

ICON - Regular Meeting - February 27, 2017
First Church of the Brethren
2109 Yale Boulevard, Springfield, IL

Carol Kneeder, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Members Present:

Jamie Adaire (BPNA), Bill Basket (LPNA), Misty Buscher (City Treasurer), Kurt DeWees (HWSNA), Kristin DiCenso (Candidate Ward 6), Arlene Flury (VHNA), David Fuchs, Michael Higgins (MBA), Carol Kneeder (Iles Park), Lynn C. McMenamin (Ward 7), Kevin Milhelcic (Harvard Park), Dee Nelson (VHNA), Kerry Noonan-Lewis (LPNA), Paul O'Shea, Polly Poskin (Harvard Park), Andrew Proctor (Ward 5 Alderman), Ernie Slottag (CCNA), Marty Vandiver (Knox Knoles), Suzie Weissberg (LPNA), Jess Weitzel, Terry Young (Trevi Gardens)

Participants:

Kenya Davis, Judith Dodson, Avie Frizzell, Martin Fruchtl (Candidate Ward 6), Sarah K. Fruchtl, Mary Hansen (SJ-R), Michael Jordan, Rosemary Long, Mary Myers, April Poole (First Church of the Brethren), Mary Reiser, Tim Reiser, Herman Senor (Ward 2 Alderman) Janice Stemmons, Janine Toman, John E Williams, Sally Wojcicki, Freda Worchester

January 29 minutes were approved.

Carol introduced Martin Fruchtl, candidate for Ward 6 Alderman. He said he has lived in Springfield off and on for 40 years. He moved here in 1977 and went to Griffin High School. Then he went on to the University of Illinois. He has worked for the state for 24 years. His mother also lives in Ward 6. She was present. Mr. Fruchtl said he had served in the national guard. Mr. Fruchtl described Ward 6 and said that it was a very diverse area. The needs of some are not the needs of others.

Regarding the budget he stated that the Council is not spending a rainy day fund they are spending fund reserves.

He said that he went on a ride along with Police in the Harvard Park area. He said it was very informative and interesting. He talked about community policing and the need to have active neighborhood associations and neighborhood watch programs. We can do better. He said police are anxious to work with Neighborhood Associations.

Carol asked for questions:

Arlene Flury asked Mr. Fruchtl if he had a family. He said he had 2 daughters. One he adopted as an adult. He introduced his other daughter who was present. He said he had been deployed twice and that his family is very supportive.

He said we would hope the revenue stream would get better, but you can't count on it. There have been a lot of cuts. The Council may have to make some tough choices next year. He talked about the police and the size of the area they have to cover.

He said he is willing to work with everyone and to make the tough choices.

Carol Kneedler asked if he would have voted yes on any of the tax proposals. He said he would want a sunset clause on some of them, or have them phased in.

Bill Basket asked about the 3 AM licenses. Mr. Fruchtl said that 1:00 seemed reasonable. He said he doubted if the profit was worth the trouble between 1 and 3. He said the police drove him by a location that is a hangout after the 3:00 closings.

He was asked if he could commit to never selling CWLP. He said he could not see voting to sell CWLP.

He said he has met with some department heads and intends to meet with more, including the Police Chief, Fire Chief, City Treasurer, etc.

He said he would always do the right thing.

Polly Poskins stated that we have to have more revenue. She wondered why we never do anything that allows us to take pride in our neighborhoods and our city.

Carol Kneedler asked if he would speak out when he disagreed with residents. He said there is a need to share information. Aldermen are here to represent.

A question was asked about the property surrounding the Church and if there were any plans for it. He said it would be nice if it could be developed as residential but that might not be possible.

Kurt DeWees asked about sewers. Mr. Fruchtl said there are tentative plans to split the lines; sanitary and storm sewers. It is a 500 Million project and will take a long time to complete.

He discussed pensions and said he would need to study and he will study pensions more.

Carol stated that she is sitting on the Comprehensive Plan Committee. She asked what position he would take. Would he vote with the plan and recommendation, or with his constituents or with the Alderman in the area?

He said the plan is good and you should try to follow. She asked if he would be willing to take training and he said he would.

Ernie Slotag asked his position on TIF District for the Y block and for the property that is privately owned. Mr. Fruchtl stated that he thought you should have as much income from a TIF District as possible.

