

CITY OF GOSHEN CITY COMMISSION MINUTES

September 18, 2017

The meeting of the City of Goshen Commission was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Bobby Thacker at the North Oldham Fire Department, Goshen Station, 1660 South Highway 1793, with the following members present:

Bobby Thacker	Mayor	1014 Rollingwood Lane
Bill Rolfes	Commissioner	1042 Rollingwood Lane
Al Nesteruk	Commissioner	1125 Hollendale Way
Doug Morales	Commissioner	1024 Club Drive
Bob Hammon	Commissioner	1007 Rollingwood Lane

Mayor Bobby Thacker welcomed all attendees to the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes

Commissioner Doug Morales motioned to approve the August 21, 2017 minutes as presented. Commissioner Rolfes seconded the motion. Morales, Rolfes, Thacker and Nesteruk voted aye. Hammon abstained.

Public Safety – Bobby Thacker

Stacy Rockaway, representative with Congressman Massie's office, stated she stopped by to let the city and residents know Congressman Massie is available if anyone needs help with a federal issue.

Budget and Finance – Bob Hammon

Commissioner Hammon motioned to approve the June, July and August 2017 financials. Motion failed for lack of a second. Commissioner Nesteruk asked how income from line item 4045, Mineral Surcharge is spent. The clerk informed him the revenue from Mineral Surcharge is placed in the general fund. Morales asked the clerk for the final number on insurance surcharge for last fiscal year. Morales asked how much is in litter abatement for the rest of the year. Hammon motioned to approve the June, July and August 2017 financials. Morales seconded the motion. All voted aye. June, July and August 2017 financials were approved.

Drainage – Bob Hammon

Hammon reported the quote he received from Risinger Construction to repair drainage issues is \$2950 if both projects on Springmeadow Lane and Hollendale Way are done at the same time. The price to do them individually is \$1700 for Hollendale and \$1800 on Springmeadow. Hammon stated it has been determined the city doesn't have a drainage easement at the Springmeadow location. Hammon stated he doesn't believe the project on Hollendale is critical at this time and could wait until another project comes up. Thacker questioned postponing repairs on Hollendale and if it is possible delaying repairs could cause damage to any personal property or cause further damage and cost more money to repair. Hammon stated he does not believe waiting will cause further damage. Thacker also asked if there is any chance of personal injury.

Hammon stated a traffic cone could be placed in the hole. Thacker asked if rip rap should be placed in the hole.

Ordinance Enforcement – Bill Rolfes

Rolfes reported there have not been a lot of violations lately. Rolfes stated there have been complaints received about the visibility of trash cans from the street.

The clerk informed the commission she received a call from a closing attorney regarding a lien on 1027 Rollingwood Lane. The lien is for a pull off parking area that has to be removed when the property sells. The commission discussed the options of releasing the lien and enforcing the ordinance after the purchase. Rolfes motioned to release the lien on 1027 Rollingwood Lane, Hammon seconded the motion. All voted aye.

Thacker stated he drove around to check on the visibility of trash cans after the city received complaints and there are a lot of trash cans that can be seen from the street. Rolfes stated he will send something out reminding residents trash cans are to be stored out of view from the front of the home and they need to be in the yard not on the street when they are placed at the curb for pickup.

Beautification – Bill Rolfes

No report.

Playground – Bill Rolfes

Rolfes reported water has been shut off at the playground and will be turned on next spring after repairs are made to the water fountain.

Rolfes stated the city received a letter from the insurance company regarding some issues needing attention at the playground. Moonscapes has made repairs or removed items of concern.

Newsletter – Al Nesteruk

Nesteruk stated he put a newsletter out last week.

Nesteruk stated he could call the city attorney to inquire about an ordinance on chipping services.

Website – Al Nesteruk

The website is updated and has the latest minutes and financial documents.

Architectural Control – Doug Morales

Morales stated he issued one building permit to 12014 Springmeadow for a privacy fence.

Street and Public Works – Doug Morales

Morales instructed the clerk to have Moonscapes paint the speed humps on Harmony Landing Road.

