption of Agenda – Mayor Adams amended the agenda with the addition of item E – PCDC Delegate under New Business. Council Member Cail motioned to adopt the agenda, seconded by Council Member Kohnert. Motion carried 5–0.

V. Approval of Minutes – Council Member Risse motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Council Member Morton. Motion carried 5–0.

VI. Comments of Citizens – None

VII. Swearing In Ceremony – William Ash Meserve – Mayor Adams administered the oath to Officer Meserve.

VIII. Old Business

A. Committee/Ward Reports:

Risse – *Ward #3* – Council Member Risse reported the Parks and Recreation Board met with representatives of both girls and boys ball fields to work on policy recommendations on handling of funds.

Morton - *Ward #4* – Council Member Morton reported commodity pricing is holding. State Representative Lloyd Arnold is working with the state to possibly keep the recycle station at the current Derby location.

Kohnert – *Ward #2* – Council Member Kohnert requested the minutes of November 7 reflect a correction that she did not attend Plan Commission and Pool Committee meetings as reported. Clerk-Treasurer Richter will make the notation of correction. Council Member Kohnert did report the Beautification Committee finalized Christmas in the Park/Parade at the November 28 meeting. The Plan Commission met on November 10 and approved a Cell Tower development plan.

Dauby – *Council-at-Large* – Council Member Dauby had no report.

Cail – *Ward #1* – Council Member Cail reported Brick by Brick (BBB) did not meet due to lack of a quorum. He did attend an OCRA conference as a BBB representative. Region 15 did not meet.

B. Mayor Adams asked for a motion to suspend the regular meeting to conduct the Public Hearing on the Water and Sewer Rate Ordinances. Council Member Dauby made the motion to suspend the council meeting, seconded by Council Member Kohnert. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Adams convened the Public Hearing open at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Adams began by summarizing the infrastructure improvements in both water and sewer departments with the operating funds. Mayor Adams pointed out the water rate had been in place almost 10 years. Mayor Adams then introduced the city's financial consultant John Seever, Partner at Umbaugh & Associates who offered opening comments on the sewer rate study followed by the water rate study. Graphs illustrated the water increases and the sewer increases. It was pointed out though the sewer increases seemed to exceed neighboring communities' rates, the IDEM mandate of phosphorous

removal will impact the rates of every wastewater facility Tell City's rate was compared to.

SEWER RATE INCREASE COMMENTS:

Anthony Goffinet 2076 Tipsaw Dr. Branchville – Mr. Goffinet understood the reasons for the increase, however challenged the 65% across the board with the additional 25% surcharge to accounts out of city limits. Mr. Goffinet requested the council reconsider the exorbitant increase.

Rick Johnson 3868 Windsor Road, Tell City – Mr. Johnson questioned why it cost users more on the “Branchville Line”. Mr. Johnson referenced that the bonds which constructed the lines to the Branchville Training Center should have been paid off by now. He also questioned the 25% surcharge.

Troy Beckman Brushy Hollow Subdivision, Tell City – Mr. Beckman was critical of the recent installation of a state-funded wastewater residential system and now faced with an exorbitant sewer bill increase.

Mike Cole Brushy Fork Road, Tell City – Mr. Cole cited Tell City's website stating the Wastewater Department had funds in 2015 in excess of \$2.8 million. Mr. Seever explained the various funds within the department that totaled the amount, including debt service, bond & interest accounts, stormwater and sewer operating.

WATER RATE INCREASE COMMENTS:

J.P. Hilgenhold, President And-Tro Water Authority – Mr. Hilgenhold challenged the cost of the water to one of the city's largest customers. He expressed concern to pass along rate increases to their customers. Mr. Hilgenhold could not justify the increase. Mr. Hilgenhold explained the Authority also purchases water from Patoka at a reduced rate. Superintendent Poole countered that once costs for the treated water pumped from the ground well and channeled through two booster stations substantially reduces the revenue received from the Authority. Cost factors were being analyzed and results would be forthcoming.

Mr. Cole questioned if Waupaca Foundry received taxpayers dollars. Superintendent Poole explained Waupaca's water is potable only.

Larry Kleeman, Perry Parkway, Tell City – Mr. Kleeman turned the focus to challenge the council to support a call to state legislators to remove sales tax from water bills.

Following the Public Hearing, Mayor Adams asked for a motion to reconvene the council meeting. Council Member Cail made the motion, seconded by Council Member Kohnert. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting of the Common Council reconvened at 8:25 p.m.

C. Adoption of Sewer Rate Ordinance #1116 (2nd and final readings) - City Attorney Werner presented the ordinance and addressed amendments to the original which included: the schedule to bill from a 1st billing after ordinance passage to a 2nd billing period. In Section 10, 11, and 12, the three customers (ATTC, Perry Central School and INDOT) on the Branchville line who were undercharged for 26 months due to a billing code error, their respective payback amounts and schedule for repayment was removed. Conversations with the customers have indicated they prefer to take the matter under advisement and work with the city to determine the best method for repayment. City Attorney Werner delivered the 2nd and final readings by title only. Discussion ensued to clarify the need as this project is IDEM mandated with a one-year timeframe for completion. Council Member Morton made a motion to adopt, seconded by Council Member Risse. Motion carried 5–0.

D. Adoption of Water Rate Ordinance #1117 (2nd and final readings) - City Attorney Werner presented the ordinance for the 2nd and final readings, noting the same first to second

billing language was changed. In Section 5 an automatic 2% increase in tap charges annually was added. City Attorney Werner delivered the 2nd and final readings by title only. Discussion ensued over the large rate increase implementation at the same time as water. Council Members Kohnert and Cail expressed concern. Remaining council members countered year-long discussions and the dire financial status of the Water Operating Fund required passage. Council Member Risse made a motion to adopt, seconded by Council Member Morton. Motion carried 5–0.

IX. New Business:

A. 2016 Wellness Annual Review – Tony Hollinden gave an in-depth look at how the Wellness Program came to be with three major sponsors: Home Mutual, German American and Perry County Memorial Hospital. At inception Perry County ranked 85 of the 92 counties for unhealthy residents. Today Perry County’s rank is 48. Walks and runs have provided for thousands of participants over the past 5 years and the Schweizer Fest Road Run has gone from 250 participants to over 800. Bike lanes were added along with River Walk and Greenway Walking Trails. Laura Shelling added PCMH’s initiatives for 2017. A walking trail is now open around the hospital. New health-care providers will now staff clinics in evening hours.

B. 2017 Tell City Electric Department Budget – Superintendent Dixon explained 2017’s budget. City Attorney Werner read resolution 18-2016. Council Member Cail motioned to approve the budget, seconded by Council Member Kohnert. Motion carried 5-0.

C. Contract for Perry County Development Corporation (PCDC) – Lee Chestnut introduced the outreach conducted by PCDC over the past year. The major focus was the Workforce Development Grant for skilled workers at Ivy Tech. The 2017 contract is a 5% increase to \$116,878.00. Council Member Dauby made a motion to approve and allow Mayor Adams to sign, seconded by Council Member Morton. Motion carried 5-0.

D. Bicentennial Proclamation – Mayor Adams read the proclamation.

E. PCDC Delegate – Common Council President Chris Cail received the letter of certification of a delegate to cast a vote for the city on any issues that come before the membership. Council Member Morton currently serves in that capacity and accepted the invitation to continue in that role.

X. Mayor’s Report – None

XI. Adjournment – Council Member Risse motioned the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Council Member Morton. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Attest:

Mayor James K. Adams, Presider

Jenny Richter, Clerk-Treasurer

Date