Mr. Fruchtl said that absentee voting has started. He said on March 22 there would be a debate sponsored by WMAY and the SJR.

Mr. Fruchtl was thanked.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Marty Vandiver due to illness of both Darrell and Sharon Riffey. Beginning balance was 5,854.87; income of 340.00; no expenses reported; Balance \$6,194.87

Due to Sharon Riffey's absence there was no City Council report.

Carol said she is working on meetings for the problem property committee.

Second candidate, Kristin DiCenso, was introduced.

Ms. DiCenso stated that she is a single mom. She has experience working with Federal, State and Local governments. She said that she has been responsible for large numbers of employees and large budgets. She has also been in private business. She is currently working for the Illinois Health Care Association.

She said that the City is 53% female but the City Council is 90% male.

She said that she has worked with Alderman Redpath at DNA and Alderman Hanauer. She has also worked with Alderman Donelan on issues.

She said the Council needs to deal with plans for the transportation center. What will it look like - like Normal or Joliet?

She said that she did a ride along with the Police.

She talked about a City Planner. She said other cities plan, we don't. Why doesn't Springfield have a planner? She said we need to decide who do we what to be?

She was asked about the fund Cory Jobe had, how it was disburse, and what part she played in it. She said that she did not hold an office and her name was not on any documents. That fund has been dissolved. She said she had no interest in a 501C3.

Kurt DeWees said that we need incentives to help upgrade homes. Give people a reason to feel proud. Ms DiCenso said she had a neighbor whose house was looking bad and a neighbor called the City and it is now cleaned up. She said Ward 6 people are engaged. She said that Cory got the people engaged and organized. Would like to do that again.

Discussed the vacant McDonalds, Dollar General and vacant spaces along MacArthur. She said this is not in Ward 6 but the people are interested. She said she would rather have had Roberts Automotive than Dollar General and vacant land.

She talked about the pirate streets she discovered when visiting the Trevi Gardens area. The people complained that the city will not fix them because they are private streets.

Carol Kneedler asked the Comprehensive Plan question again. She asked if she would vote with the comprehensive plan, or her constituents or with the Alderman who's Ward the zoning case is in? Ms DiCenso talked about a group home that was located too close to another group home. She said they had to move and now the City is being sued.

The same question regarding CWLP was asked of Candidate DiCenso, if she would commit to never vote to sell CWLP. She said that she would not vote to sell CWLP.

Kevin asked if she would like to know about issues in her ward. She said that she would. She

said neighborhood watch has fallen by the way side some. It required 85% to commit. SPD is going to drop that %. She said that the *Nextdoor* is great. If you are not on yours you should get on. It is very helpful. You learn lots of things going on in your area. Regarding NPO's she said they can only be on for 3 years. Then they have to rotate off.

Polly wondered why government, business and civic could not come together on a specific project. Clean up the City. Create civic pride. Collaborate; all do part to make city look better. Ms. DiCenso said we can do it. She said she is not a defeatist. She will take it on. Not that hard.

Mike Higgins commented on vacant property along McArthur, and how do make corporation council comply. Corporation Council, Zerkle, owns property on McArthur Boulevard. Michael said that we need to bring up the neighborhoods so that they do not appeal to a Dollar General.

Ms. DiCenso said she is the queen of confrontation. She said there are Ward issues and there are City issues.

Carol thanked Ms. DiCenso.

Carol said that the Comprehensive Plan Committee meets on March 9 and 30. She said First Church of the Brethren is having their big fundraiser and Carol asked if we might consider a donation to the Church. Motion was made by Arlene and seconded to donate \$175 to the Church for their many years of allowing us to use their facility for our meetings.

Misty Buscher, City Treasurer, said that she has a new process for collections and it has greatly improved the collection of money due the City. She said Tim Riser, who was present, meets with the grass roots, works with people to get their fines paid. She commended him on his ability to work with people.

Marty suggested groups we could get to help with large item pick ups. Boy Scouts, high school kids, civic clubs. Jess reminded us that the United Way has a day of action. Carol said if you don't have any large items you can loan your allotment to your neighbor.

Next meeting is March 27th. We will vote if we want to endorse a candidate. Members only can vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzie Weisberg