Sanitation – Bobby Thacker

Thacker reported a junk pickup will take place on November 9th. Items for junk pickup should be placed at the curb the night before. Blue trash should be put out for regular pickup on Tuesday the 7th. Blue trash cans will not be included in the junk pickup.

Administrative Issues – Bobby Thacker

No report.

Old Business

None

New Business

Statement from Commissioner Nesteruk

I don't have any new business but I do have a statement that I would like to make to the commission. This is just food for thought, food for consideration for meetings coming up in the future. It is concerning the balloon mortgage and road paving financing. I broke this up and I will read it from what I wrote, I didn't want to have to remember it. As I said this is food for thought and food for debate at a future date. I had no new business to discuss at this meeting but I will be bringing motions to reduce spending to the October meeting and would like the commission to listen carefully to my statements and take this next month to perform your own fact finding and discuss what your opinion to see the city's next best move should be. The city has 2 very large upcoming financial challenges the first will be to develop a plan and to pay off the city's land purchase balloon mortgage the second challenge will be developing a plan to add the city's roads paved in the next 10 years. In October of 2019 the balloon mortgage of the land purchase made in October 2014 will come due. The estimated cash payment to settle this debt and end the mortgage is 55,000. Should the city take money from our fund balance and pay the loan in full. Our fund balance generally remains at 150,000 dollars. This would leave us with less than 100,000 dollars in remaining fund balance to take care of any emergencies that would arise. This low of fund balance leaves me uneasy. The city's other option would be to refinance the 55,000 dollars for another X number of years. Our current monthly mortgage payment is 986.50. Would we want to refinance at a lower monthly amount for longer period or pay in full? I am embarrassed to admit if a residence of the city asks me tomorrow what the city's strategy is on this matter I would have to say "I don't know, we do not have a strategy as of yet." However, I do believe this is the responsibility of the current commission to deliberate this challenge aggressively and have a reasonable plan in place before the 2018 election of mayor and commissioner. Repaving of the roads will probably need done within 10 years. Some residents say this is an optimistic number. The last time they were paved was in fiscal year 2010-2011. Believe the commission was told that the expected life of the roads was 12 years meaning we would need to repave as early as 2022, 5 years from now. The cost of the last paving was approximately 200,000 dollars. Can the current commission come up with a suitable plan for funding repaving of the roads? I don't know. But I do think we are responsible for providing a template or path forward for future seeded commissions. What I do know is the city's revenue strain remains pretty constant from year to year with 90% of our revenue coming from property taxes which is 27% insurance premiums which is approximately 63%. A city such as ours has very few options for generating revenue for upcoming expenses. Option 1, when a city's income remains constant and a big-ticket item such as a land purchase mortgage replaces money that could be appropriated elsewhere. The city must adjust it's spending to accommodate its new debt taken on. When something big lands on your plate something else has to fall off. Based on this fiscal year's total revenue of 248,730 dollars paying off the balloon mortgage in full would use 22% of the annual income for fiscal year 2019. Is this what the city should do? I don't have that answer. Option 2, the city's only other variable that it controls is property taxes. I foresee a need to start incrementally increasing property taxes starting with the next fiscal year. I also believe the commission should move to reduce the tax discount from 10% to 2%. With the money generated from this reduction to be set aside specifically for road paving. My first thought of releasing appropriation to ease our debt payments and start allocating funds for paving is to stop funding for extra police patrols. The commission reduced this fiscal year's appropriation from 25,000 to 22,000. Stopping funding for extra police protection is not a matter I took lightly. I contacted Oldham County Dispatch and obtained police dispatch run data from January of 2014 through July 11, 2017 to review the types of police activity regarding the city of Goshen. In 2014 dispatch logged 156 incidences within the city. 70 of these logged calls were not in the realm of actual police protection activity but such things as ems calls, serving papers, domestic violence, looking for a wanted person, false burglary

alarms and fires. That brings the total to 86 policing calls. Of these 52 were traffic stops, 33% of the policing calls. 40 of those stops were courtesy warnings, 11 resulting in citations and 1 arrest. There was 1 domestic violence call and 3 juvenile complaint calls that were unresolved as the subjects were gone before police arrival. In 2015 dispatch logged 110 incidences within the city. 68 of these calls were not of added police protection activity but of various items I mentioned for year 2014. That brings the total to 42 policing calls. Of the 42 20 were traffic stops results in 13 warnings and 7 citations. 1 assault. There were 3 auto crashes, 1 resulting in an arrest probably a DUI. There were 2 criminal mischief reports. There were 3 loud noise reports, 2 were parties, 1 was music. There were 2 suspicious persons and 4 suspicious vehicles. There were 2 calls for shots in the area and vary likely they were probably M80's. In 2016 dispatch logged 88 incidences within in the city. 55 of these calls were not of added police protection activity but of the various items I mentioned for year 2014. That brings the total to 33 policing calls. There were 7 traffic stops, 3 resulting in citations. 5 vehicle complaints. There were 3 theft reports. There were 3 suspicious vehicles and there were 3 suspicious persons. Unfortunately in 2016 there were 3 suicide attempts. There were also 2 property damage reports. 1 prowler report and 2 loud noise reports, again I would think it was probably firecrackers. Then lastly in 2017 between January 1st and July 11 dispatch logged 64 incidences within the city, which shows we are trending up a little bit. 32 of these calls were not of added police protection activity but of the various items I mentioned again in year 2014. That brings us from July of this year 32 policing calls. There was 6 traffic stops 2 resulting in citations and 1 arrest. There were 3 auto crashes and 2 juvenile complaints. 5 theft reports. There was 1 suspicious vehicle report. There was 1 disorder in progress. There were 2 domestics in progress. There were 3 vehicle complaints and there was 1 weapon shot, again probably a M80. This data shows me that in 3.5 years of dispatch logs that the city of Goshen is a very safe city. The police were dispatched to the city 198 times. 85 of the logs are traffic stops that 42% of the dispatch logs over the past 3 ½ years were traffic stops. There were no drug arrests. There were no murders, no rapes. None of our surrounding HOA neighbors pay for added police protection as they cannot afford it. I walk over there and talk to them and they are not living in fear. For the record I want it to be known that I fully wish the city could continue paying for extra policing but after an analyzing 3 ½ years of dispatch logs I am assured that we can safely forgo the added protection and put 22,000 dollars per year into a reserve fund for road paving. In 5 years we will accumulate 110,000 dollars. I foresee this commission facing some tough financial decisions. I hope I'm mistaken. That's all I have.

Morales stated the city does receive some reimbursement from HB 413 for extra police protection. Nesteruk requested the clerk furnish him with more information on HB413.

Rolfes stated 2 months ago the commission agreed to annex the land the city purchased in 2014 into the city. Rolfes stated the commission needs to decide what line item the money to annex will come from. Morales stated he would like to wait until winter is over and use any excess from road aid monies. The clerk stated municipal road aid money can only be used for road issues. Nesteruk stated a year ago they approved 26,000 for fitness equipment so just take it from that. The clerk stated the commission can't spend funds from a previous budget.

Morales motioned to schedule Boy Scout troop 984 for a litter abatement project this fall. Nesteruk seconded the motion. All voted aye.

Hammon stated the one thing they don't know is how much of a deterrent effect having the extra patrols have. Hammon said they may have to stop patrols for a period of time. Nesteruk stated that's the beauty of this, patrols can be stopped and then started back up.

Thacker stated he does not agree in any way of reducing patrols and even with the extra patrols there are still problems with people speeding and running stop signs. Thacker stated if they test this theory they may never get the sheriff's deputy back. Thacker stated we have very dedicated deputies and he very much appreciates what they do. Thacker stated he sees on social media our neighboring areas have huge problems with speeding. Thacker stated it's easy to just cut things but our community counts on us to keep the services we have.

Public Comment

None

Hammon motioned to adjourn, Nesteruk seconded the motion. All voted aye. Meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

Joyce Morphew
Clerk/ Treasurer
10/16/2017

Bobby Thacker
Mayor